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15th International Scientific Conference "Business Logistics in Modern Management"

Business logistics is one of the key areas for the creation of competitive advantages and improvement of overall company's profitability through efficient and effective logistics flows. Therefore, it is not surprising that business logistics draws a lot of attention both in practical and scientific communities. Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek recognizes the importance and benefits of business logistics development. Once again the Faculty of Economics was the host of the International Scientific Conference on Business Logistics in Modern Management. The 15th conference has continued the tradition from 2001 and was held on October 15, 2015. For the second year in a row, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia has recognized the effort in the development of the conference and financially supported it.

The published Conference proceedings, with an ISSN number and the international editorial and review board, resulted in 21 scientific and professional papers written by 44 authors and co-authors from nine countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Slovenia.

The papers were divided in four thematic areas and presented in 15-minute slots. Almost every presented subject was followed by discussion and sharing of experiences from the perspective of citizens and scientists from different countries.

Retailing in Logistics was the first part with topics such as large retail chains, their density and impact on supply chains, development of retail internationalization in multichannel environment, benefits and risks of RFID technology in retail from the younger consumers' perspective, and concentration of the retail trade.

The second part was Challenges of procurement and distribution channels, dealing with topics such as procurement procedures in the function of improving company business conduct, algorithm for the procurement and inventory management in the distribution supply chain, eco-food production and market perspectives in Croatia, innovative solutions for a "last-mile" delivery in Europe, and distribution channels of major construction materials.

Transport and warehouse trends was the title of the third session, in which presenters spoke on topics such as the cost and non-cost conditionality of transport corridor logistics performances as determinant of port competitiveness, optimizing parts supply in manufacturing by reusable containers, evaluation problem and assessment method of warehouse process efficiency, variable pay in warehouse logistics, the significance of the intermodal transport route through the port of Rijeka for sustainable transport, and International Food Standard and food safety supply chain of a Croatian chocolate producer.

Finally, the last part was Development perspectives of supply chain and logistics, dealing with dimensions for developing supply chain integration scenarios, Croatian competitiveness within European logistics space, "smartbox" - a business concept towards the physical internet, policy framework for business concepts and models of urban/city logistics of a developing economy, development of IT infrastructure to optimize logistics operations in the segment of cold chain, and university/industry partnership projects on logistics.

Additionally, during the conference there was a presentation of the project carried out at the University of Szeged in Hungary and financed by the European Social Fund, dealing with business anticipations and uncertainty management after the crises.

In order to emphasize the cooperation of science and practice, the scientific part of the conference was followed by the visit to the largest hen farm in Croatia, part of the Žito d.o.o. group. The whole business process was presented by company's employees, with a focus on logistics activities. The conference day ended in Baranya with traditional food and comfortable atmosphere.