

Port competitiveness in the  
Mediterranean and Northern Europe:  
comparison among regional systems

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## Introduction

This paper intends to analyse the competition in the context with which the Italian port system operates, with reference to Northern Europe, Med Europe, Northern Africa and the East Med hubs.

As the analysed ports are very different from each other, this inquiry also takes into account that such comparisons has to consider various parameters such as size, width of the target market or type of trade operating in that area, to only mention a few.

This analysis assumes that ports are operating in an economic and logistic context that is undergoing continuous changes; no longer to meet only the needs dictated by globalization but also to cope with the effects of an economic and financial crisis that involves, although to varying degrees, both mature and emerging economies.

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