THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES IN PORTS

Contextual Challenges Confronting Port Managing Bodies

MAGALI GEERTS

2019 - 2020

Promotor: Prof. dr. Michaël Dooms

This PhD dissertation presents an in-depth investigation of the practical rationale and underlying motives for the adoption, as well as the practical implementation of two important sustainability practices applied by port authorities (or broadly port managing bodies) worldwide. More specifically, it focuses on the practices of environmentally differentiated port pricing schemes, and sustainability reporting. As both sustainability practices are deeply embedded within the core business activities of port authorities, the research presented in the book unveils previously undisclosed elements of strategic decision-making processes within port authorities. As a result, the book provides both practical, hands-on methodologies to inspire port managers and stakeholders worldwide not only in terms of adopting both practices but also offers a generic framework to support adoption of sustainability practices in general. On an academic level, an interesting application of institutional theory to sustainable strategies in port clusters is presented, using different methodological angles. Finally, the book identifies the current state and potential future path towards a higher level of sustainability commitment for port communities worldwide.