

# Current Trends and Future Perspectives on Sustainable and Smart Mobility



*ERAdiate  
LECTURE SERIES*



## Report

On 14 March 2018, the ERAdiate Team presented its first Lecture Series on “Current Trends and Future Perspectives on Sustainable and Smart Mobility”.

But first a little backgrounder: the kick-off of university-wide Lecture Series in English has been long in coming, originally planned by ERA Chair predecessor Dr. Karl Ernst Ambrosch, it came to reality under the leadership of the current Chair, Prof. Tatiana Kováčiková, as the team reached its full capacity, some 3 ½ years after the official start of the ERAdiate project. Lecture Series are a very important mechanism of interaction and dissemination. They serve the purpose of bringing to UNIZA new trends and knowledge from around the world, but also, and perhaps more importantly, to connect UNIZA researchers together on interdisciplinary topics.

The first lecture was crafted to address wider visions of a sustainable future, which underpins the research scope of ERAdiate. Intelligent Transport Systems are undoubtedly a current trend, but ‘smart’ also needs to be inscribed in 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges: what is smart is not necessarily sustainable, and what is smart for some might not be perceived as smart for others. This year’s Lecture Series will therefore zoom in and out of these two rather ambiguous terms to establish more detailed understanding of the complex dependencies between them.



Dr. Floridea Di Ciommo, co-founder of cambiaMO – Changing Mobility, started by setting the scene of mobility today. Her research is focussed on social impacts of ITS on travel behaviour patterns, which puts people – both travellers and those impacted by transport – at the centre of transport planning. Her main contribution was that of questioning the conventional

Value of (Travel) Time (VoT) used in transport planning, which in today's intensifying and multimodal context risks contributing negatively to wider environmental, social, and health impacts. She concluded by proposing a shift of focus to 'accessibility' (or 'inaccessibility') as a more complete substitute to VoT.

Dr. Yannick Cornet, who recently joined ERA-diate [from the Centre for Design, Innovation and Sustainable Transition at the University of Aalborg, Denmark], presented his work on the concept of Reasonable Travel Time (RTT). In the same vein as Dr. Di Ciommo, his research reframes transport from the traveller perspective. First, travellers are primarily concerned with door-to-door trips, and therefore the total travel time – and not necessarily the speed of a single leg. Second, travellers increasingly care about the experience of travel, where comfort factors such as the availability of seating or safe infrastructure may matter more than speed. And third, travellers travel to reach activities, which puts accessibility measures and land use planning as indivisible components of transport planning.

Dr. Giuseppe Lugano, ERA-diate team member, presented the MoTiV project. The project is a UNIZA Success Story: it is currently the only Research and Innovation action in Slovakia funded under Horizon 2020 and managed by an academic institution. The project is implemented within the ERA-diate team at the University Science Park (USP). The project is also unique in content: it is the first project that will implement the concepts presented by the two speakers and focus on collecting data on the experience of travel using a state-of-the-art mobile app. The MoTiV app will be available in November 2018 and will be rolled out in at least EU 10 countries, collecting factors influencing the travel experience and activities conducted while travelling of minimum 5000 respondents over a period of at least 14 days on all transport modes.



Feedback from this first Lecture was positive. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the topic, the various viewpoints presented and the connections between them. One professor of mathematics expressed that, because his work was in the area of mathematical modelling and optimization, he considered this talk to be out of his scope, but he could see value in this type of work. Dr. Jozef Ristvej, Vice-Rector for International Relations and Marketing, recently stressed to the team the need to pursue and reinforce such initiatives that establish new connections inside UNIZA, and saw the current Lecture Series as an excellent way of 'marketing' the team.