Port Economics

Economic foundations of port services and competition

This course provides insight into the economic principles that drive port services, pricing and competition. You will learn how port actors make decisions, what influences supply and demand, and how regulation shapes the port industry. The programme covers port costs, efficiency measurement, competition between ports and the impact of globalization. It is designed for professionals and managers in the maritime, offshore and logistics sectors.

About this course

Language	English
Education Format	Online
Type	E-learning/self-study

General information

Port services can only occur when port users and providers accept doing business. The objective is to provide efficient and effective port services given limited resources, while obtaining maximum client satisfaction.

But how do port actors make their choices? When do they accept doing business? The key to answering these questions is understanding the main drivers and the economic way of thinking of the main port actors.

This course provides participants with insights and knowledge in the role, functioning, operations, developments, decision-making and sustainable policymaking in relation to ports and terminals of now and of the future.

Programme

The online course consist of eight (8) modules:

1. Introduction to port economics
2. Port environment
3. Port service users and providers
4. Port costs and pricing
5. Port efficiency
6. Port effectiveness
7. Port policies
8. Smart ports and human capital

The first Module provides an introduction to the course and its importance for doing business in the port sector.

In Module 2 the factors that affect the port environment, the port typologies and port actors as well as their inter-linkages are discussed.

Module 3 of the programme focusses on the main port services offered and the characteristics and interests of the main port services users and providers, and is concluded with the economic concepts of supply and demand linked to the port sector and the impacts of the latest sector developments on the port prices and port services.

Module 4 continues by presenting an overview of the port and transport costs and prices on the short- and long-run. It also discusses how companies develop their pricing strategies.

Modules 5 and 6 focus on port efficiency and effectiveness: the importance of these terms for the sustainability of companies in the port sector, how to achieve technical and cost-efficiency, how to carry out port performance evaluations and be able to estimate the impacts of specific developments on port traffic forecasting.
Module 7 deals with policy development, implementation and drivers. Special attention is paid to sustainability related to ports and port policies.

The last Module is about the most recent developments around smart ports and what this means for the human capital.

Result

After successful completion of the course, the participants will:

- Be able to identify the main port actors active in the sector.
- Know what the main interests of the port actors are.
- Be able to understand how the main port actors make decisions and accept doing business (costs, pricing, objectives, etc.).
- Be able to understand how to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in the decision making process.
- Know how to promote sustainable port development with specific attention for People, Planet, Prosperity issues.
- Be able to understand the impact of technological developments on port actors.
- Know how this has been done around the world and will be able to assess the possibility of transferring these practices to their local situation.

Target audience

The course is designed for professionals and (future) managers working in or interested in the sector Maritime & Offshore and Transport & Logistics.

Maybe you identify yourself with one of the following target groups:

- (Young) professionals
- Paralegals, not engaged in the day to day operations
- (Junior) managers
- Team leaders
- Project managers

Practical information

Entry requirements	The course is suitable for middle management.
Type of training	E-learning
Duration	30 hours of self-study
Language	English
Certificate	STC Next certificate

Courses

COURSES	START DATE	END DATE	LOCATION	BASE PRICE (FROM)
Port Economics	31 December 2026	31 December 2026	Online	€ 575,00

(excl. VAT)

More information and current course dates can be found at /en/next/courses/port-economics