PROJECT FINAL REPORT

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Final publishable summary report

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Executive summary

TransBonus is a project supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). This two-year project started on 1 January 2009 and ended on 31 December 2010.

The **overall objective** of the project was to improve and promote closer Scientific and Technological (S&T) cooperation opportunities between Europe and the Western Balkan Countries (WBCs) in the area of Surface Transport. The project established an EU-Balkan Transport network of researchers and universities among these countries in order to improve and enlarge the research capacity of Western Balkan centres of competence in transport in terms of upgrading their research programmes, and scientific and technical human resources.

The project fulfilled the following **specific goals**:

- Identifying the existing capacities and specific needs of surface transport researchers in the Western Balkan countries in terms of FP7 funding opportunities.
- Training and support in FP7 knowledge and best practices. Enhance the readiness of Balkan transport research community to participate in the European RTD programmes (FP7).
- Setting up a matching tool - "*Project Lab*" - supporting the creation and preparation of efficient and innovative project proposals.
- Implementing expert study visits between the WBC partners and EU partners in order to expand the scientific relationships and networking between the two regions.
- Stimulating various partnering schemes and national collaboration between researchers and industry in the surface transport sector in the Balkan region.

TransBonus was carried out by 9 partners, of which 4 from the Western Balkan Countries and 5 from EU Member States as follows:

- Applied Research and Communications (ARC) Fund, Bulgaria – Coordinator
- Higher school of Transport "Todor Kableshkov," Bulgaria
- Polytechnic University of Tirana, Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Albania
- Automotive center - Centar za vozila, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University – Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- University of Kragujevac, Mechanical Engineering Faculty – Kraljevo, Serbia
- NL Agency (SenterNovem), The Netherlands
- Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (HELP-FORWARD), Greece
- Integrated Resources Management Company (IRMCo), Malta

The tangible project results include:

- Mapping of research capacities and funding opportunities in WBC transport research;
- FP7 Handbook "The guide for transport researchers"
- More than 200 researchers informed and stimulated towards FP7;
- 11 national "Ideas Generation Events;"
- 63 new project proposal ideas;
- 7 proposals submitted in the 2009 and 2010 calls for proposals – the Transport programme of FP7 Cooperation specific programme
- 5 events in the Balkan countries linking transport researchers and industry;

- 26 PR research profiles published and uploaded on www.transbonus.net ;
- Workshop for project proposals development.

Summary description of project context and objectives

Concept and objectives

The three surface transport modes – road, rail and water-borne – are critical to driving Europe's employment, prosperity and global exports. Aside from stimulating innovation and knowledge, technological advances in transport will have a positive impact on Europe's economic and social integration. The transport modes also raise major challenges for environment, society and research mainly due to an inexorable rise in transport demand. The EU has targeted five objectives in surface transport research to meet these challenges, namely to:

- Improve the competitiveness of surface transport manufacturers, operators and infrastructure managers;
- Improve the safety and security of transport operations and services;
- Reduce the environmental impact of transport, including emissions and noise;
- Increase the mobility of people and goods via a better balance between all three surface transport modes.

For the industry to grow and gain a share of the international markets it needs sustainable investments in innovative products (development) and skilled research personnel with good knowledge of the latest developments in EU research policies and programmes. One of the opportunities to gain competitiveness is to take advantage of participation in European RTD and innovation instruments to pursue excellence through research, innovation, technology transfer and collaboration with experienced EU partners.

The opening of the European Research Area (ERA) to third countries is a strategic objective of the European Union. As the Western Balkan Countries (WBCs, incl. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) have been offered the perspective of EU membership, their future integration into the ERA is seen as a key priority. The EC supports many initiatives which aim to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential in the Balkans by unlocking and developing the existing research potential and helping to successfully participate in research activities at EU level.

Actions are being implemented to support the opening of ERA to the WBCs. In the years since 2002 several ministerial level conferences on science and technology co-operation between representative of the European Commission and of Ministries from the WBCs have taken place. At the conference organised in Thessaloniki in June 2003, a *Shared Vision* document, as well as an *"EU-Balkan Countries Action plan in S&T"* have been adopted. The *shared vision* document defines four main goals (**Improvement of Infrastructures, improvement of Human Potential, institution Building and implementation of joint RTD activities**). The *action plan* specifies the objectives and thematic priorities over a 3-year period. An *ad hoc* group has also been established after the Thessaloniki meeting. In November 2003, this group adopted a Work Programme that listed activities for the year 2004 and 2005. The last meeting of the *ad hoc* group, which took place in February 2005, further underlined the difficulties to integrate research organisations from the WBC in the Thematic Priorities of the FP6 and identified the development of human resources as one of the crucial areas of action. The group also recommended to fully utilise FP7 for the integration of the WBCs in ERA.

Several Specific Support and Coordination Actions have been undertaken so far to help co-operation with WBCs. Some of the most important actions include ERA WESTBALKAN that aims at creating and supporting a network of National Contact Points in the countries of the region, SEEREN that aims at the connection of the Research and Education Networks with the European high-speed electronic network GEANT, as well as SEE

ERA.NET that aims at creating synergy among bilateral S&T agreements of countries from the EU and from the WBCs.

Up to now, little has been done in the area of **Transport research**. The "EU-Balkan Countries Action plan in S&T" identifies Human Potential as a key priority and given the importance of familiarisation with the ways of funding research activities in the WBC economies there is a need to stimulate co-operation in this area. This is the overall objective of the project TransBonus.

The project focused on four countries of the Western Balkans region, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and one convergence-region country to EU, such as Bulgaria (which is also from the Balkan region).

Finally, the project collaborated with a number of EU-funded projects as follows:

- WBC-INCO.NET
- ETNA
- SEE IFA Network
- STAR-NET

Problems that were addressed

While the lack of communication between the research community and SMEs is the most notable challenge to be overcome by the Transport sector in the Balkans, there are a great number of other equally challenging conditions and needs that the sector has faced in the recent year. They are described in the following points (Pi):

P1: Despite difficulties and rapid political change in the region, skilled individuals and high potential organisations do exist in the WBCs. This is not clearly reflected in their **participation in EU-FPs**, which can be improved;
P2: A growing shortage of qualified human resources which is most acute in higher education graduates in transport engineering. There is a **need for sustainable capacity building and know-how transfer in all aspects of FP7**, from the polices and content to the practicalities in WBCs;
P3: The lack of financial resources is a major obstacle to more transport innovation, **need for new ideas and for RTD proposals in Transport**. Access to innovation finance especially for universities and research centres must be significantly improved;
P4: A clear **need exists for a strategy and capacity development effort at European level.**
P5: Faster and more effective translation of scientific results/knowledge resources into innovative commercial products. There is a **need to raise awareness in Europe of skilled potential partners from WBCs** (e.g. the industry), to be involved in EU-FPs and relevant Technology platforms in the Transport sector.

It therefore has to be ensured that the high-caliber knowledge worker and well-qualified young professional would find in transport attractive working conditions and competitive remuneration packages they expect. Universities and other providers of higher education and advanced technological know-how need to prepare their graduates with the right combination of scientific-technological excellence and industrial application capabilities.

A key component of the required implementation of these objectives was funding the initiatives. Various national and EU initiatives for educational development exist and the key schemes available to resource, amongst other objectives, the development of flexible learning material have been investigated. In order to attract graduates of high caliber into research in transport, incentives such as trainings in FP7 participation are required and TransBonus explored ways for these to be resourced.

Project objectives

The overall objective of the project was to improve and promote closer Scientific and Technological (S&T) cooperation opportunities between Europe ('old' MSs – Greece, The Netherlands, Malta and EU's convergence region – Bulgaria) and the Western Balkan Countries (WBCs: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia). It further sought to establish an EU Balkan Transport network of researchers, universities and experts among these countries in order to improve and enlarge the research capacity of Western Balkan centres of **competence in terms of research programmes and human resources** through trans-national placements of research staff and knowledge, described in the following objectives (Oi):

O1: Identifying the existing capacities and specific researcher needs in the Western Balkan countries in terms of RTD (incl. FP7) funding opportunities;
O2: Training and support in FP7 knowledge and best practices for academic personnel, Ph.D. students and post-doctoral researchers. Enhance the readiness of Balkan transport research community to prepare cooperative activities and joint RTD proposals in European RTD programmes (FP7);
O3: Setting up a matching tool - "*Project Lab*", supporting the creation and preparation of efficient and innovative project proposals. Stimulate partnering schemes and facilitate knowledge transfer at National and European level;
O4: Implementing expert study visits between the WBC partners and EU partners in order to expand the scientific relationships and networking between the two regions;
O5: Stimulate partnering schemes and national collaboration between researchers and industry in transport sector in the Balkan region.

These goals demanded a coordinated approach among all research and transport stakeholders, which has been achieved via the new technology platforms for each transport mode. ERRAC – the European Rail Research Advisory Council – has guided EU and national rail research planning since December 2002. ERTRAC, the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council, delivered its strategic agenda in January 2005, while the WATERBORNE technology platform was inaugurated in October 2004. The White Paper on Transport "European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to decide" and its Mid-term review set out clearly those objectives to be addressed at a pan-European level. Research priorities outlined in this wok programme are based on these transport policy objectives as well as on support to industry competitiveness.

Description of the main project results

During the first project year (01/01/2009 – 31/12/2009) ARC Fund designed a **methodology for mapping the research potential of the WBC in the surface transport domain**, which was implemented in the participating Western Balkan Countries (WBCs), plus Bulgaria. All target beneficiary groups (universities, researchers, research companies, research NGOs, government bodies in the surface transport domain) were approached in order to record their research profiles and technology expertise as a basis for the following activities under the project. A total of 191 collaboration profiles and 91 profiles of exploitable research results and technologies have been collected during the mapping.

Parallel to that, the consortium partners from Bulgaria, Greece and Malta mapped (additional to FP7) funding opportunities (available locally or on a bi-lateral basis) for international research projects with WBC partners, in order to better understand the environment in which researchers in the WBCs operate.

In **methodological terms** the EU partners from Greece and the Netherlands developed a guide on FP7 for transport researchers in English, which was then translated in the national languages of the participating WBCs

and Bulgaria, while the partner from Malta developed the concept of the "Ideas Generation Events" and elaborated the guide on how to organise such events.

In regard to **capacity building** activities for the WBC partners three-day training on FP7 plus practical coaching for the WBC partners was organised. The training was organised in Malta, and encompassed:

- Training on FP7 with a focus on transport;
- Training on consortium building and proposal development;
- Training on proposal budgeting;
- Training on negotiations and IPR issues;
- Training on how to organise "Idea Generation Events".

In addition to the training the following activities were carried out: participation in an information day in Thessaloniki, Greece, publishing a guide on FP7 for transport researchers, in English and in the national languages of the WBC partners and in Bulgarian, and study visits for forming research consortia.

The innovative feature of the project is the **internal call for pre-proposals**, which was first launched in August 2009 with the aim to gather new research ideas, evaluate them and assist the proposers to submit projects to the Transport theme of FP7 (Cooperation). 30 new research ideas were submitted in the first call in 2009 (against the target of 50 research ideas as per the Work Program).

The **promotional activities** during the first project year encompassed articles on the project, the project public web-site, and information on the project on the partners' institutional web-sites, publication of articles and presentation at various events. A promotional leaflet was published, available in English and the national languages of the partners.

During the second project year (01/01/2010 – 31/12/2010) a second round of **Ideas Generation Events (IGEs)** were organised in the participating WBCs and Bulgaria in March and April 2010. The purpose of these IGEs was to stimulate and collect innovative RTD ideas in the field of surface transport, to strengthen the research capacity of transport experts in the Western Balkans area through training on FP7 and to create favourable conditions for networking among the participants.

After the IGEs, ARC Fund prepared the second **internal call for proposals**, which was launched in the spring of 2010. By the end of May, a total of 33 pre-proposals have been submitted by different organisations in the participating WBCs and Bulgaria. (The 3 research ideas from Bulgaria were not evaluated, since by the time they were already meant to be submitted as full proposals to FP7 call in transport). They have been evaluated according to the FP7 criteria. After evaluating the pre-proposals, in order to maximise the opportunities provided by the TransBonus project itself, the project partners decided to organise a **workshop for project proposals development** in order to make the TransBonus project more beneficial for its target group. This activity was an additional one, not originally planned in the work programme. The workshop was organised in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period 07 – 09 July 2010. The four pre-proposals which received the highest scores during the evaluation were developed further during the workshop with the idea that they would mature in full FP7 applications.

In addition to the internal open call and the workshop for project proposals development, several **study visits,** during which transport researchers from WBCs visited the more experienced EU partner countries and created new contacts, have been organised in 2010 as well. The first one was in the Netherlands in September. Also, representatives of the Higher School of Transport (VTU) in Bulgaria visited the facilities of another project partner, the University of Skopje in FYR of Macedonia as well as the Aristotle University in Greece in October 2010. The last expert study visit was in Bulgaria in December 2010. It was organised along with the final event of the project.

Furthermore, **national research promotional meetings** have been organised in Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia. The goal of these meetings was to present specific research ideas

to the local industry in order to strengthen the connection between research and industry at national level, as well as to encourage local funding of joint industry-research actions.

Another activity that has been executed during the second reported period has been the preparation of **PR research profiles** of organisations, operating in the field of transport, from the participating WBCs plus Bulgaria. The initially planned number of PR profiles was 25, but one additional profile has been made and as a result 26 profiles have been prepared and uploaded on the project web-site. The PR profiles have also been disseminated through the EEN and ETNA networks.

In 2010, the **dissemination and awareness-raising activities** included the publication of articles in newspapers in the partner countries, presentation of TransBonus during events like the info day of the ETNA network in August in Bulgaria and the First Innovation Dialogue Forum (1st IDF), organised in November 2010 as an activity of the WBC-INCO.NET project in Montenegro, update of the project web-site, information regarding TransBonus on the partners' web-sites, as well as dissemination of the project leaflet during different events.

The table below provides an overview of the way the identified problems in the area of surface transport have been addressed by the project: first of all the problems have been formulated in a constructive manner, then potential solutions have been identified along with the actions, needed to reach these solutions.

Problems	Solutions (Objectives)	Actions
P1: Difficulties in participation in EU Framework programmes.	**O1:** Identifying the existing capacities and specific researcher needs in the Western Balkan countries in terms of FP7 funding opportunities.	**A1:** Roadmap to excellence in Transport – mapping of transport research organisations, intermediaries and experts (research profiles) in the Surface transport. **A2:** Identifying the specific researcher needs in transport in order to meet and upgrade the FP7 trainings/ Ideas generation events.
P2: Need for sustainable capacity building and knowhow transfer in all aspects of FP7.	**O2:** Training and support in FP7 knowledge and best practices for academic personal, Ph.D. students, post-doctoral researchers and students. Enhance the readiness of Balkan transport research community to prepare cooperative activities and joint RTD proposals in European RTD programmes (FP7).	**A3:** Three-days training of WBC partners - FP7 practical coaching: Basic information on FP7 programmes (with specific focus of such focused on surface transport research and development) and proposal development and management; Training and support on methodology for "Ideas generation events". **A4:** Production of an FP7 handbook "The Guide for Transport Researchers" – to provide practical assistance, a step-by-step guide on project proposal development, consortium-building, and offers solutions for many potential problems/analyzes criticalities and success stories of research participation in FP6.
P3: Need for new ideas for a Transport RTD proposals	**O3:** Setting up a matching tool - "*Project Lab*", supporting the creation and preparation of efficient and innovative project proposals. Stimulate	**A5:** Preparation of the Open Calls for Proposal (in the form of pre-proposals) and evaluation criteria – to support the objectives of the current technology

	partnering schemes and facilitated knowledge transfer at National and European level.	platforms related to the transport actors. **A6:** 10 National Ideas generation events – national trainings in each WBC, provide from local partners in FP7 knowledge and facilitating generation of new project ideas in transport sector.
P4: A clear need exists for a strategy and S&T capacity development effort at European level.	**O4:** Implementing expert study visits between the WBC partners and EU partners in order to expand the scientific relationships and networking between the two regions	**A7:** Expert study visits between the WBC partners, Bulgaria and winners from the Open call, and the more experienced consortium partners from the EU Member States (The Netherlands, Greece and Bulgaria). The partners made strategic meetings with Research institutes and EU organisations in order to expand the WBC partners' networking during their study visits.
P5: Need to raise awareness in National and European level of skilled potential partners from WBC	**O5:** Stimulate partnering schemes and national collaboration between researchers and industry in surface transport sector in the Balkan region.	**A8:** 5 National research promotional meetings with local stakeholders, policy makers and SMEs in the Balkans will be realised in order to improve investments in Transport research. **A9:** Publishing of 25 PR research profiles. **A10:** Networking and communication with other transport EU funded projects.

All of the above listed project objectives have been fully achieved within the life-time of the project. The TransBonus project achieved the following results:

- Methodology for mapping of potential FP7 participants, transport researchers and the existing funding opportunities for international cooperation in the Balkan region.
- "Roadmap to excellence in transport" - report
- FP7 handbook "The Guide for Transport Researchers."
- 23[2] expert study visits for exchange of experience and know-how;
- Organisation of 11 "Idea Generation Events."
- Generation of 63 new project proposals ideas.
- Organisation of 2 internal open calls for proposals.
- 5 events in the Balkan countries linking transport researchers and industry;
- Publishing of 26 PR research profiles.
- Preparation of a methodology for a workshop for project proposals development.
- Organisation of a workshop for project proposals development.

[2] The study visits have been counted per visit per partner organisation. Detailed information regarding the expert study visits can be found in the consolidated expert study visits report.

- 7 projects submitted by the consortium partners under the 2009 and 2010 FP7 Transport calls for proposals.
- More than 200 transport researchers from Bulgaria and the WBCs informed and stimulated towards FP7.

The TransBonus project not only covered its planned objectives, but succeeded in over-performing in comparison to the indicators, presented in the work programme, and even executed some additional to the original work programme activities. To start with, 10 "Idea Generation Events" had to be organised in accordance to the planned activities, but eventually their number increased to 11, because VTU made one additional event. VTU was also the reason for the increased number of the PR profiles which have been produced – in stead of making 5 profiles like all other West Balkan partners Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, VTU made 6 and as a result of that, the total number of the profiles became 26, not 25 as planned.

Furthermore, it is worth pointing out that as a result of all activities of TransBonus, 7 projects were submitted under the FP7 Transport calls in 2009 and 2010 by the TransBonus consortium partners, which has not been targeted in the work programme of the project, but is a very positive outcome, proving the good concept and excellent implementation of Transbonus, which produced more results than planned within the same project budget.

Innovative methodological elements
TransBonus achieved excellent results, but what needs to be pointed out is its interesting methodology due to which these results have been attained. The two most interesting elements of the methodology that have to be highlighted were the launch of an **internal open call for pre-proposals** as well as the organisation of a **workshop for project proposals development.**

The internal Open Calls for Pre-proposals resembled the real FP7 calls, but on a smaller and simplified scale (mini call). These internal calls have been launched twice during the project duration – in August 2009 and in May 2010, but it should be noted that the second call has not been envisaged in the original work programme i.e. it was another additional project activity.

The coordinator ARC Fund developed the documents for the internal TransBonus calls for pre-proposals – Guidelines, Application form and Guide for evaluators. The documents were published on the website of the project, which is also known as the "Project Lab," where transport researchers could find information about crucial transport events and partnering schemes. The first Open Call for Pre-proposals opened on August 7, 2009 and closed on October 15, 2009. The second Open Call for Pre-proposals opened on May 1, 2010 and closed on May 31, 2010. The selected time periods of both calls were designed to match the EC calls for proposals, in particular the FP7 calls under Transport (Cooperation) and Capacities.

30 pre-proposals have been submitted during the first round and 33 pre-proposals have been submitted under the second internal call. The total number is 63, which is 13 more than the initially planned 50. Participants in the internal open call expressed the opinion that this activity was a good exercise for them and it was further reinforced by the workshop for project proposals development, organised in Sarajevo in the period 7-9 July 2010. This activity is an additional one, not initially planned in the work programme of the project, but it was executed in order to make TransBonus more beneficial to its target group. The TransBonus partners have decided that in addition to the internal open calls, during which applicants had presented their proposal ideas, TransBonus should go one step further and organise a workshop, during which the rules of FP7 would be presented in more details and applicants would have the opportunity to develop their pre-proposal ideas into real FP7 project proposals. Hence, the aim of the workshop in Sarajevo was to bring together potential applicants, assist them in developing their ideas further, and in structuring the best pre-project proposals from

the internal call into project proposals that would be submitted under the calls of FP7. The Coordinator ARC Fund prepared a methodological document, which presented the purpose of the event, the expectations of participants prior to their arrival as well as the format and the programme of the workshop.

The workshop focused on further developing 4 of the selected pre-proposals from the second internal call of TransBonus into quality project proposals that would be submitted under the transport call of FP7, which would open in July 2010. The concrete objectives of the workshop were:

- Introduction to FP 7 in general and the Transport Programme in more details
- Acquisition of knowledge and skills in order to develop successful project proposals under the transport calls of FP7
- Consultations to participants by four facilitators from the experienced in project development and implementation partner organisations of TransBonus
- Networking among the participants in the workshop in order to exchange contacts, experience and know-how and form consortia for project submission under FP7

46 researchers and experts from different countries took part in the workshop for project proposals development in Sarajevo. The main goal of this workshop was attained by bringing researchers and experts from WBC on one table in order to work on common proposal ideas. Up to this event, the researchers and experts had worked only on the ideas generation and preparing pre-proposals. During the workshop they were able to participate in the development of project proposals, following all FP7 rules. Facilitators with long experience in working with the framework programmes guided them. Having in mind the main problems related to the drafting of a good proposal, this event helped participants in the following:

- To establish connections and continue collaborations;
- To exchange opinions and ideas directly through discussions;
- To get acquainted with the FP7 rules in details;
- To acquire hands on experience in developing project proposals;
- To create consortia;

All attendees said they were very satisfied with the opportunity to come to the workshop, because it gave them insight into how to write successful project proposals not only on theory, but practically as well. The TransBonus workshop for project proposals development was evaluated by all participants as the most useful workshop organised under the TransBonus project activities.

Potential impact, dissemination activities and exploitation of results

Impact

In July 2010 in Sarajevo, parallel to the workshop on project proposals development, four academic institutions from South East Europe formally signed an ***Agreement on Cluster for Science and Research in Transport***. The main objective of the cluster is to enhance the research collaboration and develop joint research projects for improving the transport system in the SEE area. It is envisaged that the cluster will expand including other members: universities and research institutes, SMEs, public administrations and NGOs from SEE and other European countries. The founding members of the cluster are:

- Todor Kableshkov Higher School of Transport (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- Faculty of Traffic and Communications with the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Faculty of Civil Engineering with the University of Maribor (Slovenia)
- Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences with the University of Zagreb (Croatia)

The formation of the cluster was inspired by the TransBonus project and this fact proves the tangible impact of the project. There are also other impact factors, related to the implementation of TransBonus as follows:

1. Stimulating international cooperation
2. Realising ERA objectives
3. Contributing to the EU agenda for the Western Balkan Countries (WBC)
4. Contribution to the societal needs of the Western Balkan Countries

Stimulation of international cooperation and networking

One of the targets of the project was the networking and training of transport research community and other stakeholders in the WBC for Sustainable Surface Transport of FP7. This falls clearly under one of the priorities of the Cooperation work programme, more specifically under the "stimulating international cooperation" for CSA. The consortium included 4 partners covering WBC, 2 partners from convergence region in a Member State – Bulgaria and 3 partners from EU-15 MS. In additional to that, the project included a mapping exercise in the WBC in order to record the existing research capacity in the Surface transport sector and identify any locally available funding opportunities that can help international cooperation projects, respectively. This, followed by a strong interaction with the local research communities through training, awareness-raising and networking activities contributed towards the promotion of the EU-Western Balkan bi-regional dialogue on issues in the area of Surface Transport.

More than 200 transport researchers have been stimulated towards FP7 throughout the project.

Realising ERA objectives

It has been reported that between 2002 and 2005 there have been about 120 participations of organisations from the WBC in 51 FP6 projects. While the figure is encouraging it is important to stress that it includes projects under all Priorities (and specific horizontal issue projects) and, therefore, can be improved. The Commission plans towards a stronger participation of WBC partners in FP7 and the TransBonus project acted on that front, too: One of the results of the project was **increased participation** of partners from the WBC in FP7 projects, achieved via 'Ideas generation events,' internal open calls for pre-proposals and the workshop for project proposals development – at the WBC level – and promotion of WBC organisations at a European level. As a result of these activities, a total of 7 projects have been submitted under the 2009 and 2010 FP7 calls in the area of transport.

Increased participation of WBC partners in FP projects would help the EU and the WBC to have mutual access to complementary research skills, or cooperate on application of research results to the industry of the region, which in turn would elevate **the quality and impact of the research funded at European level**. Thus, the project also contributed to some extent to the realisation of the ERA objectives.

Contributing to the EU Agenda for the WBC

The TransBonus project contributed to the support of the S&T cooperation side of the Stabilisation and Association Process, which is the cornerstone of the EU policy for the WBC region. The first formal consultation with representatives from the Ministries of Science and Technology of all WBC took place in October 2001. Then, improvement of Infrastructures, improvement of Human Potential, institution building and implementation of joint RTD activities were amongst the key goals where cooperation should focus on. Following meetings, including the meeting in Thessaloniki in June 2003, have affirmed those priorities and stressed that cooperative research could contribute to the economic development and integration of the region. Development and improvement of research potential and implementation of joint RTD activities in Member States and Candidate Countries, i.e. exactly what this proposal achieved, had been identified as a powerful support tool for the local research communities in the WBC. The partners of the TransBonus project were willing to endorse relevant

future strategic/ political developments in the region (e.g., in the fields of research, innovation or education), where appropriate and in accordance with the general objectives described herein.

Contribution to the societal needs of the Western Balkan Countries

The Surface transport sector plays a major role in Western Balkan economies, both in terms of GDP share and employment. Research on these sectors could, in the long term, lead to stability, prosperity and a higher pace of integration. The project directly contributed to that by stimulating participation of local research and industrial actors in the European research programme in the Transport sector.

Awareness-raising and dissemination activities

During the implementation of TransBonus the Coordinator and the project partners cooperated with the following Framework program projects:

- **STAR-NET** (FP7 project) – The STAR-NET project was financed from the European Commission in the same call as TransBonus project, but the target group are transport SMEs. ARC Fund is also partner in this project and both projects collaborated at the training workshop on 24 June 2009 in Sofia with presentation of the TransBonus project activities, as well as for the final workshop held in December 2010 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- **WBC-INCO.NET** (FP7 project) – The coordinator of TransBonus project established a connection for collaboration with WBC-INCO.NET project in order to publish an article for TransBonus project activities in the newsletter of WBC-INCO.NET project. Also the coordinator of TransBonus project adviced the project partners to include their Collaboration Profiles in the WBC-INCO.NET database in order to find project partners in the Western Balkan region.
- **ETNA** (European Transport NCP Alliance, FP7 project) - SenterNovem and Help-Forward participate in this project. The TransBonus project was promoted through ETNA in order to build partnerships with WBC partners for new FP7 proposals in the surface transport area.
- **SEE IFA Network** (South-East European Co-operation of Innovation & Finance Agencies) – The FYROM partner collaborated with the team of the SEE IFA Network in order to raise awareness and disseminate the TransBonus results during the activities of the SEE IFA Network.

TransBonus was presented during the info day of the ETNA network, organised in August 2010 in Sofia. The project was also presented during the First Innovation Dialogue Forum (1st IDF), organised on 8 - 9 November 2010 in Becici, Montenegro as an activity of the WBC-INCO.NET project.

Other awareness-raising and dissemination activities:

ARC Fund (Coordinator) - Bulgaria

In order to disseminate information for the TransBonus activities ARC Fund published information in English and Bulgarian on the institutional website www.arcfund.net. The project was presented also at the training for transport SMEs in Sofia on 24 June 2009. ARC Fund also disseminated the TransBonus leaflet at the info day of ETNA network as well as the 1st IDF in Montenegro.

VTU – Bulgaria

VTU regularly published information on the progress and activities of TransBonus in the news section of its website www.vtu.bg. In 2009, a short presentation of the project was made and was uploaded on the website of the VTU (www.vtu.bg) both in Bulgarian and English; it was linked to the TransBonus website (www.transbonus.net) as well. In addition to that it published articles about the project in issues 52, 53 and 54 of the academic newspaper ***Expresso:***

- http://www.vtu.bg/bg/ekspresoo/2010/br52_web.pdf (issue 52)

- http://www.vtu.bg/bg/ekspresoo/2010/Broi_53_sait-1.pdf (issue 53)
- http://www.vtu.bg/bg/ekspresoo/2010/Broi_54_sait_1.pdf (issue 54)

VTU provided information regarding the project for one article on transport science published in the *Railway Transport* magazine, issue 6/2009 and for two articles in issues 43/2010 and 44/2010 of the specialised in the area of transport and logistics newspaper Railwayman:

- An article about the end of the project, called *TransBonus finishes more than successfully:* http://www.iaja.government.bg/IAJI/wwwFWRAEA.nsf/f8c6e36331ccea9d0025728b005cd1fd/7c8c39e7356603d2c2257777002d4d23/$FILE/43inter_10.pdf (issue 43)
- An article about the expert study visit in Vagonoremonten zavod – 99 AD in Septemvri, called *VRZ – 99 combines traditions with quality:* http://www.iaja.government.bg/IAJI/wwwFWRAEA.nsf/f8c6e36331ccea9d0025728b005cd1fd/7c8c39e7356603d2c2257777002d4d23/$FILE/44_10.pdf (issue 44)

VTU disseminated the *Applied research for transport* leaflet, which contains the logo of the TransBonus project, the flag of the EU and the logo of FP7 at all events its representatives participate in (seminars, conferences, meetings etc.).

Polytechnic University of Tirana-Albania

The project website in Albanian was developed in September 2009 (www.transbonusalbania.com). The website has been updated every month. A TransBonus leaflet with a concise summary of the objectives of the project, partners and key activities was produced in October 2009 and was distributed to 30 Albanian institutions. In November 2009, a TransBonus report was prepared and sent to the Research Directorate of the Ministry of Science and Education. Furthermore, the achievements of TransBonus were presented during the FP7 info day in Albania on 24th September 2010. An article, entitled "The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering participates in FP7 research project" was published in November 2010 in the Albanian daily newspaper "The Telegraph." The article presented the objectives and achievements of TransBonus.

AMC, Bosnia and Herzegovina

AMC created a special section on its website (http://www.automotivecenter.ba/index4.html) where all TransBonus information has been presented and updated regularly. Currently, it is only in Bosnian, but plans to translate it into English have been made as well. Also, a bilingual English-Bosnian project leaflet has been prepared and it has been distributed to ministries, research and educational institutions, industry and SMEs. The electronic version of the leaflet has been uploaded on AMC's web site (www.automotivecenter.ba).

University of Kragujevac, Mechanical Engineering Faculty – Kraljevo, Serbia

In order to disseminate information for TransBonus project MFK presented the project objectives at the university website in English and Serbian (www.mfkv.kg.ac.rs/transbonus). The project was also promoted during two meetings at the Serbian Ministry of Science and Technology Development and at the conference "International Convention of Quality – YUQS – 2009" which was held in Belgrade from 1st to 4th June 2009. Moreover, the TransBonus leaflet has been disseminated to the participants in the 2nd IGE in Serbia on April 15, 2010 as well as to the people who participated in the national research promotional meeting in December 2010 in Kraljevo. The objectives, activities and achievements of the project have been presented during these events, too. Furthermore, TransBonus has been promoted during the first conference about quality in university education, called "Strengthening the Quality Assurance System within Western Balkans HEIs in support of National and Regional Planning" and during the FP7 Info day, held on November 17th 2010 at the University of Kragujevac.

Ss Cyril and Methodius University, FYR of Macedonia

The University regularly used its institutional website www.mf.edu.mk in order to inform researchers about the activities of the project. The project was promoted at the Ministry of Science of FYR of Macedonia and at the FP7 National Contact Points for the Republic of Macedonia as well. Also, the project leaflet, which had been translated into Macedonian, has been distributed to various transport target groups during conferences, workshops and general project events. Furthermore, the TransBonus project has been presented during various events like the "Commercialisation of research and development," held on 12th of May 2010 in Skopje, the annual Open Day of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering on 14 May 2010 in Skopje as well as Train-the-Trainer seminar in June 2010 which was an activity of the project: South-East European Co-operation of Innovation & Finance Agencies (SEE IFA Network - www.see-ifa.eu).

Integrated Resources management Company Ltd., Malta
IRMCo used its web-site as a source of dissemination of information about TransBonus. The News section of the web-site www.environmentalmalta.com has been regularly updated with sign-postings to the TransBonus project website.

Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Greece
The Transbonus website and events were promoted by personal emails to the PRAXI Help-Forward contact list of transport - related researchers and companies. Information regarding the project has been also included in the electronic newsletter and web-site of the project partner organization in Greece.

NL Agency (SenterNovem Eg – Liaison), The Netherlands
NL Agency disseminated the achievements of the TransBonus project by providing articles to the newsletter of the network of National Contact Points (ETNA).

Exploitation of results
All partners involved in this project have complementing competences in fields directly relevant to training, information dissemination and stimulation of the participation of researchers and industrial partners in FP projects. All partners brought their respective expertise, worked together as a team in the consortium and effectively applied the "knowledge" produced to local target audiences across the WBC. They all used various means to disseminate the results of the project. One of the most effective ways was to present the project results during different events, related to the surface transport field like conferences, seminars, round tables etc.

The result of the work carried out is available at the TransBonus website. All publicly available materials have been uploaded: the FP7 handbooks, the map document "Roadmap to excellence," the PR profiles, the collaboration profiles from each WBC, since the actual objective of this joint effort was to assist WBCs' researchers in FP7 participation.

Conclusion

The TransBonus methodology proved to be successful, although improvements to it will make it more beneficial to potential project applicants. Not only all objectives were covered, but additional activities that have not been part of the work programme have been executed within the framework of the same budget.

The most important goal of TransBonus - to establish an EU-Balkan Transport network of researchers and universities among these countries in order to improve and enlarge the research capacity of Western Balkan centres of competence in transport in terms of upgrading their research programs, and scientific and technical human resources – was covered. The cooperation between Europe and the Western Balkan Countries in the area of surface transport was improved and a strong network among more than 200 researchers was created. There is still a lot of work ahead in this regard, but it is important to note that the first steps have already been made and a strong ground for further development was built. However, the methodology of the project has room for improvements. During the last consortium meeting in December 2010 the partners discussed the following points of the TransBonus methodology which can be strengthened in the future:

- More workshops with diversified participation on proposal development with hands-on support by moderators;
- More national workshops for capacity building on FP7, not only information days;
- More researchers from different fields of surface transport should be encompassed in future projects like TransBonus.
- Since surface transport touches on our everyday life, more diversified expertise from various scientific domains should be brought in the project proposals – like for instance energy, socio-economic aspects, etc.
- European manufacturers should be better informed about this type of projects;
- WBC researchers need hands-on support for setting up real consortia and for getting involved as consortium members. Further support will be needed during the negotiation and implementation stages of the projects.
- More active involvement of the transport NCPs in WBC.

Some of the methods have been improved during the implementation of the project and others still need to be polished, but overall the approach used was a successful one and for that reason the TransBonus methodology has been applied in another project that was submitted under the FP7 Transport call for proposals that closed on December 2, 2010. The title of the project is *Air Transport small and medium-sized enterprises network for collaboration, training and enhancement of the participation of SMEs in FP activities (AirTrans),* submitted under the following call: Transport (Including Aeronautics) AAT.2011.7-11 – Stimulating the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and other small organisations for improved integration of the European Research area.

Transbonus website: www.transbonus.net

TransBonus logo:

List of beneficiaries:

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LIST OF DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES FORESEEN IN 2011-2012 *								
No.	Type of activities[3]	Main leader/participating TransBonus partner	Title	Date	Place	Type of audience[4]	Size of audience	Countries addressed
1	TransBonus website maintenance	ARC Fund	www.transbonus.net	2011-2012	Sofia, Bulgaria	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	N/A	Any country
2	Conference	VTU	20th International scientific conference TRANSPORT 2011	4-5 November 2011	Sofia, Bulgaria	Scientific community, policy- makers, industry	200	Any country
3	Symposium	VTU	5th International Scientific Symposium of Transport Faculties – "Collaboration Creates Opportunities"	14-15 April 2011	Zilina, Slovakia	Scientific community, policy-makers	100	Any country
4	Conference	VTU	19th International Scientific and Technical Conference on Transport, Road-Building, Agricultural, Hoisting & Hauling and Military Technics and Technologies: Trans & MOTAUTO'11		Sofia, Bulgaria	Scientific community, policy- makers, industry	200	Any country
5	Conference	VTU	IXth International Conference 'Challenges in Higher Education and Research in the 21st Century' (CHER21'11)	5-8 June 2011	Sozopol, Bulgaria	Scientific community, policy- makers, industry	150	Any country
6	Conference	VTU, ARC Fund	IX International Scientific Conference "Management and Engineering'11" (ISCME'11)	19-22 June 2011	Sozopol, Bulgaria	Scientific community, policy- makers, industry	150	Any country
7	Conference	VTU	Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2012	22-26 April 2012	Athens, Greece	Scientific community, policy- makers, industry	150	Any country

[3] A drop down list allows choosing the dissemination activity: publications, conferences, workshops, web, press releases, flyers, articles published in the popular press, videos, media briefings, presentations, exhibitions, thesis, interviews, films, TV clips, posters, Other.

[4] A drop down list allows choosing the type of public: Scientific Community (higher education, Research), Industry, Civil Society, Policy makers, Medias ('multiple choices' is possible).

8	Information day	Albanian Agency of Research Technology and Information/PUT	FP7 information day	23 February 2011	Tirana, Albania	Researches, policy-makers, universities	N/A	Albania
9	Brokerage and networking event	PUT	SEETRANS 2011: Research Opportunities for South East Europe in the EU	12-13 April 2011	Ljubljana, Slovenia	National research community	N/A	West Balkan Countries, South East European countries, EU member states
10	Transbonusalbania website maintenance	PUT	http://www.fim.edu.al/transbonus/index.html	2011-2012	Tirana, Albania	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	N/A	Albania
11	Conference	MFK	International Conference „Heavy Machinery 2011“	29 June – 1 July 2011	Kraljevo, Serbia	Researchers from the field of mechanical engineering, industry, media	200	Any country
12	Workshop	MFK	Workshop “Dynamics of railway vehicle”	12-14 April 2011	Kraljevo, Serbia	Researchers from the field of mechanical engineering, industry, media	70	Serbia, Italy, Sweden, Bulgaria
13	Anniversary	MFK	Anniversary of MFK	December 2011	Kraljevo, Serbia	Researchers from the field of mechanical engineering, industry, media	350	Serbia, Italy, Sweden, Bulgaria
14	Transbonus website maintenance	MFK	www.mfkv.kg.ac.rs/transbonus	2011	Kraljevo, Serbia	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	N/A	Any country
15	Website	Help-Forward	Publication of Transbonus results on website	2011	Athens, Greece	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	1300	Any country
16	Newsletter	Help-Forward	Publication of Transbonus results in newsletter	2011	Athens, Greece	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	850	Greece
17	Information day	Help-Forward	Presentation of Transbonus results during NCP Info Days	2011	Athens, Greece	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	500	Greece
18	Conference	Help-Forward	Participation in a two-day event on Road Safety organised by EKETA/IMET & FERSI	21-22 February 2011	Athens, Greece	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	N/A	Greece
19	Brokerage and networking event	ETNA/Help-Forward	SEETRANS 2011: Research Opportunities for South East	12-13 April 2011	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	N/A	Slovenia , EU 12

			Europe in the EU					
20	IRMCo website maintenance	IRMCo	Signposting to TransBonus website	2011-2012	Malta	Publicly accessible	N/A	Any country
21	Meeting	IRMCo	E-IM Project meeting - presentation of IGE methodology and results	4 April 2011	Bugibba, Malta	Innovation management specialists	15	Latvia, Lithuania, Finland & UK
22	Conference	IRMCo	Transport Malta conference - presentation of IGE methodology and results	September 2011	Malta	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	30-40	Malta
23	Website	UoS	Faculty of Mechanical Engeneering website	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	> 200	Any country
24	Conference	Faculty of Mechanical Engieering-Belgrade, Serbia	International Automotive Conference "SCIENCE AND MOTOR VEHICLES"	April 2011	Belgrade, Serbia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>100	Any country
25	Conference	Ministry of Education and Science of FYROM	FP7 Info Day	September 2011	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Scientific community (higher education, research), PhD students	>100	Any country
26	Congress	Faculty of Mechanical Engieering-Kragujevac, Serbia	International Congress Motor Vehicles and Motors 2012	October 2012	Kragujevac, Serbia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>150	Any country
27	Training	Ministry of Education and Science of FYROM	National Agency for European educational programmes and mobility	March 2011 April 2011 September 2011	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Academic staff, students, PhD students, researchers	>50	Any country
28	Congress	European Automobile Engineers Cooperation/UoS	European Automotive Congress 2011	June 2011	Valencia, Spain	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>200	Any country
29	Info leaflet	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering-Skopje	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering-Skopje monthly info leaflet	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	100	Macedonia

30	Scientific journal	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering-Skopje	Mechanical Engineering-Scientific Journal	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	200	Western Balkan Countries
31	Thematic conference	Economic Chamber of Macedonia/UoS	Transport Association in frames of Economic Chamber of Macedonia	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	45	Western Balkan Countries
32	Seminar	World University Service (WUS) Austria/UoS	TEPMUS creating R&D capacities and instruments for boosting higher education-economy co-operation	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Academic staff, students, PhD students, researchers, SME's	>85	Western Balkan Countries
33	Seminar	ETNA/UoS	SEE Trans-national Cooperation Programme – Project "South-East European Co-operation of Innovation and Finance Agencies"	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Academic staff, students, PhD students, researchers, SME's	>100	Western Balkan Countries
34	Seminars	Ministry of Economy of Macedonia and the Agency for Promotion of Entrepreneurship/ UoS	Capacity Building Towards Knowledge Based Economy", Project funded by Austrian Development Agency and implemented by Agency for promotion of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Macedonia (APPRM)	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Researchers, policy-makers, stakeholders	>100	Macedonia
35	Scientific and scholarly conference	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts/UoS	Department of Mathematical and Technical Sciences	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	Academic staff, students, PhD students, researchers	>100	Macedonia
36	TV programme	National TV station/UoS	Scientific and technical programme	2011-2012	Skopje, FYR of Macedonia	General public	>200	Macedonia
37	Website	AMC Sarajevo	Automotive center web site	2011-2012	Sarajevo	Researchers, policy-makers, general public	N/A	Any country
38	Conference	Faculty of Mechanical Engieering-	International Automotive Conference "SCIENCE AND MOTOR VEHICLES"	April 2011	Belgrade, Serbia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport	>100	Any country

		Belgrade, Serbia/AMC				authorities		
39	Brokerage and networking event		SEETRANS 2011: Research Opportunities for South East Europe in the EU	April 2011	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>200	Any country
40	Congress	Group of GAS users/AMC	Regional conference GAS 2011	April 2011	Dzerdap, Serbia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>100	Any country
41	Conference	Mechanical Engineering Faculty Banja Luka/AMC	Interenational Conference for mechanical and electical achivements DEMI 2011	May 2011	Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Scientific community (higher education, research) transport authorities	>50	Any country
42	Conference	GOMA/AMC	Interneational conference for fuels and lubrications GOMA 2011	October 2011	Sibenik, Croatia	Scientific Community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>150	Any country
43	Congress	Group of GAS users/AMC	Regional conference GAS 2012	April 2012	Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>100	Any country
44	Conference	GOMA/AMC	International conference for fuels and lubrications GOMA 2012	October 2012	Sibenik, Croatia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>150	Any country
45	Congress	Faculty of Mechanical Engieering-Kragujevac, Serbia/AMC	International Congress Motor Vehicles and Motors 2012	October 2012	Kragujevac, Serbia	Scientific community (higher education, research), transport authorities	>150	Any country
46	TV programme & newspapers	National TV station and newspapers/AMC	Scientific and technical programme	2011-2012	Bosnia and Herzegovina	General public	N/A	Bosnia and Herzegovina
47	Transport Conference	NL Agency (SenterNovem)	SEETRANS 2011	12-13 April 2011	Ljubljana Slovenia	Researchers and policy-makers	150 (estimate)	South-East Europe

*** Dissemination and exploitation of the TransBonus results**

The webpage of the project (www.transbonus.net) will be maintained by ARC Fund two years after the end of the project, i.e. until the end of 2012. The individual websites of TransBonus in the partners' countries and the partners' institutional websites, containing information about the project, will be operating in the next two years as well. The Bosnian partner is also planning to translate the TransBonus information on its website to English in order to have a bilingual version that will be accessible to a wider audience.

Furthermore, all partners are eager to continue raising awareness about the project during the conferences, seminars and other events they will attend in 2011. They are also committed to continue disseminating FP7 transport calls information towards their national target groups, using the database of organisations that has been gathered as a result of the mapping exercise, the Ideas generation events, the national research promotional meetings etc.

Moreover, the TransBonus methodology proved to be a successful one, since not only the objectives were covered, but the results of the project are more than the initially planned in the work programme. Some of the methods have been improved during the implementation of the project and others still need to be polished, but overall the approach used was a successful one and for that reason the TransBonus methodology has been applied in another project that was submitted under the FP7 Transport call for proposals that closed on December 2, 2010. The title of the project is *Air Transport small and medium-sized enterprises network for collaboration, training and enhancement of the participation of SMEs in FP activities (AirTrans),* submitted under the following call: Transport (Including Aeronautics) AAT.2011.7-11 – Stimulating the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and other small organisations for improved integration of the European Research area.

The overall objective of the AirTrans project is to create a network among European aeronautical supply chain SMEs from new member states and associate countries within the European Research Area (ERA), research organisations and other relevant support organisations in order to promote their participation in the FP7 programme. SMEs play a vital role in the innovation of products and services and because of that it is very important to strengthen their capabilities in order to enhance the competitiveness of the European aeronautical industry which is one of the objectives of Work Programme 2011 of FP7. However, SMEs within the aeronautical industry from new member states and associate countries of ERA have difficulties to access relevant information, which creates both deficit of integration to the ERA and at the same time prevents them from collaborating and exchanging know-how with other European SMEs and research institutions working in the sector. Hence, the goal of AirTrans project is to create a network for collaboration, training and enhancement of the participation of these SMEs in the FP7 programme. The aim of the project is to disseminate information about the Aeronautics and Air Transport calls, ongoing projects as well as to provide training to SMEs that have difficulties to access necessary information with the idea to "strengthen the capabilities of the European aeronautical supply chain and to enhance the competitiveness of the European aeronautical industry, recognising the important role of SMEs in the innovation of products and services."

The key objectives of the project are:

- To identify the current and future needs of SMEs which are part of the European aeronautical supply chain.

- To address the needs of SMEs by providing training and support in FP7 knowledge and best practices.
- To create a network among SMEs, research organizations within the European aeronautical industry and other relevant stakeholders.
- To stimulate collaboration among SMEs from new and old member states, associate countries of ERA, research organizations, universities and other relevant support organizations and stakeholders.
- To strengthen the ERA by assisting SMEs from new member states and associate countries unfold their full potential.

In case the AirTrans project is approved, the TransBonus methodology will be used again and will be further improved during the project implementation in order to become more successful and to achieve even greater results.

Report on societal implications

Replies to the following questions will assist the Commission to obtain statistics and indicators on societal and socio-economic issues addressed by projects. The questions are arranged in a number of key themes. As well as producing certain statistics, the replies will also help identify those projects that have shown a real engagement with wider societal issues, and thereby identify interesting approaches to these issues and best practices. The replies for individual projects will not be made public.

A General Information *(completed automatically when **Grant Agreement number** is entered.*

Grant Agreement Number:	**218699**
Title of Project:	**Transport EU-Western Balkan Network for Training, Support and Promotion of Cooperation in FP7 research activities**
Name and Title of Coordinator:	**Zoya Damianova, Programme director, ARC Fund**

B Ethics: N/A

1. Did your project undergo an Ethics Review (and/or Screening)? • If Yes: have you described the progress of compliance with the relevant Ethics Review/Screening Requirements in the frame of the periodic/final project reports? Special Reminder: the progress of compliance with the Ethics Review/Screening Requirements should be described in the Period/Final Project Reports under the Section 3.2.2 *'Work Progress and Achievements'*	***No***
2. Please indicate whether your project involved any of the following issues (tick box) :	***YES***
RESEARCH ON HUMANS	
• Did the project involve children?	
• Did the project involve patients?	
• Did the project involve persons not able to give consent?	
• Did the project involve adult healthy volunteers?	
• Did the project involve Human genetic material?	
• Did the project involve Human biological samples?	
• Did the project involve Human data collection?	
RESEARCH ON HUMAN EMBRYO/FOETUS	
• Did the project involve Human Embryos?	
• Did the project involve Human Foetal Tissue / Cells?	
• Did the project involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	
• Did the project on human Embryonic Stem Cells involve cells in culture?	
• Did the project on human Embryonic Stem Cells involve the derivation of cells from Embryos?	
PRIVACY	
• Did the project involve processing of genetic information or personal data (eg. health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction)?	
• Did the project involve tracking the location or observation of people?	
RESEARCH ON ANIMALS	
• Did the project involve research on animals?	
• Were those animals transgenic small laboratory animals?	
• Were those animals transgenic farm animals?	
• Were those animals cloned farm animals?	

• Were those animals non-human primates?	
RESEARCH INVOLVING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	
• Did the project involve the use of local resources (genetic, animal, plant etc)?	
• Was the project of benefit to local community (capacity building, access to healthcare, education etc)?	
DUAL USE	
• Research having direct military use	0 Yes 0 No
• Research having the potential for terrorist abuse	

C Workforce Statistics

3. Workforce statistics for the project: Please indicate in the table below the number of people who worked on the project (on a headcount basis).

Type of Position	Number of Women	Number of Men
Scientific Coordinator	3	4
Work package leaders	1	2
Experienced researchers (i.e. PhD holders)	8	22
PhD Students	2	3
Other	4	16

4. How many additional researchers (in companies and universities) were recruited specifically for this project?	**N/A**
Of which, indicate the number of men:	

D Gender Aspects

5.	**Did you carry out specific Gender Equality Actions under the project**?	○ X	Yes No

6. Which of the following actions did you carry out and how effective were they?

		Not at all effective				Very effective
❑	Design and implement an equal opportunity policy	○	○	○	○	○
❑	Set targets to achieve a gender balance in the workforce	○	○	○	○	○
❑	Organise conferences and workshops on gender	○	○	○	○	○
❑	Actions to improve work-life balance	○	○	○	○	○
○	Other:					

7. Was there a gender dimension associated with the research content – i.e. wherever people were the focus of the research as, for example, consumers, users, patients or in trials, was the issue of gender considered and addressed?

○ Yes- please specify

○ No

E Synergies with Science Education: N/A

8. Did your project involve working with students and/or school pupils (e.g. open days, participation in science festivals and events, prizes/competitions or joint projects)?

○ Yes- please specify

○ No

9. Did the project generate any science education material (e.g. kits, websites, explanatory booklets, DVDs)?

○ Yes- please specify

○ No

F Interdisciplinarity: N/A

10. Which disciplines (see list below) are involved in your project?

○ Main discipline[5]:

○ Associated discipline[5]: ○ Associated discipline[5]:

G Engaging with Civil society and policy makers

11a	**Did your project engage with societal actors beyond the research community?** *(if 'No', go to Question 14)*	○ X	Yes No

11b If yes, did you engage with citizens (citizens' panels / juries) or organised civil society (NGOs, patients' groups etc.)?

○ No

○ Yes- in determining what research should be performed

○ Yes - in implementing the research

○ Yes, in communicating /disseminating / using the results of the project

[5] Insert number from list below (Frascati Manual).

11c In doing so, did your project involve actors whose role is mainly to organise the dialogue with citizens and organised civil society (e.g. professional mediator; communication company, science museums)?	○ ○	Yes No

12. Did you engage with government / public bodies or policy makers (including international organisations)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes- in framing the research agenda
- ○ Yes - in implementing the research agenda
- ○ Yes, in communicating /disseminating / using the results of the project

13a Will the project generate outputs (expertise or scientific advice) which could be used by policy makers?

- ○ Yes – as a **primary** objective (please indicate areas below- multiple answers possible)
- ○ Yes – as a **secondary** objective (please indicate areas below - multiple answer possible)
- ○ No

13b If Yes, in which fields?

Agriculture		Energy		Human rights	
Audiovisual and Media		Enlargement		Information Society	
Budget		Enterprise		Institutional affairs	
Competition		Environment		Internal Market	
Consumers		External Relations		Justice, freedom and security	
Culture		External Trade		Public Health	
Customs		Fisheries and Maritime Affairs		Regional Policy	
Development Economic and Monetary Affairs		Food Safety		Research and Innovation	
		Foreign and Security Policy		Space	
Education, Training, Youth		Fraud		Taxation	
Employment and Social Affairs		Humanitarian aid		Transport	

13c If Yes, at which level?

- ○ Local / regional levels
- ○ National level
- ○ European level
- ○ International level

H Use and dissemination: N/A

14. How many Articles were published/accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals?	
To how many of these is open access[6] provided?	
How many of these are published in open access journals?	
How many of these are published in open repositories?	
To how many of these is open access not provided?	
Please check all applicable reasons for not providing open access:	
❑ publisher's licensing agreement would not permit publishing in a repository ❑ no suitable repository available ❑ no suitable open access journal available ❑ no funds available to publish in an open access journal ❑ lack of time and resources ❑ lack of information on open access ❑ other[7]: ……	

15. How many new patent applications ('priority filings') have been made? *("Technologically unique": multiple applications for the same invention in different jurisdictions should be counted as just one application of grant).*		
16. Indicate how many of the following Intellectual Property Rights were applied for (give number in each box).	Trademark	
	Registered design	
	Other	
17. How many spin-off companies were created / are planned as a direct result of the project?		
Indicate the approximate number of additional jobs in these companies:		

18. Please indicate whether your project has a potential impact on employment, in comparison with the situation before your project:

❑	Increase in employment, or	❑	In small & medium-sized enterprises
❑	Safeguard employment, or	❑	In large companies
❑	Decrease in employment,	❑	None of the above / not relevant to the project
❑	Difficult to estimate / not possible to quantify		

19. For your project partnership please estimate the employment effect resulting directly from your participation in Full Time Equivalent (*FTE = one person working fulltime for a year*) jobs:	*Indicate figure:*

[6] Open Access is defined as free of charge access for anyone via Internet.
[7] For instance: classification for security project.

Difficult to estimate / not possible to quantify	❑

I Media and Communication to the general public

20. As part of the project, were any of the beneficiaries professionals in communication or media relations?

○ Yes ○ No

21. As part of the project, have any beneficiaries received professional media / communication training / advice to improve communication with the general public?

○ Yes ○ No

22 Which of the following have been used to communicate information about your project to the general public, or have resulted from your project?

X	**Press Release**	X	**Coverage in specialist press**
❑	Media briefing	❑	Coverage in general (non-specialist) press
❑	TV coverage / report	❑	Coverage in national press
❑	Radio coverage / report	❑	Coverage in international press
X	**Brochures /posters / flyers**	X	**Website for the general public / internet**
❑	DVD /Film /Multimedia	X	**Event targeting general public (festival, conference, exhibition, science café)**

23 In which languages are the information products for the general public produced?

X	**Language of the coordinator**	X	**English**
X	**Other language(s): the languages of the participating Western Balkan countries**		

***Question F-10*:** Classification of Scientific Disciplines according to the Frascati Manual 2002 (Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys on Research and Experimental Development, OECD 2002):

FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. NATURAL SCIENCES
1.1 Mathematics and computer sciences [mathematics and other allied fields: computer sciences and other allied subjects (software development only; hardware development should be classified in the engineering fields)]
1.2 Physical sciences (astronomy and space sciences, physics and other allied subjects)
1.3 Chemical sciences (chemistry, other allied subjects)
1.4 Earth and related environmental sciences (geology, geophysics, mineralogy, physical geography and other geosciences, meteorology and other atmospheric sciences including climatic research, oceanography, vulcanology, palaeoecology, other allied sciences)
1.5 Biological sciences (biology, botany, bacteriology, microbiology, zoology, entomology, genetics, biochemistry, biophysics, other allied sciences, excluding clinical and veterinary sciences)

2 ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
2.1 Civil engineering (architecture engineering, building science and engineering, construction engineering, municipal and structural engineering and other allied subjects)
2.2 Electrical engineering, electronics [electrical engineering, electronics, communication engineering and systems, computer engineering (hardware only) and other allied subjects]
2.3. Other engineering sciences (such as chemical, aeronautical and space, mechanical, metallurgical and materials engineering, and their specialised subdivisions; forest products; applied sciences such as geodesy, industrial chemistry,

etc.; the science and technology of food production; specialised technologies of interdisciplinary fields, e.g. systems analysis, metallurgy, mining, textile technology and other applied subjects)

3. MEDICAL SCIENCES

3.1 Basic medicine (anatomy, cytology, physiology, genetics, pharmacy, pharmacology, toxicology, immunology and immunohaematology, clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology, pathology)

3.2 Clinical medicine (anaesthesiology, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine, surgery, dentistry, neurology, psychiatry, radiology, therapeutics, otorhinolaryngology, ophthalmology)

3.3 Health sciences (public health services, social medicine, hygiene, nursing, epidemiology)

4. AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and allied sciences (agronomy, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, other allied subjects)

4.2 Veterinary medicine

5. SOCIAL SCIENCES

5.1 Psychology

5.2 Economics

5.3 Educational sciences (education and training and other allied subjects)

5.4 Other social sciences [anthropology (social and cultural) and ethnology, demography, geography (human, economic and social), town and country planning, management, law, linguistics, political sciences, sociology, organisation and methods, miscellaneous social sciences and interdisciplinary , methodological and historical S1T activities relating to subjects in this group. Physical anthropology, physical geography and psychophysiology should normally be classified with the natural sciences].

6. HUMANITIES

6.1 History (history, prehistory and history, together with auxiliary historical disciplines such as archaeology, numismatics, palaeography, genealogy, etc.)

6.2 Languages and literature (ancient and modern)

6.3 Other humanities [philosophy (including the history of science and technology) arts, history of art, art criticism, painting, sculpture, musicology, dramatic art excluding artistic "research" of any kind, religion, theology, other fields and subjects pertaining to the humanities, methodological, historical and other S1T activities relating to the subjects in this group]