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Article

Editorial: Supply chain management

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Editorial: Supply Chain Management

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Abstract

This special issue has followed up the 3rd Olympus International Conference on Supply Chains held on Athens Metropolitan Expo, November 7 & 8 2015, Greece.

The Conference was organized by the Department of Logistics Technological Educational Institute of Central Macedonia, in collaboration with the: a) Laboratory of Quantitative Analysis, Logistics and Supply Chain Management of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), b) Greek Association of Supply Chain Management (EEL of Northern Greece) and the c) Supply Chain & Logistics Journal.

During the 2-Days Conference more than 60 research papers were presented covering the following thematic areas: (i) Transportation, (ii) Best Practices in Logistics, (iii) Information and Communication Technologies in Supply Chain Management, (iv) Food Logistics, (v) New Trends in Business Logistics, and (vi) Green Supply Chain Management. Three keynote invited speakers addressed interesting issues for the Operational Research, the Opportunities and Prospects of Greek Ports chaired Round Tables with other Greek and Foreign Scientists and Specialists.

Keywords: 3rd Olympus International Conference on Supply Chains, special issue, selected papers.

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EDITORIAL

This special issue is composed of five selected papers from the 3rd Olympus International Conference on Supply Chains held on Athens Metropolitan Expo, November 7 & 8 2015, Greece, covering different aspects of the Supply Chain Management. The selected papers were submitted in two double-blind review process by academics. The first review process was conducted for the purpose of the Conference and the second for the special issue, ensuring a significant contribution to higher quality papers. A short presentation of the selected papers is following.

In the first paper Sambracos and Ramfou try to answer to the following key question: "Do freight transport time savings translate to benefit for transport consuming companies?" by modeling the internal supply chain of a generic company. They concluded that savings in freight transportation time do not always result to benefits for the company. The main reason behind that is that the behavior of a system cannot be known just by knowing the elements of which the system is made of.

Parisi et al. design a specialised telecommunications container (TC) that belongs to a group of containers that serve the purpose of immediate response to global disasters. The design focuses on defining the topology of the various parts of equipment by taking into consideration factors of serviceability, functionality, human-product interaction, universal design language, energy consumption, sustainability and the interrelationship with the other containers.

Sakali and Skalkos investigate in a systematic way the level of agility of the Greek food chain companies. The findings of this study indicated that the Greek food chain cannot be characterized as agile as it has low flexibility in the workings of many of its members. This is mainly due to the major challenges that the examined sector is faced with that arise from changes in the sector's economic and non-economic environments, from changes in consumers' lifestyles, from global increases in food consumption, and from a diminishing production base and now days from the not stable political and economical situation.

Malindretos et al. study the exploitation of the opportunities derived from the wine production and waste management. The results of the study reveal the significant opportunities (both financial and environmental) derived from the application of sustainable practices in the wine industry. It has greater applicability globally, providing some key cost elements and the evaluation results from the operation of a company that elaborates wineries by-products.

Pavlou et al. in the fifth paper try to estimate the effect of different parameters, such as the number of machines or the travel distance between field and biorefinary facility, on total operational time and variable cost of biomass supply chain through a simulation model. The results shown that in each case / scenario, parameters such as area of the field, travel distance, number of available machines, capacity of the machines, etc. should be taken into account in order a less time and/ or cost consuming machinery combination to be chosen.