

App-Based Ride and Taxi Services : Principles for Regulation

For-hire passenger transport services are an essential component of well-functioning metropolitan areas. But the markets for taxis and other for-hire vehicles have historically been subject to imperfections that regulators have tried to correct or at least attenuate. The current regulatory frameworks surrounding for-hire transport reflects this history. But the arrival of innovative app-based ride services, generically referred to as Commercial Transport Apps (CTAs), in this report, challenges established rules. The growing popularity of these services has caught authorities off-guard, as CTAs typically do not fall under established regulatory structures. Moreover, the uptake of similar technologies amongst traditional for-hire operators blurs the line between existing regulatory categories, and in some cases obviates it.

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Knowledge Type: [Thematic report](#) [1]

Other Tag: [trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights](#) [2]

[training](#) [3]

[transaction costs](#) [4]

[trust](#) [5]

[uncertainty](#) [6]

[welfare](#) [7]

[accountability](#) [8]

[cost of entry](#) [9]

[data access](#) [10]

[due diligence](#) [11]

[information and communications technology infrastructure](#) [12]

[libraries](#) [13]

[manufacturing](#) [14]

[market demand](#) [15]

[market intelligence](#) [16]

[business networks](#) [17]

[multifactor productivity](#) [18]

[policy framework](#) [19]

[resilience](#) [20]

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[3] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/training>

[4] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/transaction-costs>

[5] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/trust>

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[13] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/libraries>

[14] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/manufacturing>

[15] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/market-demand>

[16] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/market-intelligence>

[17] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/business-networks>



[18] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/multifactor-productivity>

[19] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/policy-framework>

[20] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/resilience>