



# **The impact of ICT on accessibility after the pandemic: new formats of shopping, work and transport**

**NECTAR Cluster 6 (Accessibility)  
Antwerp (Belgium) 12-13 October 2023**

## **Call for Papers**

The Department of Transport and Regional Economics is planning to organise a workshop with Cluster 6 (Accessibility) of NECTAR (Network of European Communications and Transportation Academic Researchers). The meeting will take place in **Antwerp, Belgium (12-13 October 2023)** and will be dealing with the topic of **“The impact of ICT on accessibility after the pandemic: new forms of shopping, work and transport”**. This meeting will bring together researchers from different disciplines and countries in a friendly environment to debate the recent developments on the study of digitalization and accessibility in the post-pandemic context – and related policies.

## **Topics of Interest**

The pandemic served as a catalyst for the digitization of our daily activities. The breakthrough of e-commerce and teleworking may bridge existing inequalities in accessibility, yet they are subject to new constraints. For example, the rise of fast home delivery services allows for international shopping but might imply a decline in the local retail provision. This can decrease the options for elder, less internet-savvy consumers. Similar trends are visible in the job market, public transport use and other domains of our daily life. To measure the impacts on access to jobs, food and other products and services, evaluate the viability of retail and business districts, or assess the design of transport infrastructure and networks, a revision of accessibility that includes both digitalization and traditional parameters is required. The question of network accessibility/connectivity therefore seems as relevant as ever for local policymakers, businesses, and transport planners.



Therefore, topics of interests of this workshop are (not exhaustively):

- Retail accessibility in the on-demand economy
- The integration of the consumer in the last mile services to improve delivery services
- Local consumer behavior
- Network accessibility and mobility hubs
- The integration of shared mobility in public transport
- The impact of new mobility services on accessibility
- Tactical urban planning for new ways of urban living (incl. shopping, working, mobility...)
- Modelling digital and physical accessibility
- Teleworking and its impact on travel behaviour
- 15-Minute City and e-commerce/urban logistics
- Street experiments for new mobility options

We seek an open discussion about each presentation. Young starting researchers are encouraged to deliver a presentation.

### **Submitting an Abstract**

Colleagues interested in presenting a paper are kindly invited to send a long abstract of maximum 700 words by email to: Joris Beckers ([joris.beckers@uantwerpen.be](mailto:joris.beckers@uantwerpen.be)), Elnert Coenegrachts ([elnert.coenegrachts@uantwerpen.be](mailto:elnert.coenegrachts@uantwerpen.be)) and Benjamin Büttner ([benjamin.buettner@tum.de](mailto:benjamin.buettner@tum.de)) **before 31 May 2023**. Please, also indicate, title, author(s), affiliations, corresponding contact, and three keywords. A maximum of three bibliographic references is allowed.

### **Travel and Accommodation Expenses**

Up to 20 NECTAR Members are invited to present a paper. The participation of one author per paper is free and includes one night's accommodation, dinner and coffee breaks. NECTAR membership for the year 2023 (€70 or, for those under the age of 30, €40) is required in order to attend the meeting. Non-members can find details on how to join the association on the 'Membership' page of NECTAR's website: <https://www.nectar-eu.eu/membership/>



### **Important dates**

Abstract Submission: **31 May 2023**

Abstract Accepted Notice: **15 June 2023**

Meeting Dates: **12-13 October 2023**

### **The Venue**

The meeting will be hosted at the City campus of the University of Antwerp that is located at Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

### **Publication**

Finally, publication of the works presented (in either a journal special issue or a book in the NECTAR series of Edward Elgar) will be discussed.

### **The Organising Committee**

Joris Beckers, Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)

Elnert Coenegrachts, Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)

Ann Verhetsel, Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)

Benjamin Büttner, Cluster 6 co-chair, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

Juan Carlos Martín, Cluster 6 co-chair, University of Las Palmas GC (Spain)

Karst Geurs, NECTAR chair, University of Twente, the Netherlands

*NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network. It brings together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society in an international perspective. For further information see: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>*