

LIVING LAB XCHANGE

SUSTAINABLE LIVING LABS AS RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE OF TOPSECTOR LOGISTICS

WHY

The Topsector Logistics has started a new innovation and implementation programme for 2021 - 2023. The program focuses on three application areas:

1. Cities
2. Multimodal corridors & nodes
3. Supply Chains

Cross cutting themes are human capital, innovation monitoring, internationalisation, and legislation. Besides implementation and upscaling, the program focuses on research and innovation. Priority themes are:

1. Sustainable Logistics
2. Data Driven Logistics
3. Supply Chain Coordination

The Sustainable Living Labs form an excellent research infrastructure that can develop alongside new innovation initiatives contributing to the Topsector Logistics research agenda.

WHAT

Research and innovation is the backbone of the Topsector Logistics. It is important to maintain a research pipeline for the long-term, where successive steps build on previous results.

The Topsector Logistics will periodically review the existing Living Labs in view of the Topsector agenda to identify white spots for future research.

Elements

The main elements of this research infrastructure, the living labs, are a consortium with an open structure, a research agenda that is sufficiently flexible to accommodate new questions, and a mechanism to find new funding to sustain the existence of the living lab.



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HOW

For an effective role of the Living Labs in the Topsector Logistics, intensive interaction between the Topsector and the Living Labs is crucial. We therefore strongly promote the monitoring of the Living Labs in the various steering groups of the Topsector Logistics

What are the consequences of LLs as research infrastructure?

1. Interaction on research agenda between LLs and TSL
2. Activity types and design of actions (steering groups)
3. Long term perspective and stable financing (ownership)



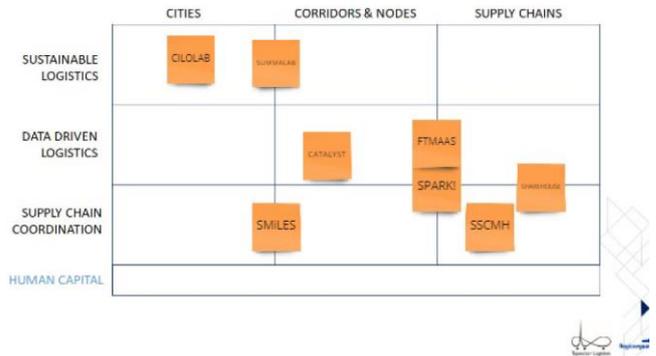
More specifically, we would like to see interaction on the research agenda of the Topsector Logistics and the Living Labs, a matching of types of activity for research in Living Labs with the knowledge needs of the steering groups, and the development of a joint vision for future research and funding.

RESULT

Completeness

Our Topsector structure is reasonably covered by Living Labs at the moment. See for this the graph below. There are also some obvious white spots, still. One such white spot is inland shipping that is part of the application area Corridors and Nodes. This new Living Lab, that will be funded jointly with the Dutch National Science Agenda, will address technical and societal innovation issues in the Dutch barging industry

Plot your living lab with a post-it in the canvas



Living Labs in the Topsector Logistics programme - Miro breakout session

Demand driven research

An important outcome of developing viable and healthy Living Labs is that a considerable part of the knowledge and information questions in the Topsector Logistics immediately can be addressed by a research community that is active and emerged in the daily challenges of businesses in their field. This will result in strong demand driven and responsive research infrastructure.

TAKE AWAYS

The demand driven and responsive research ecosystems fit well with the ambitions of the various Living Labs. Flexibility and a certain degree of responsiveness is built into every well-designed research project. It is important, however, to acknowledge that the Living Labs are involved in research and not in short-term consulting. It is also important to maintain proper decision-making mechanisms in each Living Lab to adjust agenda's, find new funding and react to demands and expectations of the Topsector.

Conclusion

Living Labs are a powerful element in the research and implementation model of the Topsector Logistics.

The Living Labs have the proper structure to be responsive, but should always keep an eye on their research ambitions and the long term knowledge needs of the Topsector Logistics.

The research programme Sustainable Living Labs is co-financed by the Dutch Research Council (NWO), the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Taskforce for Applied Research (SIA) and the Top Sector Logistics and the programme is monitored regarding progress and development by TM Dialog.

