WCTRS NEWSLETTER

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WCTRS
World Conference on Transport Research Society

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Interaction with the Newly Elected WCTRS President, Professor Rosário Macário

Professor Rosário M. R. Macário has been elected President of the World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) at the general assembly during the Toulouse 2026 conference. She is a Professor at the Universidade de Lisboa in Portugal. A member of WCTRS since 1998, she contributed to the society in various capacities. Professor Gopal R. Patil, the editor of the WCTR Newsletter, interacted with her to understand her vision and plans for WCTRS over the next three years.



1. *Now that you have a significant say in steering the WCTRS's future activities, what are your overall plans for the next three years?*

   As announced in my first speech to the GA, I aim to introduce some innovation in the research approach, by promoting transdisciplinarity. A first WCTRS seminar on Transdisciplinarity will be held in 20-21 May 2027. There is also the need to renew many of the bodies of the Society introducing younger people and incorporating their perspectives in our strategic development. I plan to develop a mid-term strategic plan. Being the World Society we must ensure that we are inclusive and that we play a role in integrating researchers from the least developed countries. I will initiate by attending the main African research conference and explore the possibility of having development protocols and assessing which are the most adequate actions to undertake. My participation in these places will be announced soon by Grant in the web.

2. *You are very aware of the committees and subcommittees of WCTRS and their functioning. Do you think there should be some changes? If yes, what changes do you want to bring about for the efficient functioning of society?*

   Yes, we need to ensure that SIGs will also be inclusive and incorporate young people. That is the natural path for the young people who do their training at WCTRS Y, and then move to be members of the SIGs. This is a way to have a continuous regeneration of topics and perspectives in the SIGs.

3. *WCTRS is quite popular among researchers from all over the world. However, it has effectively reached policymakers and government agencies. What can be done to see the impact of WCTRS at the ground level?*

   That is why I am opening the doors to Transdisciplinarity, as I see it. Transdisciplinarity means integrating multiple academic fields and non-academic participants to create a unified, holistic approach to complex real-world problems.

4. *What are your thoughts on the current participation of women in WCTRS activities? Do you plan any changes to increase participation?*

   My focus is on competence, not gender. So, competent women and men are most welcome on equal terms, and WCTRS must achieve a better balance given the prominence of notable competent women in research who do not take an adequate role in organizations.

5. *WCTRS is associated with many organizations and research societies. However, the collaborative efforts seem to have been limited in the past. Do you want to change the current collaboration levels?*

   Yes, to effectively spread our influence, we must collaborate with other organizations in effective actions, not only in receptions during conferences, but also by working together on relevant topics.

6. *In the last decade, WCTRS was successful in increasing its membership base in China and India. But still, participation from Africa and Russia is minimal. Do you have any specific targeted approach to increase their participation?*

   I am already working in Africa. In Russia, given the current war situation, it might be more difficult, but I also have some contacts that I will try to promote, and will do that already for the 1st Seminar on Transdisciplinarity.

7. *What is your message to researchers who want to get involved in WCTRS activities?*

The relevance of research lies in its adoption by the decision-makers, planners, operationals, and other stakeholders in society. Come to WCTRS and work with the best world scientists in transport systems, bridging science to solve problems of societies.

8. *Any other thoughts you want to share with the members of WCTRS?*
I think these answers and my speech that is available on the website are already a lot of thought. Give me some more months, and I will certainly have more clear views on the coming years.

WCTRS Announces Presence at Major Global Events in Hong Kong, South Africa, and Brazil

The World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) continues to foster global dialogue and collaboration across the transport sector. We are excited to announce WCTRS's involvement in three significant upcoming conferences and seminars:

1) **30th HKSTS International Conference**
   - **Dates:** December 10–11, 2026
   - **Location:** Hong Kong, China
   - **Details:** WCTRS President Rosário Macário will represent the Society at the 30th Hong Kong Society for Transportation Studies (HKSTS) International Conference, strengthening ties with transport researchers across the region.
   - **Official Website:** HKSTS Conference Page

2) **2nd African Transport Research Conference (ATRC 2027)**
   - **Dates:** March 2–4, 2027
   - **Location:** Cape Town, South Africa
   - **Details:** WCTRS will have a strong presence at ATRC 2027. President Rosário Macário will be in attendance, and WCTRS will host **two thematic seminars** during the conference program.
   - **Official Website:** African Transport Research Conference

3) **WCTRS Transdisciplinary Seminar**
   - **Dates:** May 20–21, 2027
   - **Location:** Belo Horizonte, Brazil
   - **Details:** WCTRS is hosting a dedicated Transdisciplinary Seminar designed to bridge academic research with practical mobility solutions. More information regarding the call for participation and program agenda will be released soon. Please note that this event is **by invitation only**. If you are interested in attending, please email wctrs@ucdavis.edu to express your interest.

We encourage our members and the broader transport research community to attend and engage with us at these meetings.

WCTRS SIG B5 – Special Issue on "Advances in Freight Modelling" in Transportation Research Record (TRR)

WCTRS SIG B5 (Freight Transport Modelling) is organizing a special issue of *Transportation Research Record (TRR)* on **"Advances in Freight Modelling,"** led by **Sushant Sharma, Lori Tavasszy, and Anna Pernestal**. Selected papers presented at **WCTR 2026** have been invited to submit manuscripts for consideration.

The special issue will showcase recent advances in freight transportation modelling from around the world, with particular emphasis on models that support freight transport policy, planning, and investment decisions. Relevant topics include:

- Freight transport microsimulation and agent-based modelling
- Freight choice models, including production, consumption, trade, and supply-chain choices
- Freight flow estimation, trip generation, and origin-destination models
- Freight transport energy-consumption models
- Freight transport impact models, including cost-benefit, emissions, and resilience assessments
- Optimization approaches applied in a freight policy-support context

Invited authors are asked to prepare their manuscripts according to the TRR author guidelines. Papers will undergo a **new peer-review process following standard TRR procedures**. Authors are also encouraged to address comments received during the WCTR review process when preparing their manuscripts. Submissions should be made through the TRR Editorial Manager, selecting **"Special Collection"** and then **"WCTR: Advances in Freight Modelling." Manuscript submission deadline: November 15, 2026.** Earlier submissions are welcome.

WCTRS SIG F2 – Transport, Energy and Environment: Recent Activities and Upcoming Initiatives

Following our joint meeting at the World Conference on Road Transport Research (WCTR) in Toulouse, where we hosted a special session on the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles (HDV), our team met again in Davis, California, for a dedicated working meeting during the Annual Meeting of the Association of Sustainable Transportation Researchers on October 19. A key focus of our discussions was preparing our contributions to **COP31**, the UN Climate Change Conference, which will take place in Antalya, Türkiye, in November.

In parallel, we are proud to announce that we are currently coordinating **two Special Issues**:

1. **Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment**: **Electrifying heavy-duty trucks and buses**
2. **Transport Policy**: **Sustainable Energy Solutions for Low-Carbon and Smart Mobility** [VSI:Energy Mobility (WCTR)] – submissions will open soon.

We warmly encourage researchers, industry partners, and policymakers to contribute their work.



Call for papers: "VSI: ATRS-WCTRS-2026"

Journal of the Air Transport Research Society



This special issue invites papers presented at the 29th Air Transport Research Society World Conference (ATRS) and the 17th World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS).

The ATRS World Conference has grown into one of the most pivotal occasions for the global aviation industry, providing a highly respected platform where aviation academicians and industry experts converge. The topics presented at the conference trace the historical evolution and prevailing challenges of the aviation industry over the past three decades. Recent iterations have tackled modern complexities such as post-COVID-19 market recovery, urban air mobility (UAM), aviation safety, environmental sustainability, carbon footprint reductions, and the shifting dynamics of global air transport policy.

The World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) is a global gathering held every three years, uniting specialists from the transportation sector worldwide. Researchers, engineers, or public and private decision-makers, experts from all corners of the globe converge to engage in discussions on pressing transportation issues. Topics for discussion at the World Conference on Transport Research are grouped into nine distinct themes which include maritime and air transport logistics, infrastructure design, traffic management in urban environments or the emergence of transport in developing countries.

Researchers at all levels, especially PhD students, were encouraged to submit their work.

Guest Editors:

Sebastian Wandelt (Beihang University, China, wandelt@buaa.edu.cn)

Hangjun Yang (The University of International Business and Economics, China, hangjunyang@uibe.edu.cn)

Martin Dresner (University of Maryland, USA, mdresner@umd.edu)

Special issue information:

This call is for papers that were presented at the 29th Air Transport Research Society World Conference (ATRS) and the 17th World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS), including pre-conference and main conferences, the former was organized in Beijing during June 30-July 4, 2026 and the latter was organized in Toulouse during July 6-10, 2026. Authors who presented papers at these two conferences are invited to submit their (revised) studies for publication in the dedicated Virtual Special Issue (VSI) of the Journal of Air Transport Research Society. Eligible authors must submit via the journal's Editorial Manager platform using Elsevier's online publication submission process by selecting "VSI: ATRS-WCTRS-2026". The submission window is now open and will remain open until 31 March 2027.

Manuscript submission information:

All papers must be submitted electronically via the Journal of the Air Transport Research Society (JATRS) online submission system. Each author of the manuscript must follow the journal's Guide for Authors. To ensure that all manuscripts are correctly identified for inclusion in the special issue, it is important to select "VSI: ATRS-WCTRS-2026" when you reach the "Article Type" step in the submission.

Keywords:

- Aviation climate-policy instruments
- Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) adoption
- Non-CO_2 aviation impacts and contrail mitigation
- Hydrogen and electric aviation
- AI-enabled air traffic management
- Aviation digital twins
- Advanced air mobility and vertiport integration

Why publish in this Special Issue?

- Special Issue articles are published together on ScienceDirect, making it incredibly easy for other researchers to discover your work.
- Special content articles are downloaded on ScienceDirect twice as often within the first 24 months than articles published in regular issues.
- Special content articles attract 20% more citations in the first 24 months than articles published in regular issues.
- All articles in this special issue will be reviewed by no fewer than two independent experts to ensure the quality, originality and novelty of the work published.

WSSTL 2027 – Abstract Submission Deadline Extended to 15 November 2026

The **2nd World Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Livability (WSSTL 2027)** will take place from **30 March to 2 April 2027 in Vienna, Austria**. WCTRS Special Interest Groups **F4 and G2** are partners of the symposium.

We are pleased to announce that the deadline for poster submissions has been extended to **15 November 2026**. Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract of up to 250 words.

Please note that submissions for full papers and proposals for the Visibility Lab are now closed.

For further details and submission guidelines, please visit the Call for Poster Presentations.

We look forward to welcoming you to Vienna in March 2027!

Virtual Cafe- The Right to Stay, The Right to Move: Can Remote Work Revitalise Europe's Shrinking Countryside?

17 November 2026, 10:30–12:00 CET

Building on findings from the Horizon Europe project WinWin4WorkLife, this Virtual Café presents new European survey evidence on teleworkers' relocation intentions, including moves to rural areas and return migration. As many employers are scaling back remote work after the post-pandemic expansion, the potential of telework for rural revitalisation is becoming more uncertain.

Following a short presentation of the evidence, provocative "conversation starters" will invite experts and participants to challenge assumptions and explore what remote work can, and cannot, do for shrinking regions. Together, we will discuss: (i) whether remote work can still drive rural revival and for whom; (ii) which work and non-work conditions are needed, from digital connectivity and co-working spaces to mobility, services and cross-border arrangements; (iii) who should finance these conditions; and (iv) how to avoid housing pressures and new social divides between local residents and newcomers (e.g. digital nomads), while building long-term territorial resilience.

Invited Experts:

- Lisanne Elm (Kupland, Estonia)
- Auke van der Goot (BeNeLux Union) - TBC
- Radim Sršeň (European Committee of the Regions)
- Hubert Strauss (Regional Development Division, EIB)

Participation is free, but registration is required.

For more information and registration: click here

Webinar- Is Remote Work Really Sustainable? Rethinking Mobility in the Age of Flexible Work

30 November 2026, 14:00-16:00 CET

Remote work has transformed when, where and how we work and, potentially, how we travel. Fewer commutes may mean less traffic and lower emissions, but is the overall picture really that simple?

To mark **World Sustainable Transport Day** (26 November), this webinar therefore explores one key question: **Is remote work contributing to sustainable mobility?**

Bringing together researchers and experts from different fields, the webinar will look beyond the daily commute to uncover the hidden and sometimes unexpected impacts of remote work. Does working remotely actually reduce travel and emissions, or do rebound effects offset some of the benefits? What does remote work mean for our well-being, daily activities and use of time? And how can we better measure its wider sustainability impacts?

Join us for fresh insights, thought-provoking presentations and **an open discussion on remote work, mobility and sustainability** and **what the future of work could mean for the future of transport**.

Speakers:

- Xinyi Wang (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA) & Patricia Mokhtarian (Georgia Tech, USA)
- Kostas Mouratidis (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
- Christina Georgouli (University of Zilina, Slovakia)
- Olle Järv (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Participation is free, but registration is required.

For more information and registration: click here

Boost your transport expertise with C-MAT Masterclasses at University of Antwerp and Antwerp Management School

In 2025-2026, the Center for Maritime and Air Transport (C-MAT) at University of Antwerp and Antwerp Management School offers three high-level 2-week executive masterclasses, tailored to professionals looking to deepen their strategic and economic understanding of the global transport industry.

The **Masterclass Maritime Economics & Business** (December 7 - 18, 2026): The maritime industry is facing a multitude of challenges: shifts in environmental regulations, technological developments, security threats, etc. This Master Class equips professionals within the sector with the necessary knowledge and skills to craft strategies that surmount these obstacles.

The **Masterclass Airline Management & Strategy** (December 7 - 18, 2026): Learn how to formulate and implement an effective airline strategy. This course will both reinforce you as a strategically thinking manager and sharpen your skills to formulate, dissect and structure your organization's and competitors' strategies.

The **Masterclass Port Economics & Business** (January 12 - 25, 2027): Seaports are changing rapidly. While they are still dealing with challenges from the past, other external challenges are already popping us, such as sustainability, digitalization, geopolitics and generational shifts. To adequately address all these challenges, you need to be a highly effective coordinator and manager.

All three masterclasses are taught in English and take place in person at Antwerp Management School.

For more details and registration, visit the official AMS webpages:

- Maritime Economics & Business
- Airline Management and Strategy
- Port Economics & Business

Membership of the WCTRS

The World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) provides a forum for the interchange of ideas among transport researchers, managers, policymakers, and educators from all over the world from a multi-modal, multi-disciplinary, and multi-sectoral perspective.

Every three years, the Society holds the World Conference, where leading transport professionals from all countries and areas convene to learn from one another. WCTR Toulouse will be held from 6th-10th July 2026.

In addition to our Special Interest Groups, which facilitate research activities and the exchange of ideas in 42 topic areas, the WCTRS has a number of Task Forces that conduct research into emerging issues in transport and aim to bridge gaps between research and policy-making.

All academics, practitioners, students, and interested individuals are invited to apply to become an individual member of the WCTRS. You can apply to join at any time by completing this online form and paying your membership fees here.

The benefits of membership include:

- Access to a truly international network of transport academics and practitioners, which is the only such worldwide network, with over 1000 experts interested in transport research from over 80 countries.
- A wide variety of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), each dedicated to a specific academic topic, from mode-specific policy and modeling to solutions for climate change and disaster resilience. The full list can be found on the SIGs webpage.
- A free online subscription to the Society's two Journals: Transport Policy and Case Studies on Transport Policy.
- Online access to the proceedings of past conferences.
- Liaison with some 30 partner journals, which publish the best conference papers.
- Outreach to international organizations such as the International Transport Forum, World Bank, and UNFCCC conferences.
- WCTRS Young Initiatives, including the WCTRS-Y Conference, grants awarded to young researchers, and dedicated newsletters and job information.
- Opportunities to contribute to the planning of a future World Conference through participation in Special Interest Groups and other Society activities.

More details: Click here

Useful Information and Links

1. **Transportation Research Procedia on World Conference on Transport Research - WCTR 2023 Montreal 17-21 July 2023**
   Open Access
   For details: Click Here
2. **Publications by SIG A4-Handbook on High-Speed Rail and Quality of Life and Frontiers in High-Speed Rail Development**
   Both books are free to download.
   For details: Click Here
3. **Urban Mobility Research in India Transport: Selected Proceedings from the Research Symposium of the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo 2023**
   For details: Click Here
4. **A new Transport Research and Education Network to help ESCAP member States achieve sustainable transport**
   For details: Click Here

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