

EUTRAIN

European Transport Research Area International
Cooperation Activities



Summary of conclusions and recommendations of the EUTRAIN Project

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Consolidated findings for the current situation



1. The Themes for the calls not of immediate interest or priority to “recipient countries.
2. Lack of a “mechanism” to regularly update themes and priorities.
3. Long gestation periods from proposal ideas, to projects and research results.
4. Complex and cumbersome administrative and funding procedures.
5. Ineffective timely and “inside” info dissemination to research communities.
6. Lack of sustainable - long term funding of international cooperation programmes.

Consolidated findings for the current situation



7. Lack or insufficient number of more “forward looking” funding schemes such as bilateral or multilateral “common pot” funding and joint programming, Twinning of projects and programmes (bilaterally or multilaterally).
8. Large variation in systems of *research governance*, *research programming*, and *research funding* at global level.
9. Need for specialized training of human resources in international research cooperative projects.
10. Need for more open and networked use of large research Infrastructures in the field of transport.
11. High concerns for post-project cooperation, knowledge development, and deployment / dissemination of research results.

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : Themes, priorities, and monitoring mechanisms



- A. Creation of an ***International (Transport) Research Cooperation “Observatory”- IRCO*** : “Research Needs” reports.
- B. Creation of ***International Cooperation Promotion and Networking Centres – ICPNCs*** focused on a specific subject area (e.g. transport sustainability and climate change mitigation) for :
- Training of research personnel;
 - International know-how transfer and scanning actions;
 - Exchanges of research personnel;
 - Organisation of workshops and Seminars, and other related actions.
- C. Promotion of ***Benchmarking***, for international transport research cooperation, as a “mechanism” for promoting “harmonisation” in governance, management (including evaluation), and funding issues.

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : Harmonizing governance and research institutional cultures



Steps:

- I. Further investigation of the problems and issues involved;
- II. Development of a long term vision;
- III. Foster consensus and gather competences to enact the vision;
- IV. Materialise parts of the “vision” e.g. through bilateral cooperation frameworks with other countries;
- V. Institutionalize and expand the harmonisation making it conditional for the funding of new research programmes;
- VI. Monitor and adjust harmonisation strategies as necessary, with help of the appropriate monitoring mechanisms (by the ones suggested in “themes and priorities setting” or new ones, e.g. a new global strategic Organisation: the ***Conference on Global Research Cooperation - CGRC***).

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : Improving the human resource capital



- A. Systematic training of transport researchers (for international cooperative work) through e.g. use of on-line remote education tools, or Seminars (especially for young researchers).
- B. Researcher exchange programmes through improved framework conditions for incoming and outgoing mobility.
- C. Creation of a Researcher Database e.g. through the creation of a new “*Skilled Transport Researcher section*” in the EU or other websites, for organisations looking for, or offering, skilled researchers.
- D. Collaboration with acknowledged Academic Institutions for more harmonized education courses and degrees for transport specialists.

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : *International Joint programming and funding (1/3)*



A. *Recommended principles and characteristics of International Joint Programming Initiatives (IJPIs) :*

- ***Variable geometry and open access;***
- ***Structures that increase the **efficiency and effectiveness** of the participants ability to deal with large-scale socioeconomic challenges and problems of the future;***
- ***Voluntary in nature;***
- ***“Supervision” by a trusted neutral Organization as a mechanism of “triggering” and monitoring;***
- ***Streamlined and simple implementation;***
- ***Short turnaround times;***
- ***Managerial Flexibility (possibility to choose, within a range of managerial reference models);***
- ***Uniform and objective evaluation procedures;***
- ***Openness to change and evolution; and***
- ***Low administration overheads by all categories of actors involved.***

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : International Joint programming and funding (2/3)



B. Success pre-conditions:

- Harmonisation of research “cultures” and governance regimes.***
- Existence of a supervising “neutral” Organisation, e.g. one of the United Nations Agencies (e.g. UNESCO, or UNDP, or even UN “Institutes”), or new regional or international NGOs e.g. a Global Transport Research Alliance or Conference on Global Research Cooperation (CGRC).***
- Establishing jointly, the themes of interest, challenges and priorities.***
- Promote the development of human resources and “champion” Organisations in this type of schemes, in all sides involved.***
- Simplified type of funding schemes.***

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : International Joint programming and funding (3/3)



C. First potential topics for IJPIs :

- ***Sustainability of surface transport, in urban areas (urban congestion, air pollution, clean cars use, environmental traffic management);***
- ***Maritime transport (anti-pollution and safety and security issues);***
- ***Climate change: transport related mitigation measures.***

EUTRAIN recommendations on Research Infrastructures (1/2)



- 1. Systematically raise interest in RI networking** (through dissemination actions and best practice examples).
- 2. Develop a global RI database of world-class RI** (all modes), e.g. by further developing the FEHRL RI Online Catalogue.
- 3. Establish networks of RI around special research topics.**
- 4. Establish and fund common projects around at least one RI**, as an essential basis and common resource for the project. Need to overcome:
 - *Legal barriers, including insurance issues (Usually there is no or limited insurance cover for government-owned RIs);*
 - *Different Intellectual Property Regimes (IPR) for transferring the outcomes;*
 - *Physical condition and maintenance costs of RI;*
 - *Difficulties experienced with international transfer of funding.*

EUTRAIN recommendations on Research Infrastructures (2/2)



Promote further networking of Transport RI, through:

- A. Creating an **International RI Task Force** to formulate recommendations and promote relevant actions on world-class RIs **for all transport modes**.
- B. Transport-related RIs to be incorporated in future ***European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)*** roadmaps.
- C. Drafting of “ESFRI proposals for transport-related RI” and subsequent endorsement of these proposals.
- D. List of “common” Transport RIs in the ESFRI roadmap, as a major facilitation of joint international implementation of the specific RI.

EUTRAIN recommendations and suggestions : pre-standardisation and market uptake of research results



- A. EC's financial support to standardisation activities in international transport research is essential.
- B. *More focus on* standardisation activities, rather than general dissemination activities, in Int'l Coop projects.
- C. On certain cases ask for pre-agreements with standardisation organisations as part of project signing.
- D. *Consider possibility of follow up funding for innovation transfer and market take up activities.*
- E. *Key issues to answer:*
 - *For which of the aspects of international cooperation (e.g. IPR, public procurement, ethics, societal engagement, open access, gender, etc) would it be important to develop global "standards" in international cooperation.*
 - *How can these standards be best promoted at the international level (e.g. included in the EU's S&T cooperation agreements with third countries)*
 - *Should these standards have an implication on the way the EU funds third country participants through Horizon 2020 ?*



Other Key issues and recommendations

- A. *All larger EU research projects should have an expectation of some type of international co-operation built into them.*
- B. *Distinguish between three major country groupings:*
- The industrialized and emerging economies;*
 - the enlargement and neighbourhood countries; and*
 - the developing countries.*
- C. *Key policy issues to answer:*
- Where is the balance between cooperation and competition per country grouping?*
 - How far should the research Agenda safeguard the interests of Europe's companies?*
 - How can a strengthened innovation dimension be systematically built into the Union's international cooperation activities, and how can such policy be differentiated with particular countries and/or regions?*
 - Should the innovation dimension of international cooperation activities be restricted to discussions at policy level (e.g. sharing of experience or identification of good practice) or should it go as far as jointly developing close-to-the-market activities?*



Thank you for your attention