



JRC cooperation with EU candidate, potential candidate and Horizon 2020 associated countries

Enlargement and Integration Action 2020

Workshop on “Expectations and concerns about connected and automated vehicles”

**Rogner Hotel. Bulevardi Deshmoret e Kombit, Tirana 1000 Albania.
15-16 October 2020**

Background

Road transport has changed more in the last 10 years than in the previous 50, namely after the wide spread of the car as the main personal mobility option worldwide. The advent of electrification, communication and automation technologies together with new societal trends such as the sharing economy, are driving the change at a pace which was difficult to imagine just a few years ago.

Since mobility expresses a human need and transport represents the available opportunities to fulfil that need, a change in the transport sector impacts heavily our lives both individually and collectively within the society. These implications and the interlinkages with other dimensions of our society make transport a complex system, meaning that the effect of any change to it can have non-linear wider consequences that are difficult to predict.

At the same time, the transport sector needs to be transformed to reduce its unsustainable externalities. Global challenges such as climate change and other sustainable development goals cannot be achieved without touching the transport sector¹. Policy needs to ensure that the potential benefits that the transformation of the transport sector promises to bring to the society are not counterbalanced by other unexpected negative effects. Loss of competitiveness of the European industry, employment reduction and lack of required skills to cover new jobs, reduction in social equity, loss of privacy, new urban sprawl, higher energy consumption are only some of the possible threats that a transformation pushed by significant financial interests may bring.

In the last years the JRC has built significant expertise in the field to support the European Commission in developing the future policy tools to steer the transformation of road transport.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/role-transport-realising-sustainable-development-goals-and-consequent-implications-eu-policy-making-own-initiative>



Motivation and objectives

The innovation of road transport is a global trend. It is pushed by technology providers all around the world and governments need to be prepared in order to properly steer the transition. New technologies and solutions are not only provided by traditional big players operating in the transportation field, but are often coming from a constellation of innovative start-ups which are providing their products to the global market usually with limited knowledge about people needs and attitudes. This creates a dangerous environment in which growth is fuelled by inflated market expectations and in which many players disappear soon after their access to market. Since new technologies in the transport systems are also expected to address some of the transport related problems, this environment is not only a problem for private firms but for the whole society.

For this reason, the Sustainable Transport Unit (STU) of the JRC is carrying out relevant research activities to understand people's expectations and concerns related to a key technology entering the transport landscape: connected and automated vehicles. This is crucial in order to understand how quickly and deeply these new technologies will enter the market and contribute to change the mobility landscape. Among others, the JRC has carried out a Eurobarometer survey on this topic in 2019, the results of which have been recently published², and is currently carrying out a number of focus group discussions in collaboration with other international organisations. In this context, the STU organizes a two-day workshop with professionals and practitioners from E&I countries to discuss about the evolution in road transport and to understand expectations and concerns towards new technologies.

The workshop also considers the changes in the society generated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the possible effects on the transport system.

The two-day workshop will take place in Tirana, on 15-16 October 2020 and is organized with the support of the Albanian company ABCD Ltd. In case travelling will still be restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop will be organised as a virtual event.

The target audience of the workshop is composed of researchers and practitioners in the fields of transport. The participants would range from automotive to energy, including employees, managers as well as representatives from academia, industry NGOs and ministries from Enlargement and Integration countries.

Activities

The two-day workshop is structured in presentations and co-creation sessions involving innovative methodologies of collaborative knowledge sharing. The following draft agenda is proposed for the event. A detailed agenda will be provided to the workshop participants ahead of the event.

² https://data.europa.eu/euodp/it/data/dataset/S2231_92_1_496_ENG



Day 1	Day 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction. The future of road transport. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology outlook ▪ Policy outlook ▪ Citizen perspective - Afternoon session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-creation session 1. Expectations and concerns about Connected and Automated Vehicles - Social activity and networking Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-creation session 2. Threats and opportunities of a Connected and Automated Mobility. - Afternoon session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion about the main findings and comparison with previous activities by the JRC

Workshop in summary

Organisers:

Joint Research Centre of the European Commission with the support of the Albanian company ABCD Ltd.

Dates and Venue:

15-16 October 2020 - Rogner Hotel. Bulevardi Deshmoret e Kombit, Tirana 1000 Albania

The workshop will develop over two full days. More information on time and venue of the workshop will be provided to the selected applicants. In case of travelling restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop will be organised as a virtual event.

Useful Dates:

Deadline for Applications: 31 July 2020

Communication of Acceptance: 20 August 2020

Planned participants:

30

Participants profile:

Professionals, academics, policy officers or any person whose field of work is in the automotive/transport/energy/mechanical/electric engineering sector.

Country of origin of participants:



Enlargement and Integration countries including Candidate and Potential Candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo – this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence – Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey), European Neighbourhood Policy countries Associated to Horizon 2020 (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Tunisia, Ukraine), and New EU MS (Croatia)

Grants:

Grants covering cover travel and accommodation expenses will be available to a maximum of **30 selected participants**.

Contacts:

To apply please send your CV and short motivation letter (max 200 words) to: JRC-EI-CCAM@ec.europa.eu