

TransBaltic Conference
Skellefteå, May 2011

**Task 5.2 –
Empty Container Management
in the Baltic Sea Region**

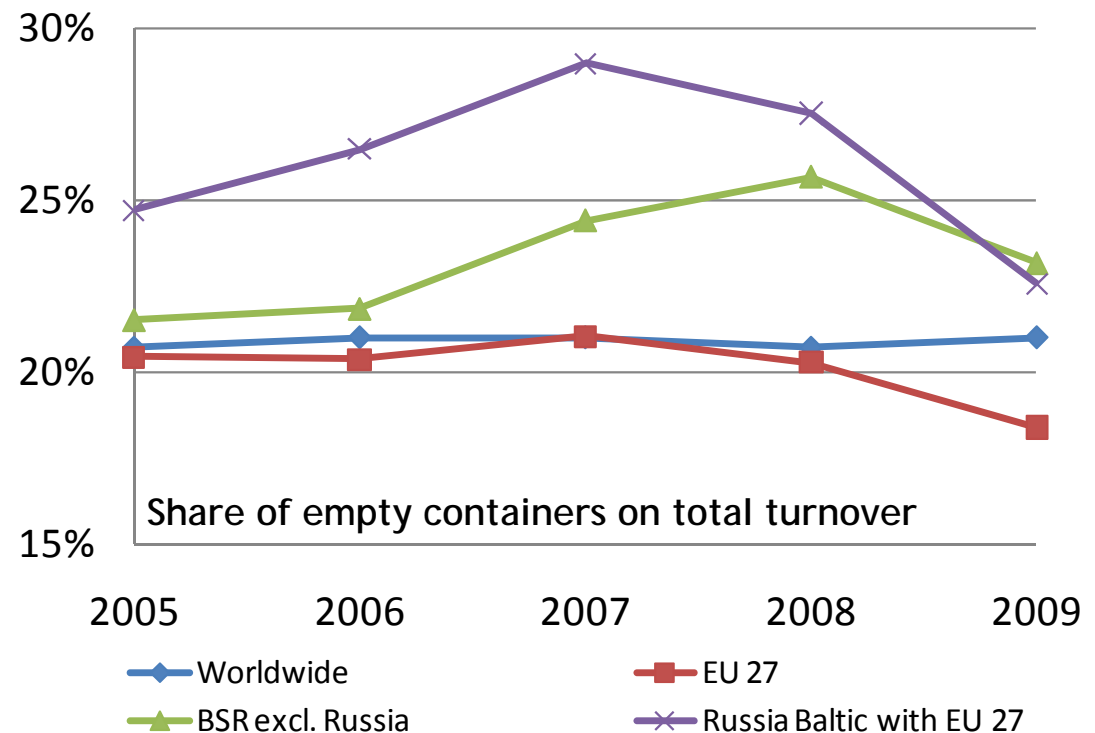
Jutta Wolff & Nico Herz, Hamburg University of Technology



Motivation: Relevance of empty container management in the Baltic Sea Region

- Three arguments call for a deeper investigation of empty container management in the BSR:

1. Rising trade volumes of containerized goods
2. Strong imbalances of containerized trade flows
3. High share of empty containers of overall container turnover



Source: Drewry 2009, Eurostat database 2011

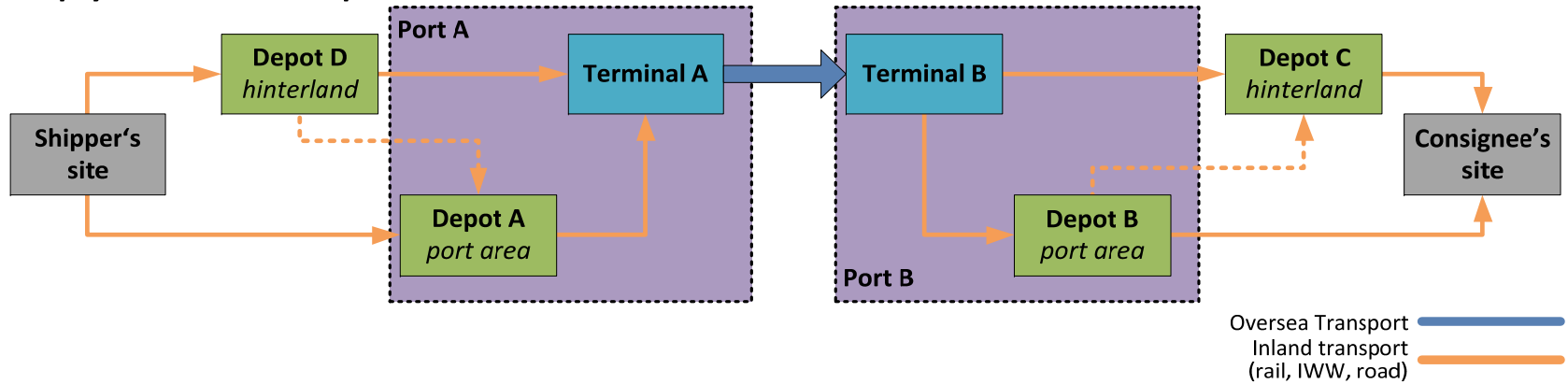


Results so far: Report on Empty Container Management in the BSR

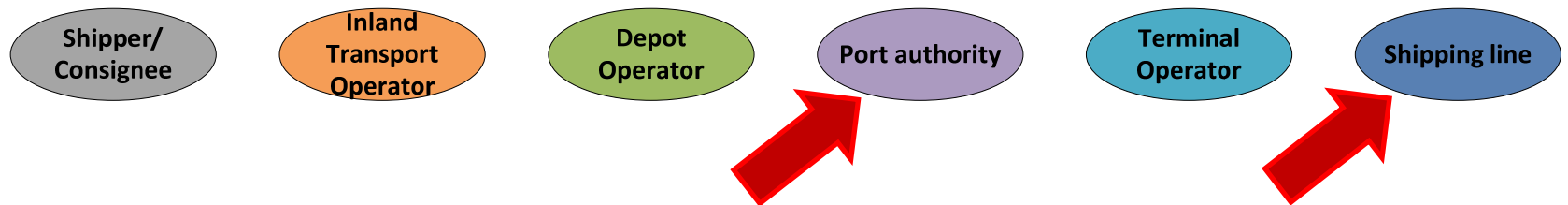
- Objective of the report
 - to create transparency for empty container management in the BSR for the players of the container transport chain
 - Provides **insight** on
 - empty container facts in the BSR
 - involved players
 - reasons for and impact of empty movements
 - potential measures to overcome negative impacts
- Will be published soon on the TransBaltic Homepage!

Insights: Role of different players in the (empty) container transport chain

Empty Container transport chain



Main players



- Empty container management is not the core interest of (most of the) port authorities.
- BUT they are affected by problems occurring from empty movements.
- Shipping lines are the most affected ones (owner and operator of containers).
- They are the decision makers in the transport chain regarding empty container management.



Insights:

Potential measures

- There is not one single measure solving all problems.
- When choosing a measure involved players and the problem context have to be considered.
- From the **survey results** some insight have been gained on how different **players evaluate the success of measures**:
 - ICT measures: information exchange platforms were evaluated as being successful,
 - Managerial measures: the network design of empty depots seems to be promising,
 - Pricing measures: giving incentives can help to channel the flow of empty containers.

➔ A deeper investigation is required!

Outlook:

Case studies for deeper investigation

- 2-4 case studies will be conducted up from July 2011
- Each case study will deepen a specific measure to overcome challenges occurring from empty containers.
- Therefore it is planned to involve partners being interested in assessing or implementing the measure in their business processes.

THANK YOU
for your attention

For further information, please contact:

Jutta Wolff

Institute for Transport Planning and Logistics

Hamburg University of Technology

Email: jutta.wolff@tu-harburg.de

Tel: +49 (0)40 42878 2110