

## NECTAR Cluster 7 – Security

### Summary of activities – August 2013

In the context of the International NECTAR Conference on “Dynamics of Global and Local Networks” at St. Miguel, Azores, Portugal, between 16 and 18 June, 2013, Cluster 7 on Security has organized a vividly attended special session. The topics of the special session were transport safety and security and 4 papers were presented with an interesting discussion afterwards.

During the conference, a Cluster meeting took place on June 16<sup>th</sup>. During this cluster meeting, it was reported that a workshop had been organised by Luca Zamparini at the University of Salento in June 2012. Moreover, the results of a previous Cluster workshop have been published as a special issue for *Transport Policy*. Moreover, two cluster coordinators (Joseph Szyliowicz and Luca Zamparini) are editing a series on Transport Security for Edward Elgar. The first book of series on “Maritime Transport Security” will be published at the end of 2013. A second book on “Multimodal Transport Security” has been approved by Edward Elgar. Nectarists interested in joining this initiative are kindly asked to contact, as soon as possible, Joseph Szyliowicz ([joseph.szyliowicz@du.edu](mailto:joseph.szyliowicz@du.edu)), Genserik Reniers ([genserik.reniers@ua.ac.be](mailto:genserik.reniers@ua.ac.be)) or Luca Zamparini ([luca.zamparini@unisalento.it](mailto:luca.zamparini@unisalento.it)).

With respect to future plans, it was decided to broaden a bit the scope of the Cluster to include Vulnerability. In particular, we aim to explore how Vulnerability, interpreted here as susceptibility to disruptions, discontinuities or extreme strains that can compromise a transport network, is linked to Security, or the prevention of and protection against deliberate actions that aim at generating fatalities, disruption of services and economic and social distress. Consequently, the title of this Cluster has been now changed in “Security and Vulnerability”. In the following months, the coordinating team of the Cluster will ponder whether to restrict the issue of Vulnerability vs Security, or to opt for a more interdisciplinary and broad consideration of the topic.

Moreover, during the NECTAR Conference, interactions with coordinators of Cluster 2 led to the idea, that is being explored in these weeks, to organize a joint cluster meeting in Israel in April 2014. Further details and a call for abstracts will be circulated later.

We look forward to seeing you in future Cluster 7 activities.

The Cluster Co-ordinators

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Genserik Reniers  
Joseph Szyliowicz  
Luca Zamparini