



18th International NECTAR Conference
Munich, Germany, 13 -15 July 2026

Call for Papers for the thematic session of Cluster 6: Accessibility

Accessibility in Transition: Harnessing Data to Navigate Change

Land-use and transport planning have been integrating accessibility measures to implement improvements in many regions and to respond to the needs and aspirations of their inhabitants. Conceptualizing the potential for different individuals to engage in valued activities, accessibility contributes to enhancing human capabilities and promoting equity. The increasing availability of large-scale and diverse data sources, from traditional travel surveys and census data to passive mobility traces derived from smartphones, GPS devices, and public transport smart cards, offers unprecedented opportunities to capture the multifaceted nature of accessibility. These rich datasets, often complemented by emerging sources such as crowdsourced information, open data platforms, and high-resolution land-use or infrastructure inventories, enable researchers to uncover spatial and temporal patterns of accessibility with greater precision and context.

This growing diversity of data introduces new methodological and ethical challenges related to integration, representativeness, and privacy. Recent transitions in mobility, such as the widespread adoption of telecommuting and the rapid growth of e-commerce and digital services, have shifted travel behaviour and altered the value individuals place on accessing certain destinations. As more activities can now be performed virtually, the meaning of accessibility is evolving beyond physical proximity to also encompass digital connectivity. These transitions, however, often amplify existing inequities in who benefits from or is burdened by such changes. Understanding and addressing these unequal impacts is essential to ensure that accessibility research and policymaking promote fair and sustainable mobility futures.

The cluster session explores how accessibility planning can leverage various data types to understand transitions in behaviour and mobility patterns. We welcome papers that address this theme broadly and invite contributions discussing the following specific topics:

- Big-scale and multi-source data for accessibility measurement and monitoring
- Integrating passive, active, and digital mobility data
- Predictive analytics for accessibility transitions and behavioural responses
- Accessibility in the on-demand economy and teleworking impacts
- Shifts in accessibility needs and preferences across population groups
- Accessibility, connectivity, and social capital
- Data-driven methods for measuring spatial equity
- AI and accessibility



Deadline for abstract submission

The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 2026. Abstracts (max. 500 words) should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the conference website and following the instructions found there: <https://nectar26.eu/>

A copy of the abstract should also be sent to Juan Carlos Martin Hernandez (jcarlos.martin@ulpgc.es), Aura Reggiani (aura.reggiani@unibo.it), Ahmed El-Geneidy (ahmed.elgeneidy@mcgill.ca), Benjamin Büttner (benjamin.buettner@tum.de).

Criteria for acceptance

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

Venue

NECTAR 2026 will be hosted by the Accessibility Planning Research Group at Chair of Urban Structures and Transport Planning, Technical University of Munich (TUM), at the Technical University of Munich, in collaboration with the NECTAR Board and its thematic clusters.

Participation and NECTAR membership

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 (2024-2026). 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: January 31, 2026

Notification of acceptance: April 1, 2026

Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2026

We look forward to seeing you in Munich!

Juan Carlos Martin Hernandez, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Aura Reggiani, University of Bologna, Italy

Ahmed El-Geneidy, McGill University, Canada

Benjamin Büttner, Technical University of Munich, Germany

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>.