



Press release

Paris, June 14, 2018

Transports Publics 2018, the European Mobility Exhibition:

Six European 'Talents' honoured for their professional abilities and their commitment to sustainable mobility

The "Talent in Mobility" awards were presented on Wednesday June, 14 during Transports Publics 2018, the European Mobility Exhibition. The aim of the Talent in Mobility awards is to honour women and men from across Europe who are contributing to the growth of public transport and sustainable mobility. Six professionals from three different countries received awards for their skills, commitment and accomplishments in favour of sustainable mobility.

The panel, consisting of journalists from the trade press across Europe (Autobus - Italy, Nahverkehr praxis - Germany, OV Magazine - Netherlands, Passenger Transport - UK, Ville, Rail & Transports - France, Viajeros - Spain) made the awards in four categories:

Best young Talent:

Cyril Collomb, Autocars SRT, Managing Director - France

As the son of a haulier and a public transport enthusiast since my earliest days, following a state diploma in Company and Administration Management specialising in Finance and Accounting, and a sandwich bachelor's degree in Passenger Transport Services Management with Autocars Berthelet supervised by its manager Aurélien and Alain-Jean, at the age of 26 I have now taken on the family firm with the support of my uncle and cousin. Prior to joining the management, I also gained a long-distance coach driver's licence, allowing me to travel the roads of Europe and thus manage my organisation with hands-on knowledge of the job. 5 years ago, SRT lost some 20% of its business after a call for tender process. Since then, by responding to various calls for tender and thanks to my various trainings, we have managed to increase our turnover by 27%. I am keen to progress still further, as regards the company and in terms of our drivers having good working conditions, as well as in new technology, the various modes of transport and the alternative energy sources now coming onto the market.

Best project manager:

Werner Kircher, Kölner Verkehrs-Betriebe AG, Project manager – Germany

When the wave of refugees arrived to Germany at the end of 2015 several German public transport companies and their personnel got involved to help the arriving men and women. One of them is Werner Kircher of the Cologne public transport company (KVB). As a private person involved with the Worker's Samaritan Federation and with the support of his employer KVB he was in charge of the coordination of the local aid organisations at the airport of Cologne/Bonn where more than 30,000 refugees often only equipped with light clothing

received primary care. KVB and as a coordinator Werner Kircher organised the entire bus transfer from the airport to the regional initial reception centers. In November 2015 Werner Kircher organised the "Cologne Donation Express" a special train of KVB that collected at central locations of Cologne winter clothing for refugees. Altogether they managed to collect some 30 tons of clothing donations. Under the coordination of Werner Kircher (and with the great help of the student Sven Neu which had the idea) the clothes were reloaded to trucks and transported to the airport and to the donees.

Werner Kircher's engagement stands for many employees of public transport companies that helped to manage with their private engagement - and with the support of their companies - the challenges to receive an enormous quantity of newly arriving persons to the country.

For the first time, there are two 'Best manager' this year. They tied for first place:

Best manager:

Céline Picq, Systra, Director, South-East Region - France

Celine Picq began her career with SNCF Engineering. Over a period of 7 years, she learned about the various phases of a project, serving as design officer and later project manager.

When INEXIA was set up in 2007, Céline signed on to expand the business of the Lyon-based agency. Céline started developing the client portfolio on her own, building up a team which soon comprised 45 people. Successive projects taught Céline how to work with various transport authorities and infrastructure managers to think in terms of modal interchange, delivering new mobility solutions to citydwellers within her area.

In 2013 Céline became Deputy Director and then Director of the National Projects Division's New Infrastructures Department. Heading up a team of 70, she supervised some of SYSTRA's flagship rail, road, and waterways projects.

After 5 years working in projects, Céline then became Director of the South-East Region of the France Rail Division in Lyon, and now heads up a workforce of 140.

Céline's style is all about building team spirit: engineering is first and foremost a human undertaking. It also involves creating cross-functionality between different types of engineering, the prerequisite for designing and rolling out sensible, sustainable transport systems.

Dirk Weißer, INIT GmbH, Head of Research - Germany

It isn't by chance that Dirk Weißer's career has been marked by a commitment to new ways of mobility. As Head of Research at INIT, he is not the kind of person who resigns himself to being stuck in traffic. Instead, he uses either PT or his bike for his 34 kilometer commute to and from work. He enjoys discovering new routes, finding alternatives, resolving challenging issues. That is his passion.

He has successfully launched and spearheaded an impressive number of European and international research projects about autonomous vehicles, electromobility, travel systems for people with special mobility needs, automatic incident detection and reaction chains in PT and many more. He has also built several strong partnerships, e.g. with Scania, Volvo, Fraunhofer-Institutes and the German Aerospace Center (DLR). Dirk Weißer is not only well connected and highly esteemed within the mobility sector, and therefore a sought-after speaker in conferences and university lectures.

He is also a manager with extraordinary leadership skills who knows how to motivate and empower his team, creating an atmosphere of creativity and innovation. His leadership is in perfect accordance with his own values like respect, kindness and transparency. He invests in his internal team as well as in future talents by mentoring them during their thesis. For INIT, and for the whole mobility sector, he has already deeply shaped the future of mobility, developing innovative concepts? and finding new ways.

Special career service award:

Gianni Scarfone, ATB MOBILITA SPA, General Manager - Italia.

Gianni Scarfone's career as expert in planning and managing of public transport systems started in 1982. He implemented innovative projects in Marketing management, Railways, Tramways and Full Electric systems. After collaborating as consultant for centre for researches, he came to FNM Milan, the group managing the

railway transport in Lombardy. As Chief Commercial, he managed the fare system and several innovative projects. In 1995 he achieved the role of president of ATB SpA, the PT company of Bergamo. He led the transformation into a Group made up of 5 companies owned by the holding ATB Mobilità. From 2004 as CEO of TEB, he handled the project of the Bergamo-Albino tramway. Up to now passengers/year has increased by more than 50%. Some data about the Group: 30mln pax/year, 160 buses, 1 tramway, more than 400 employees.

In 2011 ATB won the UITP PTx2 Award for Service Improvement.

In the last years he has promoted in ATB a new customer-oriented approach in service planning and customer care.

C line (Bergame, Italia), the last accomplished project, is the first full electric line in Italy. Operating since February 2018, consists in a circular route mostly on dedicated lanes, provided by full electric buses, with smart bus shelters - digital signage, touchscreen, usb charge, facilities for blind people.

He's part of the Executive Board of ASSTRA; in 2006 he was appointed as President of ASSTRA Lombardia. Member of the Regional Transport Committee of UITP, he's also in the UITP Mktg Commission.

Web Users' Award:

Franck Vialle, Ulysse Transport, Founder president- France.

At the age of 20, Franck Vialle was left quadriplegic after an accident. Determined not to let this tragedy get the better of him, he decided to become an entrepreneur and put his experience to good use for reduced-mobility individuals. *"Either you mope around all day or decide the glass is half-full"*, he says. Faced with the harsh realities of getting about as a disabled person, he set up Ulysse, a company to transport and accompany disabled individuals. Its goal is to enable everybody to travel anywhere in France in order to have a career and a social life. Launched in 1996, the concept opened up a market with high demand. In 1999, the Ulysse franchise was launched to cater for increased demand. The network now has 90 franchises across France and its overseas territories, transporting a total of 3,000 people annually. Ulysse has established itself as a key player in Disability and Transport Franchises. Built around robust human and social values, the company is keen to assist minorities. The network is actively engaged in a range of good causes, including RDBF, Un Rêve Un Sourire, Des Racings et des Elles and Plus que jamais Debout. *"We also work with startups advocating the same values as us, and as of this year, we're delighted to have Wheeliz and StreetCo as our partners"*, adds Communications Officer Sarah Touahri.

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