



Project no. TSA4-CT-2005-015791

ETRA.CC

Empowering Transport Research with the special focus on the new EU-member states, the new Accession states and the Candidate Countries

Instrument: SSA

Thematic Priority: Sustainable Surface Transport

Publishable Final Activity Report

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Project coordinator name: Prof. Karel Kovářík, PhD.

Project coordinator organisation name: University of Žilina

Revision 1

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

ETRA.CC Project Summary

Overview

Transport has become a high-technology industry in Europe. This is to some extent due to fact that the most recent research results have been transferred into practice. Both the European Commission's Framework Programmes and the national research programmes across the European Research Area are providers of transport research results. It is crucial to ensure that expertise and findings are made widely available, and the results are compared and coordinated in an appropriate way. In the new context of an enlarged Europe the instruments initially proposed in the Commission transport strategy (the 2001 White Paper) were reviewed and adapted. This has implicated changes in certain policy areas with the aim to provide solutions more conformable with national, regional or local inputs while nevertheless ensuring a Europe-wide transport market.

ETRA.CC project has been targeted to support European integration process in transport research under the special focus on Eastern European enlargement. The project therefore addresses the transition process, which encompassed a change from planning steered systems by the state to a market driven approach taking in account the specific characteristics of the research infrastructure in transport sector. As a result of ETRA.CC the European transport research community is provided with a multi-lingual online internet based networking platform for all types of transport research, which can be accessed at www.etra.cc. By collecting and structuring operational knowledge, the website supports on one hand the stimulation and strengthening of co-operation and networking activities among researchers, research facility owners and users, facility operators, and educational organisations by and on the other hand motivates stakeholders to intense dissemination and networking processes.

Consortium

The project has been based on the existing network of partners formed by previous INTRANSNET project, the network of medium and large transport research facilities in Europe. In order to realize the goals set we brought together three partners to achieve the critical-mass and to find technological solutions as well as to exploit the project results.

Co-ordinator – Centre of Transportation Research – CETRA

Centre for Transportation Research is situated at the University of Zilina, former University of Transport and Communications and can rely on the academic and research capacities of this University, traditionally oriented towards transport research. The goal of CETRA is to put to better use of the accumulated technological equipment and human resources by having the possibility to form multidisciplinary project-specific and task-specific research teams in most fields of transportation research.

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Austrian Mobility Research – FGM AMOR

FGM AMOR is a scientific, non-profit, and independent association having more than ten years experience in co-operating with the EU-research promotional institutions. Austrian Mobility Research offers state of the art know-how and access to the newest European research results as well as the latest examples in the field of mobility management. FGM-AMOR carries out comprehensive studies for policy makers in transportation and land use planning, provides expert advice, develops new theoretical approaches in the area of mobility, and organises conferences, seminars and workshops.

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Technical University Dresden – TUD

The Institute of Transport and Communications Economics at the Technical University Dresden has gained a lot of experience in the area of introduction and improvement of Quality Management Systems in public service enterprises, process management and assessment of processes in design, development, production and maintenance and quality assurance. The institute combines the field of transport research even under the focus of communications infrastructure. Therefore one of the specific fields is internet based business and internet economy as well as market research in transport and communications markets.

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Brief description of activities

Between October 2005 and September 2007 various support actions were planned, organised and carried out, with the aim to promote dissemination of previous and current European transport research results in new member states and associate countries and to support participation of these countries in EC's Frameworks program projects. ETRA.CC project activities focused on stimulation of international cooperation and analysis to support European Research Area by recommendations for further development. The ETRA.CC work plan has followed the classical project approach: investigation, planning, implementation and conclusion by evaluation. Because of the support action type of the project, main focus has been aimed at outbound activities.

Workshops

With the ETRA.CC support actions – workshops, the project directly addressed researchers in the transport community from the new European member states and associated countries. Researchers and other stakeholders from universities, transport related industry and associations as well as from national and regional administration and government authorities participated at the workshops. The workshops provided a forum for presenting the progress on

the development in the field of transport research as well as wide analysis concerning all transport segments with the aim to identify the gaps in addressed countries. These events also helped to establish closer contacts between researchers and national supporting entities. By introducing the www.etra.cc online-services to the workshop participants they were provided with another possibility to find fast and competent information and contacts to other researchers within Europe in order to build up project consortia or to find partners for specific research issues.

Workshop impressions



www.etra.cc

The project team implemented multilingual web-page with the aim to motivate the stakeholders to use project services more easily and frequently. It should lead to encouraging European cooperation and networking. This web page has provided numerous services to support and stimulate cooperation: knowledge directory, download centre, event database, information on technologies and RTD news, information on calls and funding, etc. The core service is the access to database of transport research facilities in Europe. Users can take advantage of searching in the database's many features, including information on research facilities on test beds, model testing laboratories, prototype engineering and simulators. Work also concentrated on a human skills database, which offers researchers the opportunity to add their research profile into the database. This database provides a list of these researchers, their

particular areas of interest and expertise together with links to more detailed information (papers, posters).

Recommendations

It has become manifest that transport research institutions in the new European Member states are not yet fully involved in existing networks, associations and projects. We recommended a policy supporting the build up of new demand on the one hand and to improve qualification on the other hand. In a market driven environment we realize the failure of state owned concepts and miss industrial demand in the new member states. It's not up to ETRA.CC to formulate national policies for the development of these regions but we think about financial incentives for global industry not only to produce transport products (like cars) in the new member states, but also to have part of the research and development there. It is also helpful to develop local medium sized industry active in research to fill the gap between the producing foreign enterprises and very small local initiatives of individual researchers. This will also help to keep young well educated researchers in their country and to foster co-operation between different countries and between different research institutions and industry. Only with the demand and close co-operation between industry and research institutions/universities applied research can be successfully carried out and applied to effective transport solution and services. This all will help to create an innovative friendly climate and trigger the development of creative solutions by introducing radical new ways of thinking. Further activities should employ inter-functional participation and communication and encourage Joint Technology Initiatives for future technologies with high potential.

Project outputs

Evaluation of the project work and results has shown that the set goals were achieved. The project has met its objectives and provided main outputs as follows:

- A comprehensive multi-lingual web-based system has been set up, providing access to both detailed and user-oriented information on transport research facilities, research programmes and results across Europe.
- ETRA.CC has provided relevant information about facilities, technical equipment, parameters, and human resources on the base of the INTRANSNET network database www.intransnet.org
- ETRA.CC has offered operators of transport research infrastructure the possibility to go public with their facilities, to find new customers and to market free capacity with the aim to increase their own business and market position.
- The project has provided an electronic hub for inter-connecting European researchers and facility operators concerned with transport research into a clearly structured European network.
- ETRA.CC has provided high-quality analytical outputs on the current situation in the new European member states and associate countries.
- We recommended countries to set up policies in support demand of stakeholders.
- The project has raised awareness of the new services in those countries via project workshops and other dissemination activities.
- It has contributed in a way that researchers and institutions increase their effort on co-operation in their own countries as well as across Europe.

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