A high performance of transportation is a key factor of the success of logistics networks. In particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, horizontal collaboration is considered as a promising support to further reduce operational costs. Seeking for adequate mechanisms to increase the efficiency of their operations, the concerned enterprises have recognized the necessity to exploit the prospects of success offered by collaborative planning. An important insight is that a close cooperation with partners is necessary to master challenges arising e.g. from highly volatile markets and changing business environments. Even formerly competing enterprises enforce cooperation in order to maintain market shares and to ensure their economic viability. Although a close cooperation within a coalition of partners mostly implicates long-term commitments, the involved collaborative planning tasks for reconciling joint activities refer to all planning levels: the strategic, tactical and operational level.

We invite researchers and practitioners to contribute to this special issue by submitting papers on the development and application of quantitative approaches for collaborative planning in the transportation area. Contributions investigating horizontal cooperation of equipollent partners (e.g. groupage systems of freight carriers or shipper coalitions) or vertical cooperation among partners in inhomogeneous coalitions (consisting e.g. of carriers, forwarders and/or shippers) are expected. The considered type of collaboration may refer to the strategic level (e.g. the establishing of a common infrastructure), to the tactical level (e.g. the joint usage of transportation networks), or to the operational level (e.g. the exchange of transportation orders). Reports from successful examples and their quantitative analysis, e.g. from existing freight coalitions, are also in the focus of this special issue given that solid operations research has been applied.

The topics of special interest include, but are not limited to the following:

- the setup of transportation coalitions,
- cooperative business models for transportation activities,
- scalability of interactions within the range from pure competition to close cooperation,
- decision support enabling collaborative planning,
- models for profit sharing between collaborating partners,
- concepts sustaining the stability of coalitions.

All papers submitted to this special issue should report original work and will be peer reviewed according to the standard of OR Spectrum. According to the politics of OR Spectrum, high quality papers OR pa-pers are wanted that are relevant to the scope of the journal, rigor in applying state-of-the-art OR tech-niques, innovative, and promising to have an impact on future work of the scientific OR community.

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