

# Sustainability and Innovation in Logistics – Friends or Foes?

**MESD 2009, ICN Nancy, 06.11.2009**

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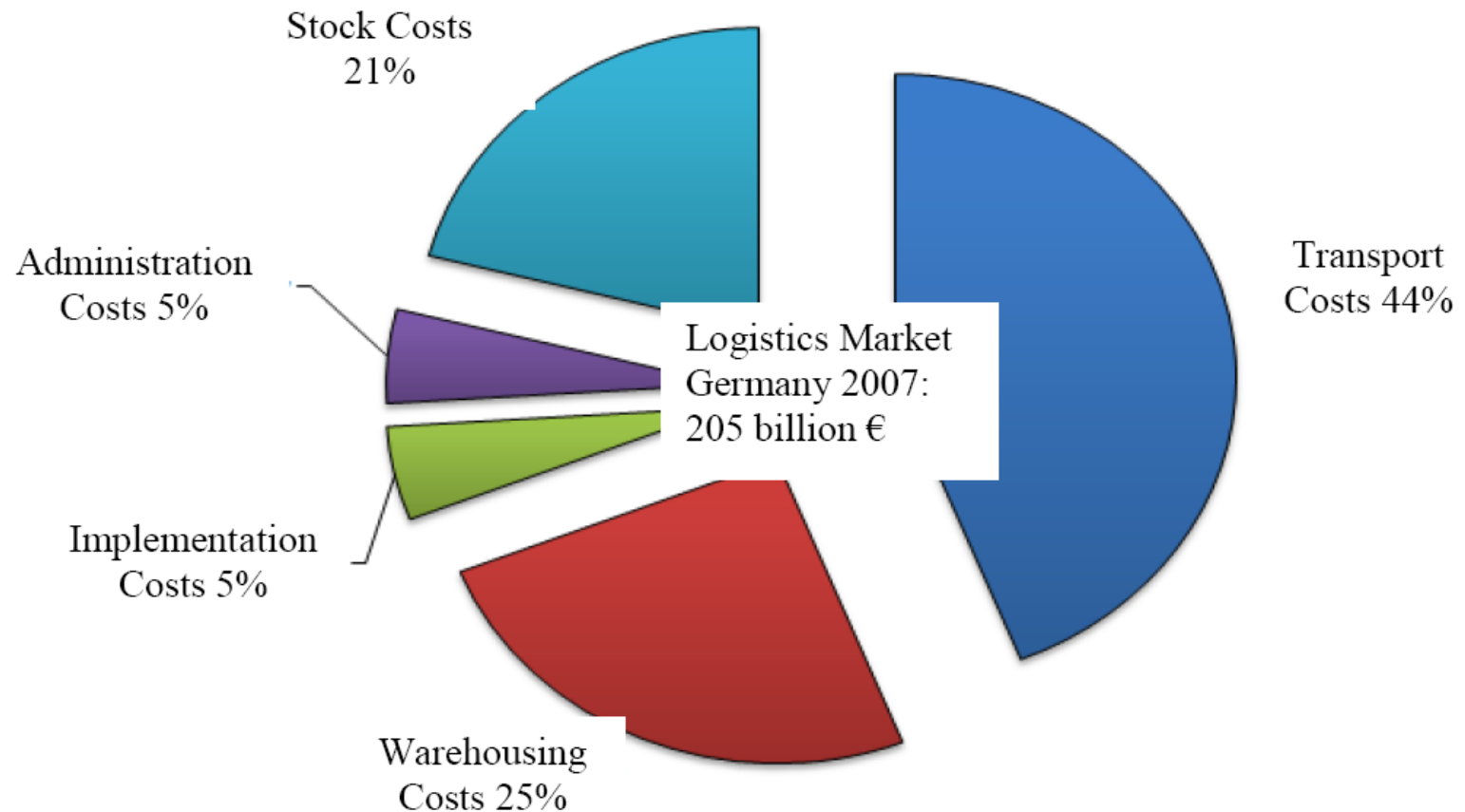
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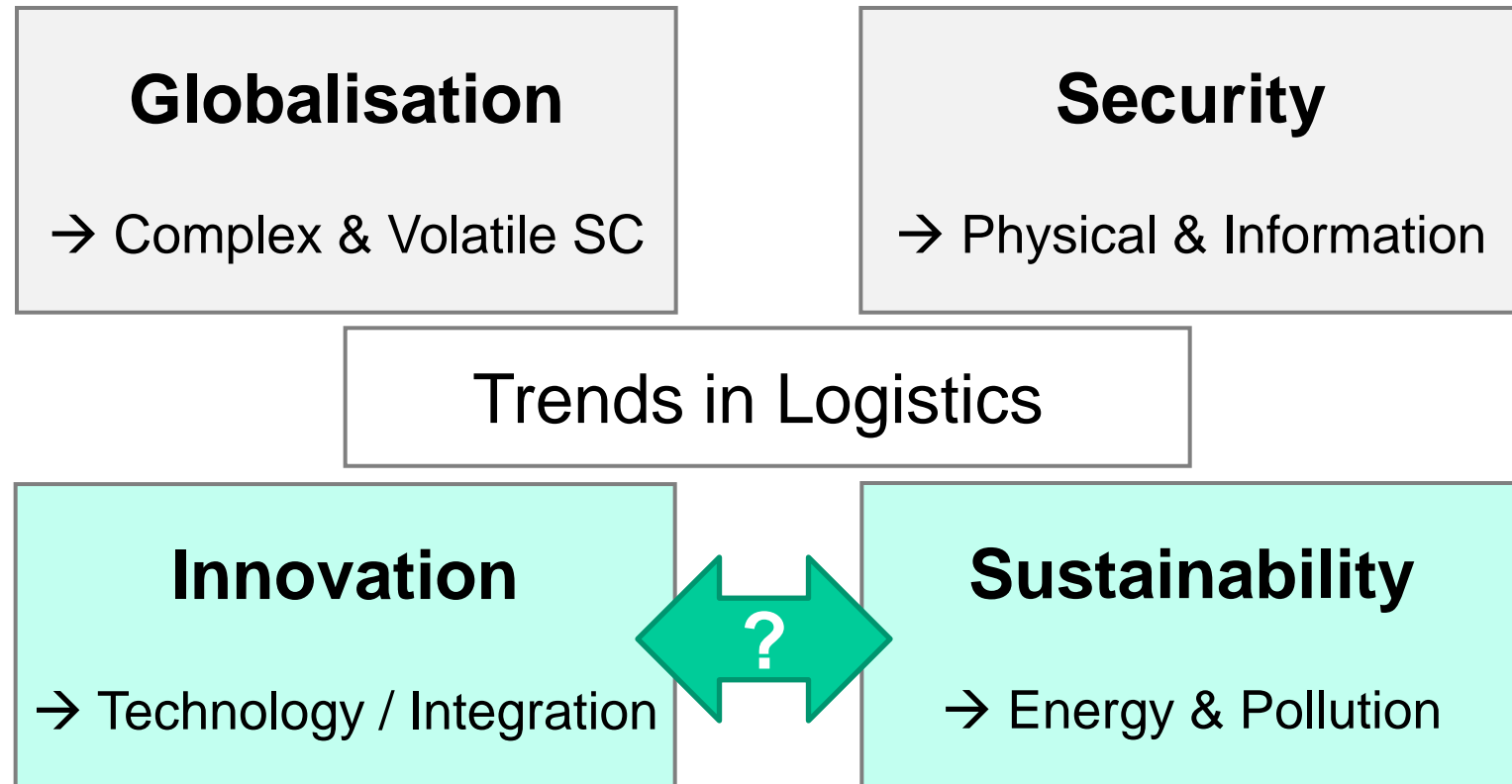


1. Introduction
2. Economic Logistics Perspective
3. Sustainable Logistics Perspective
4. Integrated Innovation Concept
5. Conclusions

(A) **Logistics** is a huge sector with non-neglectable **ecological impact** as in transport and warehousing.

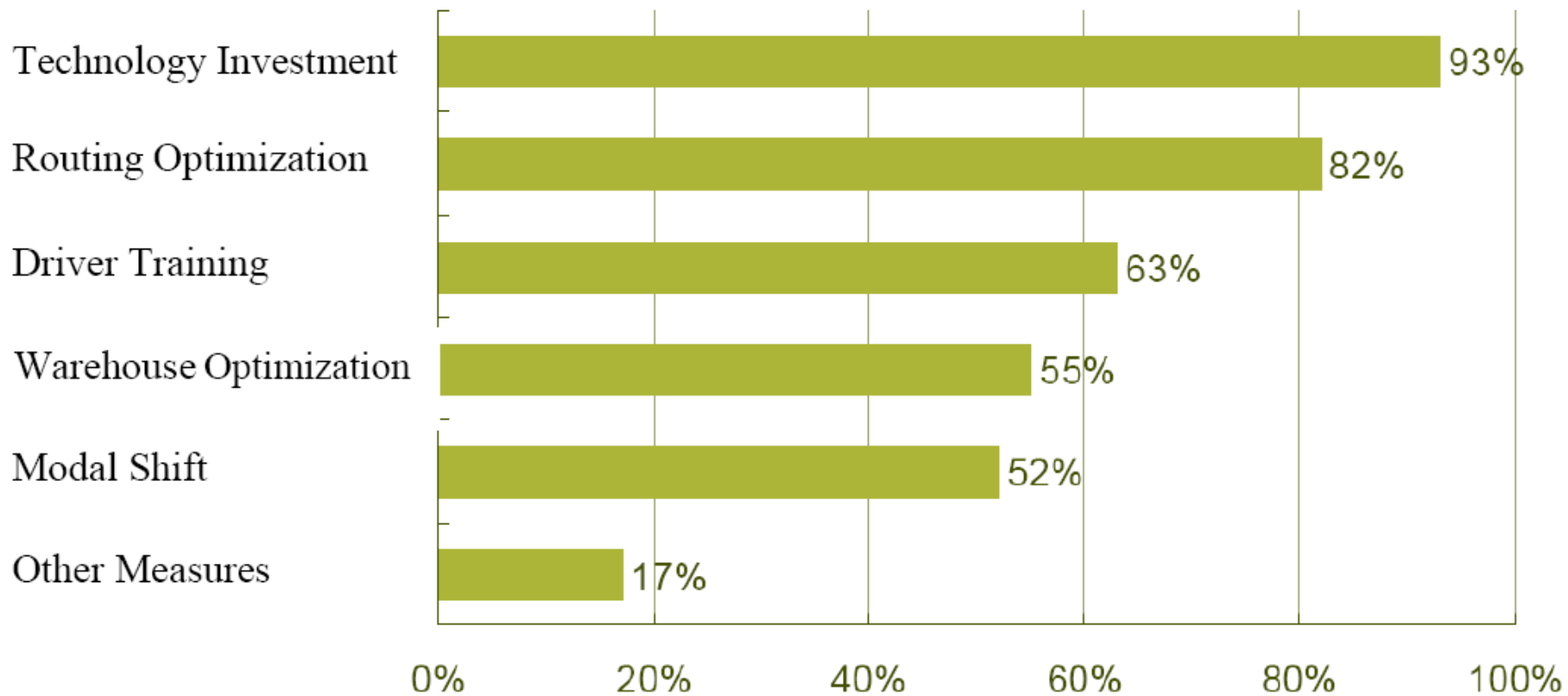


(B) In **Logistics** several **major trends** are driving forces of change, **sustainability** and **innovation** among them.

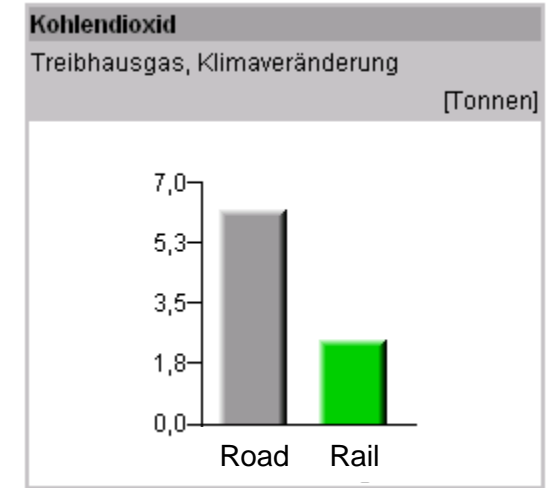
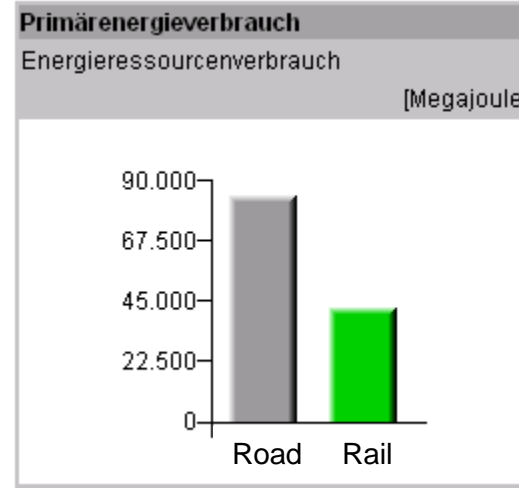


Source: Straube, F., Pfohl, H. (2008), Bundesvereinigung Logistik (BVL) Berlin.

(C) Companies answer the challenges with **technology investments** – research is neglecting this connection.



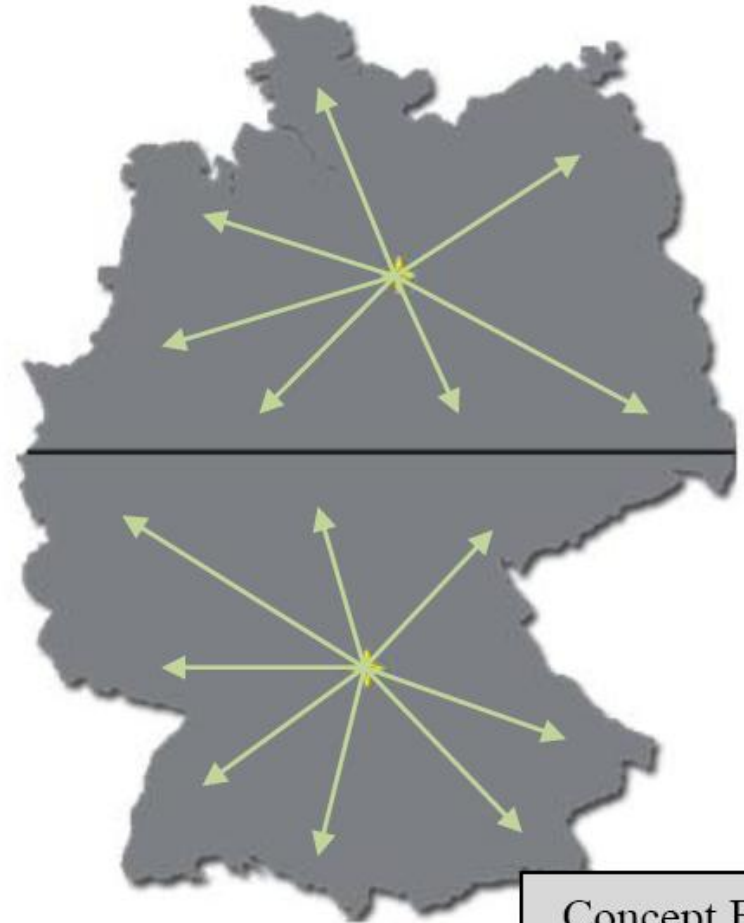
(D) Logistics research is usually comparing **ceteris paribus alternatives** – not searching for win-win-concepts.



- ➡ 50% less energy consumption for rail transport  
60% less CO<sub>2</sub> emission compared to road
- ➡ With increasing road pricing and also increasing congestion rail cargo may be the strategic alternative

# 2. Econ. Logistics Perspective

Concept A



Concept B

(A) Logistics concepts try to improve **transportation costs**.

## 2. Econ. Logistics Perspective

Decentral  
Warehousing  
(Status quo)

(I) (More)  
Central  
Warehousing

→ Cost Reduction  
→ Increasing  
Pollution

(II) Decentral  
Warehousing  
with RFID

→ Cost Reduction  
by reduced security  
stock level  
→ No increased Poll.

(B) Logistics concepts shall optimize for **several** objectives.

**Stock costs** rise with the number of warehouses.\*)

- This is because the **average inventory** to meet a predetermined **availability level** in a market rises with an increasing number of warehouses whose inventories are held to supply the market
- The effect is primarily caused by **safety stock levels**

Besides several additional advantages by using **RFID** a benchmark study (2003/04) on returnable transport items (RTI) shows that total **safety stock level can be reduced by 10 %\*\*)**

\*) Source: Pfohl, H. (2004) Logistikmanagement, p. 117

\*\*) Source: [www.logica.com/pdf/rfid\\_study.pdf](http://www.logica.com/pdf/rfid_study.pdf) (2004), p. 43

# 2. Econ. Logistics Perspective

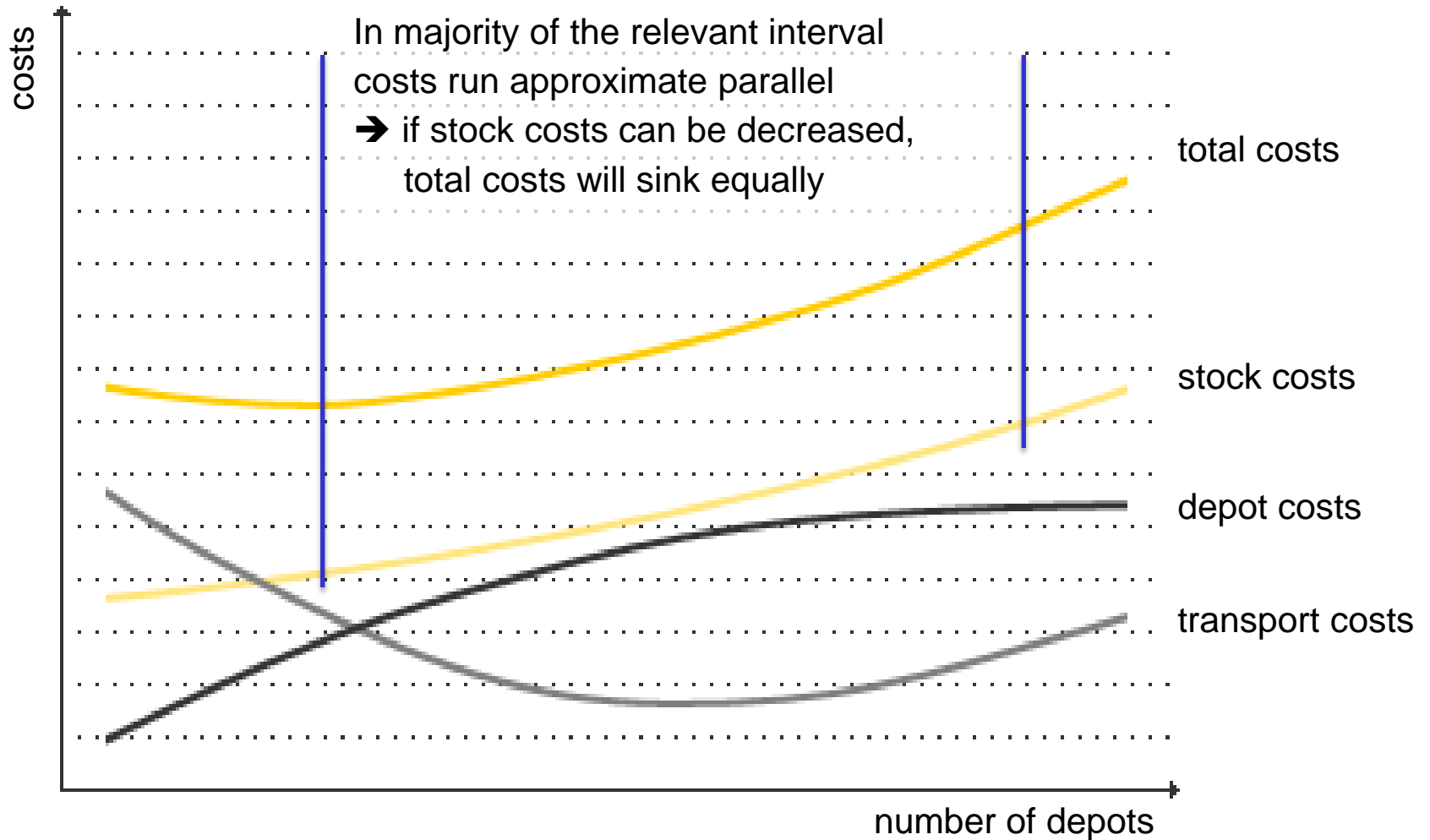


Illustration: Stock/Lambert (2001) Strategic Logistics Management, p. 409

## 2. Econ. Logistics Perspective

Benefit	Values
<p><b>Handling costs</b> per RTI in a distribution centre through increased efficiency</p>	<p>&gt; Without RFID, the costs per pallet are € 6.14 (all handling and storage costs)</p> <p>&gt; With RFID, the costs are € 5.62, saving € 0.52</p> <p>&gt; This is an increase in handling efficiency of 8.5 % per pallet</p>
<p>Reduction in <b>safety stock levels</b> of RTI</p>	<p>&gt; The total RTI pool can be reduced by 10 % through optimization</p>

### 'RFID & RTI' - Assumptions

The chosen values are based on empirical data, on the basis of market data and interviews. Following values were used:

#### Costs:

- RFID tag price: € 0.50; installation of RFID readers per dock door: € 30,000.00
- In expensive pallet: € 6.50, Roll container: € 50.00

#### The generic supply chain is structured as follows:

- Each link occurs once in the supply chain, apart from the suppliers and stores, which occur 15 times
- Total RTI quantity to flow through the supply chain is 10,000 per day
- The total RTI stock in the chain is 100,000.
- The collection area is the pool manager and owner of the RTI
- 7 working days per week assumed
- No distinction has been drawn between central and regional distribution centres
- Each of the 15 stores has one dock door
- The production facility has a total of 25 dock doors

#### Depreciation period for investments:

- Tags: 7 years (same as the lifetime of the RTI); Readers and antennas: 5 years, Interest costs: 7 %

Source: [www.logica.com/pdf/rfid\\_study.pdf](http://www.logica.com/pdf/rfid_study.pdf) (2004) p. 43

## 2. Econ. Logistics Perspective

**Logistics costs** can be lowered by using RFID, concerning e.g.

- + Handling costs
- + Stock costs
- + Others as i.e. increasing transparency, traceability



It could be possible to **decrease costs so far**, that no significant cost advantage can be reached by **centralisation** (with increasing environmental pollution)

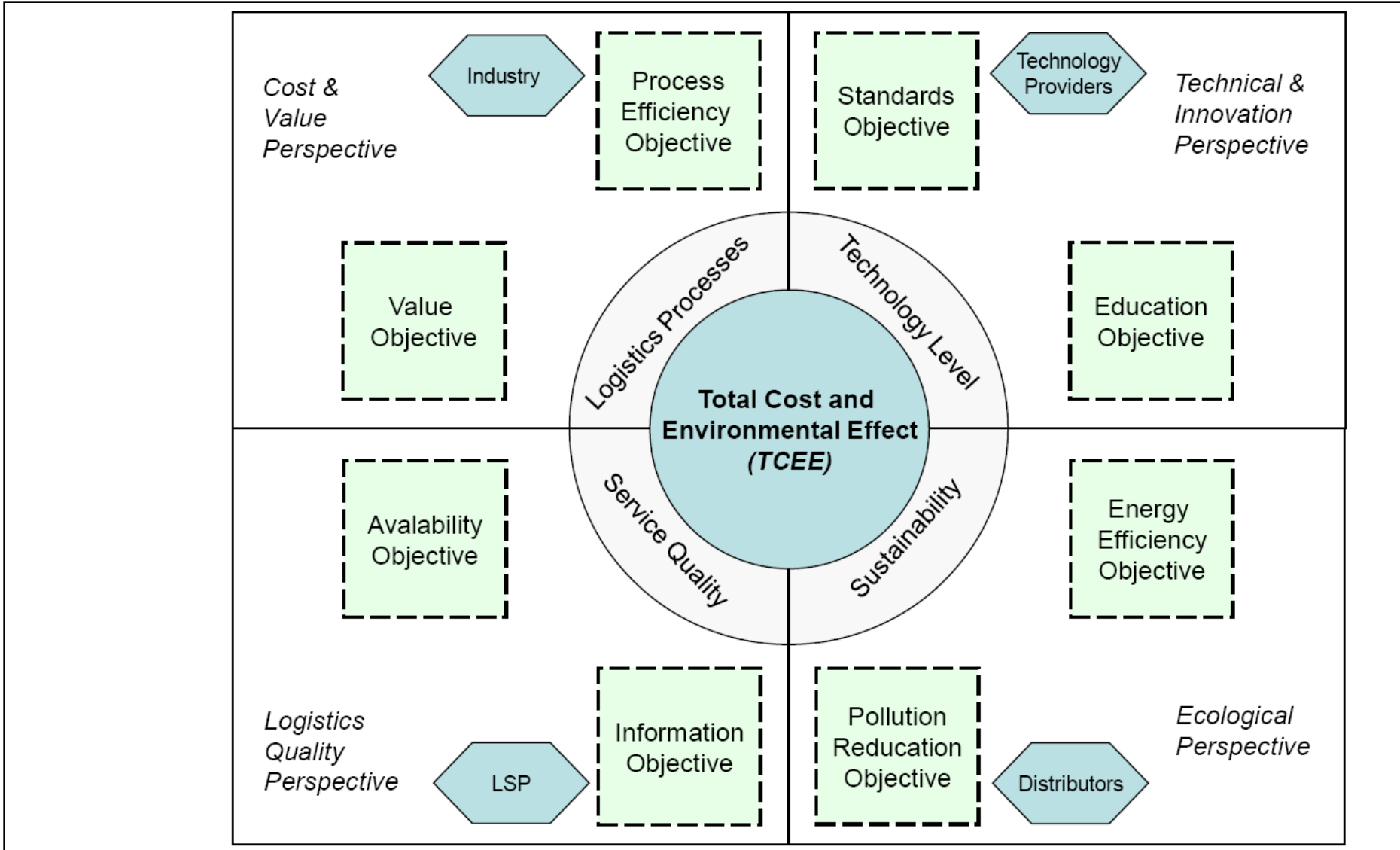
## Sustainable Logistics by ...

- ... new motor technologies.
- ... information technologies.
- ... recycling and packaging.
- ... DGR observation.
- ... co-operative logistics.
- ... optimization routines.



But still:  
Single, **not**  
**integrated** solutions  
and innovation  
projects

# 4. Integrated Concept



- Both objectives of **technology innovation** and **sustainability** should be **included** in planning and concept outlining activities
- **Awareness** has to be enhanced: there are some crucial **concept decisions** as e.g. shown for warehousing structures which define the interaction of technology innovation and sustainability on a long-term basis
- **Best practice examples** should be identified and examples for concepts integrating technology innovation **and** sustainability in logistics should be communicated

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**Thank you for your attention.**

