



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

Enlargement and Integration Action 2021

Workshop on “Citizen engagement activities for a smooth transition to automated vehicles”

JRC Ispra Site, Italy

25 November 2021

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.

⁽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>



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.

Motivation and objectives

There is an active contemporary debate about how emerging technologies such as automated vehicles, will revolutionize individual and collective mobility. Connected and Automated Mobility will disrupt the road transport sector which has remained substantially unchanged since the vehicle became mass produced in the first half of the twentieth century. For such a radical change, technology providers, and governments need to be well prepared to smoothly lead this transition. Citizens' mindset and attitudes strongly influence the rate that a new technology is adopted.

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 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 workshop will take place in Ispra, Italy, on the 25 November 2021. In case travelling will still be restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop will be organised as a virtual or hybrid event.

AUDIENCE

The target audience of the workshop is composed of researchers and practitioners in the fields of transport and people with no transport-related background. The participants would range from automotive to energy, including employees, managers as well as representatives from academia, industry NGOs and ministries, as well as citizens from Enlargement and Integration countries.

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

Activities

During the one-day workshop, JRC scientists will present the results of the last citizen's participations activities on the topic. E&I participants that wish to share own activities on the topic will have the opportunity to present their results during the workshop. In the afternoon session the participants will have the possibility to take part in the self-driving vehicle platform demonstration, which will be followed by a co-creation sessions involving innovative methodologies of collaborative knowledge sharing. The event will conclude with some final take away messages. The following draft agenda is proposed for the event. A detailed agenda will be provided to the workshop participants ahead of the event.

Thursday, 25 November 2021	
-	<i>Morning session</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Workshop Introduction○ Results from previous citizen engagement activities-JRC○ E&I Expert presentation○ E&I Expert presentation○ E&I Expert presentation
-	<i>Lunch Break</i>
-	<i>Afternoon session</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Self-driving vehicle platform demonstration○ Co-creation session. Expectations and concerns about Connected and Automated Vehicles○ Discussion and closure



Workshop in summary

Organisers:

Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Dates and Venue:

25 November 2021

The workshop will develop over one full day. 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 August 2021

Communication of Acceptance: 15 September 2021

Planned participants:

20

Participants profile:

Professionals, academics, policy officers working in the field of automotive/transport/energy/mechanical/electric engineering. E&I citizens curious about the topic but without any related background.

Country of origin of participants:

Enlargement and Integration countries including Third countries associated to Horizon Europe: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Grants:

Grants cover travel and accommodation expenses will be available to a maximum of **20 selected participants**.

Contacts:

To apply please send your CV and short motivation letter (max 200 words) to:

JRC-SMART-MOBILITY@ec.europa.eu