



Research School for Operations  
Management and Logistics

**EURECA Effective Use of Reefer Containers for conditioned products through the Port of Rotterdam**  
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Reefer logistics is an important part of cool chain in which reefer containers are involved as the packaging for temperature-controlled logistics. Planning for efficient reefer logistics is more complicated compared with dry container logistics for several reasons. Firstly, the reefer logistics deals with not only costs and time constraints but also product quality and sustainability requirements. Furthermore, many actors are involved in the reefer logistics with different (and sometimes conflicting) goals. All these aspects together make reefer logistics a complex socio-technical system. In the recent years, there is an increasing demand of reefer logistics that provides opportunities for seaports like the Port of Rotterdam. To take advantage of these opportunities, it is essential for a port to offer outstanding performances on cost efficiency, product quality and sustainability in the multi-actor setting. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case. In addition, in the existing literature, limited focus is on considering cost efficiency, product quality and sustainability at the same time in the multi-actor setting. The main goal of EURECA is to develop innovative concepts for reefer logistics and investigate the suitability and acceptability of these concepts using a socio-technical analysis in the scope of the Port of Rotterdam and its hinterland.