

A Different Perspective on the Sustainability of Logistics Service Providers in City Logistics

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Abstract : Rooted in ethnographic research on city logistics, our paper examines how Logistics Service Providers (LSP) can move from a "subservient" posture to one of instigating the sustainable transformation of city logistics, using literature on sustainable city logistics. To do so, we start by providing a representation of the subservient posture adopted by LSPs during their interactions with stakeholders. We then mobilize ecosystem theories to analyze the follower posture LSP can adopt to ensure their financial, human, and environmental sustainability in a city logistics ecosystem. This study contributes to local authorities' greater consideration/involvement of LSP in the definition of their city logistics strategy. It can also provide LSP with an insight into the transformations to be carried out to improve their sustainability. Finally, it encourages research projects aimed at exploring more precisely the value relationships between LSP and their stakeholders.

Keywords : city logistics, logistics service providers, sustainability, ecosystems, value creation

Conference Title : ICILSCM 2023 : International Conference on International Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Conference Location : Rome, Italy

Conference Dates : July 17-18, 2023