

NECTAR newsletter December 2024

Dear NECTARists,

This year is nearing its end, and I thought I would share some of this year's events and news. After the hard work and success of the International NECTAR conference, which took place July 3-5, at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, much of the work has focused on the changes that have taken place in the NECTAR administration.

A lot of work has gone into the update of the website and settling in some new roles and responsibilities.

I wanted to reach out before the end of the year to also list some changes to cluster composition and announce some of the 2025 planned events.

Taking the opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for the coming holiday season 🎄 🎄 🎄

Maria Attard, NECTAR chair
December 2024

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



A throwback to the successful NECTAR conference with around 140 presentations, a great keynote and panel discussion and many lively social activities, all in the city of Brussels last July.

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.

We announced the 5th NECTAR PhD awardee – Bogdan Kapatsila and changes to the NECTAR Board were announced at the end of the conference.

A thanks goes to the organizers and participants who so eagerly engaged in serious academic discussions and enjoyed all that Brussels offered!

New Changes to the NECTAR administration



During the closing session of the 2024 Conference, I was appointed as the new chair of NECTAR. Past president Prof. Karst Geurs has accepted to take the role of one of the network vice chairs. I am very happy to announce that the second vice chair will be [Dr.-Ing. Benjamin Büttner](#).

Benjamin Büttner is the deputy head of the Chair of Urban Structure and Transport Planning at the Technical University of Munich, where he leads the [TUM Accessibility Planning Research Group](#). His research focuses on developing accessibility instruments that support informed and collaborative decision-making processes emphasising equity, sustainability, resilience and liveability by integrating intermodal accessibility and proximity-centred approaches through active mobility.

He has been a very active co-chair of the NECTAR Accessibility cluster since 2018. He is the head of the EIT Urban Mobility 'Doctoral Training Network' since 2019, in which more than 100 international and interdisciplinary PhD students are working together. He is also the founding Editor-in-Chief of the [Journal of Urban Mobility](#). He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Transport Geography as well as Sustainable Futures and was recently appointed Area Editor for Accessibility in Networks and Spatial Economics.

Benjamin is actively involved in international initiatives and has led European research projects, including the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT), JPI Urban Europe, and HORIZON Europe collaborations. He has also organized academic conferences such as mobil.TUM2012, mobil.TUM 2024 and will organize the NECTAR 2026 conference.

As announced previously, Felix Pot is the new Treasurer and Daniela Arias Molinares has taken the role of NECTAR Secretary. Anastasia Soukhov (McMaster University) has accepted to support the work of NECTAR helping with the website and the social media.

Please visit the website and let us know if you have ideas on how to improve it. Also follow and share the [NECTAR LinkedIn page](#) for news and updates.

New Cluster co-chairs



I am also pleased to announce a new cluster co-chair for Cluster 8, Associate Professor Marina Toger.

Marina Toger is Associate Professor and specializes in spatial analysis and modelling urban dynamic processes. Her latest research comprises empirical studies on human spatial mobility and spatial distribution of inequity.

GIS, Geosimulation, agent-based modelling, spatial and network analyses are the main methods that Marina implements in her research.

Her PhD related to urban open-space connectivity, network morphology and dynamics resulting from urban expansion and interaction between urban environment and wildlife.

Outgoing co-chair Tuuli Toivonen actively supported the Cluster and hosted the 2019 NECTAR Conference in Helsinki. Thank you Tuuli, for the work over the years and for participating so actively in the network. We all have very fond memories of the Helsinki conference, the friendly discussions and the very enjoyable social events!

NECTAR Cluster events

Cluster 1 organized a workshop on “Beyond Cost-Benefit Analysis: Methodological and Theoretical Advancements in Transport Appraisal” in October 2023 at VU Brussels. An edited book has been published reflecting Cluster 1 activities and contributions from NECTAR members. Hickman, R. and Hannigan, C.(eds). (2023) Discourse Analysis in Transport and Urban Development: Interpretation, Controversy and Diversity, Edward Elgar.

and transport” 12-13 October 2023, Antwerp (Belgium). A special issue in Transportation Research Part A is being compiled as a follow up to this workshop. Special sessions were organized within the mobil.TUM 2024 conference on ‘The Roadmap for Shaping the ±15-Minute City: Proximity-centred Accessibility in Practice’, Munich (Germany), 10-11 April 2024.

During the 2024 Conference, Clusters held their bi-annual meetings and discussed, among other things, their strategic pillars to focus their future efforts and plan several events for the next two years leading to the next conference in 2026.

We encourage NECTAR members to engage in these activities and follow up with cluster co-chairs to contribute to the workshops and meetings, but also to approach cluster co-chairs to host a workshop or meeting.

NECTAR Upcoming events

Some events for 2025 are already taking shape. Here are some of the events which have already been advertised. Please take note of the abstract deadlines and do get in touch with the organizers should you have any questions.

NECTAR Cluster 5 Special Session on “Tourism & Leisure Choices in Regional Science” at the Annual Meetings of 2025 Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) in Henderson (Las Vegas Metro), Nevada from February 12-15, 2025.

NECTAR Cluster 5 workshop on "Sustainable local transport in tourism destinations". Berlin, June 5-6, 2025.

NECTAR Cluster 5 workshop on "Sustainable local transport in tourism destinations". Berlin, June 5-6, 2025.

NECTAR Cluster 5 workshop on "Tourism degrowth and sustainable transportation: perspective, linkages and policies", Como (Italy), September 10-12, 2025.

NECTAR Cluster 5 workshop on "Overtourism and sustainability in the post-pandemic era", Kyoto (Japan), October, 2025.

NECTAR Cluster 3 workshop on “Green Innovations in Transport and Logistics Systems: Transforming Supply Chains for Sustainable Development”. Ottawa (Canada), March 28-30, 2025.

Visit the [NECTAR website](#) to find details of each event.

An important news aimed at Cluster Chairs and hosts that are thinking of organizing a workshop or joint meeting, is that the participant contribution that NECTAR will contribute towards supporting the hosts will be increased for 2025. Do get in touch should you have any meeting ideas and learn more!

2026 NECTAR Conference



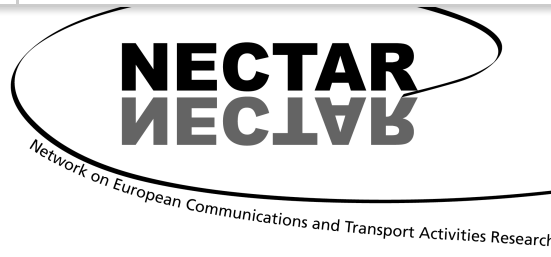
I close this newsletter reminding you of the next NECTAR Conference in 2026 will be held in Munich, hosted by Dr.-Ing. Benjamin Büttner. Please start sharing the news!

We will start planning soon and keep posted with more information.

**WISHING EVERYONE ALL THE BEST FOR THE
COMING HOLIDAY SEASON AND OF COURSE, TO
LOTS OF NETWORKING IN 2025!!**

Stay updated on upcoming events!





Copyright (C) 2023. NECTAR Network. All rights reserved.

<https://www.nectar-eu.eu/>