

# **BOOSTLOG PROJECT**

# DELIVERABLE REPORT

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#### The BOOSTLOG project consortium consists of:

Part. No	Participant organisation name (short name)	Country
1 (Coordinator)	Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe, ALICE AISBL (ALICE)	BE
2	STICHTING SMART FREIGHT CENTRE (SFC)	NL
3	FUNDACION ZARAGOZA LOGISTICS CENTER (ZLC)	ES
4	STICHTING TKI LOGISTIEK (TKI Dinalog)	NL
5	HACON INGENIEURGESELLSCHAFT MBH (HACON)	BE
6	INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS (ICCS)	GR
7	Vlaams Instituut voor de Logistiek VZW (VIL)	BE
8	FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V. (Fraunhofer)	GE
9	FIT Consulting SRL (FIT)	IT
10	FUNDACION DE LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA PARA LA INVESTIGACION, PROMOCION Y ESTUDIOS COMERCIALES DE VALENCIAPORT (VPF)	ES
11	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT (TU Delft)	NL
12	EUROPEAN ROAD TRANSPORT TELEMATICSIMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION ORGANISATION - INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS & SERVICES EUROPE (ERTICO ITS EUR)	BE
13	LINDHOLMEN SCIENCE PARK AKTIEBOLAG (LSP)	SW



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#### **Executive summary**

This report describes how the results of BOOSTLOG will be further exploited after the project finalization, with each of the four stakeholder groups in mind. BOOSTLOG has five WPs and each of them have tangible outcomes that can be exploited. WP2 develops 8 industry cloud reports on various topics, identified barriers to implementation and proposed positive framework. WP3 develops valorisation strategies for various stakeholders and Innovation market place. WP4 identifies R&I gaps in logistics innovation, trends and priorities, and develops recommendations for future projects for Horizon Europe and beyond. WP5 has raised awareness of impacts of R&I projects in logistics innovation to project practitioners as well to stakeholders who are not familiar with EU funding programmes.

The BOOSTLOG consortium consists of all types of stakeholders in the logistics R&I ecosystem. Different stakeholders will have different approaches to exploit project outcomes. However, the cloud reports will be exploited by all the consortium members to guide their future research and innovation activities in order to advance innovation uptake. All consortium members will also advocate for projects addressing the identified gaps in R&I in the logistics sector and implement recommendations in future R&I topics. Research organisations and consultancies will leverage knowledge gained through the project for future EU funded projects and private sponsored research. Education providers will use the project results to update their educational curriculums for graduate education programmes. Funding organisations (e.g. TKI Dinalog) will design their programmes following the identified gaps, trends, and recommendations. Leverage results for future European funded projects and for private-sponsored research. All consortium members will implement valorisation strategies and boost impacts of R&I activities.



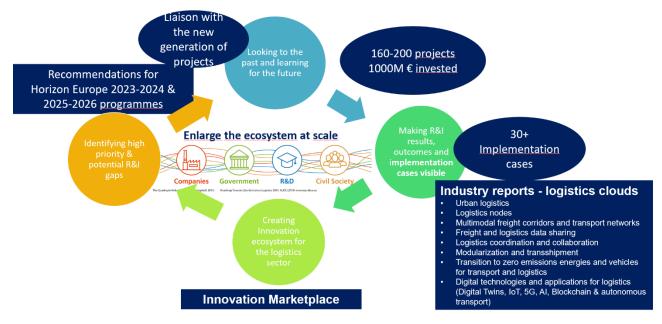
## 1 Vision and objectives of the BOOSTLOG project

BOOSTLOG Vision is transforming European freight transport and logistics R&I ecosystem to perform optimally boosting impact generation out of R&I investment contributing to EU policy objectives and Companies sustainability and competitiveness generating value for society.

BOOSTLOG Strategic Objectives are:

- To enhance the current freight transport & logistics R&I ecosystem at regional national and European level.
- Speed up the technological and organisational innovation uptake (e.g. EU R&I funded projects results) for a more efficient, integrated, harmonized and sustainable freight transportation and logistics system
- Deeply enhancing R&I impact in support of EU policy objectives towards decarbonization, emissions and congestion reduction, ensuring the free and seamless movement of goods and the sector digitalization

BOOSTLOG project overview is shown below:





# 2 Summary of key outcomes of the BOOSTLOG projects

The project has 5 Work Packages (WP) as:

- WP1: Coordination and Project management
- WP2: From R&I projects results to impact generation
- WP3: Accelerating public funded R&I update
- WP4: Identification and prioritisation of R&I gaps
- WP5: Stakeholder engagement, communication and exploitation

Key outcomes of the project include:

- WP2: Most relevant project mapping and identified implementation cases, barriers to implementation and positive framework; particularly 8 industry cloud reports on various topics:
  - Logistics coordination and collaboration
  - o Urban logistics
  - Logistics nodes
  - o Multimodal freight corridors and transport networks
  - o Freight and logistics data sharing
  - Physical Internet including modularization and transshipment technologies
  - o Transition to zero emissions energies and vehicles for transport and logistics
  - Digital technologies and applications for logistics (Digital Twins, IoT, 5G, AI, Blockchain & autonomous transport)
- WP3:
  - o Valorisation strategies for various stakeholders
  - o Innovation market place
- WP4:
  - o Identified R&I gaps in logistics innovation
  - o Identified trends and priorities
  - Recommendations for future projects for Horizon Europe and beyond
- WP5
  - o Raised awareness of impacts of R&I projects in logistics innovation
  - Raised awareness of EU fundings to stakeholders who are not familiar with EU funding programmes
  - Visibility of past and ongoing R&I project results



- o Liaison with new generation projects
- o Collected successful implementation cases (ALICE Innovation Award)
- Enhanced network of stakeholders who are interested in EU funded R&I projects and implementation of project results



## **3 BOOSTLOG consortium and their exploitation plan**

### 3.1 Overview of the BOOSTLOG consortium and potential exploitation

The BOOSTLOG project consortium consists of all type of logistics stakeholders as shown below:



The outcomes of BOOSTLOG will help all consortium members to strengthen their expertise and support their future activities in logistics innovation. In the same time, different stakeholders will have different interests and further use the project outcomes variously.

Key outcomes	Potential exploitation by various consortium members
Cloud reports	<u>All consortium</u> : to use the cloud reports for guiding future R&I project participation and innovation uptake.
	<u>Collaborative networks and clusters</u> : to use the cloud reports to form training materials and guidelines to their members and partners to maximum impacts of R&I project outcomes.
	<u>Government</u> : to use the cloud reports to create future evaluation framework of funding programmes
	<u>Companies</u> : to use the cloud reports to develop future projects



	<u>R&amp;D organisations</u> : to use the cloud reports to develop future projects, to form any new syllabus or courses, to help researchers to exploit their research outcomes <u>Civil society</u> : to use the cloud reports to guide future policy work and encourage members and partners to join R&I projects and exploit R&I project outcomes for decarbonisation of the logistics sector.
Valorisation strategies	<u>All consortium</u> : to follow the strategies to guide future R&I project participation and innovation uptake.
Innovation Market place	<u>All consortium</u> : to continue using the innovation marketplace to showcase innovative solutions developed by R&I projects and aiming for successful uptakes.
Identified R&I gaps in logistics innovation & trends and priorities	All consortium: to address the identified gaps and trends for projects. <u>Collaborative networks and clusters</u> : to advocate for project and programmes to address the gaps identified and new trends <u>Government</u> : to fund projects that address the gaps identified and new trends <u>R&amp;D organisations</u> : to develop projects and knowledge to address the gaps identified and new trends
Recommendations for future projects for Horizon Europe and beyond	<u>Collaborative networks and clusters</u> : to help EC and national funding programme to implement the recommendations.
Raised awareness of impacts of R&I projects in logistics innovation Raised awareness of EU fundings to stakeholders who are not familiar with EU funding programmes Visibility of past and ongoing R&I project results	<u>All consortium</u> : to continue advocating and facilitating innovation uptake <u>R&amp;D organisations</u> : to give students and researchers ambitions and provide successful examples on how to create successful start- ups/cooperation with business to deliver impacts of R&I outcomes.
Liaison with new generation projects	<u>All consortium</u> : to continue building cooperation with ongoing and new projects for successful innovation uptake



Collected successful implementation cases (ALICE Innovation Award)	<u>All consortium</u> : to continue support ALICE Innovation Award, e.g. submitting candidate cases, joining selection committee, and disseminate winners
Enhanced network of stakeholders who are interested in EU funded R&I projects and implementation of project results	<u>All consortium</u> : to use the network to develop new R&I projects, to exploit project outcomes, and to form cooperation in advancing innovation in the logistics sector

## 3.2 Exploitation plan for individual consortium members

Name of consortium member	Post-project exploitation plan
	ALICE will continue dissemination of the cloud reports among the logistics stakeholders to raise awareness of impacts of EU funded R&I projects on the sector. Use of the implementation cases identified by the cloud reports (WP2), ALICE will build training materials and training courses to ALICE members to provide know-how practices on implementing R&I project results. The first training course is foreseen in 2024. The training course will also invite ALICE Innovation Award winners to share their experiences to raise ambitions to project practitioners. ALICE will follow the valorisation strategies developed by BOOSTLOG WP3 and implement activity portfolio to advance implementation of R&I projects.
ALICE	ALICE will continue work with EC and other funding provides to design and execute R&I programmes towards impact-oriented projects, and advocate for positive framework conditions identified by the BOOSTLOG project (WP2).
	ALICE will advocate for priorities in R&I and topics identified by the BOOSTLOG WP4 and facilitate projects that can address the research gaps identified.
	ALICE will continue the operation of ALICE Innovation Award (WP5) to recognise achievements of project practitioners and will continue monitoring impacts of R&I projects and summarise/present the impact reports to high-level policy makers to boost R&I project impacts.
	ALICE will continue operation of its Knowledge Platform and innovation market place to make R&I project results visible and usable for all stakeholders. ALICE will continue working with R&I funding providers (e.g. EIT Urban Mobility) to enable market uptake of R&I project outcomes.



SFC	Cloud report on Zero Emission Transport will be used to guide further R&I activities for European funded projects and for private-sponsored research within the SFC network.
	Barriers and levers identified will be used to encourage SFC members to participate in collaborative research activities. Activities will be carried out together with ALICE & ERTICO to promote research funding, upcoming calls and project results.
ZLC	Leverage results for future European funded projects and for private-sponsored research. Update educational curriculums for master programmes. Incorporate results into executive education programmes.
	TKI Dinalog is the Knowledge and Innovation Partnership in which business, knowledge institutes and government work together in the innovation program of the Dutch Topsector Logistics. TKI Dinalog supports public private partnerships in research and development by matchmaking of partners, support in the development of collaboration consortia, strategic planning of innovation topics, and the preparation of research programs.
	TKI Dinalog will use the identified R&I gaps to align with the research agenda and programs it develops. Also to make sure that the chances of duplication of research is limited and to see if research activities can be reinforced.
TKI Dinalog	TKI Dinalog has a main contribution in the development of valorisation strategies. The further development of it within the Boostlog project will lead to a new strategy to make sure that the guidelines are presented and adopted by the consortia supported by TKI Dinalog. The guidelines will be part of the Guide for Proposers TKI Dinalog is using.
	The development of the Innovation Marketplace is an important part of the Boostlog project. The underlying Cloud Reports and the specific innovations within the Marketplace will be presented to the national network of TKI Dinalog. This will be done in a pro-active setting to make sure that innovation seekers in The Netherlands will be able to match with the innovation providers.
	TKI Dinalog will also take the learnings from the Innovation best practices (award winners) to see if these learning can be used to increase the innovation uptake from research outcome in the Dutch programs.
HACON	HACON offers consulting services and software for traffic, transport and logistics. The HACON consulting team accompanies the implementation of projects in transport and logistics, particularly in rail freight and intermodal transport. Since years, Hacon shows a strong engagement in European research and development activities. In this context, HACON has established a comprehensive



ICCS

record on projects in the scope of the EU framework programmes and is an active member in the Shift2Rail initiative and its follow-up Europe's Rail.

HACON will use the trends, technologies, gaps and recommendations, identified and elaborated in BOOSTLOG as input to its consulting projects and RTD activities. Additionally, HACON will use the BOOSTLOG knowledge for its engagement in different associations, initiatives and working groups. HACON's memberships and co-operations include the German Transport Forum (DVF), the Association of the European Rail Industry (UNIFE), the German Promotion Centre for Intermodal Transport (SGKV), the NEWOPERA Research Association, the Logistics Alliance Germany (LAG), the European Technology Platform ALICE, the Digital Transport & Logistics Forum (DTLF) and the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR).

ICCS as a research institute focuses on smart systems and operations optimization as well as data sharing platforms in the transport and logistics sector. It will benefit from BOOSTLOG (a) by expanding its expertise in accomplished research and current research gaps (b) by acquiring in depth knowledge of applied research and relative success factors and replicate them in Greece which is on the border of the EU, a crossroad of EU, Middle East and Africa and a natural gateway for international logistics, increasing the potential of involvement in industrial projects; (c) At an R&D project level, the gain of experience and increased reputation in the field will make it easier for ICCS to successfully participate in future projects, extending its portfolio in the logistics and transport infrastructure domain. This is absolutely in line with the ICCS strategy in further exploiting research project results into applied domain such as process optimization, logistics platform integration and port-city development planning.

The business model of ICCS spans into three distinct but interconnected pillars: research, teaching and partnership. Apart from basic research that takes place in the institute, there is a strong activity into teaching of the research outcomes through firm links with the National Technical University of Athens. At the same time, ICCS collaborates a lot with research and business communities where the outcomes of BOOSTLOG are expected to be exploited such as the Greek National Logistics Council, the Greek Institute of Logistics and Transportation, the ITS Hellas, the Greek Cold Storage & Logistics Association etc.

To promote these exploitable results, an advocacy plan has been created to inform a broad range of authorities and policy makers about the possibilities and the benefits until the domain is well known and understood. It is often the case that city's development plans are not aligned with the related plans of the logistics sector thus missing the opportunity to develop a mutually beneficial plan and avoid issues that introduce friction in the relationship between city and logistics operators. BOOSTLOG cloud reports will be shared with the relevant



	authorities to raise awareness and provide feedback for possible policy adjustments and adjustment of the regulatory framework.
	VIL, as Flanders' sole logistics spearhead cluster and representing over 600 companies directly involved in logistics and supply chain, focuses on collaborative research and innovation throughout the complete TRL range. To this extent VIL initiates and executes company driven sustainable and innovative projects bringing academia, governmental agencies, companies and citizens together.
VIL	VIL has an active role in the redaction of the cloud reports as well as in identifying and prioritizing R&I gaps. This enables VIL to valorise the relevant learnings by injecting these directly into the regional project pipeline and guide the ideas to the correct regional funding scheme by informing and incentivising the appropriate stakeholders. Furthermore the identified and prioritised RI gaps are direct input to the respective roadmaps with a "2040 horizon" which are being developed (2023-2024) in VIL's focus domains of digital transformation (digital office, digital logistics operations, digital supply chain, autonomous transport of goods), hinterland connection (connected hinterland, hubs and corridors of the Physical Internet), green supply chains (zero emission transport, sustainable logistics operations, circular economy logistics, alternative business models) and last mile logistics (optimized city logistics, optimized distribution).
	VIL being a membership organisation, will also focus on highlighting the results in the bi-monthly newsletter as well on the website. Additionally VIL wants to actively promote the EU funding programmes with its logistics and supply chain members and to attract more industry players. The results from BOOSTLOG will be an important lever to this extent.
	In this respect, it is also important to note that VIL, together with the POM Antwerp (Provincial Development Council) and supported by EFRO (European fund for regional development), is the founding father of Log!Ville, a landmark innovation centre for the logistics eco-system. It is a place where mature but not mainstream technology is physically demonstrated but also where the long term vision on logistics is centred around a number of expected key innovations culminating in the realisation of a Physical Internet ("horizon 2040").
Fraunhofer	The identified trends, technologies, gaps and recommendations will be used in industrial funded projects, like the EnterpriseLabs at Fraunhofer. Focus of those projects area often roadmapping and trend scouting activities, which will benefit from such results.
	The described recommendations can be used in national platforms, like Platform Industry 4.0 to synchronise current activities in manufacturing and logistics.



Through the strategic role of Fraunhofer in the Open Logistics Foundation recommendations can be used for the regular ideation process. The ideation process brings together all kind of organisations from logistics and supply chain management with the goal to find current problems and identify concrete solutions, mainly joint open source implementations.

In the Center of Excellence Logistics and IT at Fraunhofer, interdisciplinary research groups work on topics including "People and Technology," "Autonomous Logistics Systems," "Machine Learning" and "Sustainability". The aim of the initiative is to transfer current research results into products and services for practical application. The Center of Excellence is a driver of networking and cooperation and can align its activities according to the BOOSTLOG recommendations.

The Mittelstand-Digital Zentrum Ruhr-OWL is an initiative at Fraunhofer that supports SMEs in the digitization of products, production methods and processes as well as the development of digital business models. The free offers for SMEs include, for example, lab tours, potential analyses, qualification offers, transfer projects, digital strategies, and industry circles. BOOSTLOG recommendations can be included into the offers and thus support the transfer to industry partners.

The initiative Digital Hub Logistics that Fraunhofer is part of offers digital teams from established companies, so-called start-ins, space to develop digital products and business models. The goal is to transform ideas from research and development into marketable products and services and place them on the market. BOOSTLOG recommendations can help align the activities to focus on topics relevant for future logistics.

Fraunhofer is also a partner of the Lamarr Institute, besides TU Dortmund University and the University of Bonn. The Lamarr Institute focuses on the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning. The goal is to establish internationally competitive research that sustainably strengthens Germany and Europe as leading locations for research, teaching and technology transfer in AI. Fraunhofer provides knowledge on the logistics domain as one of the most promising application domains for artificial intelligence and machine learning. The activities shape the future of logistics and can incorporate findings of the BOOSTLOG project.

Fraunhofer is partner in the Global Logistics Emission Council GLEC (lead by Smart Freight Centre), an industry driven initiative discussing topics such as green/sustainable freight, carbon emissions and reduction. As such research trends and results as well as BOOSTLOG recommendations on relevant research needs can be brought in to raise awareness and initiate further activities at industry level.



	The mobility industry is a central pillar of the German and European economy. Innovations in this area of technology are directly reflected in Germany's economic strength. The rapid transfer of the latest research findings into applications is an important basis for innovative strength and economic success. For this reason, Fraunhofer IML uses results from the BOOSTLOG project in the Fraunhofer Transport Alliance for the working group "lead market mobility economy".
	FIT Consulting srl is an Italian independent SME acting as mobility system facilitator inviting the civil society, central and local government, industry and the academic sector to join forces to generate a real change in transport and mobility sectors. In particular, over its 25 years of activity, FIT Consulting developed strong knowledge and European and Italian networks in the logistics sector and in particular in Urban Logistics. Indeed, among other activities, FIT developed Sustainable Urban Mobility and Logistics Plans for many Italian cities and metropolitan areas (among others: Rome, Turin, Cagliari, Trieste, Verona, Livorno, Bergamo, Modena, Terni, Rimini etc), and is active in many EU-funded R&I projects (DISCO and URBANE just to mention those currently ongoing specifically on Urban Logistics), where some of the outcomes of BOOSTLOG have been already integrated.
FIT Consulting	The knowledge gained, results and outcomes from the BOOSTLOG project, and in particular the cloud report on Urban Logistics led by FIT, will be used to consolidate and expand the projects in the company's portfolio, as well as to promote, with cities, the adoption of innovative solutions that are sustainable from both an economic and financial point of view and thus help them to pursue their sustainability and decarbonisation goals in a stable and lasting way.
	On the other hand, the experience developed in BOOSTLOG will also be used for FIT consultancy activities, in particular towards the actors aiming at making their activities compliant with local, national and European regulations.
	Finally, barriers, implementation paths and success factors identified in cloud reports will be taken into account while developing new R&I proposals on logistics themes, in order to ensure that projects results will last beyond the project duration, maximising their impacts on European society.
VPF	Fundación Valenciaport is the research, innovation and training centre of the Valenciaport cluster (Valencia Port Community) and aims to facilitate and provide innovation capabilities to Valenciaport companies, as well as to export Valenciaport's know-how to other port communities at national and international level. Therefore, the basis for the next generation of logistics R&D established in the BOOSTLOG project will be used by Fundación Valenciaport to determine which European and regional R&D activities to participate in and focus on.



	Moreover, the end customers of Fundación Valenciaport are part of the port cluster, covering a wide range of organisations, from public bodies to private companies. With the results of the BOOSTLOG project (identified trends, technologies, gaps and recommendations), Fundación Valenciaport will be able to provide our customers with recommendations on relevant research needs to focus on key areas for the logistics of the future.
	Finally, as the Fundación Valenciaport also actively participates in national and international research associations and working groups (ALICE, WATERBORNE, LOGISTOP, etc.), it will use the results of the project to guide future R&D activities of EU-funded projects within its network.
	As a leading academic institute, TU Delft will align future research programs jointly with industry or in the framework of national and European platforms with the identified gaps. In addition, TU Delft plans to deploy the integrated valorisation strategies in the upcoming projects.
TU Delft	In addition, given the TU Delft's extended national and international relations and recognition, cloud reports and the identified gaps will be shared within this network where appropriate. In this regards, TU Delft will leverage and extend the collaborations among the logistic networks shaped during BOOSTLOG to harmonize and identify future strategies and gaps.
	ERTICO will use the identified trends, technologies, gaps and recommendations in the next projects as well as in the ERTICO Academy and the FENIX2.0.
	The proposed recommendations can be used in the FENIX2.0 federation of platforms.
ERTICO - ITS EUR	ERTICO is also involved in different associations such as ACEA, SAE, ISO in order to establish internationally competitive sustainably strengthens Europe as leading locations for research and technology transfer.
	ERTICO is leading under ISO/TC 204 a new working group (SWG) as part of its working group (WG) 17 on Nomadic Devices in ITS Systems. This new SWG17.2 is developing a series of international standards which define energy-based green ITS services providing urban transport management and smart city mobility applications on nomadic & mobile devices by means of not only measuring energy consumption and $CO_2$ emissions but also providing information to users on energy capacity in transportation sectors in the smart city-last mile delivery included.
	For this reason, ERTICO uses results from the BOOSTLOG project in the ISO/TC 204 the working group "SWG 17.2".



	ERTICO is also partner in the Global Logistics Emission Council GLEC (lead by Smart Freight Centre), an industry driven initiative discussing topics such as green/sustainable freight, carbon emissions and reduction. ERTICO will also promote research funding, upcoming calls and project results.
LSP/CLOSER	CLOSER is a Swedish national innovation programme focusing on transport efficiency and logistics. It is a knowledge sharing and project development platform that engages a large number of industry actors, research organisation/universities and public organisations. CLOSER has 4 thematic areas focusing on urban logistics, long-distance transport, digitalisation and fuel & energy. Results from BOOSTLOG are envisioned to be used as follows:
	<ul> <li>BOOSTLOG Cloud Reports and recommendations will be shared within the network and discussed in the 4 thematic areas.</li> <li>Identified gaps, trends, technologies and recommendations will be used to revise CLOSER's strategic plans – to acknowledge, adjust and act upon gaps. Hopefully, this will lead to new initiatives taken by CLOSER to tighten the research gap. Similar initiatives was taken by CLOSER during the pandemic, in which a new programme focusing on e-commerce was initiated.</li> <li>Collaboration between logistics clusters/networks, initiated within BOOSTLOG, will be followed up also after project ending. CLOSER will take an active role in finding the right methods of collaboration between the clusters/networks. These type of collaboration will be crucial to harmonize strategies across borders, stimulate knowledge exchange and increase valorisation to cluster/network partners and end-users.</li> </ul>



## 4 Summary

BOOSTLOG has five WPs and each of them have tangible outcomes that can be exploited. WP2 develops 8 industry cloud reports on various topics, identified barriers to implementation and proposed positive framework. WP3 develops valorisation strategies for various stakeholders and Innovation market place. WP4 identifies R&I gaps in logistics innovation, trends and priorities, and develops recommendations for future projects for Horizon Europe and beyond. WP5 has raised awareness of impacts of R&I projects in logistics innovation to project practitioners as well to stakeholders who are not familiar with EU funding programmes. The BOOSTLOG consortium consists of all types of stakeholders in the logistics R&I ecosystem. Outcomes of the BOOSTLOG projects will benefit all of the consortium members. Different stakeholders have different approaches to exploit project outcomes. However, all consortium will use the cloud reports to guide their future research and innovation activities in order to advance innovation uptake. All consortium members will also advocate for projects addressing the identified gaps in R&I in the logistics sector and implement recommendations in future R&I topics. Research organisations and consultancies will leverage knowledge gained through the project for future EU funded projects and private sponsored research. Education providers will use the project results to update their educational curriculums for graduate education programmes. Funding organisations (e.g. TKI Dinalog) will design their programmes following the identified gaps, trends, and recommendations. Leverage results for future European funded projects and for private-sponsored research. All consortium members will implement valorisation strategies and boost impacts of R&I activities.