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Local economic development promotion is rooted in Dutch industrial-site planning. Industrial sites have become the main location for the supply of industrial land in the Netherlands. Industrial sites are a favourable place to locate for many firms, and can be considered important contributors to the (local) economy. But industrial sites cause several negative externalities, such as noise, traffic, and obstruction of view. These give rise to concerns about the urgency of establishing new industrial sites and their location. Empirical evidence on the positive and negative effects of industrial sites on their vicinity is scarce. This study aims to partly fill this gap. More specifically, the thesis addresses the nature and scope of external effects (both positive and negative) associated with the spatial concentration of economic activities on industrial sites. Furthermore, it focuses on the underlying determinants of local industrial-site provision, such as spatial location characteristics and strategically competitive behaviour between Dutch municipalities.

Friso de Vor (1977) obtained an MSc in International Economics and Economic Geography from Utrecht University. He wrote this thesis at the Department of Spatial Economics of the VU University in Amsterdam. He is currently employed as the coordinator of courses in real-estate and urban development and as a researcher at the Amsterdam School of Real Estate.