

## **General publishable summary**

"Air Transport Net (AirTN) - The European Research Area Network in Aeronautics"

The air transport industry is large, important and complex. It massively contributes to the prosperity of Europe, both in terms of a globally competitive manufacturing sector providing goods and services, and also in terms of promoting the effective transfer of people and goods within Europe and worldwide. The industry is forecast to grow in importance. Employment related to the industry (including manufacturing and the operational aspects of airlines, airports, air traffic control, policy and regulation) is already 3 million in Europe and set to rise to 5-7 million by 2020.

Achieving the objectives in Aeronautics in terms of growth, in terms of global competitiveness and in terms of sustainable development is critically dependent upon major aeronautical research and technological advances in the medium to long-term. The prosperous development of Aeronautics in Europe also depends upon key enablers such as improving the coherence and co-ordination of aeronautical research and innovation activities conducted at national and European levels.

AirTN FP7 has strengthened this coordination and strives for long lasting co-operation. It brought added value to the foundation of the European Research Area and the development of European Research Policy, especially in relation to aeronautics and air transport.

The top-level objective of AirTN was the implementation of joint activities and the funding of transnational research. To achieve these aims the consortium exchanged information on national programmes, national programmes design and thematic priorities systematically.

AirTN launched two transnational calls during its project duration. These joint calls must be appreciated as a great success. Austria, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Sweden as well as Norway/US (third countries) are participants of the common projects.

The governing objective of all AirTN activities was to continue strengthening the European Research Area within the framework of the ACARE Strategic Research Agenda.

AirTN has successfully established and maintained an extensive network of European aeronautics stakeholder groups that include ACARE and GARTEUR along with universities, research institutes, manufacturers and airports.

Other programmes have worked with AirTN including the Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative, SESAR-JU (Single European Sky Joint Undertaking), the NCP Network (National Contact Points), EUROCONTROL (European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, which is made up of 38 European Member States and aims to improve and coordinate air traffic control across Europe), and the ETNA-European Transport NCP Alliance. By working together with AirTN for research excellence these organisations have strengthened aeronautics R&D under the ACARE umbrella.

AirTN, ACARE and the Commission collaborated to establish a group of independent experts (IEG). The task was to define criteria for identifying strategic and important aerospace research infrastructures in Europe and opportunities to identify their funding.

In cooperation with an Independent Expert group (IEG) the consortium prepared the catalogue (database) on aviation research infrastructures as a quality information source for the aviation research & testing infrastructures roadmap that the ACARE WG5 set up. The catalogue is published on the AirTN website ([www.AirTN.eu](http://www.AirTN.eu)).