



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

## Climate needs action: workshop on achieving low carbon transport in cities

### Speakers' bios

(in alphabetical order by first name)



#### Adrian Shooter

CBE, FREng, FIME, Vivarail Limited - Chief Executive, Southam, UK

Adrian Shooter has worked in the Rail Industry for over 40 years. A Chartered Mechanical Engineer, he has specified and procured several types of trains for British Rail, Chiltern Railways and London Overground. (Classes 319, 325, 168, 172). He led a Management Buyout of Chiltern Railways in 1996 and retired as Chairman of Chiltern Railways and London Overground Rail Operations Ltd in 2011. Since then he has consulted on Railway Engineering, Operations and Customer Service.



#### Anna Craciun

Transport for Greater Manchester, Manchester, UK

Anna is an Innovation Strategy Officer, leading on Policy and Deployment Strategies for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles, Cross-Sector Integration and Shared Mobility at Transport for Greater Manchester. She also leads on bid development and identifies key opportunities for TfGM to collaborate with other cities and technical experts to create and share best practice. Her portfolio of live projects comprises of: [Project Synergy](#), [Levitate](#), [SUMP-PLUS](#), [Citizen's Conversation](#) and [Measuring Impact of Social Distancing on Transportation](#).

#### Antonia de Winter

Liverpool City Region, Co-Head of Investment

Antonia de Winter, a Chartered Accountant, from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is leading on delivering a project to introduce the North West of England's first hydrogen bus fleet. The bus fleet will be purchased by Merseytravel, the transport delivery arm of the Combined Authority, and operated by the region's two largest bus operation companies, Stagecoach and Arriva.

Antonia has significant experience as a senior financial professional working for global business both in the UK and overseas. She joined the Combined Authority as Co Head of Investment, investing the Region's devolved funding through the Authorities' Strategic Investment Fund. Latterly she has taken on the role of Hydrogen Lead for the City Region and is working with internal and external colleagues from across the energy and low carbon arena to develop the region's approach to delivering its first Hydrogen strategy which will be designed to help support the growth of the local hydrogen economy.



**Asen Asenov, PhD**

Head of the Department of Transport, Transport Faculty, University of Ruse, Ruse, Bulgaria

Asen is an Assoc. Professor in University of Ruse "A. Kanchev", Bulgaria since 2011. Author and co-author of more than 100 publications in the field of transport from 2001. Project participation in 3 international, 13 national and 16 one-year scientific projects. Research work and interests:

organization and optimization in transport; ecological vehicles, fuel economy, logistics and others. Asen is head of the Department of Transport since 2015.

**Bogdan Ovidiu Varga**

Professor PhD.Habil.Dipl.Eng.MSc.

Automotive Engineering and Transport Department, Faculty of Automotive Engineering, Mechatronics and Mechanics, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca, Romania



*Academic Activity:* Director of the Porsche Engineering Master Programme

Electric and Hybrid Powertrain – Course coordinator

*Research and Scientific Activity:* Over 15 scientific projects (national and international) in the field of electric and hybrid propulsion; Coordinator of the project that has implemented for the first time in Romania on public roads- electric buses. Over 50 scientific papers published, and 15 in peer review scientific journals with impact factor; 2 scientific monographies in

the field of electric and hybrid propulsion published by Springer; Editor at scientific journal-Central European Journal of Engineering; Member of Federation Internationale des Experts en Automobile (FIEA)- Paris- France. Correspondent member of Standardization International SAE Powertrain Systems Group.

**Catalin Boghiu**

Director for Smart City solutions, Iasi Municipality, Iasi, Romania

- Business experience (over 15 years at the Bacau Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- Experience in public administration (over 7 years - Iasi County Council and Iasi City Hall)
- Experience in digitization (over 3 years)
- realized the Digital Transformation Strategy of Iasi Municipality (in collaboration with the European Commission)
- established the Department of Digital Transformation and Implementation Smart City Iasi
- established the Digital Council for Digital Transformation, a form of governance of the digitization of the Municipality, composed by representatives of the business environment, universities, civil society and public administration

**Prof. Daria Vladikova Ph.D., D.Sc.**

Institute of Electrochemistry and Energy Systems, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Chair of the Bulgarian Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Energy Storage Association, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Delia Dimitriu**



PhD, Associate Director, Connected Places Catapult, UK  
Research Fellow, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Delia is a world-renowned expert on decarbonising transport and mobility. She is involved in developing strategies and shaping programmes and projects at local, regional and European level. Addressing aspects of policy, research and practice, Delia is seeking for joint innovative solutions to be scaled up and taste market responsiveness. Delia was

part of a team that won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for its work on climate change and is a member of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report; WG3-Mitigation, Chapter 8-Transport (2010-2014). Being Romanian by birth, Delia is very interested to work with colleagues from both sides of Danube on decarbonising transport and cities.

### **Decebal Făgădău**

Mayor of Constanta, Constanta, Romania

Mr Decebal Făgădău has been the Mayor of Constanta since the June 2016. He is 47 years old, married and father of two. He is economist by background. He has been also a Deputy Mayor of Constanta and Local Counsellor of Constanta City Council, as well as a General Director at Constanta Natural Sciences Museum Complex. Before 2005 Mr Făgădău has been an economist in several private companies.

Mr Făgădău is a Member of the European Committee of the Regions Commissions, CIVEX (Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External affairs), ENVE (Commission for Environment, Climate change and Energy). He is the Vicepresident of the Romanian Municipalities Association and of the National Committee of the Coastal Zone.

### **Diana-Luciana Cursaru**

Prof. PhD. Eng., Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, Ploiești, Romania



Diana Cursaru studied Petroleum Processing and Petrochemistry at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești (Romania) between 1995-2000. In 2006, she received a PhD degree in chemical engineering at the Technische Universität Clausthal (Germany). Diana Cursaru is currently professor in the Petroleum Processing and Environmental Protection Department at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești and PhD coordinator. Her research interests were focused on biodiesel and biofuels, lubricating oils, mesoporous materials for catalytic studies and nanomaterials. Prof. Cursaru has authored and co-authored more than 45 ISI scientific papers.

### **Ehsan Alborzi**

Dr, Aviation Fuel and Lubricant Research Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Dr Alborzi obtained his MEng degree in the field of Chemical Processing Engineering from University of Petroleum and Gas, Ploiesti, Romania and a PhD in the field aviation fuel thermal degradation from the University of Sheffield. He is a senior research fellow in Energy 2050, UK's largest energy research institutes, at the University of Sheffield. His main area of research encompasses aviation fuel chemistry and technical suitability of alternative aviation fuel. He has been the investigator of several European and national research programmes in the field of alternative aviation fuel. Dr Alborzi is a member of Environmentally Compatible Air Transport System(ECATS), the European Network of Excellence for research into the impact of air transport on the environment.



### **Ekaterina Batchvarova**

Professor, PhD&DSc, Corr. Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
Climate, Atmosphere and Water Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

Prof. Batchvarova is internationally recognized scientist in the field of Boundary-layer Meteorology. Among the topics of her research are: boundary-layer height over different surfaces; aggregation of surface

fluxes; surface-atmosphere interactions; urban meteorology, climatology and air pollution; coastal and marine meteorology; wind profile in the boundary layer; remote sensing ground based observations; turbulence and diffusion in the atmosphere. In her studies she develops theoretical models and verifies them with experimental data, designing and organizing experimental campaigns and observation programmes. She has 82 publications, more than 1200 citations and h index of 21.

During the recent years, Ekaterina's been working on interdisciplinary projects and initiatives as the DANUBIUS distributed research infrastructure and COST CA 18235 Action (PROBE), the Nordic network CRAICC studying climate change in Arctic regions.

Prof. Batchvarova is a member of steering and scientific committees of five large international conferences in the fields of climate, meteorology and air pollution. She has received a sign for merit of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) for her participation in national and international projects. Currently she is the director of the Climate, Atmosphere and Water Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She is also a President of the European Association for the Science of Air pollution (EURASAP) since 2010.

### **Elena Farca**

Head of International Cooperation Office, Iasi Municipality, Iasi, Romania



Elena is currently Head of International Affairs Office at the City Hall of Iasi and European Project coordinator for the InnovaSUMP (Innovation in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans) and CLEAN (Technologies and open innovation for low-carbon regions) projects financed by INTERREG EUROPE, 2017-2021. She has also been an EU project coordinator for the Tourism, Communication and the European Partnership Offices in Iasi Municipality as well, involved in coordination of international affairs and European projects for the Municipality. She has held the position of Head of Mayor's Office responsible for the International Relations contacts.

### **Elitsa Panayotova**

Coordinator of "SOfiaGREEN" project at Sofia Municipality, Sofia, Bulgaria



academia.

Elitsa Panayotova is the Coordinator of "SOfiaGREEN" project. In 2016 she was invited by the Mayor of Sofia, Mrs. Yordanka Fandukova to streamline municipal policies related to sustainable development. The main focus areas of her team are smart and sustainable mobility, air quality and waste management. The aim is to put forward a successful bid for Sofia in the European Green Capital Award contest, organised by the European Commission. The work of "SOfia GREEN" is tightly linked to finding smart solutions to existing problems of the city and the administration by working closely with the private sector, NGOs and

academia. Before joining the Mayor's team, Elitsa Panayotova was the first CEO and founder of Sofia Tech Park. She was responsible for forming the team, creating the concept and laying the foundations of the first Science and Technology Park in Bulgaria. On the former military plot nowadays you can find an incubator for start-up companies; joint research infrastructure – a center with 12 laboratories in different scientific fields; kids interactive museum and an event center – all aimed at bringing together the young entrepreneurs, scientists and the businesses to form successful partnerships and foster innovation. Elitsa's career began as an architect and urban planner, whose portfolio includes one of the most innovative real estate projects in Bulgaria. She has also done investment management and consulting for various city and urban development projects.

### **Emma Fenton**

Contact Point – Horizon 2020, Clean Growth and Infrastructure, Innovate UK



Emma became a National Contact Point for Horizon 2020 in 2019 following roles in air quality and the environmental sciences for the public and third sectors. She is the National Contact Point covering Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials, responsible for helping UK organisations to access European funding through the Horizon 2020 programme – including the Green Deal call – and its successor programme, Horizon Europe as well as international collaboration.

### **Emiliya Petkova**

Project manager, Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ruse, Bulgaria

Emiliya Petkova has MA in History and theory of culture and BA in Marketing. Her professional experience built her capacity in regional development, nature protection and European affairs. Project manager for 15 years, she has implemented actions in the Danube region.

### **Fabio Galatioto**

Senior Transport and Environmental specialist, Connected Places Catapult, UK

Dr. Fabio Galatioto has background in Transport Engineer and Modelling with almost 20 year experience in Transport and Environmental Monitoring and modelling, Air Quality, Sustainability & Impact Assessment and Traffic Safety. Since joining the Catapult in 2015 Fabio has been working to support SMEs and Academic partners and deliver innovative transport and environmental projects both at National and European Level.

### **Galina Ilieva**

Institute for Science and Research, Technical University of Varna, Varna, Bulgaria

Assoc. Prof. Galina Ilieva is Master engineer and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Technical University of Varna, Bulgaria. She holds degree “Master after Master” in “Turbomachinery and Propulsion Systems” from von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics (Belgium). Dr. G. Ilieva holds award “Varna” for successful elaboration of effective methodologies for numerical research of flows and blade design in turbomachinery. She was involved in many EU projects at the Center for Mechanical and Aerospace Science and Technology, Portugal. Currently, prof. G. Ilieva is Director of Institute for Science for Research - TUV, head of Heat Turbomachines Laboratory, as well as leader of several projects with EU financing.

Assoc. prof. G. Ilieva has published more than 35 papers in the area of CFD analysis, biomimetics, innovative propulsion systems, design and air-vehicles and platforms, VET, fluid dynamics, etc. Her research interests are in the area of innovative propulsion systems, fluid mechanics, rotating machinery, air-vehicles, problems and perspectives of education, green energy, etc.

### **Greg Marsden**

Professor in Transport Governance, Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, UK

Greg is Professor of Transport Governance at the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds. He has researched issues surrounding the design and implementation of new policies for over 15 years covering a range of issues. Current work examines how the smart mobility transition will change how we think about what, how and who governs the mobility system. Research takes a multi-level governance perspective to understand implementation and has included studies on energy and climate change policy in transport in

a range of international case studies. He is currently chair of the Commission on Travel Demand, looking at how to deal with alternative demand futures. He is the Secretary General of the World Conference on Transport Research Society and the Chair of the Special Interest Group on Governance. He has served as an advisor to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee and regularly advises national and international governments. Areas of expertise: transport governance; decision-making; public policy; climate change; energy; smart mobility; public management

### **Henrik Roth**

Cranfield University

### **Ionut Porumbel**

Dr.Eng., COMOTI - Romanian R&D Institute for Gas Turbines, Bucharest, Romania

Born in 1968 in Bucharest, Romania. Engineer degree in 1993, in Aerospace Engineering, Propulsion Systems from the Polytechnic University in Bucharest, Romania. Ph. D. in 2006 in Aerospace Engineering, Computational Combustion from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Employed at the Romanian National Research and Development Institute for Gas Turbines COMOTI since 2006. Author of one book, co-author of two Romania invention patents, author and co-author of over 50 scientific papers. Project coordinator in two European research projects, and partner responsible in another four. Expert evaluator for the European Commission in the FP7, Horizon 2020, and CleanSky 2 programmes. Vice-president of the Scientific Council of COMOTI. COMOTI's Best Researcher award in 2018. Research interests: numerical and experimental combustion, detonation, Hydrogen combustion, high speed aerodynamics, optimization algorithms.

### **Iulian Nichersu**

PhD, Scientific Director, Danube Delta National Institute in Tulcea, Tulcea, Romania



Iulian Nichersu is senior researcher, doctor in Geography with 35 years of experience within the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development ([www.ddni.ro](http://www.ddni.ro)), where he has held the position of scientific director since 2017. Graduated in 1985 the Civil Engineering Technical University, Geodesy Faculty Bucharest. In 2000 he obtained his PhD within Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest. He has expertise in GIS, spatial planning, maritime policies, cartography, geomatics, fractal geometry, agent-based modelling, socio-anthropological studies, climate change adaptation, flood risk management and biodiversity conservation projects of special wetland areas from the Lower Danube Floodplain, Danube Delta and Black Sea Coastal Zone. Was awarded in 2000 with the Diploma of excellence in research for the project Green Corridor of Lower Danube by the Romanian Government, National Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation. As Scientific Director of the Danube Delta National Research and Development Institute, coordinates Institutional Development Strategy 2020-2030. As projects responsible he worked in elaborating the ecological restoration projects for the abandoned polders in order to create the Green corridor of lower Danube, elaborating the methodology of sustainable use of the natural resources from the wetlands, in order to protect and conservation the species and to an ecological equilibrium, stakeholder involvement in flood risk management and spatial planning, in national and international projects, as Integrated Management of European Wetlands, Cross Border Co-operation Programme Romania-Bulgaria/Protection of wetlands of the Danube – a pilot project for Cama – Dinu Islets area/Scientific assistance for the realization of the database, monitoring and inventory of flora and fauna in the Cama Dinu islets area, People for Ecosystem Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast "PEGASO", INTERREG project - Stakeholder oriented flood risk assessment for the Danube floodplains-Danube Floodrisk, Danube's River Morphology and Revitalization in DANUBEPARKS project. He coordinates the Romanian participation in 3 projects Horizon 2020 -

ResponSeable, SCENT, FloodServ and DDNI team in EU DG Mare - MARSPLAN-BS project (“Cross-Border MARitime Spatial PLAN for the Black Sea – Romania and Bulgaria”).

### **Jana Koleva**

Chief expert, Strategic Development Directorate, Burgas Municipality, Burgas, Bulgaria

Jana is holding a Master Degree in the field of EU Law and Policies earned in 2004 from Luxembourg University. Jana Koleva has worked in the field of EU integration in the Ministry of Regional Development in Sofia (Bulgaria) during two years. Then she attended the French National School of Public Administration (ENA) acquiring important expertise in all the areas of government operations. She has been working for Burgas Municipality since 2010 in European policies and programmes Department. Her main tasks and responsibilities are related to project planning, management, implementation and reporting funded under ESIF and other international programmes especially in the field of energy efficiency, climate adaptation, mobility and smart city.

### **Julian Popov**

Independent expert, Energy and climate diplomacy, energy policies, low-carbon economy, Bulgaria



Julian is Fellow of the European Climate Foundation, Chairman of the Building Performance Institute Europe and Former Minister of Environment of Bulgaria. He was the good will Bulgarian Ambassador for energy and climate policy and energy security adviser to the President of Bulgaria. Julian is the founding Vice Chancellor and current Board Member of the New Bulgarian University and cofounder of the Tunisian School of Politics. He was voted as one of the 40 most influential voices on European energy policies (N24) and also as one of the 40 most influential voices in the European energy efficiency policies (N25) by EurActiv. His articles on European and energy policy have been published by Financial Times, Project Syndicate, the Independent, Al Jazeera, Huffington Post, EurActive and others. He is author of two books (“English Bulgaria or Switzerland in the Balkans”, “Island of Mists”), co-author of the books “The European Supergrid” and “Energy and Climate Diplomacy” and of many comment and opinion articles on energy policies, European integration, low-carbon economy and international relations for the Bulgarian, British, Polish and other European media. Julian lives with his family in the UK.

### **László Borbély**

State Counselor, Coordinator of the Department for Sustainable Development, Romania



Prominent ethnic Hungarian politician who has significantly contributed to the democratic development of Romanian society, both as one of the most well-known leaders of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania and through the different high ranking functions held in the Romanian Parliament and the Romanian Government in the field of International Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, which he has fulfilled with a rigorous professionalism yielding important results. An outstanding political performance underpinned with a solid two-decade long support for cultural life in Tîrgu Mures city, in an attempt to bring reconciliation to its multi-ethnic community.

### **Laurence Pickup**

Professor, International Projects Director, Vectos, UK



At Vectos Prof. Pickup is responsible for developing the international project portfolio and feeding international best practice into Vectos. He is one of the first social scientists in transport planning. Following doctoral research, his career spans more than 40 years, comprising time in government research in the 1970s, in academia at Oxford University in the 1980s and 25 years in consultancy and research since 1991. Laurie provides transport policy advice and evaluation to governments and local and regional authorities, as well as transport operators and the private sector, in both the UK and across Europe. Laurie is currently the Honorary Professor of European Transport Policy at the University of Aberdeen and the Chair of the European CIVITAS Forum. He has little spare time but likes to spend it relaxing with his grandson and family and enjoying the Italian culture and climate.

### **Liana Cipcigan**

Professor, School of Engineering, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK  
Leader Sustainable Transport research theme, Director Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence, Leader Decarbonising Transport through Electrification (DTE) Network+

Liana M. Cipcigan is leading Sustainable Transport cross-cutting theme at Cardiff University. She is the Director of Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence and leader of Transport Futures Research Network. She was at the forefront of the shift to electrified transport for over a decade being recognised nationally and internationally as an expert in Electric Vehicles and Smart Grids leading the £1M EPSRC Network+ “Decarbonising Transport through Electrification (DTE), a Whole system approach”. She has collaborated widely with industry, more recently during her secondment at National Grid under Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Fellowship, working in the Energy Insights department responsible for Future Energy Scenarios. She has held as PI and Co-I grants in the excess of £7M from EPSRC, Royal Academy of Engineering, Innovate UK, UKERC, Welsh European Funding Office, EU FP7/H2020 and industry. She is a member of BSI technical committee ESL/120 Electrical Energy Storage, European IEC/TC120 Electrical Energy Storage and Wales Smart Energy System Group. She gave evidence to Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee “EV charging in Wales” at Welsh Assembly (2018) and to Committee on Climate Change as a member of the “Reducing emissions from transport” panel, November 2018.

### **Liviu Stanciu**

Alba Iulia smart city strategy elaboration expert, Alba Iulia, Romania

Mr Stanciu is experienced in writing and implementing smart city projects, European funded projects, technical expert within Horizon 2020 projects, local expert in URBACT projects, AIM smart city strategy elaborating expert. Responsible for writing local policies to be adopted by the council, and leads on public relations across several European projects, including communicating with target audiences and working with local support groups on initiatives. Liviu Stanciu is also a specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the administration & social organizations field. Skilled in blogging, Digital Marketing, Creative Writing, Social Media, and Graphic Design.



### **Louise Mothersole**

UK National Contact Point – Horizon 2020, Transport, Innovate UK

Louise has been a National Contact Point for Horizon 2020 since 2014 after a 20 year career working in both public (Ministry of Defence) and private (QinetiQ and General Dynamics) Innovation roles. She helps UK organisations from the transport and mobility sector to participate in international collaborative projects both globally and within Horizon 2020 and its successor initiative Horizon Europe.



### **Lucia Cristea**

Managing Director of European Integrated Projects, Bucharest, Romania



Lucia has been involved in mobility research for 27 years and in autumn 2019 she has been awarded a Lifetime Award by European Commission for Outstanding Contribution to the development of Sustainable Mobility in Europe. She has established EIP in 2007 as she wanted to enhance the dialogue between different actors involved in the mobility field. One of Lucia's professional interest is to raise awareness of the necessity to look at the mobility from different perspectives, and not only from technical point of view. Her personal interest is to improve the individual quality of life through better mobility services tailored for their particular mobility needs. She has a very good knowledge of the mobility sector in Europe and beyond and has played a leading role in key projects over the years from 4th Framework Programme to Horizon 2020.

Lucia is involved in SMARTA project as the task coordinator of the Dissemination and networking activities. The project deals with rural shared mobility issues across Europe and it has been awarded by EC DG MOVE and sponsored by the European Parliament. She has also experience in other activities such as the development of the SUMP for 3 major Romanian Growth Poles (Bucharest, Constanta and Brasov), a H2020 project, SUMP PLUS and a research of the future needs of mobility users which allowed her to understand the complexity of the factors that drive mobility behaviour. She also researched how future emerging technologies will influence the mobility behaviour and also the provision of mobility products and services. Lucia has been working with UK representatives from 1992 onwards in all the research projects she has been involved.

### **Marius Puiu**

Captain, Blue Air

### **Martin Hadjistoikov**

Founder and CEO, eCars BG emobility hub, Varna, Bulgaria

Martin got attracted to the world of EVs for the first time when he saw that quirky Chevrolet Volt concept at 2008 Detroit motor show. In 2010 he started running the eCars.bg EV blog and forum and up to 2015 worked actively to promote e-mobility by blogging and co-organizing events. Since 2016 he decided it's also time to start developing EV charging stations and started a production in 2017 with partners and fellow e-mobility enthusiasts. Today, eCars group is also a home of several other e-mobility projects like VsichkoTok Charging Network, EVIZIA tech show, KaramEL club and, of course, the Elektromobili BG production company. Armed with 10 years of e-mobility experience we're more than ever focused on our mission to make e-mobility desirable and affordable.

### **Mihaela Diana Lazar**

Dr, Senior Researcher

National Institute for Research and Development for Isotopic and Molecular Technologies (INCDTIM), Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Dr. Mihaela Diana Lazar received B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca. She is currently Senior Researcher at National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies – INCDTIM in Cluj Napoca and team leader of "Porous Materials and Carbon Nanostructures" research group. Her research interests are: environmental catalysis (CO<sub>2</sub> methanation, biogas valorization as syngas), catalysis in green energy (hydrogen production from alcohols, hydrogen storage

in porous materials and liquid carriers) and new materials for catalysis (graphene, metal organic frameworks).

### **Monika Manolova**

PhD, Geographic Information Systems, Sofia University 'Kliment Ohridski', Sofia, Bulgaria

Monika holds a PhD in geographic information systems (GIS) from Sofia University 'with focus on transport accessibility and network modelling, a sum cum laude M.Sc. in planning and governance of territorial systems and a bachelor in regional development and politics. Monika has experience as GIS technician on complex projects including flood risk management plans and mapping of ecosystem services. Monika also has experience as projects and programmes expert in regional development including municipal development plans, regional investment plans and feasibility studies for utility companies. She has expertise with a multitude of specialized GIS software systems ArcGIS, QGIS, MapInfo, GeoServer, MapServer, PostGIS, OpenLayers. GDAL for raster data. Throughout the last year, she has been a T-SQL developer and DBA in the telecom industry.

### **Nathan Koren**

Podaris, Founder and CEO, UK



Nathan began his career as an architect in America and India, focusing on mixed-use, sustainable, transit-oriented development. In his subsequent role as a transport planning consultant with expertise in autonomous transport systems, Nathan led feasibility studies in over a dozen countries, becoming a recognised expert in the emerging technology of Automated Transit Networks (ATNs), and frequently lecturing on the subjects of automation, transport innovation, and urban design. He has most recently founded Podaris, a UK-based startup that is trying to solve these problems. Drawing inspiration from agile software engineering tools and techniques, Podaris has created a platform for real-time collaborative urban infrastructure planning.

### **Octavian Thor Pleter**

Assoc. Prof. PhD, PhD, MBA (MBS), AFRIN, FRAeS

University Politehnica of Bucharest, Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, Bucharest, Romania



Octavian is a multidisciplinary scientific researcher, with a wide scope of research in aerospace engineering. He is Associate Professor and Ex-Dean of the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, University Politehnica of Bucharest, responsible for the new programs of studies Air Navigation (since 2009) and Air Transport Engineering (since 2013). He teaches Air Navigation Systems and Avionics. He has graduated the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering of the University Politehnica of Bucharest, specialization Aircraft, major in Avionics. He has MBA of the University of Manchester and Cum Laude PhD in aerospace engineering. He is a Associate Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation and National Contact Point for Romania of the European Aeronautics Science Network (EASN). He has been awarded Richey Medal 2017 awarded by the Royal Institute of Navigation, Elie Carafoli medal and diploma for outstanding contributions to the Romanian aerospace engineering education and Aloft Group Award 2011 for excellence in aerospace engineering education.

### **Ovidiu Cimpean**

Director of Local Development Division, Cluj-Napoca City Hall, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Mr. Cimpean is in charge with European funding projects and management of Civic Imagination and Innovation Center (CIIC). He has a Bachelor Degree in Political Sciences,

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Master Degree in Compared European Political Studies and a PhD Degree in International Relations and European Studies.

### **Peter Jones**

Professor of Transport and Sustainable Development, Dept of Civil, Environ & Geomatic Eng, Faculty of Engineering Science, University College London, London, UK



Peter is Professor of Transport and sustainable development. His PhD, DIC (Engineering) Thesis from Imperial College was entitled: 'The development of a new approach to understanding travel behaviour and its implications for transportation planning'. Before joining UCL in 2005, Peter was director of the Transport Studies Group at the University of Westminster where he carried out numerous research projects funded by organisations including the Department for Transport, the European Commission, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and BAA.

Peter is a member of the Independent Transport Commission, the London Roads Task Force, the UCL Grand Challenges Sustainable Cities theme leader for Transport & Sustainable Mobility, and Chair of the RGS-IBG Transport Geography Research Group. He is Overseas Special Advisor to the International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences, Japan, and a member of the International Steering Committee for the International Travel Survey Conference and a member of the Technical Committee of the South Africa Transport Conference. He has also acted as a consultant to Transport for London, the European Commission and several national and local governments.

### **Phil Blythe**

CEng, FIET, Professor of Intelligent Transport Systems, School of Engineering, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK

Chief Scientific Advisor, Department for Transport



Apart from being a Professor of Intelligent Transport Systems at Newcastle University, Phil Blythe is the Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Transport. In this role he performs an independent challenge function to their department, ensuring that science and engineering evidence and advice is robust, relevant and high quality and that there are mechanisms in place to ensure that policy making is underpinned by science and engineering. Through the CSA network, he also ensures cross-government cooperation on science, engineering and technology issues. Phil is also Vice-President at the Institution of

Engineering and Technology.

### **Solon Solomou**

Researcher at Complexity, Planning and Urbanism (CPU) Laboratory, Manchester School of Architecture, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK

Solon is a researcher at the Manchester Metropolitan University. Previously, he graduated with a Master of Architecture with the Complexity Planning and Urbanism (CPU) Masters atelier at the Manchester School of Architecture. He is interested in the prospect of using digital tools to understand and model the development of cities. With the use of complexity theory as a guide and data as fuel, he seeks to reach an informed state that allows for the accurate use of positive design interventions to enhance the natural progression of the urban realm. His PhD research topic is 'Combining market led economic modelling and urban spatial modelling'.

### **Velizara Pencheva**

Professor, University of Ruse, Ruse, Bulgaria

Velizara Pencheva is a Professor in University of Ruse “A. Kanchev”, Bulgaria. Author and co-author of more than 200 publications and study books in the field of transport. Project coordinator and Member of more than 30 project teams. Prof. Pencheva was awarded the Ruse Award for lifelong contribution and activity in the field of Education and science in 2012. Velizara is a Chair person of the General Assembly University of Ruse and for two consecutive years she has been the rector and deputy rector of the University of Ruse. Before these roles she has been director of the University Directorate for the Quality of Education and head of the Department of Transport at the University.

### **Veronica Toza**

Climate Change Law and Policy - Expert; Climate Change Diplomacy; Nominated Expert to the UNFCCC Roster of Experts on behalf of Romania



Veronica has more than 16 years of experience in the field of drafting and developing the climate change, sustainable development, forestry and environment-related legislative, institutional and policies framework of Romania, to ensure harmonization with the most recent developments at EU and international level. She recently held the position of Coordinator of the EU Team (Lead Negotiators and technical and legal experts) for the climate change international dossiers (UNFCCC, KP, Paris Agreement) during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. During her career, she has been entrusted with key roles for the development of the national legal and policies framework in order to align with European and international legal developments. She ensured the coordination of the transposition and implementation process of the environmental EU acquis during 2004 - 2007, the accession period for Romania, as Local Legal Expert endorsed by the European Commission (DG ENV); more than 95 directives and regulations have been scrutinised and integrated into the national legislation. As part of the same multi-year project, she provided training on transposition and implementation issues to about 800 public servants, coming from various line ministries and implementation / subordinated agencies and institutions. Veronica's specialties are Environmental Law, Climate Change Law and Policy, Climate Diplomacy.

### **Violeta Mihalache**

Urban mobility expert, Director Urban Survey, coordinator of National Network CIVINET Romania, Timisoara, Romania



Violeta is the director of Urban Survey, an NGO from Timisoara in Romania, specialised in urban mobility and urban regeneration projects. She has a bachelor degree in journalism and public relations with a master degree in European Policies, specialized in urban mobility policies, with an interest in people-focussed mobility projects. In the last seven years, she has been very active in projects on urban mobility as team member or as independent expert. Currently, she is the coordinator of the Romanian-speaking CIVINET, the national network of public administrations dedicated to the CIVITAS principles of green and clean transport. She is also an independent expert for EIT KIC Urban Mobility (an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology - EIT).

### **Ulysses Sengupta**

Professor, Head of the Complexity, Planning and Urbanism (CPU) Laboratory, Manchester School of Architecture, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK

Ulysses is the director of the Complexity Planning and Urbanism (CPU) Lab and a reader in Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA). Ulysses is also registered Architect in the UK. MSA is a collaboration between Manchester Metropolitan University

(MMU) and the University of Manchester (UoM). The CPU-Lab is a research laboratory at the Manchester School of Architecture which using a complexity framework to progress applied computational approaches in transdisciplinary urban studies. The laboratory develops new digital tools, computational thinking and urban theory. Sengupta's research spans urban transformations, spatio-temporal dynamics, socio-technical transitions, Future Cities, Smart Cities, the Internet of Things, agile governance and cities as complex adaptive systems.

### **Zaili Yang**

Professor, Liverpool, Logistics, Offshore and Marine Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK



Zaili Yang is Professor of Maritime Transport and Co-Director of Liverpool, Logistics, Offshore and Marine Research Institute at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), UK. He received his BEng in Maritime Transportation from Dalian Maritime University, China, in 2001, MSc in International Transport from Cardiff University, UK, in 2003, and PhD in Maritime Safety from LJMU, UK, in 2006. Prof. Yang's research interests are analysis and modelling of safety, resilience and sustainability of transport networks, particularly maritime systems. Prof. Yang has received more than £6m external grants (£4m as the PI) from the EU and

UK EPSRC, including a prestigious ERC consolidator grant (€1.99m). Prof. Yang has completed 6 postdoctoral and 31 PhD projects. He currently has 2 PDRAs and 7 PhD students under his supervision in the research areas of maritime safety and logistics operations. His research findings have been published in over 240 refereed papers in risk and transport areas, including 100 SCI/SSCI-cited journal papers (WoS citation: 1873, H-index:24; Google citation:4043, H-index:33). Prof. Yang is the associate editor of 3 journals (e.g. Asian Journal of Shipping and Logistics) and an editorial board member of 11 transport/maritime journals (e.g. Transport Research Part E). He has received 11 paper awards (e.g. IMechE Journal Part M) and 3 research awards (e.g. Northeast Asia Logistics Award 2018).