

Involving citizens and experts in the debate about sustainable shared and autonomous mobility



The future of mobility will be Autonomous, Connected, Electric and Shared (ACES). That seems to be set in stone. Some signs of all four trends (A-C-E-S) are already visible, but when will full integration happen? Due to this uncertainty, there are still a lot of opportunities to shape the future and let society co-decide on what direction we want to

go with these new technologies. That's what Autodelen.net tried to establish within the ART-Forum project. We consulted mobility experts to write policy recommendations, involved citizens in an experiment with shared and autonomous cars and created awareness among the general public about future mobility options.

Key outcomes part one

In order to **involve citizens** in the abstract story of the future of mobility, it's important to introduce them actively to self-driving and shared mobility. That's why we set up an experiment in which several families were challenged to give up their own car for two weeks and instead use either a shared car or an autonomous car. The participants filmed their experiences throughout the test period and were interviewed afterwards. This resulted in three inspiring videos capturing the experiences of the participants who share their thoughts about a possible automated and shared mobility future.



Interviews with participants of experiment, sharing their experiences.

» *While we wait for automated vehicles, we should learn to share them.*



Possible scenarios before and after the introduction of shared autonomous transport

Key outcomes part two

Together with Mpart and the city of Mechelen we launched a series of workshops for **mobility experts**. These workshops formed the basis for a discussion paper with **policy recommendations** about creating a society in which autonomous vehicles are deployed sustainably. Surprisingly or not, the experts came up with very similar questions, concerns and suggestions as the participants of the experiment.

Three main policy recommendations:

- Focus on the automation of public transport and the shared use of vehicles to anticipate an increase in the number of private vehicles and journeys.
- Don't wait for fully autonomous vehicles to pluck the fruits of existing technology. Integrate Intelligent Speed Assistance as soon as possible.
- Policy makers must function as a conductor in respect of new technologies, controlling the market for autonomous vehicles.

In cooperation with the cities of Mechelen and Aalborg we also launched a communication campaign called '**Conquer the Space**'. One or more parking spaces in the cities were redesigned and a large banner with a heaven and hell scenario of the implementation of autonomous vehicles



Policy recommendations are handed over to the Flemish Vice-Minister President.

invited people to reflect about what the future might look like. The aim is to confront citizens with the current occupation of public space by cars and the possibilities shared autonomous transport can offer in the future.

Finally we questioned **1.000 citizens** and a sample of **current car sharing users** about their awareness and acceptance of future shared and autonomous mobility. Overall it becomes clear that experienced car sharing users are more open to new technologies and have a higher intention to use future automated and shared vehicles. The full results of these studies can be found on the ART-Forum and Autodelen.net websites.

Contact

To get in touch with ART-Forum, please visit our website

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