

Trip to Hamburg and visit of the Port of Hamburg and Airbus in Finkenwerder

On the 13th of December 2016, 21 students of the master course “Operations Management – Information Technology” and two lecturers took off to Hamburg (Germany) to visit the Port of Hamburg and Airbus in Finkenwerder. The Port of Hamburg is leading in its innovative technological developments, especially regarding Information Technology and the Internet of Things. They are partners of the “Smart Port Logistics” project dealing with but not limited to the increase of efficiency of the port as part of the overall transportation supply chain in terms of smooth processes. This includes the streamlining of processes and related intelligent information technology infrastructure, so that students can experience their theoretic knowledge regarding information technology applied in practice. It is impressive to observe handling sequences and activities in practice when it comes to ports due to the huge number and enormous sizes of container handling equipment. Standing with a tour bus under a ship-to-shore gantry crane and witnessing automatically guided vehicles bringing containers autonomously together, without the interference of humans, to be lifted to Panamax container ships can be very impressive.



Figure 1: Touring through Container Terminal Burchardkai

The second appointment of our tour led us to the greatest European aircraft manufacturer AIRBUS, where we visited the site in Finkenwerder that has, among others, a final assembly line for the A320-family. The assembly of an A320 implies a great complex global logistical effort, and the students were particularly intrigued. Despite the very long day starting with travelling to Hamburg in the morning at SDU Campus Odense and after two and a half hours touring through the Hamburg Harbor, spirits were high when walking through the Airbus hangars

where we experienced the different process steps of the assembly lines, especially of the A380 with its great crane lifting parts, the A380 hull were put together and mounted.



Figure 2: Waiting at Airbus for the Tour to begin

Back at SDU in the late evening, everybody were tired, but went home with a smile on their lips for Christmas.