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## THE ERA-NET TRANSPORT IN BRIEF

The ERA-NET TRANSPORT (ENT) for the period 2004-2007 started in January 2004. It is comprised of 13 partners from 11 European countries aiming at efficient trans-national research cooperation in the field of transport. The ERA-NET TRANSPORT is financed from the EU's 6th Framework Programme to strengthen the European scientific base and support the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA).

The purpose of the ERA-NET TRANSPORT is to develop an European vision for transport research. The main objective is to build up a sustainable network of relevant public transport research programmes. This network will function as a service platform for the managers of these programmes and facilitate the required procedures to initiate and implement trans-national cooperation.

The other objectives are to provide joint procedures, joint programming and joint project management models and guidelines. The ERA-NET TRANSPORT aims at providing an instrument to transport and research policy-makers by offering information about future challenges and European research priorities in the field of transport. The ultimate goal is to open up national transport research programmes to European partners.

Since February 2005, the ERA-NET TRANSPORT has moved on to 'practice', putting designed model rules, procedures and shared vision to the test.

The website functions as the main repository of knowledge generated by the ERA-NET TRANSPORT. Please find more on the ENT website [www.transport-era.net](http://www.transport-era.net):

- Basic information about the ERA-NET TRANSPORT
- Description of work
- Trans-national transport research cooperation between partner countries - The Action Groups
- Reports, brochure and other documents
- Latest news and activities
- Contact information and partners
- Links to other transport research related websites

## **CONCRETE TRANSPORT RESEARCH COOPERATION INITIATIVES REACHING ACROSS BORDERS ON "ITS AND RELIABILITY OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT"**

The ERA-NET TRANSPORT is providing the platform and support for research cooperation on subjects where cooperation across borders is necessary to provide the desired outcome. Out of the first workshop held in November 2004, a number of topics emerged, where programme managers and researchers from several countries found a common ground.

### **Ecall plus/service platform (ENT1)**

- Participants: Finland, Germany and Sweden
- After careful consideration and benchmarking of ongoing research in Europe on the topic, the Action Group came to the decision that the need for this Action Group has to be reconsidered. The time-out was taken, because there are a lot of activities going on in this field. At the moment the Action Group has stopped in order to avoid the overlapping work with the other projects.

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### **Real-time data collection: Overview of sensor research (ENT2)**

- Participants: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden
- The goal of the Action group is to ensure information exchange and in the end project clustering of currently ongoing national projects or setting up new joint projects in the field of sensor research.

The following topics are promising:

- A small working group is established on the specific topic “assessment of video-streams” with a focus on “slippery roads”
- An initiative for knowledge and information exchange will be started on the topic “Monitoring and tracing of pedestrian movements and flows” (not an security focus)
- The idea to organise a GSM symposia/workshop for knowledge and information exchange on the topic “GSM-network based traffic detection”.

*More information from the group leader: Mr. Heimo Kropf (Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology), [heimo.kropf@bmvit.gv.at](mailto:heimo.kropf@bmvit.gv.at)*

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### **Trans-national architecture for multimodal information (ENT3)**

- Participants: France, Germany, Norway and Sweden. Finland is also involved as an observer.
- The goal is to reach information exchange and joint projects on the topic through:
  - A comprehensive overview of participating countries’ ongoing research programmes
  - An overview of existing “passengers multimodal information architectures” of the participating countries and of the other European countries will be prepared
- Aims of the type and nature of the cooperation have been discussed

*More information from the group leader: Mr. Roland Cotte (CERTU/France), [roland.cotte@equipement.gouv.fr](mailto:roland.cotte@equipement.gouv.fr)*

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### **Business models for data collection and use: focus on real-time data + multimodal issues (ENT4)**

- Participants: Finland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden
- The aim is to ensure efficient exchange of data through a detailed overview of studies in the field of sustainable business models for real-time travel and traffic information systems in the ERA-NET TRANSPORT partner countries
- The kick-off meeting was held in November 2005

*More information from the group leader: Mr. Paul Potters (Connekt-ITS, Netherlands), [potters@connekt.nl](mailto:potters@connekt.nl)*

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On [www.transport-era.net](http://www.transport-era.net) more information is available on the aim, goals and progress of the research cooperation within the Action Groups.

## **TRANS-NATIONAL RESEARCH COOPERATION ON “ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY”**

This research area is concerned with the aspects of a transport system and transport patterns that provide the means and opportunities to meet environmental needs efficiently. The area covers all the adverse side effects of transport on the environment with a focus on technologies related to transport vehicles of all modes and is targeting sustainable policy objectives within transport. This comprises analytical, experimental and conceptual work as well as hardware development for research purposes.

28 researchers and experts in the field of vehicle technology from 10 countries identified six potential topics for trans-national cooperation at a meeting in Paris in June 2005. After further research and talks amongst the potential participants of the Action Groups, the ERA-NET TRANSPORT Management Group decided in November 2005 to start the following Action Groups on “Environmental improvements through vehicle technology”:

- ENT 6** Alternative fuels, propulsion systems and vehicle technologies - part 1: European strategy
- ENT 7** Alternative fuels, propulsion systems and vehicle technologies - part 2: Joint projects
- ENT 8** Improved understanding on noise effects
- ENT 9** Environmental performance indicators for heavy duty vehicles
- ENT 10** Policy tools to influence vehicle purchasing behaviour

The new Action Groups are starting their work and during the process the suitable types of cooperation will be determined and implemented. More information on the aims, goals and participants can be found on [www.transport-era.net](http://www.transport-era.net) under Action Groups.

## **“SURSHIP”: A NEW ENT INITIATIVE FOR RESEARCH COOPERATION ON MARITIME SAFETY**

Action Groups in the ERA-NET TRANSPORT can be launched also through a common agreement between the ERA-NET TRANSPORT members. The ENT supports an Action Group on the maritime safety issue which was proposed by the partner country Sweden. The preparation workshop was held in June 2005.

Eight European countries under the lead of Sweden (VINNOVA) started the elaboration and preparation of a comprehensive trans-national research cooperation with special focus on the topic “survivability”. In the first meeting the acronym for the activity was settled to “SURSHIP”.

### **The objectives of “SURSHIP”**

- To form a cooperative research initiative between the represented nations within the research area “Design for Survivability”
- Coordinated implementation of national research programmes. The group will develop a catalogue of necessary research activities which will be conducted by national projects starting from a common base and with the objective to fill in missing pieces in the “survivability” area.
- The chosen form of cooperation is believed to create a fruitful network between national research groups working within the maritime safety. The idea is also to create a stronger link between national funding of maritime safety research.
- An Action Group will be responsible for the formulation of the overall “Survivability project”

The kick-off meeting was organised in October 2005. The participants are now formulating the project work packages and a working document about the cooperation. The next meeting is foreseen in January 2006. The launch of the initiative is scheduled for June 2006.

*More information from the group leader:*

- Mr. Per Ekberg (VINNOVA, Sweden), [per.ekberg@vinnova.se](mailto:per.ekberg@vinnova.se) or from
- Mr. Claes Unge (VINNOVA, Sweden), [claes.unge@vinnova.se](mailto:claes.unge@vinnova.se).

## NEW REPORTS FROM THE ERA-NET TRANSPORT

**Environmental improvements through vehicle technology, EWS1** summarises the outcome of the Exploratory workshop (EWS1) arranged in March 2005. The results of this report formed the basis for the Targeted Workshop 2 in June 2005 and for further actual trans-national cooperation activities within the report's topic.

**Environmental improvements through vehicle technology, TWS2** summarises the potential topics for trans-national cooperation under the umbrella of "Vehicle Technology". The topics were identified at a workshop for programme managers and researchers in Paris, on June 13th and 14th 2005.

**Analyses of barriers to cooperation and development of an initial proposal of cooperation procedures** is the third step of the survey in order to understand the possible barriers for trans-national transport research cooperation. An initial proposal of cooperation procedures is also introduced.

**Foresight report I: Themes for future trans-national cooperation in transport research programming** specifies topics and themes suitable for future transport research identified by leading European programme managers and researchers. The report is supported by two annex reports.

**Benchmark of practices of trans-national cooperation in transport research programs and policy** gives an overview on relevant arrangements for trans-national transport research policy cooperation and multilateral research funding activities. As a result of this benchmarking the report gives recommendations for model procedures in the ERA-NET TRANSPORT cooperation.

All reports are available on [www.transport-era.net](http://www.transport-era.net), under "documents"

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## LATEST NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN THE ENT COUNTRIES

### AUSTRIA

#### IV2S-Transport technology programme

In autumn 2005 three calls for proposals with a total funding budget of 13 Mio. Euros were opened by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology within the sub-programmes of the IV2S-Transport technology programme.

The three international juries evaluated 151 project proposals in total and recommended 34 projects of the "Intelligent infrastructure programme (I2)", 17 projects of the "Austrian Advanced Automotive Programme (A3)" and 4 strategic light-house and demonstration projects of the "hydrogen and fuel-cell initiative" within the A3-programme.

The next calls for proposals from the A3-Technology programme are planned for spring 2006 with about 7 Mio. Euro ([www.a3-programm.at](http://www.a3-programm.at)). Further information regarding IV2S as well as on running and already finished projects, can be found on the web under [www.bmvit.gv.at](http://www.bmvit.gv.at) and [www.IV2S.at](http://www.IV2S.at).

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## FINLAND

### **AINO – R&D programme on real time transport information**

The research and development programme activities on ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Finland continues in 2004-2007 in the form of the R&D programme on real time transport information AINO. In October 2005 the 3rd call for proposals was arranged and 24 new projects were recommended to start. Preliminary results of the Finnish study on "Impacts of an Automatic Emergency Call System on Accident Consequences" are also available and the international eCall test bench is now operational. More information on new projects and eCall issues etc. can be found from the programme's website: [www.aino.info/indexe.html](http://www.aino.info/indexe.html).

### **JOTU – Public Transport Research Programme**

The JOTU public transport research programme is financed by Finland's Ministry of Transport and Communications. The programme is scheduled to last from 2004 to 2007. The second call for proposals ended in December 2005. Information about the programme's projects can be found from the website: [www.jotu.fi](http://www.jotu.fi). An e-mail notification about the publication of the newsletter (in english) can be ordered through the website.

### **ClimBus – Creating Business – Mitigating Climate Change**

ClimBus is a technology programme (2004 – 2008) started by Tekes (the National Technology Agency of Finland), which aims to find and promote technological options to mitigate climate change. Transport research related projects ongoing on "Clean energy production and fuels", on "Capture and Utilisation of Greenhouse Gases" and on "Future Technologies and Business Opportunities". See [www.tekes.fi/programmes/climbus](http://www.tekes.fi/programmes/climbus)

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## GERMANY

### **Hybrid propulsion systems for a sustainable development of transport.**

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has recently started an R+D initiative aiming at an improved marketability of hybrid technologies. The activity strives at holistic solutions including application-oriented demonstration and testing. Resulting R+D projects will focus on new and optimised components for the driveline, innovative energy- and propulsion-management concepts and suitable control units for passenger cars and commercial vehicles. The received proposals are currently in the evaluation process.

*For more information please contact Bernhard Koonen ([Bernhard.Koonen@de.tuv.com](mailto:Bernhard.Koonen@de.tuv.com)).*

## ERA-NET TRANSPORT EVENTS IN 2006

### During January – March:

#### Action Groups under the umbrella “Environmental improvements through vehicle technology”

Formed during the second targeted workshop in Paris in June 2005 and approved by the ERA-NET TRANSPORT Management Group in November. Groups will meet to create concrete research cooperation within their selected topic.

### 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February:

#### “Safety and Security Improvements through Transport and Infrastructure Management” (WP3)

At the third targeted workshop national programme managers and researchers will pinpoint the specific topics under the themes identified in the previous explorative workshop. The outcome will be a number of Action Groups focusing on concrete research cooperation.

### Week 12: “Review of guidelines and model procedures” (WP1)

Workshop for review of the first experiences with implementation of actions and testing of model procedures and guidelines for cooperation.

### In April: A new Explorative workshop ( Topic will be decided later) (WP2)

At this exploratory workshop national transport research experts will identify the most obvious themes under the headline of the workshop, where trans-national research cooperation is beneficial and needed.

### 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June: The ENT in the TRA 2006 Conference (planned participation)

The ERA-NET TRANSPORT will be presented and the participants can be met in the TRA 2006 conference in Gothenburg, Sweden.

### In June: A new Targeted Workshop (WP3)

At the fourth targeted workshop national programme managers and researchers will pinpoint the specific topics under the themes identified in the previous explorative workshop. The outcome will be a number of action groups focusing on concrete research cooperation.

### In July: “Experiences in creating a National Transport Research Strategy” (WP1)

Feedback workshop of the experiences made in the cases of Denmark and Poland, currently developing a national research strategy on transport.

### Week 48: “2<sup>nd</sup> Review of guidelines and model procedures” (WP1)

Review of further experiences with implementation of actions and testing of model procedures.

### Starting in November: New Action Groups on topics decided at the Target Workshop in June

Formed during the fourth targeted workshop in Paris in June. Action Groups will meet to create concrete research cooperation within their selected topic.

### The whole year 2006: Action Groups’ work continues

The active Action Groups under the umbrellas “ITS and reliability of passenger transport” and “Environmental improvements through vehicle technology” will continue their work. New Action Groups will start during the year 2006.

All dates and events may be subject to change.

## **MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT**

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This newsletter is sent according to the target group survey of the ERA-NET TRANSPORT programme.

If you do not wish to receive any further information about the ERA-NET TRANSPORT, please contact

[info@transport-era.net](mailto:info@transport-era.net).