

Newsletter No. 6 - March 2021

## Message from the STA Chair

As we are now well into 2021, we increasingly see how the pandemic has had an impact on the use of public transport and it will thus be important to take forward mobility into a new phase in its development. Seamless mobility starts with planning the journey and allows free choice and safe payment options to the traveller from door to door including cross border. Smart Ticketing is one part of a broader mobility solution.

The STA provides the essential framework of interoperability for the ticketing part. It promotes seamless travel through open and non-discriminatory solutions, the customer's free choice of devices while being assured of security and privacy. Over the past years, contactless solutions have grown in importance, which is also the basis for smart ticketing in the future. This requires an element of trust in ticketing. Trust is the key word, that is guiding the work of the STA also in 2021 and we look forward to reporting our achievements to you.

Kind regards,  
John Verity

### Our topics today:

1. **Over 130 participants from 25 countries attended STA workshop in January 2021**
2. **STA Technical Secretary speaks at Kontiki conference on 4 March 2021**
3. **Activities of the STA working groups**
4. **STA Annual General Meeting takes place on 17 May 2021**
5. **Interview with Carme Fàbregas, ATM Barcelona**



## **Over 130 participants from 25 countries attended STA workshop in January 2021**

The STA workshop “Travel only with your name” took place on 19 January 2021 in an online format. Over 130 participants from 25 countries worldwide dialled-in and engaged in a fruitful discussion with the keynote speakers.

Mohamed Mezghani, Secretary General of the UITP gave insights on the priorities of the UITP in the context of the current pandemic and John Verity, Chair of the STA presented the latest developments in the Smart Ticketing field, including the role of the STA. Victoire Champenois updated participants on the work plan of the European Commission and Dominik Elsmann from the Aachener Verkehrsverbund offered a deep dive into the good practice project “Easy Connect”.

There was a general agreement that travellers want to plan a journey and undertake their mobility with a minimum of barriers and restrictions and the maximum of availability of different options. Essentially, it is important that the right tickets are issued for the right part of the journey. The tool in the background should be as invisible as possible but this needs to be achieved with a degree of trust. It is the role of the STA to understand the needs and to deliver everything in an open, secure, inclusive and sustainable way.



## **STA Technical Secretary speaks at Kontiki conference on 4 March 2021**

Jaap De Bie, Technical Secretary of the STA, will speak at the online Kontiki conference on 4 March 2021 on the topic of e-Ticketing in Europe. He will focus on the technical and organisational challenges when working with the STA.

Kontiki promotes the exchange of experiences and enables the analysis of practical and constructive solutions for Smart Ticketing. This year's conference assesses the situation in the current pandemic context, in which people use less public transport. The positioning of the public transport sector as well as the use of data, and the security and the privacy protection thereof are at the centre of the discussions.

Learn more about the Kontiki conference and view the programme here: <https://kontiki.net/konferenz/aktuelle-konferenz/>



## **Activities of the STA working groups**

The year has seen a busy start for the STA Working Groups:

- The Account-Based Ticketing (ABT) Working Group is developing a project while re-arranging their ongoing work to crystallise the core information with more implementation-focused information content and examples of good practices.
- The STA Certification Group is defining its work programme for 2021 while ensuring the STA Certification Scheme continues to be driven forward and new additional certification bodies can be included.
- The STA is also delighted that the joint Working Group with the UITP on Ticketing in MaaS is starting to take shape and a first meeting is planned in March 2021.



## **STA Annual General Meeting takes place on 17 May 2021**

The STA Annual General Meetings will take place on 17 May 2021 for its members. In addition to the administrative part, the STA will welcome Mr Mohamed Mezghani, UITP General Secretary as the keynote speaker. STA members will have the opportunity of a direct exchange and discussion with him on the trends in the sector and the work of the UITP. STA members will receive further details ahead of the meeting.



## **Interview with Carme Fàbregas, CTO and Innovation Officer at ATM Barcelona**

**What are your main activities during weekdays?**

We are some way down the track to developing our digital strategy. It's been already a while since we started to pull it all together while being keen to meet the responsibility we're asked for by our policy makers, as transport authority, we influence multiple stakeholders: from public transport operators or mobility generally speaking, to the industry itself. At the moment my activities are more slanted towards digital optimisation rather than transformation, especially during this challenging pandemic.

**Why did you join the STA?**

From a personal viewpoint, the commitment to public service and the subsequent responsibilities led me to a significant endorsement of the EU-IFM Alliance working with European Commission that ultimately became the foundation for the STA in 2015. The STA references showcase our leadership role by using ITS and standards to promote the ticketing interoperability in our new systems. An important way to deliver the trust environment a Transport Authority is responsible for.

### **What do you expect from the STA?**

The STA provides a unique bridge between Public Transport's long history of standardisation and harmonisation activities in the field of interoperable ticketing, and the so called "disruptive" new entrants. This allows for increased convergence between public and private sustainable mobility service providers towards achieving the EU - and worldwide - goals for a more sustainable, personal and green mobility in our cities for the coming years. I expect great outcomes to happen at the foundations for brand new mobility patterns, the STA being among the principal actors on the stage.

### **How will you contribute to its success?**

Having a seat at the MaaS Alliance Board of Directors after joining it at its early stages, I took the unique opportunity of contributing to the dialogue between both organisations, in order for a pathway for common enrichment and development to open. Now a Memorandum of Understanding has been recently signed between the MaaS Alliance and the STA. Other ways to contribute are actively participating in working groups.

### **What do you wish for the future mobility of Europe?**

A change and transition of the shape of public transport is now underway providing a new kind of enthusiasm to my personal engagement shown throughout my career. I believe the future mobility of Europe is going to be the result of what is done tangibly at the present moment, now. We all have to raise awareness that the new generations have accelerating demands to be fulfilled with urgency. I wish that the new digital culture proves that a way for improvement

for the common good is possible and that EU visionary leadership policies can make, once more, all the difference.

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