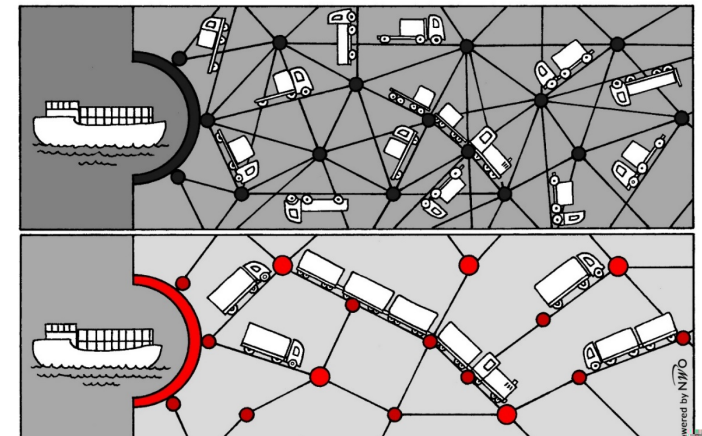


# Ports in the Physical Internet: research summary

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Prof. dr. Iris Vis, University of Groningen



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# Vision: Ports as cornerstone of the Physical Internet

- Ports and their hinterland play an important role in the design of sustainable logistics operations.
- Will ports get an important role in the Physical Internet?
- How can port authorities prepare best with regard to their role and operations?
- How do the planning and control of operations in PI networks co-exist with current logistics networks?
- What are the roles of other stakeholders?

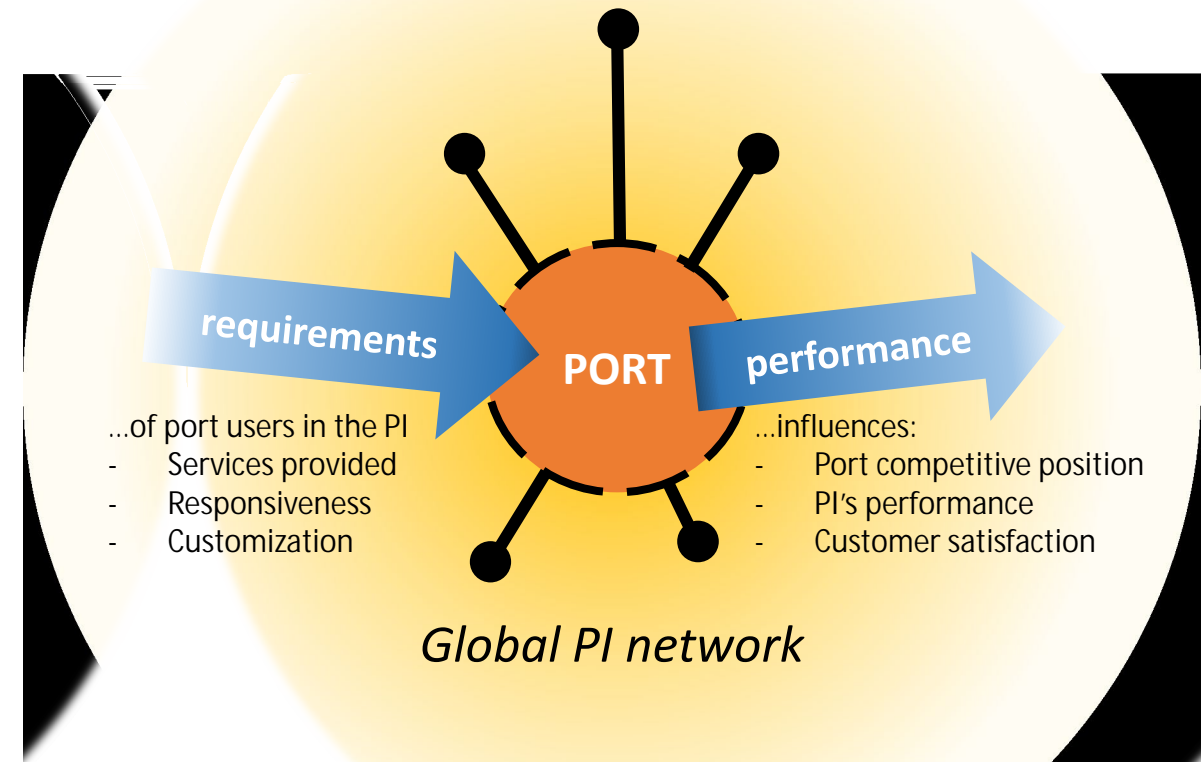
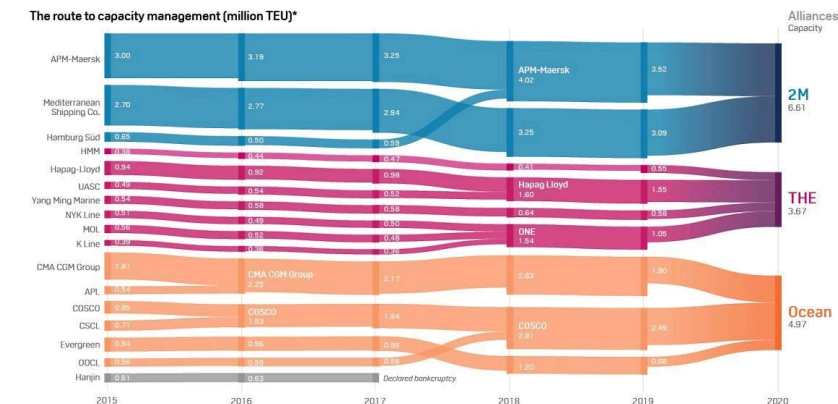
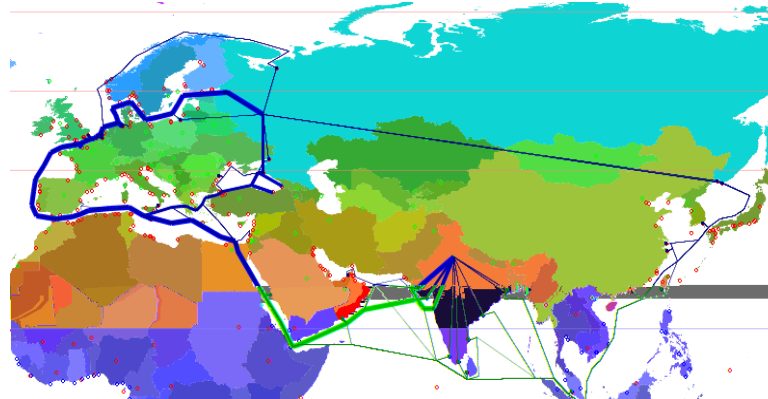
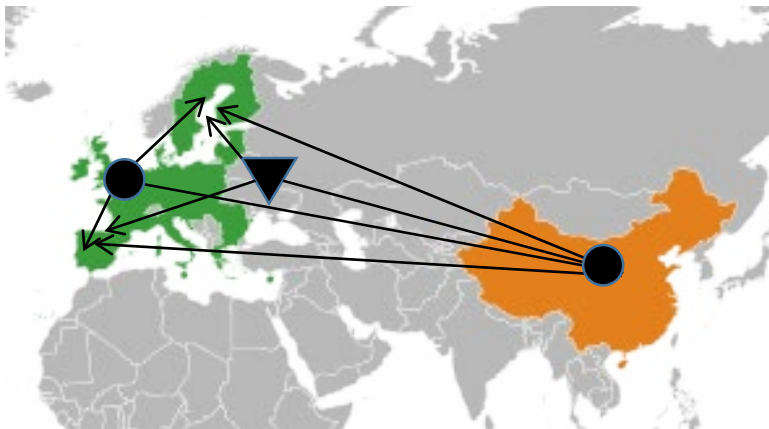
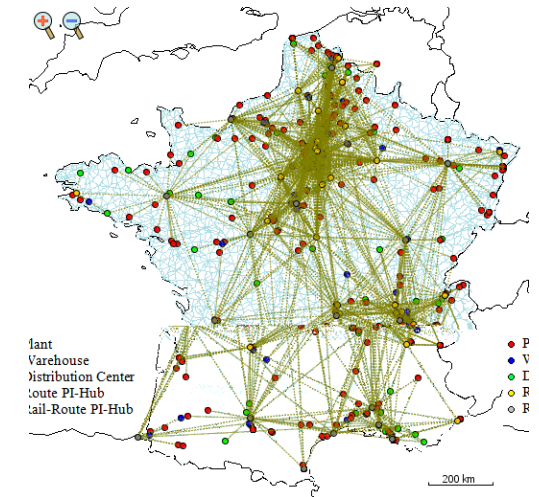


Figure: co-evolution of ports and the Physical Internet

# Challenge: How to respond to changes?

- Companies will be running the network differently – how?
- Supply chain optimization platforms will want ports to join
- Ports will need to access shipment information
- Dynamic and adaptive routing at global level – service flexibility!
- New technologies for handling new loading units
- New priorities and preferences of customers
- Dynamics & uncertainty => ports need to agile, informed, adaptive



Sources: SeaconAZ project/Tavasszy et al., 2011/S&P Global Platts website/Ballot et al., 2018

# Our Project



rijksuniversiteit  
 groningen



## Towards Virtual Ports in a Physical Internet

**Academic partners:** Delft University of Technology  
**Main industry partners:** Port of Rotterdam; Groningen Seaports  
**Duration:** January 2016 – June 2021  
**(Co-)funding:** 85% by NWO through the program “Vitale logistiek”;  
15% by the industry partners



### Work package 1

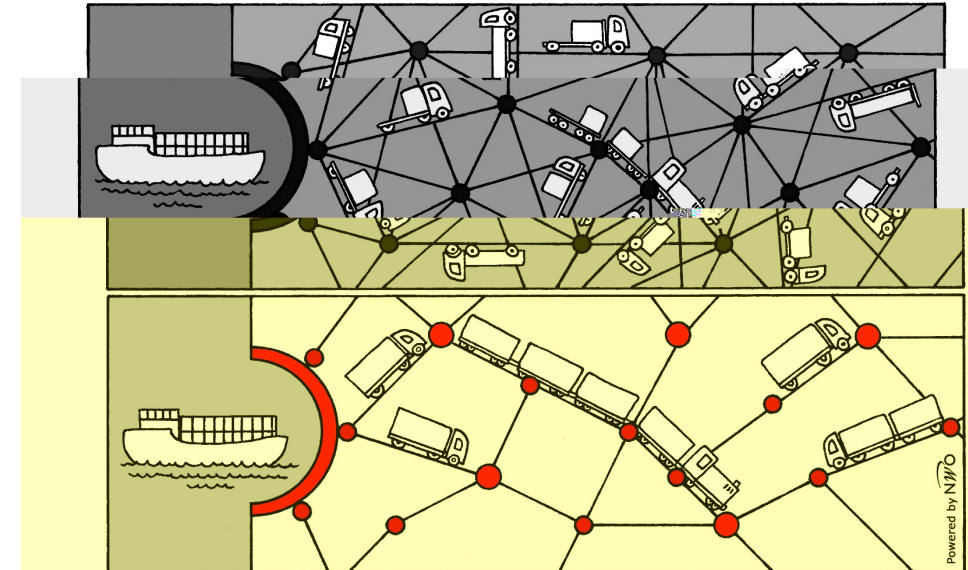
Concepts for the  
new role of ports

### Work package 2

Design planning and  
control policies for  
the physical internet  
hinterland network

### Work package 3

Stakeholder  
engagement and  
knowledge  
dissemination on  
the PI initiative





# Key results



7

Academic  
 publications in  
 scientific journals



44

Master Theses



1

PI lab opened



5

(nominations) for  
 Awards



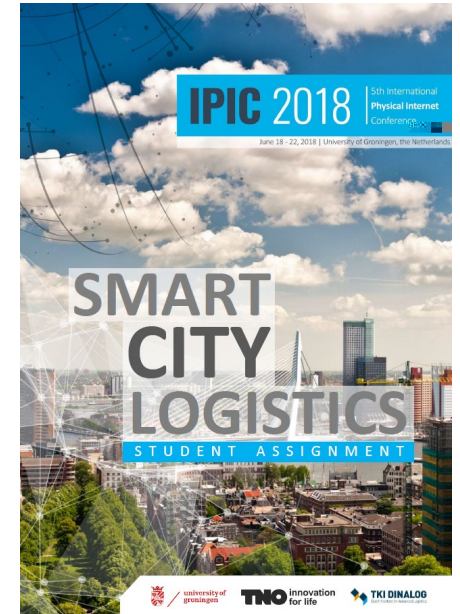
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Conferences and  
 round-tables  
 organised



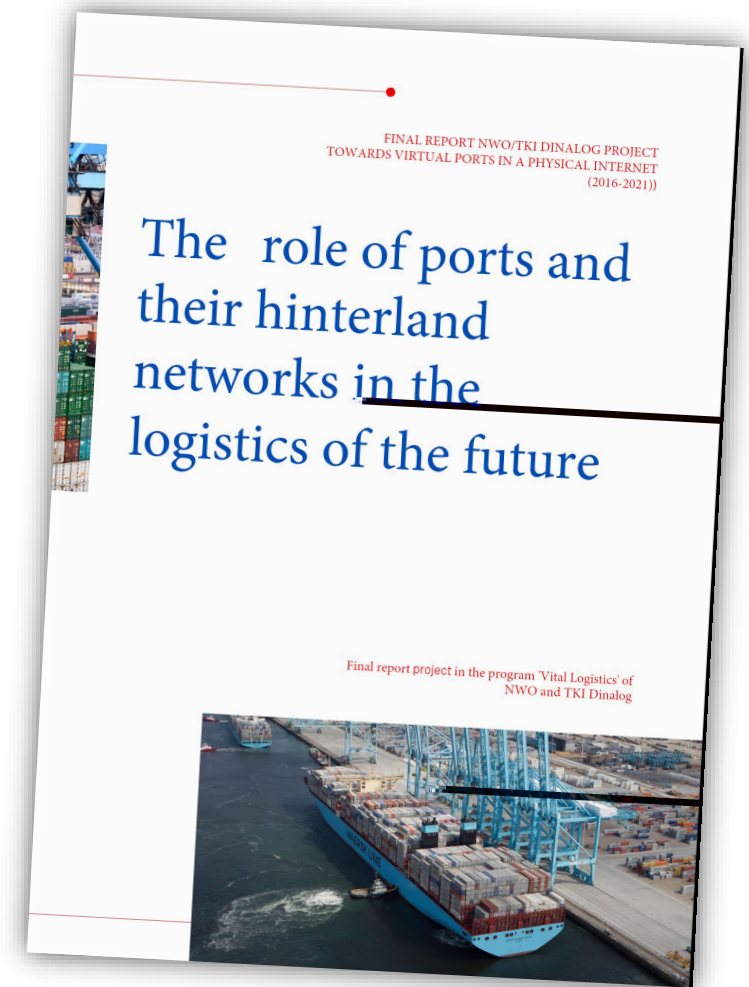
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PI Challenges  
 organised



# Key results (up next)

- The evolution of ports in the Physical Internet
  - PI-Port scenarios, port choice, port ICT, policy directions
- Effective decision-making in Physical Internet Hinterland networks
  - Dynamic demand fulfilment, network flexibility, collaborative trucking
- Stakeholder roles in a Physical Internet
  - Overview; case of customs



**Project Summary publication**