

Preface

Every book has a short history behind it and this one is no exception. The chapters composing this book refer to the work that I have undertaken, jointly with other colleagues, since 2007, when I started working at the Laboratory of Economics, Logistics and Territory (LabELT) of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies—DAStU (former DiAP), Politecnico di Milano, directed by Prof. Flavio Boscacci. The idea of referring to these works, most of them published as book chapters and in international journals, and write a book myself came to my mind after organizing a special session at the World Wide conference of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) in Timisoara (Romania) in 2012.

I first came to study industrial location, and the role of regional policy during the M.Sc. in Regional Science at the University of Reading (UK), and later during the Ph.D. course in Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen (NL), and the Ph.D. in Transportation Economics at the University of Genoa (IT). I then worked at the Department of Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering of the Politecnico di Milano, where I mainly investigated the effects of multinational corporations' localization strategies on the home and host countries. Since 2007, I have been working at LabELT of the DAStU, Politecnico di Milano, where, among the other topics, I have focused on transport and logistics multinational enterprises in Italy.

I hope this book will strengthen the interest to the transport and logistics sectors, largely neglected in the economic geography, urban economics and regional science debates.

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A Focus on Italy

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