

## CASSANDRA Living Lab 1: Asia - Europe



### **Information as key to improving efficiency in international supply chains**

The project CASSANDRA focuses on improving efficiency, security and compliance in international trade and logistics by integrating information flows on goods, actors, (commercial) contracts and transportation. Combining existing business information sources in supply chains results in the timely availability of an accurate and high quality data set. This information is drawn as much as possible from the original source. Better quality information, in terms of accuracy, timeliness and completeness combined with innovative information integration and visibility, tracking and scanning technology, provides both businesses in the supply chain and supervision authorities with enhanced visibility. In addition to addressing supply chain inefficiencies, businesses can employ this high quality information to facilitate compliance.

### **Expected benefits for business participants**

Business participants in the Living Lab demonstrations are expected to benefit not only directly from the CASSANDRA solution but also indirectly, from trade facilitation by customs. Participants are expected to experience administrative benefits through better quality information, which can be shared digitally, which negates the need to re-enter and re-check all data. With this, businesses can focus on their core activities and improve their operations based on better quality information, e.g. improving order compliance and hinterland and warehouse planning. Also, by having more visibility in supply chains, parties can evaluate transaction costs, supply chain risks, partner performance, work jointly on quality improvement and shippers can work on improving inventory management by reducing safety stocks and working capital. Customs authorities are expected to benefit from higher quality information that directly improves the quality of their risk assessment. By being able to better target high-risk containers, businesses can expect that inspection load on safe and secure supply chains can diminish in the future. Together with the participating businesses, the project will investigate if the CASSANDRA solution can help to push uncertainties related to customs compliance towards the origin of the chain.

### **Demonstrations in CASSANDRA Living Lab**

CASSANDRA implements and demonstrates the core concepts in three so-called Living Labs. These labs are set up around major European trade lanes, including Asia – Europe (Living Lab 1), Europe – US (Living Lab 2) and North Africa – Europe (Living Lab 3). Compliance innovations will be tested in Living Lab 1. Compliance can be supported by using the high quality information from the integrated information solution to support the semi-automatic generation of different declarations, including export, import

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and security (ENS) declarations. Together with UK and Dutch Customs, CASSANDRA will investigate whether completeness and correctness of declarations and other compliance information can be checked before vessel departure in the port of loading. This will remove uncertainties related to customs compliance in later parts of the chain. By collecting necessary data from original sources, and by controlled sharing of information between declarants on both export and import side, the compliance process of lodging these declarations can be facilitated and uncertainties removed early in the logistics process.

### **CASSANDRA on trade routes between Asia and Europe**

Demonstrations of Living Lab 1 focus on trade routes between Asia and Europe. With support of the consolidators and freight forwarders in the consortium – BAP, DHL, Kuehne+Nagel and Seacon Logistics – potential routes for this demonstrator have been identified from origins in China, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore to European destinations via the ports of Rotterdam and Felixstowe. The project is now expanding the participation of shippers building on existing business relations of the freight forwarders. Participating IT providers will affect ways to collect and combine relevant information in a safe and secure way in order to enhance supply chain visibility. Existing business IT solutions are to be linked with new integration and dashboard functionalities where needed, thus creating a data pipeline that holds accurate trade lane information. The data pipeline, including advanced solutions for access control and data protection, provides one integrated access point to information that already exists, but is now scattered across different actors in the supply chain and held in the different business systems. By doing this, the pipeline can offer added value to any business participating in this project by opening up additional reliable data sources with the prospect of enhancing the quality of the data used.

### **Implementation of CASSANDRA concepts between Asia and Europe**

The implementation of the CASSANDRA concepts started in 2011 with the identification of the different trade lanes. Based on the current way of working in these lanes and the existing IT infrastructure, data pipeline configurations are now being developed. The first integrated solutions are expected to be running by the end of 2012. From there the solutions are extended with more information sources and Customs innovations. Evaluation sessions with all participants will be organized regularly to create as many business benefits from the solution as possible.

Organizations that are interested in the project, vision and results can find more information on the CASSANDRA project website. For more information on the Living Lab between Asia and Europe, you are invited to contact the Living Lab 1 coordinator below.

#### **Contact details**

Inge Lucassen

TNO

Email: [inge.lucassen@tno.nl](mailto:inge.lucassen@tno.nl)

#### **Further information**

Project website

[www.cassandra-project.eu](http://www.cassandra-project.eu)

Picture

[www.ect.nl/imagegallery](http://www.ect.nl/imagegallery)