

Newsletter #1

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Welcome to the WISE-ACT Newsletter. This inaugural edition is released on the first anniversary since the launch of our COST Action. Based on the preparatory work and planning done during the past months, a lot of exciting achievements are in progress and various updates are available to explore the Wider Impacts and Scenario Evaluation of Autonomous and Connected Transport.

In this Newsletter you will find out the latest updates and opportunities to get involved and contribute!

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Participants from 31 countries at our workshop in Bratislava

What is WISE-ACT?

WISE-ACT is the 4-year COST Action CA16222 launched in November 2017 to focus on the Wider Impacts and Scenario Evaluation of Autonomous and Connected Transport. Travel behaviour, car sharing, travel time use and the future of public as well as of non-motorised modes of transport are all related topics. Through our five Working Groups, we are focusing on institutional and regulatory challenges, social challenges, business challenges, transport system challenges and scenario evaluation. Our ultimate objective is to increase capacity building and create an international community of academics and practitioners about this multidisciplinary theme.

Our structure

WISE-ACT has five Working Groups (WG) focusing on each key thematic topic under the respective WG Co-Leaders, who lead our activities by engaging existing and new Action members. The overall coordination of the WGs is ensured by the Action Chair and Vice-Chair according to the Managing Committee (MC) mandate. WISE-ACT has Managing Committee members from 37 countries, as well as 3 MC Observer countries. Key roles are summarised below:

- **Chair:** Dr Nikolas Thomopoulos (UK)
- **Vice-Chair:** Prof. Cristina Pronello (FR)
- **WG1:** Dr Floridea di Ciommo (ES), Dr Federico Costantini (IT), Mr Siegfried Rupprecht (DE)
- **WG2:** Dr Eda Beyazit, Dr Karel Martens
- **WG3:** Prof. Graham Parkhurst, Dr Pablo Cabanelas, Dr Vasco Reis
- **WG4:** Prof. Amalia Polydoropoulou, Prof. Mario Cools, Prof. Yoram Shiftan
- **WG5:** Prof. Constantinos Antoniou, Dr Vincent Armant

WG membership is open. Potential contributors are encouraged to contact WG leaders and the Chair or Vice-Chair to introduce themselves and outline how their expertise could support the WG activities and objectives.

In addition, our STSM, Publication and Science Communication Co-ordinators form part of the WISE-ACT Core Group which maintains the Action overview and implements key decisions taken by the Managing Committee according to the COST guidelines:

- **STSM Co-Ordinator:** Prof. Maria Attard
- **Publication Co-Ordinator:** Dr Dimitris Milakis
- **Science Communication Co-Ordinator:** Dr Giuseppe Lugano

Events



WG2 meeting during our workshop in Bratislava

Since the Action kick-off meeting which coincided with our 1st Management Committee meeting in Brussels, three events were organised – one workshop and two core group meetings.

The first Action workshop, featuring joint Working Group meetings, focused on the socio-economic impacts of automation from a policy perspective. The meeting took place in Bratislava on 15th - 16th March 2018 with the participation of 70 experts from 31 COST countries. The workshop was

organised by Dr Giuseppe Lugano, from the ERAdiate ERA Chair project at the University of Zilina, and hosted at CVTI, the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information. The workshop was opened by WISE-ACT Action Chair, Dr Nikolas Thomopoulos, and by the Action Science Officer, Dr Mickael Pero. The keynote speaker was Maria-Cristina Marolda, DG MOVE Senior Policy Officer at the European Commission, who outlined key challenges from a policy perspective based on her long experience in this field. The second Management Committee meeting was also held as part of this event. Together with the concurrent WG meetings, these aided in creating effective teams and shaping the future activities of the Action.

Over the past year, two Core Group meetings were held. Additionally, seven Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) have taken place to date contributing in meeting Action objectives. Together with other activities by Action participants, such as the EU-US 6th Symposium and the EC Automation in Transport event, all these contributed in monitoring progress, reviewing activities and planning tasks. The second WISE-ACT workshop will be held at BME in Budapest on 21st–22nd November 2018.



Maria Attard @MTMariaATT · 21 Dec 2017
The first successful #wise_act Core Group Meeting in Athens. Now enjoying a well deserved meal at the foot of the Acropolis @COSTprogramme

Munich Core Group meeting follow up dinner

Workshop report *by Giuseppe Lugano & Nikolas Thomopoulos*

The socio-economic impacts of automation pose a key contemporary challenge across Europe given the rapid advancement of technology during the past decade. The reflections shared by the keynote speakers at the first WISE-ACT workshop confirmed this understanding. Maria-Cristina Marolda highlighted that the main challenge is how to mitigate the adverse consequences of automation while enhancing benefits. In her

view, Autonomous and Connected Transport (ACT) created high expectations in the general public due to the many promising benefits associated to ACT such as higher safety, reduction of traffic congestion and energy consumption, higher efficiency, enhanced accessibility and optimised travel time. On one hand, the endorsement of positive impacts created a hype around ACT, which is on the other hand associated with the risk of

not meeting those expectations. Additionally, there are also possible adverse consequences of ACT such as human distraction, a new digital divide, the transition challenge, as well as the impact of the massive investment required. One way to address challenges and realise benefits is through scenario building and evaluation, which is precisely one of the pillars of the WISE-ACT COST Action.

Another relevant perspective on ACT was presented by Dr Biagio Ciuffo of the European Commission Joint Research Center (EC-JRC). In his talk, he showed results of ongoing work at JRC on the [“R-evolution of driving: from Connected Vehicles to Coordinated](#)

[Automated Road Transport \(C-ART\)”](#).

Although there still are uncertainties, what is clear is that new and co-ordinated traffic management approaches are needed, especially to cope with a potential increase in travel demand.

WISE-ACT fills the need for developing a European-wide interdisciplinary community of experts motivated in realising the benefits of ACT. This can be achieved by concentrating efforts beyond slogans and solely technologically-focused discussions, as well as by addressing the wider implications of this emerging field in an integrated and research-informed manner.

News & Updates

In this section you can find out about our Action activities and latest news, as well as about other relevant updates:

- The first Call for Abstracts has been released for an edited volume of the *Elsevier Advances in Transport Policy and Planning* book series, edited by Prof. Bert van Wee. The volume theme is **Policy implications of Autonomous Vehicles**. More information is available on the WISE-ACT website: <https://wise-act.eu/reports-publications>
- The Short Papers Call of the 8th Symposium of the European Association for Research in Transportation – hEART which will take place 4th – 6th September 2019 at BME in Budapest is available here: <http://heart2019.bme.hu>



- Submissions are open for a Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing 2019 Special Issue on **Mobile Devices, Sensors, and Intelligent Applications for Smart Cities** edited by Dr Tomas Mateo Sanguino. Papers can be submitted until 29th March 2019 and here you can find all relevant details: <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/wcmc/si/792813/cfp>

- WISE-ACT will be represented at the JRC – European Commission meeting about **Automation in Transport: How does it affect the labour force** taking place on 20th November 2018 in Brussels.



- Significant impacts can be offered through Cooperative, Connected and Automated Mobility (CCAM) to our economy and society suggests JRC report:
<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/analysis-possible-socio-economic-effects-cooperative-connected-and-automated-mobility-ccam>
- SAE automation levels explained:
<https://theconversation.com/what-are-these-levels-of-autonomous-vehicles-96396>
- A fleet of autonomous boats could serve water-way rich cities such as Amsterdam or Venice according to MIT research. Such a solution could offer essential city services while reducing road traffic during daytime: <http://news.mit.edu/2018/fleet-autonomous-boats-service-cities-reducing-road-traffic-0523>
- Slovenia, Austria, Hungary have agreed to create a driverless region:
http://www.mzi.gov.si/en/media_room/news/9076/



Get involved in the Action

- Our Action is currently accepting **STSM applications** about exciting research topics **until 9th December 2018**. Find more information and application guidelines through our website: <https://wise-act.eu/stsm>
- We are currently developing a range of **WISE-ACT surveys** for 2019, so get in touch if you have a relevant survey or project in progress. We would like to hear your suggestions and share experiences.
- Are you a policy maker trying to find your way within this rapidly developing field? Are you an expert and use subject related terms? Then you need to consult or contribute to our **WISE-ACT Glossary!**
- WISE-ACT will contribute in this **European Commission DG CONNECT Consultation about building trust in Connected and Automated Mobility**: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/OPCCAMSurvey2018>. Contact us if you would like to contribute too!

Stay in touch

The WISE-ACT community combines offline and online interactions. To get in touch with us:

- Visit our **website**: <http://www.wise-act.eu> and subscribe to our **Newsletter**.
- Contact us by **e-mail**: info@wise-act.eu
- Follow us on **Twitter**: @WISEACT2050

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