Best Practice Factory for Freight Transport

BESTFACT project collects, develops, evaluates and circulates good ideas for city logistics, green logistics and co-modality as well as e-freight. Best practice descriptions (95 so far) are freely available from project website.

BESTFACT develops, disseminates and enhances best practices and innovations in freight transport that contribute to competitiveness and environmental impact. The core of the BESTFACT concept is to extend existing best practice methodologies towards implementation strategies within an industrial environment.

Best practice in BESTFACT is considered as existing approach or solution (industrial business cases, measures, administrative procedures, research results) providing a solution for a relevant problem or challenge in freight transport. Best practice considered for BESTFACT is characterised by the following attributes:

- Innovative and feasible approach beyond the common practice
- Business and policy objectives
- Considerable and measurable positive effects on strategic business and policy targets
- Transferable to other companies, initiatives or contexts.

After the second year of the project, we have achieved a total of 95 inventory cases and 30 in-depth reviews of Best Practices. These provide a short overview of solutions and implementation status. QIS can be downloaded from the BESTFACT webpage at www.bestfact.net.

Evaluation is two-phase. First evaluation is targeted to case selection. The second is to find out the impacts. For the second phase VTT has developed an evaluation method including impact analysis and transferability. The guideline for the methodology has been, while being comprehensive, to keep it relatively easy to understand and transparent. The evaluation shows where the case is most usable or appropriate. Evaluation results show the main impacts on strategic targets and topics where the case have positive or unfavourable impacts. Transferability is assessed based on three criteria: innovation, maturity and implementation.

Most of the cases are focused on activities occurring at the business level. One of the core BESTFACT objectives is to better understand the transfer of a solution from one operator to another. Assessment is backed with quantitative CBA figures where applicable.

The BESTFACT conference in 2014 hosted the first Sustainability Award for Freight Transport & Logistics ceremony. Winner of the Urban Freight was case DISTRIPOLIS (Geodis) for their urban consolidation centres and battery-electric vehicles. Winner of Green Logistics & Co-modality was case VIKING Train, linking the Baltic and Black Seas to the Mediterranean and Caspian Seas. Winner of eFreight was case KoKoBahn, an electric data exchange platform between seaports, intraport actors and hinterland railways. The BESTFACT consortium praised the three award winners for their high impact, making them unique in Europe today.

The BESTFACT consortium includes 18 partners made up of European research institutes, universities, international associations and industry partners, financed by the European 7th RTD Framework. Other actions of the project are implementation support actions, cluster workshops, conferences, innovative policy schemes, best practice handbook and knowledge platform.

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Translifter Cassette system is one of the best practices described in the project.