

Preface

One of the challenges for the coming decades is to arrive at a decoupling of economic growth and emissions of various pollutions and CO₂. Transport is one of the sectors confronted with this ambitious goal. Some 25–30% of world energy consumption is related to transport and its share in total energy use is increasing, making it a main factor in the global problems of energy scarcity and greenhouse gas emissions. Present developments do not show a clear tendency towards a decoupling of developments in transport-related energy use and GDP. Hence, it is no surprise that transport has been identified as one of the main sectors that need a transition. At the same time, transport systems in many countries are subject to other problems, including lack of quality and reliability and high costs. The relevant dimensions can be represented by means of the well-known triangle of ‘people’, ‘planet’ and ‘profit’. Clearly, the challenges that the transport system is facing call for a broad approach, and a wide range of interlinked changes in various domains such as technology, institutions, land use and behaviour. The aim of the present book is to address a number of dimensions in such a transition.

This volume contains a selection of the results from the Transumo (TRANSition SUSTainable MOBility) programme carried out between 2004 and 2010. Transumo was a large Dutch innovation programme in which hundreds of private companies, governments and knowledge institutes cooperated in the development of knowledge on transitions towards sustainable mobility and a mobility system that is more efficient, more economically competitive, of higher quality and having less negative impacts on the environment. More information on the programme can be found on the website www.transumofootprint.nl.

Outputs of the Transumo programme have been published in a wide range of journals in the scientific and applied field. This can easily lead to a fragmented treatment of the broad theme of sustainable transport. Therefore, we considered it time to bring together some of its results in one volume to illustrate the broad scope of the theme.

We would like to thank many colleagues who have contributed to this volume: authors, reviewers, and the support staff who have made this project possible, in

particular Ineke Spaans (Transumo) and Ellen Woudstra (editor, Spatial Economics, VU University, Amsterdam).

It was a great shock to us that Jo van Nunen, who was the initiator of this book and a source of inspiration of Transumo, unexpectedly passed away on May 12, 2010. Jo was scientific director of Transumo since 2004 and he has been of decisive importance for the successful completion of the programme. He was close to his official retirement in September 2010, and he had many plans to remain active in his fields of interest: innovations in logistics, sustainable transport, optimisations of port operations, and several more.

This book is just a small part of Jo van Nunen's heritage. We hope that it will inspire a next generation of researchers to be active in this field of transitions towards sustainable mobility.

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