

# Preface

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This book is about transport regulation and regulatory policy, covering the different transport modes, and focuses mainly on Europe. It gathers together state-of-the-art description and analysis, written by the respective experts of the different transport modes.

We believe that regulation and regulatory policy, not only in transport but in all infrastructure, though often dominated by lawyers and economists, requires a truly transdisciplinary approach, including engineering and political science. It also requires a deep understanding of both theory and practice. This book thus reflects our commitment to such a comprehensive and relevant treatment of a crucial issue of our times: transport, in Europe and beyond.

This book is the first such output of the Florence School of Regulation, Transport Area. The Transport Area, launched in 2010, is the latest addition to the Florence School of Regulation, complementing the Energy Area (launched 2004) and the Telecommunications and Media Area (launched 2009). Even though regulation and regulatory policy is often seen as being in conflict with the regulated firms, the Florence School operates with the assumption that both only reflect the two faces of the same coin: neither without firms, nor without regulation, will there be functioning transport markets, both in Europe and elsewhere. This book perfectly illustrates our philosophy and comprehensive approach to the problems at hand.

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