

Supply chain management and lean concepts: benefits for the logistics activities

Optimising the performance in logistics operations and the use of logistics resources is an ongoing challenge that the Lean concepts can support. The main aim of this lecture is to better understand the close relationships between Lean concepts and Supply Chain Management. In that respect a literature review will be performed to identify opportunities and pitfalls to contribute to future research in this field. One of the characteristics of logistic chains is the contribution of a multitude of public and private actors. We illustrate this with the example of the maritime sector and the involvement of port authorities, customs, ship owners, shipping agents and freight forwarders. In this context, the challenges of researchers is to develop methods that are adapted to different needs in a sector involving multiple complex supply chains actors. Several topics of research will be addressed, such as the sources of wastes in logistic flows as well as in information flows, the optimisation of the flexibility, the organisational adaptability of logistic flows and the environmental issues.