

## *Foreword*

Globalisation characterizes our current times, shapes economic trajectories and determines quality of life. Port-cities are at the frontline of globalisation; approximately 90% of external trade volumes is transported by ship and is loaded and unloaded in one of the world ports. A large majority of ports is located in cities, which makes the fate of cities interlinked with the fates of their ports. Some cities have been able to foster their port and use it as an urban economic asset, whereas other cities are declining despite a flourishing port. History is full of examples of cities that prospered thanks to their port; is history able to repeat itself in this respect? Can ports once again be drivers of urban growth? The presence of a port brings special challenges related to the environment, urban traffic and land use. The stakes for cities can be high, as these challenges directly relate to the well-being of their citizens.

Despite their relevance, research communities have focused relatively little attention on the inter-linkages between ports and urban development. Cities have found different ways to deal with policy challenges with varying rates of success, but fairly little is known about policy design, policy impacts and the conditions for success. What are the lessons for policy makers and which policies could be effectively used elsewhere?

The current book on port-cities fills this gap, providing the first comprehensive and internationally comparative benchmark study of port-cities. It aims to provide a systematic overview of impacts of ports on their cities, policies to make ports more competitive, to increase local benefits from ports and to mitigate the negative impacts from ports. It builds on a series of place-specific case studies of selected port-cities that provided detailed analysis of port performance, port impacts, policies and governance. These case studies were released as separate working papers, in addition to a series of thematic papers.

The report, as well as the Port-City case studies and related papers on the topic, can be downloaded from the OECD website: [www.oecd.org/regional/portcities](http://www.oecd.org/regional/portcities). Further enquiries about this work in this area should be addressed to: Olaf Merk ([olaf.merk@oecd.org](mailto:olaf.merk@oecd.org)).

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This publication was directed and written by Olaf Merk; it draws on the work of a number of other contributors: César Ducruet, Jasper Cooper, Jing Li, Ihnji Jon, Maren Larsen and Lucie Billaud. The publication has benefited from comments from Bill Tompson, Nils-Axel Braathen, Jane Korinek, Cathy Berx, Dominique Lebreton, Nicolas Mat, Juliette Cerceau, Michel Ruffin, Kate Lancaster and Rene Kolman. The publication was edited by Vicky Elliott.

The synthesis report is based on findings from a series of OECD Port-Cities case studies. These case studies were conducted for Le Havre/Rouen/Paris/Caen (France), Hamburg (Germany), Helsinki (Finland), Marseille (France), Mersin (Turkey), Rotterdam/Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Antofagasta (Chile), Bratislava/Komárno/Štúrova (Slovak Republic), Durban (South Africa), Hong Kong (China) and Shanghai (China). Within the framework of these studies, study visits to these port-cities were conducted that included a series of interviews with the port-city actors and stakeholders.

The OECD Port-Cities Programme also benefited from visits to the following ports and port-cities and discussion with port-related actors in the following port-cities: Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Singapore, Casablanca, Venice, Trieste, Genoa, Valparaíso, Varna, Gdansk, Koper, Vienna, Antwerp, Felixstowe, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Sydney and Newcastle (Australia).

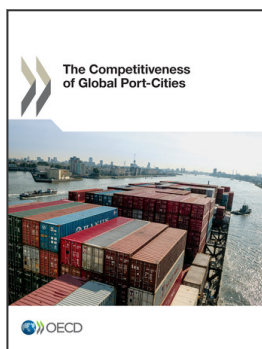
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