

Public regulation of urban logistics on a regional scale Tools and practices to face sustainability issues in French regional authorities

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Purpose of the study

Urban logistics can be defined as "any service that contributes to the efficient management of goods movements in cities and provides innovative responses to demand (from companies and individuals) while respecting good social and environmental conditions" (Dablanc et al. 2017). This research paper focuses on an inventory of practices and tools deployed at regional levels to respond to the new sustainability challenges facing the various logistics sectors (transport, land, employment/training, ecological transition). The first two parts of the dissertation deal with the regulation of logistics and show that the implementation of regulatory tools is necessary to support the sustainable development of territories. The third part of the dissertation deals with the national logistics strategy that has been promoted by the French government over the last five years, and in which our research is included. The Climate and Resilience Act has made the integration of logistics issues contractual in the regional plans for planning, sustainable development and territorial equality (SRADDET). The last parts of the report present the effects of this law on logistics planning at regional level and the tools mobilized by the regions to meet the challenges of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Hypotheses and issues

The issue of logistics and freight transport is not often discussed in the public debate, yet it is essential to the functioning of all economic activities. It seems important to regulate in order to take into account the new challenges of sustainability (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, land artificialisation, etc.). The regional level is an essential scale of intervention and governance for transport. The aim of this study is to understand how these regional authorities think and act (as well as their failures or difficulties) on freight transport and logistics in the perspective of more global strategies of ecological transition.

Methods

This thesis is based on **the analysis of the regional plans for planning, sustainable development and territorial equality (SRADDET) of five French regions**: Grand Est Region, Brittany Region, Occitania Region, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and Normandy Region. While these schemes contain several documents, only **the objective reports and regulations** were taken into account in our analysis.

Results

The results show that **the regulation of logistics at the regional level is quite disparate depending on the regions studied**. The consideration of logistics-related themes in each region varies from one region to another. As an example, some regions focus on tools to **promote employment and training in logistics**, while others are launching projects to **revive rail freight**.

	Land use	Urban logistics	Transport	Formation	Forms of cooperation
Occitanie region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional action plan on land Occitanie Zones Economiques (OZE) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States General on Rail and Intermodality (EGRIM) Request for the transfer of ownership of two railway lines so that the region can manage its lines and revive rail freight on them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional logistics cluster (PAA; training, support, knowledge actions with actors) Ad'occ development agency (knowledge of local actors; economic and logistics component) TRAILS POCTEFA project to improve cross-border trade between Catalonia and Occitania (identification of logistics zones) 	
PACA region	Sud foncier éco				OR&T (which addresses the logistics issue) ; colloquium
Bretagne region			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brest-Roscoff in TEN-T Regional strategy on rail freight 		
Grand Est region			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capfret Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COT "Transport and Logistics" in the framework of the CPRDFOP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single web portal for logistics Thematic workshops on logistics
Normandy region	Inventory of land reserves that can accommodate logistics activities (observatory)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSN sector Paris-Seine-Normandy Logistics Observatory

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While the Climate and Resilience Act 2021 has strengthened the role of regions in logistics planning, several regions are in the process of initiating the development of a regional logistics strategy. Nevertheless, the state of progress of regions on these issues is also quite disparate as illustrated in this table.

	Regional logistics strategy
Occitanie	
PACA	Regional Logistics Plan (with an operational dimension)
Bretagne	
Grand Est	White Paper on Freight and Logistics to 2023
Normandy Region	The region has adopted a logistics strategy which will be fully integrated into the SRADDET

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