



## Editorial

Dear Reader,



I am pleased to introduce you this issue of the EUTRAIN newsletter, which features the latest developments and news of the European Transport Research Area International Cooperation Activities-EUTRAIN project launched on October 1, 2011. The project aims at contributing towards the establishment of a framework for international transport research

cooperation along the principles and orientations laid down in the EU Communication "A strategic European Framework for International Science and Technology Cooperation".

The EUTRAIN project acts as an interactive platform between the consortium partners, namely ECTRI, ERTICO, EURNEX, FEHRL and VOLVO, the Network of Associated Entities – NAE, which is composed of 13 international key players and the Network of Related Entities – NRE, a wider network of about 300 players worldwide. You will find further information about the NAE and NRE in this newsletter.

Within the last year, the EUTRAIN partners have investigated and compared current practices, fields of interest, priorities, as well as barriers, gaps, and diversions for international transport research cooperation in major regions of importance to the ERA-T through 4 regional workshops:

1. "International transport research cooperation in the Mediterranean region" on July 16, 2012 in Athens, Greece;
2. "International transport research cooperation in South Asia and Asia-Pacific" on September 6, 2012 in Beijing, China;
3. "EU Neighbourhood Countries" on December 5-6, 2012 in Moscow, Russia;
4. "International Transport research cooperation in Latin America countries" on March 7-8, 2013 in São Paulo, Brazil.

To prepare the regional workshops, the EUTRAIN partners met with prominent international stakeholders at bilateral fact finding meetings and interviews in the following countries: USA, Tunisia, Egypt, Ukraine, Turkey, China, Russia, India, South Africa, and Japan. I am now very pleased to inform you that the 'EUTRAIN Country reports', a great source of information, best practices, conclusions and recommendations from the bilateral meetings, is now available on the EUTRAIN website ([www.eutrain-project.eu/](http://www.eutrain-project.eu/)).

Looking back at what has been achieved in the last year, I very much look forward to our next activities. So please stay tuned by subscribing to the EUTRAIN newsletter, by checking the website and already note the EUTRAIN Final Conference planned on October 9-10, 2013 in Brussels!

**Caroline ALMERAS**  
EUTRAIN Project Coordinator  
ECTRI Secretary General

## International Transport Research cooperation: current status, characteristics and issues

Promoting international cooperation is a major and value adding activity in all fields. For transport research it is a win-win situation i.e. one in which all sides stand to gain, because of the global nature of transport phenomena and the common transport related challenges faced by our societies. We have seen this global nature and communality of the challenges over and over again in all the various events and EUTRAIN project activities that have been organised during the project's first year.

The EUTRAIN activities are many and varied; they have mainly revolved around 8 major themes of interest trying to assess the attitudes and positions as well as the status across the various countries and regions around the world. In other words how the relevant stakeholders around the world view these "themes", what the current situation is, and what current gaps and problems exist. These themes are:

1. Priorities and topics of interest for international cooperation in each country / region;
2. Research programming and governance issues;
3. Research infrastructures and networking possibilities;
4. Information and data sharing issues;
5. Research training and human resource issues;
6. Institutional cultures and research governance regimes;
7. Pre-standardization activities and harmonizing approaches and practices for the take up of research results;
8. Intellectual Property regimes and follow-up actions.

My Organisation, the Hellenic Institute of Transport of the Center for Research and Technology in Greece, has been supporting the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes - ECTRI in coordinating the activities of the project and ultimately proposing to the European Commission a concerted framework to promote International Cooperation in Transport Research.

The next step will be to synthesise our findings from the fact finding and data collecting missions, workshops, and other first year project activities into this overall framework for International Cooperation, including topics and contents for calls as well as policies to be followed, and suggested forms of such cooperation.

It is an exciting work with an exciting objective and I call on all of you, interested in this area, to join us in producing the final outcome through information sharing and participation in the remaining project activities and events.



**Prof. George A. GIANNOPOULOS**  
EUTRAIN Scientific Coordinator  
Director, Hellenic Institute of Transport (HIT-CERTH)



## International Transport research cooperation: first EUTRAIN conclusions

During the first year of the project, the objective was to investigate and present in a concise way current experience, practices and status as regards international transport research cooperation vis-a-vis the countries/regions of interest to EUTRAIN.

This was carried out through local visits and workshops for interviewing relevant stakeholders in 10 countries i.e., USA, South Africa, Tunisia, Egypt, Ukraine, Turkey, China, Russia, India and Japan. Moreover 4 regional workshops were organized, in Athens, Greece with focus on the Mediterranean cooperation countries, in Beijing, China with focus on the South East Asia – Pacific countries, in Moscow, Russia with focus on the countries of the region of Russia, CIS, Black Sea & Balkan countries and in São Paulo, Brazil with a focus on Latin America countries. From these different events, some interesting findings can now be presented.

In all countries visited considerable international cooperation activities take place nowadays, and these are of the following types:

- Technical visits and information exchanges (in some cases also data exchanges),
- Participation in international committees and conferences,
- Participation in internationally funded research projects planned and administered by the international funding source (usually the European Commission, the US/DoT, and National research programmes of major research providing countries),
- Participation in jointly funded research in the framework of bilateral country agreements,
- International synthesis studies (e.g. those sponsored by the OECD),
- Use of R&D facilities by foreign researchers.

Collaborative research activities between the “advanced” - in terms of research funding - countries or regions, are now on the rise as the benefits from pulling of resources and commonly addressing the major issues and challenges in the transport field, seem to outweigh the traditional “competitive” positions taken by such countries and push towards more cooperation. This trend should be strengthened in the future by pursuing, at first, more easily achievable tasks such as multi-year technical personnel exchanges, agreements to further the exchanges of critical transport data, and so on. In the case of these countries, it is important to try and incentivize the private sector to contribute to international cooperative programmes and projects and compensate for existing funding restrictions and legislation for as long as these exist. Successes in collaboration should lead to larger projects and more extensive collaborative frameworks. These “advanced” research supporting countries should also explore in a more medium to long term horizon, more advanced models of international cooperation such as joint programming and funding of research, as well as use of more state-of-the-art technologies for new publications and advanced modes of communication (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) that would highlight some existing best practices and success stories.

In the countries with “not so mature research capacity” there was a considerable divergence of attitudes found towards international cooperation policies. Firstly, the factors hindering such cooperation were primarily stated as: lack of timely information, lack of networking capabilities, as well as the substantial level of bureaucratic and cumbersome procedures and paper work that is associated with establishing international cooperative proposals.

Secondly, the attitudes were generally in favor of increasing the “reciprocity” in any future collaborative research programme, in terms of:

1. collaboratively setting of the research content i.e. to be of interest of both sides,
2. collaboratively leading the research effort i.e. existence of at least one “leading” research and academic institution per side - and these “leaders” must be identified and supported to “lead”, and
3. a joint outreach to significant funding sources and foundations to support sustainable (i.e. long term) ways of funding international collaborative transport research.

The notion of “leaders” applies to these countries too, in the sense that within a certain region there are countries that “lead” in promoting and sustaining international collaborative research projects within their region.

Thirdly, there are a number of “critical” hindering factors, which restrict researchers and research organizations in “lesser developed” countries to mobilize and benefit from international cooperative research programmes. These are – in summary - the following:

1. Lack of open, timely and reliable information about the various calls and networking with partners and teams from EU member countries,
2. Too cumbersome and complex administrative procedures,
3. High co-funding percentages,
4. Lengthy turnaround times (proposals – evaluation – contract signature),
5. Need for capacity development for appropriate research personnel.

As regards the themes and specific interests for research topics, a number of interesting themes and research priorities were derived from the discussions. A short summary list of the most often recurring research themes in the Mediterranean and Asian- Pacific meetings is:

For the Asian-Pacific region:

1. Social aspects of transport (infrastructure and service provision),
2. Efficient and sustainable mass public transport services,
3. Traffic safety with emphasis on information exchange and prevention,
4. Energy and environmental aspects of transport,
5. Vehicle maintenance technologies.



South Asia & Asia Pacific Workshop, Beijing, China, September 2012

For the Mediterranean region:

1. Transport infrastructure development and maintenance,
2. Institutional (re-) organization of the transport sector,
3. Urban mobility,
4. Public Transport and demand management issues.



Mediterranean Workshop, Athens, Greece, July 2012



## The Network of Associated Entities - NAE

The Network of Associated Entities is composed of ARRB Group (Australia), Beijing Transportation Research Centre (China), Waterborne Technology Platform, CRRI - Central Road Research Institute (India), PWRI - Public Works Research Institute (Japan), KOTI - Korea Transport Institute (Korea), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile), Petersburg State Transport University (Russia), CSIR - Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa), TRB-Transportation Research Board - National Academies (USA), Center for Transportation Studies - University of Minnesota (USA), FHWA - Federal Highway Administration (USA) and FRA - Federal Railroad Administration (USA).

The launching event of the NAE took place on October 18, 2011 in Brussels, Belgium and was a frank success with the participation of almost all NAE members. During the project, the NAE members have been valuable participants in the main project activities such as the different regional workshops and bilateral meetings.

## The Network of Related Entities - NRE

The Network of Related Entities is a wider network of more than 300 "players" in transport research covering the entire world, and who provide their views in what regards the project's findings and recommendations. The NRE launching event was held on January 24, 2012 at the occasion of the TRB event in Washington D.C., USA.

EUTRAIN is therefore open to any organization from any region around the world willing to cooperate in its activities.

If interested in joining the Network Related Entities, please contact us at [info@eutrain-project.eu](mailto:info@eutrain-project.eu)

## Past events

### • Regional workshops: presentations now available online

The presentations of the 4 EUTRAIN regional workshops are now available on the project website:

1. Workshop "International transport research cooperation in the Mediterranean region", Athens, Greece - July 16, 2012
2. Workshop "International transport research cooperation in South Asia and Asia-Pacific", Beijing, China - September 6, 2012
3. Workshop "International transport research cooperation in EU Neighbourhood Countries", Moscow, Russia - December 5-6, 2012
4. Workshop "International transport research cooperation in the Latin America countries", São Paulo, Brazil - March 7-8, 2013

The workshops aimed at collecting further data and experiences related to the project aims and objectives, assessing the needs and topics of interest and priorities for research cooperation of the respective countries and regions, and discussing viable instruments and tools for international transport research collaboration, as well as other characteristics of such transport research.

The presentations can be consulted at: <http://www.eutrain-project.eu/news-and-events>

## Upcoming events

### • EUTRAIN Final Conference, Brussels, Belgium, October 9-10, 2013

(More information to follow)

#### EUTRAIN in brief

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