

The discrepancy of logistics centres in practice and theory – case of Spain

Darja TOPOLŠEK¹ and Tina CVAHTE¹

¹ University of Maribor, Faculty of Logistics, Celje, Slovenia

Abstract— More and more companies appear on the marketplace that define themselves as logistics centres, but even themselves do not know exactly what this is and what its definition is, since neither theory does not give a precise definition of the concept itself. To summarize the findings of theoretical research, we can find the definition of the logistics centre, which states that a logistic centre is part of the logistics system and a generator of economic development, with its integrated logistics and business solutions contributes to macroeconomic and microeconomic development. The main research question of this paper is to analyse the discrepancies between the perception of logistics centre in Spain and their actual activities to determine if they indeed can be classified as logistics centres. As a criteria, the research part will be based on the classification by Bergqvist and his cluster analysis. The results of the cluster analysis showed that most of the companies claim to be at least one stage higher on the logistics centre scale that they in fact are. This can be explained either as a marketing move or as a lack of understanding towards the features of a “true” logistics centre.

Key words— Cluster analysis, logistics centre, Spain, theory vs. practice.

AUTHORS

A. Darja Topolšek is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Logistics, University of Maribor (e-mail: darja.topolsek@um.si).

B. Tina Cvahte is a Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Logistics, University of Maribor (e-mail: tina.cvahte@um.si).

Abstract received by 1 May 2015.