

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The liberalisation of the access to, or the exercise of, service activities**

The dissertation offers an in-depth analysis of the process of services liberalization in the European Union and in Italy. It focuses on the actions taken at European level in order to remove all legal and administrative barriers to trade in the services and to fully exploit the growth potential of services markets; at the same time, the measures adopted for the same purpose at national level are thoroughly discussed.

After examining the implementation of directive 2006/123/EC in the Italian legal system by means of legislative decree n. 59/2010 and other laws, attention is devoted to subsequent national legislation which aims at removing overly burdensome authorisation schemes, procedures and formalities as well as unnecessary requirements that hinder the creation of new service undertakings.

In the past two years, several reforms have been approved in Italy; however, the legal framework still reveals great difficulties and ambiguities. The lack of a systematic approach has had a negative impact on clarity and certainty of law. Moreover, further regulations still need to be enacted by the Government in order to achieve administrative simplification and to eliminate barriers to the development of service activities.