17th International NECTAR Conference
Brussels, Belgium, 3 - 5 July 2024

Stakeholder involvement in tourism transport: roles, needs and participation of residents and visitors

Call for Papers for the thematic session of Cluster 5 - Leisure, Recreation and Tourism

While the involvement of stakeholders is key in the planning and regulation of transport systems, services and infrastructure, the design and deployment of innovations and in the evaluation of transport activities, transport and mobility of tourists impose additional difficulties, challenges and opportunities. This additional diversity of stakeholders - with the related diversity of roles, responsibilities, place-attachment and degree of willingness to participate in research and planning – adds new complexities but may also open options for new solutions, both in urban and rural contexts. Therefore, new methods, approaches, tools, and insights are needed to better understand why stakeholder involvement is important, who are the key actors that should participate, how they can be involved, and what impacts transport has on them. Stakeholder involvement is not only relevant for transport infrastructure projects, but also for supporting the long-term transition of transport towards a low-carbon and sustainable future, which is a crucial aspect for further tourism development. In particular, the mobility of tourists in cities may contribute to finance the development and implementation of new services and infrastructures, while in rural areas they may support the achievement of a critical level of demand, eventually enabling the emergence of innovative and more sustainable forms of mobility. In both cases, however, their involvement in participatory process of planning and management is more difficult, due to their short temporary presence in the places.

The focus of this cluster session is on how transport and communications research can support the different roles stakeholders take in tourism transport planning. Stakeholder involvement is understood in the broader sense and we invite papers discussing the following specific topics of interest:

- advancements in the fields of transport and communication in the context of stakeholder involvement and citizen engagement,
- stakeholder-based decision support,

- quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the impact of transport on different stakeholder groups,
- different roles and needs of residents and visitors in urban and rural tourism destinations;
- complementary between residents and visitors for the development of innovative and sustainable transport services and infrastructures;
- coordinating role of destination management organizations (DMO) or other institutional arrangement for the transport and mobility of tourists.

In addition to these topics, we welcome papers on topics in the fields of leisure, recreation, tourism and transport at large.

Deadline for abstract submission

January 31, 2024. Abstracts (max. 500 words) should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the conference website and following the instructions found there: https://mobilise.research.vub.be/nectar-conference-2024-general-call-for-papers

A copy of the abstract should also be sent to João Romão (joao_romao@me.com) and Peter Nijkamp (pnijkamp@hotmail.com).

Criteria for acceptance

Criteria for acceptance are scope, scientific quality, NECTAR membership and the possibility to fit the presentation in a coherent conference session. The number of participants of this thematic session will be limited to 8.

Venue

The NECTAR conference will be organized by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and hosted on its campus.

Participation and NECTAR membership

Registration, meals, and accommodation for one night will be offered to NECTAR members, for only one author per paper. One night of hotel accommodation will be offered to participants who have confirmed their participation before April 30, 2024. One night of hotel accommodation might be charged in case of late cancellations. All practical details will be communicated through the conference website. In order to participate in the conference, a consecutive and current two-year NECTAR membership is necessary (2023-2024). Non-members can find details of how to join the association on the "Membership" page of NECTAR's website: www.nectar-eu.eu/membership.

Important dates:

Abstract submission: Jan 31, 2024
Notification of acceptance: Feb 29, 2024
Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2024

We look forward to seeing you in Brussels!

Luca Zamparini, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy
Peter Nijkamp, Open University, Heerlen, The Netherlands
João Romão, Yasuda Women's University, Hiroshima (Japan)

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 bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society from an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: http://www.nectar-eu.eu.