

**Sustainable Development, Global Change and Ecosystems, Sustainable
Surface Transport**



Central European Research in Transport INfrastructure

**Publishable Executive Summary
Year 3**

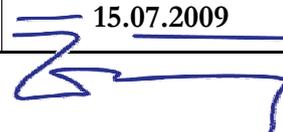
Project Number: **031457/2006**
Reporting Period: **01 June 2008 - 31 May 2009**
Date of preparation: **15 July 2009**

Start date of project: **01 June 2006**
Duration: **48 months**

Project coordinator name: **Aleš Žnidarič**

Project coordinator organisation name: **Zavod za gradbeništvo Slovenije (ZAG)**

	Name and signature	Date
Drafted:	A. Žnidarič	15.07.2009
Reviewed:		
Approved by CERTAIN Management Group:		<u>15.07.2009</u>



PUBLISHABLE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Project objectives

The aim of the EC-funded Coordination Action project CERTAIN is to facilitate integration of the EU New Member States (NMS) and other Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC) into the established road infrastructure research of the European Union.

CERTAIN (Central European Research in Transport Infrastructure) is comprised of four work packages. The first, WP 1, provides the necessary clustering environment for the STREP projects from the same call: SPENS, ARCHES, Heavyroute, and other relevant on-going projects in which they will work in synergy to provide maximum output for the NMS and CEEC without duplicating their work. Since language is considered to be a major obstacle for efficient dissemination of European research results in the NMS and CEEC, the second work package, WP2 will organise six workshops in mother languages to attract much higher number of the interested end-users than usually attend international conferences. The WP 3 focuses on training courses for leaders of European research projects. The final work package, WP4, concerns the dissemination of results through both web-based systems and through direct contacts.

1.2 Contractors involved

The four partners of the CERTAIN project are:

- ZAG – Zavod za gradbeništvo Slovenije (Slovenian national Building and Civil Engineering Institute), Slovenia, project coordinator and WP 1 leader,
- IBDiM - Instytut Badawczy Dróg i Mostów (Road and Bridge Research Institute), Poland, WP 2 leader,
- CDV - Centrum dopravního výzkumu (Transport Research Institute), Czech Republic, and
- FEHRL - Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories, Belgium, WP 3 and WP 4 leader.

1.3 Co-ordinator contact details

Mr. Aleš Žnidarič, MSc.

Zavod za gradbeništvo Slovenije
Dimičeva 12
SI – 1000 Ljubljana

Tel: +386 1 2804 207

Fax: +386 1 2804 484

email: ales.znidaric@zag.si

1.4 Work performed in the period June 2008 to May 2009

1.4.1 Organisation of workshops

The following activities were performed:



- Four national workshops were held in their mother languages: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Ukraine.
- Two other national events are planned in the fourth year of the project: the Estonian National Workshop in Tallinn, organized by TECER in June 2009 and SPENS seminar in Poland, organized by IBDiM, in October 2009.
- The second TRA CERTAIN workshop will be organized during the TRA 2010 which is scheduled to take place in Brussels. The preparations are already in process.
- The ARCHES/SPENS Final Seminar is scheduled to for 27th and 28th of August in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The organization of this seminar is already in process.
- Deliverable D 2.3 “Third year report on national and international workshops” was prepared and submitted in July 2008, together with Year 3 final reports.

1.4.2 Project management training

In Year 3 of the project the following activities about project management training - PMT were performed:

- The on-line project management tools were expanded with a specific focus on the trainees of the project management courses.
- The Second part of the Second course of training was held at the FEHRL office in Brussels (3-4 June 2008). The trainees profile fulfilled the requests of CERTAIN project (55 % from NMS, 61 % female and 38 % female from NMS). The post-course review and feedback from the participants showed the improvement gained between the first two courses.
- After the success and over-subscription of the first two CERTAIN project management trainings, the preparations on the third session of training started. The course will be held in Brussels at FEHRL premises on 14th - 16th September 2009.
- The creation of a video about secondment at FEHRL is in progress. The aim of this video is to advertise the benefit for the staff and the institutes, especially from NMS.

1.4.3 Exploitation

In the frame of knowledge gathering activities and mechanisms in Year 3, CERTAIN project maintained close links with other projects (ARCHES, SPENS, Heavyroute, INTRO...) and was involved in many international events. At the same time new Web services and tools were created and the old ones upgraded and: a webpage of some countries was prepared in their languages.

- At the SURF conference in Portorož (8th October 08, Slovenia) FEHRL provided a focal point for dissemination and networking in which the CERTAIN project was well represented by a model bridge accompanied by posters, brochures, and video presentations.
- FEHRL presented CERTAIN project at the exhibition at the European City of Sciences in Paris (November 2008). This event, acting as a kick-off for the Science Festival, was organised during the French Presidency of the European Union by the Ministry for Higher Education and Research.
- Late in November 2008, FEHRL organised an EU-Russia Road Infrastructure Event in Moscow as part of the SIMBA2 project. CERTAIN project in general, as well as the European Project Management training have been promoted.
- Early in December 08, the French EU Presidency Sustainable Surface Transport event was held in Lyon. President of FEHRL took the example of the CERTAIN project to illustrate his presentation. In the session about Gender Equality and the needs of Young Researchers the CERTAIN EPM training was exposed.
- At TRB in Washington (Early in January 2009) the presentation on the CERTAIN project was made to encourage the Transfer of Research Across Europe under the session International Perspectives on Transportation Technology Transfer. NMS activities and the CERTAIN project were well represented in FEHRL exhibition booth by a model bridge accompanied by posters, brochures, and video presentations. A technical tour with restricted places for NMS institutes was organised at the Federal Highway Institute.
- Late in January 09, ERTRAC organised a press conference in Brussels. It was another occasion to promote many CERTAIN cluster EC projects by posters, brochures, and video presentations.
- At the Research Connection in Prague (Czech Republic) organised by the EC/DG Research on 7th - 8th May 2009, the CERTAIN project was promoted by the poster, leaflet and video. A presentation on the CERTAIN project as an example of knowledge dissemination success was given at the Press conference of this event.
- CERTAIN project was presented at the WBC-INCO.NET conference in Sarajevo (20th May 2009).
- The CERTAIN website is being increasingly used as a portal for information (such as FEHRLopedia).
- The associated Projects' database module became operational during the reporting period. Currently over 100 projects at EU and national level have been registered.
- The poster to promote knowledge transfer in road research in each language of NMS has already been created in Czech language for the occasion of the Research Connection in Prague in May 09. The other posters are in process.

1.5 Results achieved and expected end results

Results achieved in the Year 3 of the project are the milestones towards the expected final results:

- Better dissemination of results of EC financed research project in the area of road transport, particularly in the New Member States, Candidate Countries and other non-EU European countries. Workshops in mother languages of organising countries and translation of the key documents (executive summaries, leaflets, web pages...) have and will disseminate state-of-

the art knowledge in this field to help reducing the gap between the level of infrastructure in the NMS and CC compared to the better developed Western European countries.

- Project Management Training courses have identified and educated new and aspiring leaders of collaborative European research projects. They have to great extent come from the NMS and CC. At present, the percentage of project coordinators and work package leaders from these countries is still very low.
- The web tools developed and under development will support the dissemination and exploitation of results of clustered and other related national and international projects. The ambition of CERTAIN web site is to become a FEHRLOPEDIA, a portal for information on traffic and road infrastructure rather than a depository of that information. The aim of this activity is to provide an appealing (visual) tool that will attract rather than confuse stakeholders that are searching for specific information.

1.6 Intentions for use and impact

The synergistic clustering action led by FEHRL (Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories) will actively seek to integrate results and shape current and emerging practices with other national and international projects using the extensive network of the FEHRL institutes and relevant partner organisations.

By definition of this Coordination Action, special focus is given on the needs of New Member States and other non-EU European countries. This will be achieved through close links with other projects and by integration into the current FEHRL Strategic Road Research Programme (SERRP) Cluster.

1.6.1 Main elements of publishable dissemination plan

The following deliverables have been published in this reporting period by the CERTAIN group:

- D 2.3 “Third year report on national and international workshops”,
- D 4.4 “CERTAIN cluster visual map and related database”.

D 2.3 deliverable is available to the public via the public part of the CERTAIN website. D 4.4 (FEHRLopedia) is website tool available to use on <http://certain.fehrl.org/?m=44>.

In its third year, apart from numerous informal contacts by all partners, CERTAIN activities have been formally presented at numerous international and 4 national events.

1.7 Project web site

<http://certain.fehrl.org/>

1.8 Project logo



