

At the 14th International NECTAR conference in Madrid we celebrated the 25th anniversary of NECTAR. NECTAR organized over 100 NECTAR events in its history: workshops, special sessions at conferences and summer schools. And NECTAR remains to be one of the most active and productive networks in the transportation field. The conference also illustrated that. There were lively plenary discussions, two round tables and over 130 paper presentations, including thematic cluster sessions and general sessions.



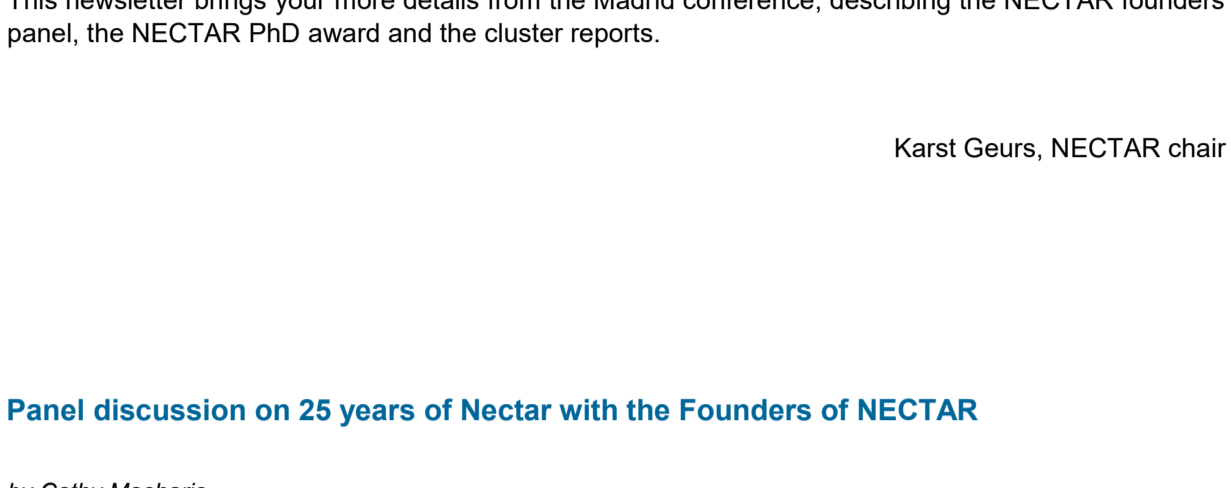
**Professor David Banister**, one of the NECTAR founders, held a keynote speech on the conference theme "Transport in a networked society" and reflected on big themes for the next 25 years (the year 2041). David argued that more attention in research is needed on the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from air and shipping, means to encourage personal and collective responsibility, possibilities to reduce physical travel, and reducing inequality across society in travel. The first panel discussion, chaired by Cathy Macharis, discussed the history and future of NECTAR with the founders of NECTAR (see below for more details).

The second panel discussion, at the last day of the conference, was chaired by Stephane Petti from the European Investment Bank and discussed how to bring transfer transport innovations into business and institutions.



This panel included representatives of public transport operators, infrastructure and service operators and small technology companies and start-ups based in the Madrid region.

For those NECTARists who were unable to attend: you can find the conference programme with extended abstracts and papers at the NECTAR website <http://www.nectar-eu.eu/2017-nectar-conference/> (password is nectar2017). For those who did attend: have a look at the photos at the NECTAR website!



I would like to thank again the chairs of the local organizing committee, Professor Andrés Monzón (UPM) and Professor Javier Gutiérrez (UCM) for hosting and organizing the conference at UPM premises, and Ana Condeço and the rest of the local organizing team for all the hard work and making the conference a huge success. Finally, I would like the main sponsors, the Joint Research Centre and the European Investment Bank, for making the Madrid conference possible.

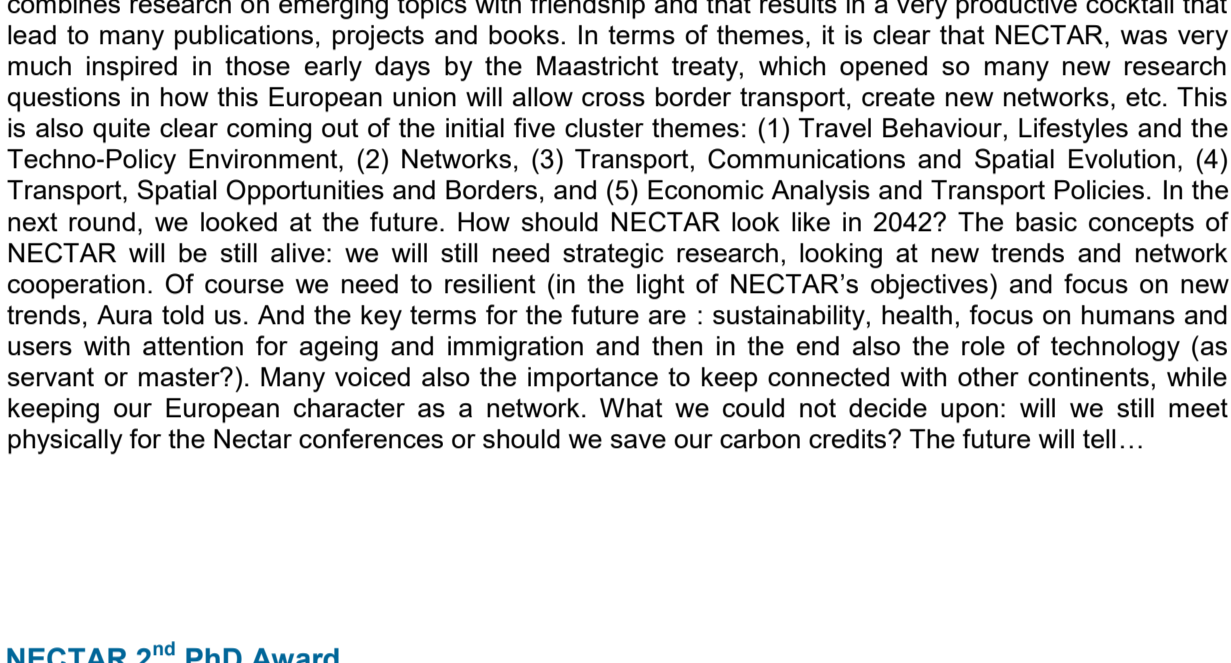
This newsletter brings your more details from the Madrid conference, describing the NECTAR founders panel, the NECTAR PhD award and the cluster reports.

Karst Geurs, NECTAR chair

## Panel discussion on 25 years of Nectar with the Founders of NECTAR

by Cathy Macharis

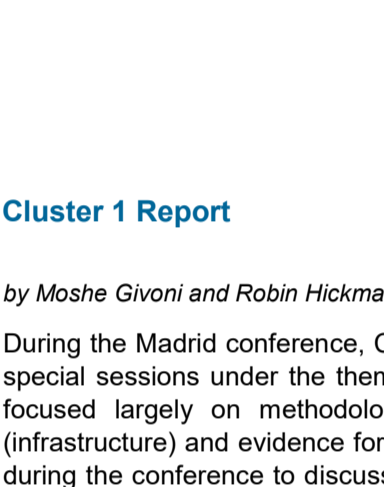
During the Nectar conference in Madrid, a panel discussion was organized with the founders of NECTAR and moderated by Prof. Cathy Macharis, vice chair of Nectar. On the stage from left to right: **Prof. Aura Reggiani**, **Prof. David Banister**, **Prof. Marina Van Geenhuizen** and **Prof. Michael Wegener**. Prof. Peter Nijkamp, who played a crucial role in the start and further development of Nectar, was unfortunately not able to attend in the end but was anyway very much present in the talks. In a first round, the panel members looked back to 1992 and reflected on what NECTAR meant to them and which themes were back then very important. It became clear that NECTAR has been very instrumental in the career of many people as it combines research on emerging topics with friendship and that results in a very productive cocktail that lead to many publications, projects and books. In terms of themes, it is clear that NECTAR, was very much inspired in those early days by the Maastricht treaty, which opened so many new research questions in how this European union will allow cross border transport, create new networks, etc. This is also quite clear coming out of the initial five cluster themes: (1) Travel Behaviour, Lifestyles and the Techno-Policy Environment, (2) Networks, (3) Transport, Communications and Spatial Evolution, (4) Transport, Spatial Opportunities and Borders, and (5) Economic Analysis and Transport Policies. In the next round, we looked at the future. How should NECTAR look like in 2042? The basic concepts of NECTAR will be still alive: we will still need strategic research, looking at new trends and network cooperation. Of course we need to resilient (in the light of NECTAR's objectives) and focus on new trends, Aura told us. And the key terms for the future are : sustainability, health, focus on humans and users with attention for ageing and immigration and then in the end also the role of technology (as servant or master?). Many voiced also the importance to keep connected with other continents, while keeping our European character as a network. What we could not decide upon: will we still meet physically for the Nectar conferences or should we save our carbon credits? The future will tell...



## NECTAR 2<sup>nd</sup> PhD Award

by Karst Geurs

In Madrid, the 2<sup>nd</sup> NECTAR PhD Award was awarded for best recent PhD thesis work in the NECTAR field. Fourteen excellent theses (defended between June 2015-May 2017) had been nominated by their PhD supervisors. The PhD Committee chaired by Erik Verhoef and comprising cluster chairs Moshe Givoni, Andy Goetz, Maria Attard, Edoardo Marcucci, Luca Zampanini and NECTAR chair Karst Geurs, had a very difficult task selecting the winner. At the conference, Karst Geurs awarded the award (a sculpture visualizing a network) to **Cyrille Médard de Chardon** for his thesis *A Geographical Analysis of Bicycle Sharing Systems*. The Jury was in the first place very much impressed by the scientific quality and academic rigor of the work presented in the paper. The author has already published in journals as prestigious as *Transportation Research Parts A and B*, and *Journal of Transport Geography*, which can be taken as objective signs of the academic quality of his work, confirming the Jury's impression. Furthermore, the scope of methods and the broadness of the work is very impressive. The thesis work covers data collection and preparation, trip estimation, an evaluation of rebalancing strategies (getting used bicycles at the best location for the next user), an evaluation of the determinants of success of bicycle sharing systems, and finally offers a critical perspective on bicycle sharing systems from the viewpoints of politics, business and society. With its focus on bicycle sharing systems, often hoped to help addressing urban transportation challenges by offering a more attractive, healthy and sustainable alternative to car use, the thesis



addresses a theme of great societal relevance. It is even the more remarkable and admirable that the author clearly positions himself as an independent academic thinker, by offering a critical reflection on the potential of bicycle sharing schemes in playing that role in urban transport policies, and in identifying the limitations. The Jury congratulates Cyrille with his impressive work, and hopes it will be a nice stimulus to keeping up the excellent work he has been doing!

## Cluster 1 Report

by Moshe Givoni and Robin Hickman

During the Madrid conference, Cluster 1 on "Transport Infrastructure Impacts and Evaluation" held two special sessions under the theme of "Transport Network's Planning and Social Impacts". The papers focused largely on methodological aspects related to measuring social impacts from transport (infrastructure) and evidence for such impacts from across the globe. A Cluster meeting was also held during the conference to discuss potential themes for future Cluster meetings and to discuss past and future activities. Potential themes for the Cluster's future workshops included the need for new evaluation tools and accounting for 'Risk'. Past activities discussed included Cluster 1 meeting organized by Svein Brathen and his team at Molde University College (Molde, Norway) on the "The Wider Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Networks" (May, 2016) and a joint meeting with Cluster 6 organized by Marcin Stepniak in Warsaw, Poland, on "Transport Infrastructures for Better Accessibility, Equity and Territorial Cohesion" (October, 2016).

In terms of publications, a special issue co-edited by Svein Brathen and Moshe Givoni based on Cluster 1 meeting in Molde and with the title "The Wider Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Networks – Looking for the empirics" has been completed and will be published in "Research in Transport Economics". A co-edited book by Robin Hickman, Beatriz Mella-Lira, Moshe Givoni and Karst Geurs with the title "Transport and Socio-Spatial Impacts" will be based on papers presented at the Madrid conference is now in preparation (Edward Elgar). Lastly, plans for two Cluster meetings in 2018 were discussed (Autumn and Spring) possibly in Denver, USA and London, UK. Details to be confirmed.

## Cluster 2 Report

by Maria Attard, Wafa Elias and Edoardo Marcucci

At the Madrid Conference, cluster 2 (Policy and Environment) co-chairs Maria Attard, Wafa Elias, Edoardo Marcucci organized two successful sessions with eight papers on the theme *Sustainable Transport Policy*. A special issue titled "Modal Shift, Emission Reductions and Behavioral Change: Transport Policies and Innovations to Tackle Climate Change" with papers from the Madrid cluster sessions will be organized, hosted by Research of Transportation Economics.

Furthermore, at the cluster meeting the group discussed plans for the next two years. The Special Issue from the NECTAR Cluster 2 and 3 meeting in Brno, Czech Republic, (May 2016) on "The role of planning towards sustainable urban mobility", coordinated by Hana Bruhova, Maria Attard and Sandra Melo in the Journal European Transport Research Review (ETRR), is expected to be published in 2017. There was an agreement for a Cluster workshop for 2018 entitled "Me and the Universe: Sharing and Innovation in Transport Policies and Services". The Cluster also had offers to hold meetings in Porto and Venice, the latter to be organized in March/April 2018.

## Cluster 3 Report

by Cathy Macharis and Sandra Melo

During the NECTAR Conference in Madrid, two panel sessions were carried out by the Cluster Logistics and Freight. One session was focused on sharing within the freight transport sector, covering papers on how to use spare capacity, crowd logistics and share parking spots between different users. The other session concentrated more on the use of ICT within the freight sector, covering topics like real time simulation and revenue management.

Cluster 3 came together in May 2016 in Brno together with cluster 2, and co-editing the ETRR special issue (see report above). Cluster 3 is now planning for a meeting in Venice on the topic of "Freight transport of the future" and this future will be electric, sharing, synchromodal. A date and call for papers will be send soon.

## Cluster 4 Report

by Liv Osland and Annette Haas

The NECTAR Cluster 4 "Travel, Migration, Housing, and Labor Markets" had 19 submitted papers of high quality for the Madrid conference. Many of these papers were presented at general sessions. Two Cluster 4 sessions were arranged. They were well attended and we thank the participants who contributed to good discussions. The research topics of the cluster sessions were concentrated on commuting on the one hand and on issues related to residential and labor markets on the other.

At the cluster meeting we discussed several future activities, two of which are mentioned here. A Special Issue in the Regional Studies journal is in progress. This Special Issue is based on the papers presented at a Cluster 4 meeting in Toledo and has the following working title: "Travel, migration, housing and labor market in a context of crisis: Lessons for the future." Finally, it is evident from the discussions that the topic of the Cluster has become even more relevant, particularly due to the current and future phenomenon on migration and refugees that strongly influence travel behavior, as well spatial interactions of labor and housing markets.

Finally, John Östh from Uppsala University in Sweden was appointed as a new and vital cluster coordinator. He is warmly welcomed. He also offered to explore to organize a cluster workshop in December 2017. John is replacing Jos von Ommen who has been a Cluster 4 coordinator for many years. The cluster is very grateful for the substantial scientific contributions that Jos have made to the cluster during this period.

## Cluster 5 Report

by João Romão and Luca Zampanini

The Cluster "Tourism, Leisure and Recreation" was created in 2016, with a workshop organized in the Swiss city of Lugano. During the NECTAR Conference in Madrid, two panel sessions were carried out. They involved 8 papers, presented by researchers from 6 different countries, including Japan. The presentations covered different fields of the relationships between transport and travel behaviors related to tourism, recreation and leisure activities, including inter-modalities, road traffic, cruises, pedestrianism, the interface between accessibility and tourism attractiveness or product development and, in more general terms, the economic valuation of leisure time and its implications for travel patterns.

These two panel sessions were complemented by a Cluster Meeting involving 13 participants. After a general presentation of the aims and scope of the Cluster by the co-chairs Luca Zampanini and João Romão, the discussion was oriented to the definition of a more specific thematic orientation for future activities. In that framework, a workshop has been envisaged for 2018, under the tentative title "Smart Transport for Sustainable Tourism". This workshop will be hosted by the University of Salento (Lecce, Italy) in May 2018. It aims at gathering further researchers interested in its topic and at the publication of a special issue for the title "Territorial accessibility, resilience and vulnerability" with Jean Claude Thill, Aura Reggiani and Juan Carlos Martin as editors, based on NECTAR Special Session in Ann Arbor in 2015.

## Cluster 6 Report

by Juan Carlos Martin and Aura Reggiani

The Accessibility Cluster organized 2 sessions of 4 papers at the Madrid Conference on the theme of "Accessibility: territorial and socio-economic disparities". The presentations covered different topics regarding: (1) some theoretical issues like the effects of the spatial aggregation; (2) complementary topics like resilience, territorial cohesion, border effects, among others; (3) activity focused on health and job. The sessions were chaired by Aura Reggiani and Karst Geurs.

At the cluster meeting the activities and outputs from Cluster 6 have been discussed. Cluster 6 just has published in 2017 a special issue on Accessibility and Policy Making in the European Transport Research Review, with Ana Condeço Melhorado and Karst Geurs as editors, based on a 2014 workshop. Two other special issues are in preparation. First, a Special Issue in Networks and Spatial Economics on "New Data and Methods in Accessibility Analysis", edited by Ana Condeço Melhorado, Javier Gutierrez and Aura Reggiani, based on NECTAR-ERSA Special Session in 2015. Secondly, a special issue in Transportation on "Territorial accessibility, resilience and vulnerability" with Jean Claude Thill, Aura Reggiani and Juan Carlos Martin as editors, based on NECTAR Special Session in Ann Arbor in 2015.

New topics for the future discussed at the cluster meeting included accessibility theoretical foundation, accessibility in EU-eastern countries and developing countries, accessibility and wellbeing, accessibility and big data and the construction of open data bases and software, accessibility and time use (different dynamics), perceived accessibility, individual and group accessibility (millennials vs. seniors), public transport accessibility (level of service, safety and environmental), and accessibility and sharing economy.

Future plans of cluster meetings include a cluster workshop in Lyon in 2018, organized by the University of Lyon, and a 10th anniversary workshop at the University of Las Palmas in 2018, organized by Juan Carlos Martin. These clusters are open to be organized as joint clusters with other Nectar clusters, so be prepared to participate in these future events.

Cluster 6 is also developing a dedicated cluster mailing list. Please write to Ouassim Manout ouassim.manout@entpe.fr if you like to be included in this list.

## Cluster 7 Report

by Karen Lucas and Dick Ettema

At the Madrid conference, the new Cluster 7 "Social and Health Issues" had its first meeting with over 20 participants. The opportunity was taken to discuss the cluster aim and develop a strategy for the years to come. There was a general agreement on the cluster aim, i.e. to bring together researchers from different scientific disciplines (e.g. engineering, geography, planning, psychology, political sciences and sociology, to name a few) with an interest in the social and health-related impacts of transport). A roundtable identified concrete issues for research brings to the fore the following potential topics of interest, including social and health issues for specific groups (e.g. migrants), the role of safety and security for travel and participation, the option to use big data but also qualitative studies, living labs in urban areas, social and health issues in rural areas, the role of ICTs, and the night time economy partly, residential self-selection and spatial sorting mechanisms and the involvement of citizens in decision making. As follow up actions, the cluster chairs will work on refinement of the cluster aim and scope of the cluster, and draft a research agenda. A dedicated cluster workshop, probably focusing on social and health issues related to walkability, will be organized in the spring of 2018, probably in Utrecht. A second workshop in 2018 will be organized in Oslo.

## Cluster 8 Report

by Luc Wismans and Rein Ahas

During the conference the ICT Cluster organised two interesting sessions, organized by cluster co-chairs Luc Wismans and Rein Ahas. One session focusing on the development and deployment of smart apps to acquire trip data and one session focusing on data handling and analysis. Furthermore there was a related general session on big data analysis. At the cluster meeting in Madrid the cluster aims, activities and plans for the next years were discussed. Two special issues are currently organized by the cluster. Emmanouil Tranos, Elizabeth Mack and Nicolas Ibanez are organizing a special issue "Big Data: a new opportunity for Transport Geography?" in the Journal of Transport Geography, based on papers from the 2016 Cluster workshop in Seville. Rein Ahas, Luc Wismans and Karst Geurs are editing a special issue on "Space-Time Tracking Data in Urban Traffic Management: Methods and Applications" in the Journal of Urban Technology, drawing on papers from the Mobile Tartu 2016 special sessions.

Specific topics formulated to be discussed during upcoming cluster meetings included ethics of deployment of ICT (e.g. use of (big) data sources), statistics and data science techniques needed, interaction with technology/ICT researchers and researchers using derived data, embracement of new technology by stakeholders (mainly authorities versus private companies and universities), and the impact of ICT on accessibility. At the cluster meeting plans new meetings have also been discussed. A special session will be organized during the Mobile Tartu conference June 27-29 in Tartu, Estonia. A call for paper will be distributed in October. Other ideas on cluster workshops and conference special sessions in 2018 will be developed.

## The 2019 NECTAR conference



The next NECTAR conference venue will be Helsinki! The conference will be organised by the University of Helsinki and Aalto University Finland, June 5-7 2019. Tuuli Toivonen, who is leading the multidisciplinary Digital Geography Lab at the University of Helsinki, announced the conference venue at the closing session of the Madrid conference. Helsinki is a leader in open urban data and open science, top-ranked in public transport, an interesting combination of a remote and accessible location. Tuuli Toivonen warmly welcomes you to Helsinki!

## Upcoming NECTAR Events

**August, 24-25, 2017** joint Cluster 2/6 workshop Smart Cities – Governing Accessibility, Air Pollution and Equity at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, August 24-25.