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Foresight in the System of Logistics Management

Currently widespread use of logistics in conditions of rapid development of information technologies, high-level quality of the technical equipment, developed and emerging methods of coordination and management of logistic processes and their relationship with the external environment a new approach to the system of strategic planning in logistics is required. This is Foresight approach, the relevance of which is growing. Foresight is the system of methods of expert evaluation of the strategic directions of the socio-economic and innovation development, identifying technological breakthroughs that could have an impact on the economy and society in the medium and long-term future. It is used in different spheres (from high technology and military to culture and agriculture) and is carried out at different levels of government (it is used in Ministry, academic structures, corporations, etc).

Today Foresight provides an effective methodology and is applied by governments, regions and other subjects of strategy for the formation of frameworks in science and technology. In the system of logistics management Foresight is used in relation to corporations and at the levels which are higher than regional. Application of Foresight and the methodology of interpreting its results influence the success of Foresight. Foresight technology allows to consider the long term implications and opportunities in decision making. Foresight should be closely connected not only with the development processes but with the process of structuring logistics process.

In each of the Foresight project a combination of different methods is used, which include these: DELPHI, SWOT-analysis, brainstorming, build scripts, relevance trees, the analysis of mutual influence and so on. To consider all possible variations and to get the complete picture (best model) a significant number of experts are involved. For example, more than two thousand experts are involved in the Japanese long term forecasts. Foresight is based on the fact that becoming «desirable» embodiment of future depends on the actions taken today, therefore, the choice of variants is accompanied by the drafting of measures to ensure the optimal pathway of innovative development. Foresight is organized as a systematic process which needs to be planned and organized thoroughly. Foresight projects are performed on a fairly regular basis. Sometimes they have a repeatable pattern (like the Japanese long-term forecast which is conducted every 5 years starting with 1971).

Thus, the use of Foresight in the system of logistics management as a tool of priorities formation and the mobilization a large number of participants for the achievement of qualitatively new results allows us to use the best international experience and knowledge of management at all levels, to learn from the mistakes of others, to find new ways of development in a single stream with the international community, to detect bottlenecks and competitive edges.