

# Report from Annual Networking Activities

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For further information on this report,  
please contact

### **Task 1.5 leader**

ISTED  
La Grande Arche – Paroi Nord  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
Phone +33 1 40 81 24 87  
Fax +33 1 40 81 23 31  
www.isted.com

### **Main author**

ISTED  
La Grande Arche – Paroi Nord  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
Phone +33 1 40 81 24 87  
Fax +33 1 40 81 23 31  
www.isted.com

Olivier Hartmann

For further information on the ERA-NET TRANSPORT programme,  
please contact

### **Coordination and Secretariat**

TÜV Rheinland Consulting GmbH  
Research Management  
TÜV Rheinland Group  
Am Grauen Stein  
D-51105 Köln  
Phone +49 221 806 4142  
Fax +49 221 806 3496  
www.tuvpt.de

Oliver Althoff (Coordinator)  
www.transport-era.net

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## Summary

ERA-NET TRANSPORT II has the objective “to coordinate initiatives with other networks and stakeholders in order to avoid duplication, to strengthen each other position and to create synergies”. Task 1.5 of the ENTII work plan deals with maintaining, building up and expanding the network activities between the various stakeholders in the fields of transport research in Europe and in third countries.

Communication with the other relevant networks of the ERA is coordinated through “focal points”, ERA-NET TRANSPORT participants, who are also involved in target networks.

The first year of activity under the task 1.5 was mainly dedicated to establish the network and initiate contacts.

This was achieved in steps:

- selection of the relevant networks
- preparation of the document “ERA-NET TRANSPORT networking landscape”, describing the selected networks
- identification of the focal points
- establishment of contact with relevant networks as part of the preparation of the first ENT Plenary Group Meeting, which included a session targeted at Stakeholders of the ERA, in December 2008
- workshop in June 2009 aiming at reviewing the networking activities of the year and planning of the activities of the next year

This paper will provide more detailed information about the steps taken.



## 1. Identification and selection of the relevant networks

As a first step, five types of stakeholders have been defined according to the possible objectives of networking with each of them:

- Technology Platforms (TP) and equivalent: The main objective we had in mind was to ensure coherence between the vision developed by each TP and the prospective activities of ERA-NET TRANSPORT II.
- Researchers, Fora: Two different types of partners, but we consider that the objectives are very similar, that means some form of intelligence.
- Other ERA-NETs: The main objective is to develop synergies (particularly for ERA-NET Road), but also avoid duplication; additionally, we need to develop a common approach or position for the future of the ERA-NET scheme.
- Policy level: Mainly communication and advocacy.

### 1.1. *ERA-NET TRANSPORT networking landscape*

An extensive document presenting all the selected networks and stakeholders of the European transport research area, which are mentioned above, was published in November 2008. By updating the map of European transport research area this activity continued the mapping exercise started during ENTI.

The presentation of each selected network is organised according to the following items:

- Objectives
- Composition
- Priority themes
- Activities
- Organisation
- Vision
- Contact details

The ENT networking landscape is an internal working paper for use of ENT partners and Action Groups giving a global picture of the European landscape of transport research. It is also of value for external networking activities within task 1.5. by facilitating the ENT networking activities and the identification of possible synergies with each of the above-mentioned networks.

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## **1.2. “Focal points”**

A survey of ERA-NET TRANSPORT partners was conducted to identify who was involved into the different selected networks, and a list was compiled for focal points volunteering to organise the information flow between ENT and the other stakeholders of the ERA. Focal points act as ambassadors, forward information, contribute in defining the networking strategy, identify possible synergies and enrich the vision for the future of the ERA. They have been appointed in May 2008. An up-to-date list of focal points and their related networks is displayed in section 3.

## 2. Plenary Group meeting

Networking activities are an essential part of the annual ENT Plenary Group meeting (PG, task 5.1). The PG addresses representatives from national and European transport research programmes, EC, Technology Platforms and further relevant networks in the transport ERA. It provides a forum for networking, dissemination and information exchange regarding trans-national cooperation experiences, practices and interests. Thereby PG facilitates coordination and cooperation of member states and other European stakeholders.

The concept of the Plenary Group meeting allows for a two-folded networking strategy. On the one hand, the Plenary Group meeting establishes an opportunity for networking, dissemination of ENT results and information exchange aiming at a relatively broad audience. On the other hand, ENT focuses on specific stakeholder needs and necessities by organising targeted parallel sessions with a working character comprising a smaller number of participants.

About fifty stakeholders attended the first ENT Plenary Group meeting in Cologne in December 2008. There has been interesting presentations and fruitful discussion about current and forthcoming transnational cooperation activities and best practice during the Plenum at first day. On the second day three workshops, which were each targeted to a specific audience, provided a unique platform for dialogue:

- Focus Group 1: New member states and potential new ENT partners.
- Focus Group 2: Transport-related ERA-NETs
- Focus Group 3: Stakeholders of the ERA.

The latter two Focus Groups were particularly dedicated to facilitate the dialogue between key-players in the transport related ERA.

### 2.1. *Transport-related ERA-NETs (Focus Group 2)*

The Focus Group session was specifically targeted at the existing transport-related ERA-NETs. In addition to representatives of the ERA-NET TRANSPORT the following ERA-NETs were represented.

- Air-TN, Peter Joyce
- MARTEC, Ralf Fiedler, Jacub Sypien
- ERA NET Road – ENR, Patrick Malléjacq, Martin Steward, Richard van der Elburg

After a short introduction round table the participants informed each other about scopes and activities and about long term plans and future of each ERA-NET respectively.

Based on the information exchanged several topics and opportunities for cooperation were identified. The issues of road safety and pricing are considered as topics for transnational cooperation by ENT and ENR. Apart from each having developed different approaches and funding models for transnational calls, they will cooperate

closely in the preparation of the transnational activities, e.g. by inviting each other to the respective preparatory meetings, in order to avoid thematic overlaps,.

Furthermore, ENR and ENT will explore the opportunity for a joint stream/whole session for next TRA (Transport Research Arena) conference.

All ERA NETs are working on databases/information systems, which may be a field for further cooperation.

Participants conclude that this is a good opportunity to better getting to know each other and to find out about synergies and potential fields and actions to work together in the future. They agree to meet again in such a constellation.

## **2.2. Stakeholders of the ERA (Focus Group 3)**

The Focus Group 3 session was targeting the transport-related European Technology Platforms and the researchers organisations. In addition to ERA-NET TRANSPORT participants, the following networks were represented, and delivered a short presentation:

Technology Platforms (TP):

- ERRAC, Dennis Schut
- ACARE, Alf Junior
- EIRAC, Danielle De Bruin
- WATERBORNE, Paris Sansoglou
- ERTRAC, Steve Philips

Research:

- ECTRI, Dietmar Wurzel

Participants agreed that ERA-NET TRANSPORT Plenary Group was the adequate forum in which TP can exchange information, because it is neutral versus the TP, and offers the opportunity to discuss broader issues.

The principle of the focal points was approved, and they should be involved in future into TP meetings.

Concerning the identification of common interests, ENT priorities for cooperation share common areas with the SRA of the TP. The ENT concept / position papers will be forwarded to TP Secretariat, for circulation among relevant experts.

Input and / or participation are to be discussed on a case by case basis for modalities.

ERA-Nets should bridge the gap on what is missing between the national and the FP7. For instance, one SRA "Clean transport for Europe" would be relevant.

### 3. Review of annual activities workshop

On 29 June 2009 a workshop was organised to review the annual networking activities of ERA-NET TRANSPORT.

The list of focal points was reviewed as follows:

Type	Network	Contact points
TP	ERRAC	Austria (Frank Michelberger)
	ERTRAC	Germany (Oliver Althoff)
	WATERBORNE	Sweden (Per Ekberg)
	EIRAC	UK (Matthew White)
Research	ECTRI	The Netherlands (Willy Diddens)
	COST – TUD	Sweden (Christine Wallgren)
ERA-NET	ERA-NET ROAD	France (Olivier Hartmann)
	MARTEC	Germany (Oliver Althoff)
	EPTR - PC	UK (Matthew White)
	OECD/ITF JTRC	Finland (Martti Mäkelä)
Forum	TRB	The Netherlands (Sieds Halbesma)
	TRA	France (Olivier Hartmann)

The role of the focal point was clarified as follows:

- inform ENT about the activities of the network in which they are involved, and also inform on ENT activities
- dates of important events
- report / feedback on main events (through the e-Newsletter for instance)
- keep watch on research opportunities developed by the network which are relevant to ENT

The information on the networking activities will be regularly posted to ERA-NET TRANSPORT partners through an e-Newsletter, in order to facilitate communication about networking activities within the ENT consortium.

Moreover, participants agree that - based on the very positive feedback on last year's Plenary Group - there will be again a targeted session for stakeholders of the transport ERA.