



PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

The air transport industry is large, important and complex. It contributes massively 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.

The project Air Transport Network- Next Generation (AIRTN Next Gen), continued the network established under previous AirTN projects enlarging it, creating a platform of networking and communication between national organizations and governmental institutions with the aim to support research and innovation in the EU Member States and Associated Countries in the field of Aviation.

During the project, a database of existing information about national funding programmes in MS and AS, aimed to enable users to identify appropriate transport research and innovation-funding sources, became operational and was periodically enriched with new funding initiatives, with special emphasis on regional funding programmes.

In parallel, AirTN consortium delivered a set of specific studies focusing on:

- Eranet Cofund action in aeronautics and aviation sector
- Research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation
- Synergies between H2020 and ESIF;

Another precious result of AirTN nextGen project is the “**RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES CATALOGUE**”, based on the catalogue already developed in the previous AirTN initiatives. In AirTN-FP7 indeed, a catalogue of aeronautical research infrastructures (with a focus on experimental test facilities) in various EU countries was established, and an analysis of corresponding investment policies, priorities and mechanisms was conducted. This catalogue, being still a unique and valuable inventory of all relevant research facilities in Europe, has been updated with incoming new inputs collected according to criteria already defined in AirTN (FP7 Project).

In terms of dissemination, AirTN Next Gen activities were widely promoted at EU, national and regional level, via the following dissemination tools:

- 11 project newsletters were published and distributed – on a three months basis –.

- three specific dissemination workshops were organized by the project :

- *“First AirTN-Nextgen Network Meeting”*, held in Brussels on 27 October 2014,
- *“Possibilities for Transnational co-operations”*, held in Wien on 30 June 2015.
- *“Project outcomes and future cooperation possibilities”* , held in Bratislava on 11 October 2016.

- presentations at relevant events such as ACARE MSG, Clean Sky and ETNA meetings and related dissemination channels (ETNA plus and ETNA2020)The project public website was constantly maintained updated with transport related news and events, as well as AirTN Next Gen initiatives.

