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Governing ecological transition: ports and land-sea interdependencies



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in H2020 COASTAL
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Problem and objectives

Territorial decisions responding to climate change

Global pressures on ports to promote ecological transition of logistics

How do public and private actors define ecological transition ?

Are actors seeking to 'govern' transition and if so through which measures and at which scale?

How is territorial interdependency reshaped?

Conceptual approach and methods

Interdisciplinary approach:

political science & geography

Conceptual relations:

sector/territory & power/space

Actors:

social representations & governing strategies

Territorial interdependency:

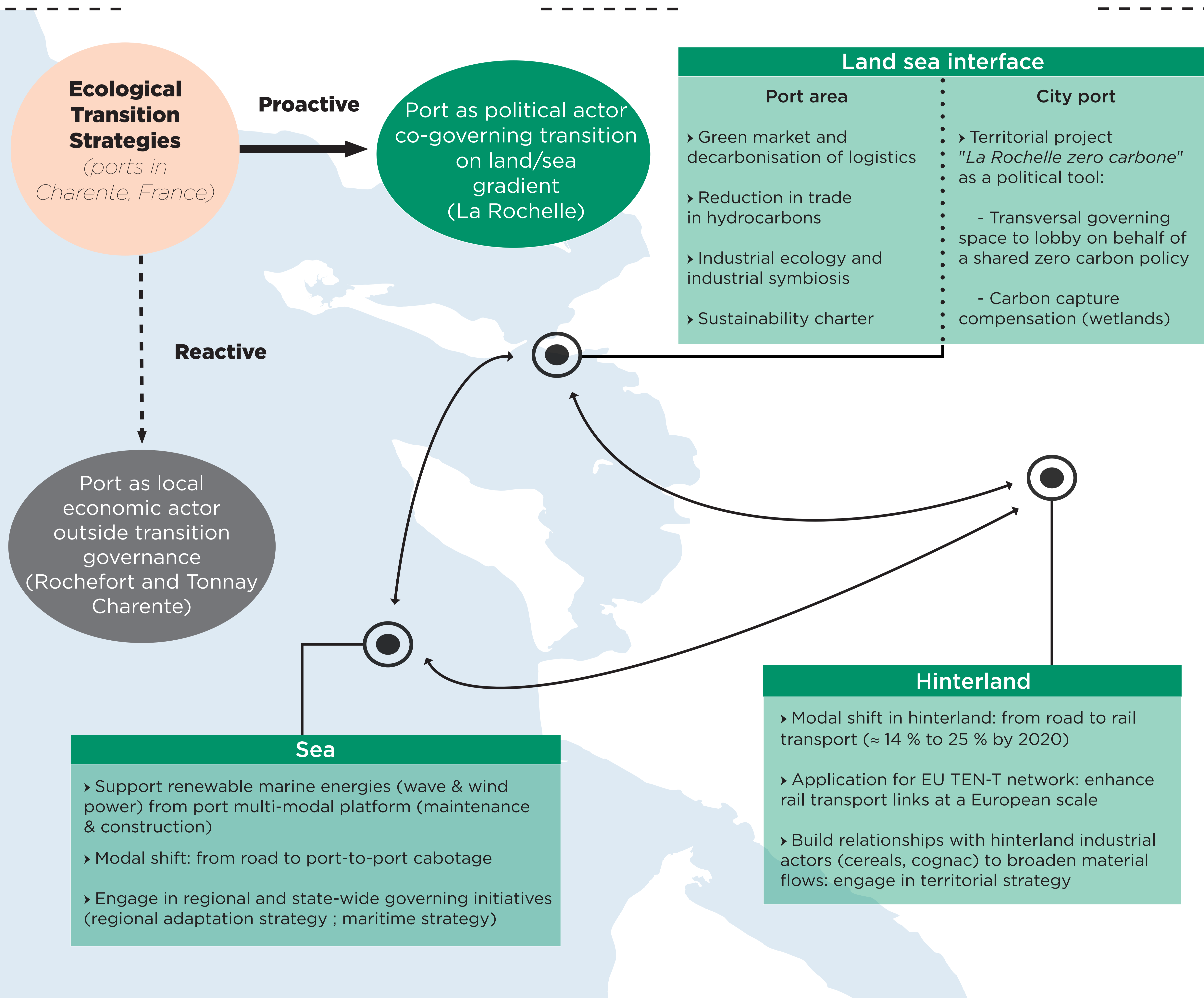
dynamic tensions between people, nature and infrastructure; between administrative jurisdictions and ecological territories at different scales (Carter, Bouleau, Le Floch, 2020)

- Literature review and documentary analysis

- Semi-structured interviews

- Geographical mental mapping

- NVivo 11 software



Conclusions

- Medium-sized ports can become pro-active political actors influencing the governing of ecological transition, not only of the port area but also of the city port.
- In our study, port area actors make sense of ecological transition through developing de-carbonisation strategies. These promote reshaped territorial interdependencies between port activities, carbon emissions and logistics infrastructure.

- These territorial interdependencies are not only promoted at the local interface, but at a wider scale linking land and sea, confirming the importance of the hinterland in the analysis of green ports (Aregall et al, 2018).
- Zero-carbon strategies can build integrated local governance and pitch bioeconomic transition against local sustainability development (Mat et al, 2014). There are challenges extending this form of governance to regional and national scales managing end-to-end supply chain logistics.

In line with its aim to inspire long-term coastal-rural synergies, COASTAL helps highlight how ports can promote new territorial interdependencies.