

NECTAR newsletter July 2024

Dear NECTARists,

This summer newsletter brings you news about the successful International NECTAR conference, which took place July 3-5 2024, at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. The conference theme was “Stakeholder involvement in transport: Who, why, how and with what impact?”. Moreover, there have been some important changes to the NECTAR Board, and I am very happy to be addressing all of you as the new NECTAR Chair 😊

I wanted to reach out before the summer break and so this newsletter will not have everything that has happened (and will happen) in NECTAR. But there are many exciting events in the pipeline so the calendar for NECTAR is looking pretty full until our next conference in 2026! So keep posted for more upcoming cluster events and activities.

And yes, I will conclude this Newsletter by revealing the next conference location (no scrolling to the end!)

Taking the opportunity to wish you all a great relaxing summer break 😊🌴

Maria Attard, NECTAR chair

July 2024

**17th International NECTAR Conference,
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium**

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With around 140 presentations, a very special keynote and panel discussion, and many social activities, the conference hosted by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel this July was one of the largest events ever organized within NECTAR. Alongside several paper sessions focusing on the conference theme, the conference also had general sessions as well as thematic sessions organized by the eight NECTAR clusters. During the conference each cluster had the opportunity to organize a meeting to present their activities and engage with participants about new research activities and themes. There were two activities at the end of the conference for those participants who wished to explore the VUB Campus (on foot) and the city of Brussels (by bike). The conference dinner was held at the new city administration building of the City of Brussels whilst in other evenings, the city of Brussels offered many avenues for socializing with fellow Nectarists!

Prof. Luca Bertolini, Professor of Urban Planning at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences of the University of Amsterdam gave an engaging keynote entitled ***“What kind of knowledge do we need to transform urban mobility? And how can we generate it?”*** His keynote was followed by a panel discussion with Niek Mouter, Floridea di Ciommo, Cathy Macharis, Imre Keserü and Luca Bertolini.

The conference dinner was held at Brucity, the administration building of the City of Brussels and the participants were addressed by Bart Dhondt, an Alderman from the City Council. Everyone enjoyed listening to the efforts of the City of Brussels in favour of sustainable mobility and then proceeded to get a view of the city skyline from rooftop terrace.

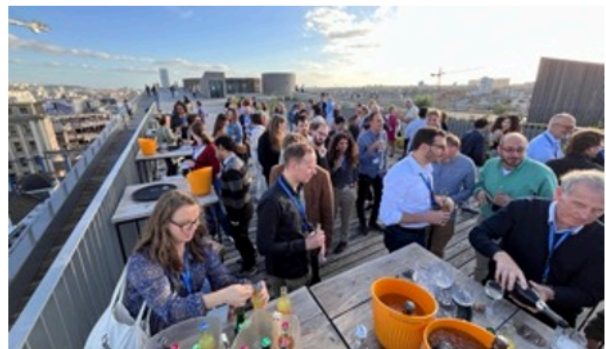
At the end of the conference, the winner of the 5th NECTAR PhD award was invited to present his research. Bogdan Kapatsila was presented with the trophy by Prof. Juan Carlos Martín and Prof. Karst Geurs. His thesis, entitled ***“The Use of Behavioural Insights for Crowding Management on Public Transit”*** was supervised by Emily Gris  from the University of Alberta, Canada, Dea van Lierop from Utrecht University, the Netherlands, and Francisco Bahamonde-Birke from Tilburg University, the Netherlands.

team at Vrije Universiteit Brussels, the cluster chairs and the past president Prof. Karst Geurs who led the network for a decade and encouraged and inspired many activities and outputs for NECTAR.

A thanks goes also to the participants who presented their work, eagerly engaged in serious academic discussions and enjoyed (hopefully less seriously) the social events and evenings in Brussels.

📷 A photo album from the conference is available [here](#)

🔗 See also the Mobilise post in LinkedIn [here](#)



New Changes to the NECTAR Board

During the Closing Session of the 2024 Conference, changes to the NECTAR Board were announced. Prof. Karst Geurs who chaired NECTAR for 10 years announced that he is stepping down and will support the hand-over as Vice chair. Thomas de

This is the opportunity to thank Prof. Geurs for his 10-years as Chair, and Prof. Cathy Macharis and Prof. Juan Carlos Martín as his Vice chairs. Under their leadership NECTAR organized five conferences in Ann Arbor (Michigan), Madrid, Helsinki, Toronto and Brussels. Thanks also go to Thomas, Ana and Stephanie for their hard work to administer the Network and making sure all ran smoothly to support NECTAR activities.

Prof. Maria Attard was announced as the next NECTAR Chair.

Maria obtained her first degree and Masters in Geography at the University of Malta and then proceeded to follow her PhD studies at UCL in London under the supervision of Prof. John Adams and Prof. Michael Batty. She has since worked as an academic at the University of Malta but, for a while, also served as a consultant to transport ministers on the islands working on the implementation of several projects including park-and-ride, road pricing, pedestrianization, public transport reforms and the introduction of alternative modes of public transport. As a Full Professor, she has published extensively in the field of urban transport and sustainable mobility, especially in island jurisdictions. She has participated in several European and local projects, and supported research in European institutions by serving as evaluator at the European Research Council and similar agencies in various countries. She is co-editor in chief of Research in Transportation Business and Management, Associate Editor of Case Studies on Transport Policy, Associate Editor of European Transport Research Review and sits on several journal editorial boards. She is also book series co-editor for Emerald's Transport and Sustainability series. She is a member of the WCTR Steering Committee and as SIG G3 co-chair, she is also member of the Scientific Committee.

Maria joined NECTAR in 2011 attending the NECTAR Conference in Antwerp and became co-chair of Cluster 2. She will now lead a new team, welcoming [Felix Pot](#) as the new Treasurer and [Daniela Arias Molinares](#) as new Secretary.



2026 NECTAR Conference

The next NECTAR Conference was also announced during the conference closing!

It is with great pleasure to announce that the next International NECTAR Conference in 2026 will be held in **Munich, hosted by Dr.-Ing. Benjamin Büttner**, Head of the Research Group on Accessibility Planning at the Technical University of Munich 🙌



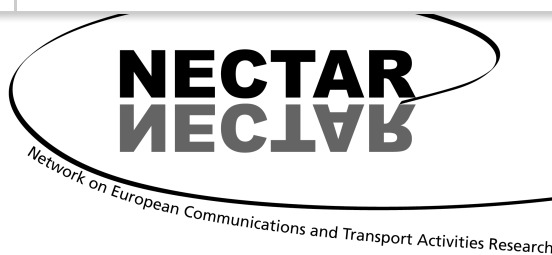
Stay updated on upcoming events!



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