Foreword

It is both a great pleasure and a sad task to write a foreword for the current volume *ICT for Transport: Opportunities and Threats* edited by Nikolas Thomopoulos, Moshe Givoni and Piet Rietveld.

It is a pleasure because the volume provides a rich and comprehensive insight into the ever-increasing role of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) in the evolving European and international space-economy, with a particular view on its impact on, and intersection with, the transport sector. A core element of this book is the association between ICT and the sustainable mobility paradigm, and thus the increasing link of ICT with emerging challenges such as the provision of incentives to positively influence travel behaviour, crowdsourced geo-location data accuracy or the digital divide and the respective challenges for policy makers. In an attempt to answer pressing research and policy questions, this book offers a valuable insight into the similarities and differences in the ICT needs of both developed and developing countries. In this context, a novel contribution of this volume is the impact of ICT on different transport modes, for example car, bus, walking and cycling, reviewed through empirical findings and the views of practitioners and scholars with an international background. This volume is an output of NECTAR (Network on European Communications and Transport Activities Research), which is a network of multidisciplinary researchers that brings together a wide range of perspectives on transportation, mobility and communication issues and their impacts on society. Thus this volume puts a truly international and holistic ICT view in a transport perspective, with contributions by authors from different parts of the world.

It is a sadness at the same time though since it is the last volume edited by Piet Rietveld (1952–2013). Therefore, this volume can be considered to honour his memory.

Piet Rietveld chaired NECTAR between 2002 and 2007, and it was through our common scientific interest in transport network evolution and the plethora of research and networking opportunities provided through NECTAR, that I had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with him over the last 12 years. During those years, Piet revealed an exceptional academic ability, which allowed him to diversify his research

focus within the broad field of transport, from accessibility to equity, from climate change to infrastructure networks, from cycling to ICT and multi-modal analyses. His contributions were diverse, characterised by a variety of approaches, namely theoretical, methodological, empirical or economic policy ones.

During 2008–13, Piet Rietveld was also the coordinator of the NECTAR Cluster 1 on Networks, together with Moshe Givoni and Bart Jourquin (for Europe) and Andrew Goetz (for the United States). Over these six years, Piet's Cluster was always extremely active, organising several meetings in Europe where new scientific ideas were promoted and expounded.

The idea about the present book was a result of Piet's initiative and was first discussed during one of these Cluster 1 meetings, since the link between ICT and transport was one of his favourites. Given this opportunity, I wish to thank Nikolas Thomopoulos and Moshe Givoni, who have conscientiously continued and fulfilled the scientific research path of this book, which was originally followed jointly with Piet, by producing an excellent landmark in this emerging field of ICT for transport.

This book can therefore be considered as the last legacy to us from a brilliant scientist who passed away all too soon.

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