

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE HANDBOOK AND JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE COST ACTION AIR TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TU1408 ATARD)

Air transport is generally considered to be a key factor for the economic competitiveness of the most developed regions of a country and for the social welfare of the less developed ones, which often are remote regions difficult to access through other transport modes. However, the relationship between air transport and regional development has not been fully investigated considering all the relevant dimensions. Building advanced knowledge about such relationships, with a focus on Europe, is the main reason for COST Action. More details can be found at <http://www.atard.net/>.

The key debates related to this COST Action, and the gained knowledge and understanding, will be presented in the ATARD handbook and four special issues of relevant academic journals. The handbook, produced by a leading international academic publisher, will offer a well-founded overview of the multiple methods for investigating the relationship between air transport and regional development, drawing from economics, geography, business, political science, public policy and civil, industrial and environmental engineering literatures. It will have three sections:

- **Section 1** will develop the methodological approaches, outlining their respective strength and weaknesses. These include input-output analysis, cost benefit analysis, computable general equilibrium models, data envelopment analysis, production functions and regression analysis.
- **Section 2** will present case studies on an individual basis, drawn from both core and remote regions. Possible issues for consideration with core regions include capacity shortages, environmental constraints, competition and the development of airport cities; and with remote regions these include efficiency/financial well-being of regional airports, state subsidies, PSO routes, seasonality, airport systems and governance.
- **Section 3** will concentrate on the policy implications that may be drawn and provide recommendations to policy-makers at the local, national and European levels with respect to regulation and funding. Possible areas for consideration include evaluation of investment/policy, PSOs and subsidies, and governance reform.

The **special issues** will contain stand-alone rigorous research papers suitable for high quality academic journals.

Abstracts covering the above research topics and other relevant areas are welcomed. Some issues of particular interest are:

- Connectivity (definition and measurement)
- Wider economic benefits of transport (definition and measurement)
- Causality (direction of air transport/economic growth relationship)
- Evaluation (e.g. evaluation of investment in air transport infrastructure, such as airports/ATC and other policies such as liberalisation, night curfews, passenger taxes)
- Mega airport projects and 'white elephant' airports
- Regulation impacts on tourism development
- ATC reform impacts on air transport and regional development
- Geographical imbalances in Europe

Please submit an abstract of around 400 words/one page by **31 July 2017** to <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/about-uantwerp/organisational-structure/centres-and-institutes/c-mat/call-for-abstracts-atard/>. The full papers will be required by **15 September 2018**.

At this preliminary stage, papers for both the handbook and special issues are being considered together. Authors do not have to be members of the COST action. Papers that have already been given at ATARD workshops and conferences are welcome. There will also be two new calls for case study presentations at ATARD workshops in Dublin in November 2017 (covering core regions) and Ruse in April 2018 (covering remote regions). If the topic area is relevant, this will be a good opportunity to present and discuss the research which will be covered in the handbook/special issue papers. For further information please contact Anne Graham (grahama@westminster.ac.uk).