



17<sup>th</sup> International NECTAR Conference  
Brussels, Belgium, 3-5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## **Community engagement in transport decision-making**

### **Call for Papers for the thematic session of Cluster 7 – Social and Health Issues in Transportation**

NECTAR Cluster 7 focusses on promoting social equity, health and wellbeing, and inclusive transport systems for all citizens. Currently, access to transportation services and infrastructures is not equally distributed across populations and geographies. The same inequalities hold for the negative health consequences of travel, such as accidents, exposure to pollutants and noise, stress invoked by travel, lack of physical activity, and ability to get to healthy places and health care. Often the local communities which disproportionately suffer from the worst burdens of the transport system are also the ones that benefit the least from new transport policies and interventions. They also have fewer opportunities to have their voices heard in the transport decision process.

In line with the general topic of the conference, Cluster 7 will organise two sessions that focus on *the meaningful engagement of local communities in transport policymaking and planning processes*. We are interested in case studies that have successfully involved local citizens in the planning and design of projects, strategic consultation frameworks and the barriers and limitations of inclusive representation within these engagement processes. We are particularly interested to understand how improved community representation within transport decision-making can help to promote improved social equity, health and wellbeing outcomes within the transport domain. We are also interested to learn about new and innovative methodological approaches that recognise the important role of local communities involvement in transport policy and planning.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Successful examples of involving local citizens in the planning and design of transport projects and strategic consultation frameworks;
- Barriers and limitations of inclusive representation in engagement processes;
- Equity, health and wellbeing impacts of community representation within transport decision-making;
- New and innovative methodological approaches to involve local communities in transport policy and planning.

### **Deadline for abstract submission**

The deadline for abstract submission is 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 Tanu Uteng ([Tanu.PriyaUteng@toi.no](mailto:Tanu.PriyaUteng@toi.no)).

### **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](http://www.nectar-eu.eu/membership).

### **Important dates**

Abstract submission: Jan 31, 2024

Notification of acceptance: Feb 29, 2024

Confirmation of attendance: April 30, 2024

### **Cluster 7 co-chairs**

Tanu Priya Uteng, Institute of Transport Economics, Norway

Michael Widener, University of Toronto - St. George, Canada

Dick Ettema, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Karen Lucas, University of Manchester, UK

**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>.