



Port Authorities as cluster managers: the case of the Ligurian ports

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Abstract

The paper analyses the role of Port Authorities as cluster managers able to generate resources for investments with benefits for the intermodal transport chain as a whole. Assessment is made of Port Authority initiatives to foster the development of intermodality and the creation of dry ports. The framework proposed is then applied to the case of the Ligurian ports, which compete less as individual structures than as nodal points within integrated logistic chains. We argue that the integration of the land logistic interface may prove beneficial to the Ligurian ports, and that this can be achieved only if the Port Authorities act as cluster managers.

Keywords: Port governance, Cluster management, Italian ports.

1. Introduction

The inland leg is becoming ever more crucial in an increasingly globalised world in which competition among ports no longer takes place solely at the level of the services supplied and the handling speed of goods within the port area. For it also, and above all, depends on the frequency and reliability of connections with the hinterland which enable the express forwarding of goods to their destinations. It is particularly important to consider the logic whereby the advantages deriving from geographic localization are flanked by the quality, availability and functionality of the logistic services offered by

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