

Dear NECTAR friends

This is the first newsletter of 2017 which finds you in a cold and wintry Europe. I wish you a happy and healthy new year! The year 2016 was buzzing with NECTAR activities. NECTAR organized the largest number of events in its history. A big thanks to the NECTAR team, cluster chairs and local organizers for organizing all these events which continue to make NECTAR such an active and lively community. And of course, I would like to thank all NECTAR members for participating in the 2016 NECTAR events and contribution to the NECTAR book series and special issues.

In this newsletter I would like to look back on the NECTAR highlights of 2016 and look forward to 2017 – a special year for NECTAR.



Karst Geurs, February 2017

## 10 NECTAR events in 2016

The different clusters organized 10 events around the globe in 2016 – an all-time high for NECTAR. Cluster 1 (Networks) organized a cluster workshop on the Wider Economic and Social Impacts of Transport Networks in Molde, Norway and held the first joint workshop with Cluster 6 “Transport Infrastructures for better Accessibility, Equity and Territorial Cohesion” in Warsaw, Poland. Clusters 2 (Policy and Environment) and Cluster 3 (Logistics and Freight) organized a joint workshop “The role of planning towards sustainable urban mobility” in Brno. Cluster 4 organized a workshop in Toledo, Spain. In Lugano (Switzerland) the first and very successful workshop of the new NECTAR Cluster 5 on “Leisure, Recreation and Tourism” was held. Cluster 6 (Accessibility) organized, in addition to the Warsaw workshop, a joint meeting with The Regional Science Academy in Marne la Vallee, France on Geolocalized Data and Accessibility. Cluster 7 organized a joint event with the WCTR Special Interest Group G5 on Transport and Security, at the WCTR in Shanghai. Finally, Cluster 8 (ICT) organized a workshop on big data at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Seville, a special session “Mobile phones, travel and transportation” at the Mobile Tartu Conference in Estonia and a special session “Big data in regional science and transport” at NARSC in Minneapolis.

Moreover, in 2016, the 8th book was published in the NECTAR series, titled “Accessibility, Equity and Efficiency” and edited by Karst Geurs, Roberto Patuelli and Tomaz Dentinho. Several clusters are also working on special issues with papers from the cluster events, including two special issues in the European Transport Research Review (Clusters 2-3 and Cluster 6), Research in Transportation Economics (Cluster 1), the Journal of Transport Geography (Cluster 8) and the Journal of Urban Technology (Cluster 8).

## 2017: Celebrating 25 years of NECTAR

The year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of NECTAR. In the mid 1980ies a group of researchers led by Peter Nijkamp formed the research network “Network for European Communication and Transport Activities Research” (NECTAR) under the auspices of the European Science Foundation project. At the closing conference of the ESF project in March 1992 in Amsterdam the group decided to continue with NECTAR as a non-profit and membership-based organization, creating NECTAR in its current form. The name was slightly changed to the Network on European Communication and Transport Activity Research. The aim of NECTAR has not changed since then: to foster research collaboration and exchange information in the fields of transport, communication and mobility among European scholars from different disciplines and countries, with particular emphasis on a social science orientation towards relevant research issues. In 25 years, NECTAR grew from 76 members in 1993 to 210 members in 2016.

NECTAR was set up with a light institutional structure with Peter Nijkamp as the first chair, Ian Masser as deputy chair, Kerstin Cederlund as secretary and Aura Reggiani as treasurer, and one representative from each cluster. The five clusters set in 1992 were:

Cluster 1: “Travel Behaviour, Lifestyles and the Techno-Policy Environment”, with Rico Maggi as coordinator

Cluster 2: “Networks”, led by Piet Rietveld

Cluster 3: “Transport, Communications and Spatial Evolution in Europe” with Michael Wegener as coordinator

Cluster 4: “Transport, Spatial Opportunities and Borders”, with Kai Lemberg as coordinator

Cluster 5: “Economic Analysis and Transport Policy Processes in Europe”, led by David Banister

All clusters have evolved over time, and currently NECTAR has 8 clusters. The Network Cluster has been a constant throughout NECTAR history. Over the past 25 years it organized over 30 events (workshops, special sessions, events at NECTAR conferences). Only recently, in 2016, the cluster chairs decided to change the name to “Transport Infrastructure Impacts and Evaluation”, leaving the focus on the network concept to the Accessibility Cluster.

Also noteworthy is that membership fees only slightly increased over the 25 years, and in real terms membership fees decreased with 25% ! (based on Dutch CPI). The fees were set in 1993 at 55 ECU for individuals (and 50% off for individuals under 30 years) and increased to the current 70 Euro (40 Euro individuals under 30 years). This brief history is based on the first generation of NECTAR newsletters edited by Rico Maggi, the first NECTAR newsletter editor. Thanks, Rico, for sharing and preserving NECTAR history!

## Madrid Conference

At the Madrid conference we will celebrate NECTAR’s 25th anniversary with special events. More information will follow later. Over 150 abstracts have been submitted to the Madrid conference, and participants will receive notifications of acceptance before February 26

During the conference the 2nd NECTAR PhD Award will be awarded for the best recent PhD thesis work in the NECTAR field. 14 PhD thesis have been submitted for the award. A committee chaired by Prof. Erik Verhoef will evaluate the thesis.

All information on the conference can be found at the [conference website](#) and the [NECTAR website](#)

## Upcoming NECTAR events

May 31 – June 2, 2017, 14th NECTAR international conference: Transport in a networked society, Madrid, Spain