

Hinterland connections to seaports

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Research timescale

- 28/10/08: presentation of proposed study objectives and report structure, with input from Group of Experts
- By 20/12/08: partial first draft, including preliminary analysis of questionnaire responses as well as published information
- By 30/06/09: final draft, including full analysis of questionnaire responses and comments from Group of Experts
- September 09: final report presented to 22nd Session of Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Study objectives

- To determine the key issues in the existing literature relating to the performance of seaports and their hinterland connections
- To assess the key trends in the container and ferry markets in the UNECE region, including port hinterland flows
- To identify best practice in achieving efficient and sustainable hinterland goods movements
- To consider ways in which the specific problems faced by landlocked emerging economies can be overcome
- To recommend ways in which the connectivity of seaports and their hinterlands can be improved

Proposed report structure

- Executive summary
- Introduction
- Literature review
- Transport policy context
- Container & ferry freight transport trends in the UNECE region
- Container & ferry freight transport projections to 2020 in the UNECE region
- Key issues and challenges
- Policy recommendations to improve hinterland connections of seaports
- Conclusions and further research
- References
- Statistical Appendix

Key information sources

- International agencies (e.g. UN, WTO, EU, OECD, World Bank, ITF): statistics and previous studies
- UNECE port authorities' questionnaire
- Review of academic research (e.g. de Langen, Notteboom)
- But considerable knowledge gaps exist – need interpretation/extrapolation

Questions for discussion (1)

- Do you know of existing information sources (national or international) that would be of relevance for the study?
- How should the diversity of the UNECE region be handled (e.g. geographical extent, spatial variations)?
- What should be the balance of attention between containers and ro-ro? (Piraeus conference was dominated by the former)
- How should port hinterlands be defined for the purpose of this study?

Questions for discussion (2)

- What should be assumed as a 'do nothing' scenario?
 - e.g. should changes be assumed to cost internalisation for different modes to reflect externalities such as climate change impacts?
- What timescale for analysis is prudent? 2020 plus intermediate/longer-term periods?
- What additional data sources relating to hinterland transport activity would assist your organisation?