A Compass for Logistics

The economic, ecological and social challenges of today require a new orientation for logistics. Logistic design competence is essential if this sector – and many other commercial and social key players besides – are to make contributions to solve these problems and expedite processes of change. Restructuring logistics goes hand in hand with education and training in logistics.

Demographic change, climate change and urban development are all altering the world and require new concepts – in many areas logistics is in a better position to find answers and develop solutions than many other sciences or sectors. This key topic draws attention to sustainable business models and responsible products – particularly within the scope of the increasing high-tech orientation of the discipline and its responsibility as an organizer of global value added networks. Tomorrow’s logistics will continue to develop its self-concept, accept its role in the greater socio-economic context and extend its operational portfolio accordingly. This key topic familiarizes people working in logistics with these new issues. Logisticians should be qualified for tomorrow’s challenges by means of new training models and innovative learning styles, as part of apprenticeships as well as in continuing education and training programs, throughout all professional and hierarchical levels.
Levels of Innovation

It will be the task of the new generation of logisticians to understand their discipline as the heart of the solution for economic and ecological challenges for all aspects of society and to reflect on the competence of the intelligent management of complexities. This is the only way to proactively design global value added networks to be sustainable. In order to design the logistics of today and tomorrow so it can benefit from the opportunities which are presented and to master the consequences positively and pro-actively, there is also a need for a high level of awareness for the interdependencies in economic and life systems as well as a particular understanding of the contents and methods.

In this context, this key topic is active in the following fields of research and operations:

- Construction of a new self-concept by logistics and logisticians for their contributions to the “Logistics Society” within the scope of sustainable development
- Concepts for qualification programs: with curricular, strategic and methodological content (in classic learning formats as well as electronic and blended learning)
- Modular educational opportunities for learning in a more flexible education system (covering apprenticeships, vocational training and academic studies)
- Development of “dialogue structures” for knowledge transfer between science and businesses and the generation of “good practice” and “new practice”
- Initiating new innovation and responsibility cultures
- Strengthening logistics as a cross-sectional oriented systems science in the academic world.

Potentials of this Key Topic

This key topic is arranged as a cross-sectional topic in which the overall contents of the work in the cluster are driven ahead, supplemented and reinforced. The logistics design competence creates a sort of virtual compass for the logistics of the future.