

NECTAR Cluster 2 Meeting on “Quality, regulation and environmental sustainability in public transport”

October 22-23, 2010, Rome, Italy

List of participants

- **Karen Anderton** University of Oxford
- **Galit Cohen-Blankshtain** The Hebrew University, Israel
- **Laura Eboli** University of Calabria
- **Christos Evangelinos** Dresden University of Technology
- **Edoardo Marcucci** University of Rome 'Roma Tre'
- **David McArthur** Haugesund University College
- **Deb Niemeier** University of California, Davis, USA
- **Aura Reggiani** Bologna University
- **Joao Romao** University of Algarve & Free University, Amsterdam
- **Yoram Shiftan** The Technion, Israel Institute of Technology
- **Luca Spiezia** University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'
- **Amanda Stathopoulos** University of Trieste
- **John Steenbruggen** Free University, Amsterdam
- **Federico Tedeschi** Free University, Amsterdam, & FEWEB
- **Eva Valeri** University of Trieste

The Nectar Cluster 2 meeting, marking a relaunching of the activities of the cluster on 'policy and environment', was opened by Professor Edoardo Marcucci on October 22nd in the faculty of political economy at the university of Rome 'Roma Tre'. The workshop planning and execution was managed by the Local



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Organizing Committee consisting of Edoardo Marcucci, Amanda Stathopoulos and Eva Valeri. The aim of the workshop was to explore different aspects of sustainable mobility associated with promoting and improving public transport. The meeting attracted 14 delegates of different nationalities from a wide range of academic institutions in Norway, Israel, the Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom and Germany as well as Italy. The research presented ranged from recent theoretical and empirical works-in-progress to published works, from different geographic contexts. Particular issues explored from a macro-perspective concerned financing and regulating public transport from the point of view of public decision-makers. Several presentations offered analyses of the politico-economic decision-making underlying the funding of public transport operations and the move towards climate-neutral transportation. Yet other works pointed to the lack of productivity and innovation in the sector and its important links to wider commuting behaviour and labour markets. Wide discussions dealt with pinpointing what type of goals public planners are focussing on when managing public transport provision and how these link to the actual observed effects of service improvements on local and regional economies. Empirical cases of pronounced innovation in fare-structure and data monitoring in a transit setting were put forth to underscore the role of public and private operators in making public transport more attractive and efficient. A second approach the workshop valorized concerned the analysis of service quality from the view of the users and potential users, looking at innovative methods for measuring service quality.

The discussions were carried out in an interested and friendly atmosphere and while the participants presented their research ideas and ongoing projects on measuring service quality, sustainability and on bringing reform to the public transport context. Finally, after summing up the findings of the meeting, Edoardo Marcucci along with Aura Reggiani and Yoram Shiftan invited interested colleagues to submit their papers for consideration of publication in a special issue of an international refereed journal on the theme of sustainable mobility and public transport.

The Local Organizing Committee has been very pleased to receive acknowledgements from the participants expressing their positive evaluation of the logistics and preparatory conference work as well as the conduction of the workshop. The meeting was supported by NECTAR, DIPES (Department of Public Institutions, Economics and Society) and CREI (Centre for Research on Institutional Economics) at the Faculty of political science at the university of Rome 'Roma Tre'.