



- paving the way for joint European transport research

A NEW ERA FOR THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT RESEARCH

ERA-NET TRANSPORT programme for the period 2004-2007 comprises 11 partners from 9 European countries that aim at efficient trans-national research cooperation in the field of transport. The partners represent ministries and other national research funding organisations that bring together public funding of over € 275 million each year. ERA-NET TRANSPORT is financed through the EU's 6th Framework Programme with the aims to strengthen the European scientific base and to support the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA).

Trans-national cooperation

Efficient transport systems are central to Europe's single market. Most countries still view their transport research and networks from a national perspective. In order to make transport research more efficient and to avoid unnecessary parallel work, trans-national cooperation at the European level is needed.

The purpose of ERA-NET TRANSPORT is to develop a European vision for transport research. Its objective is to promote cooperation between national transport research programmes by providing joint procedures, joint programming and joint project management models and guidelines. The programme aims to supply transport and research policy-makers with information about the future challenges and European research priorities. The ultimate goal is to open up national transport research programmes to European partners.

TRANS-NATIONAL RESEARCH COOPERATION

- *Enables collective tasks that cannot be tackled nationally.*
- *Increases the efficient use of resources and the quality of national research activities.*
- *Creates new research, networking and business opportunities for research managers and policy customers.*
- *Provides valuable information about European research priorities for the support of national policy making.*
- *Improves the competitiveness of European research at the world markets.*

Best practices for joint programming

ERA-NET TRANSPORT designs cooperation models and guidelines for trans-national research programmes. These procedural recommendations cover methods for proposal evaluation, project monitoring, intellectual property rights and joint financing. The guidelines are based on in-depth analyses of the best programme management practices and existing cooperative research in the field of transport.



With guidelines in place, ERA-NET TRANSPORT will work towards a common strategic research agenda. It maps the transport research activities of Member States as well as European and international organisations and identifies future research topics that are most appropriate for cooperation and integration.

In the following phase, ERA-NET TRANSPORT will move on to “practice”, putting designed model rules, procedures and shared vision to the test. This process begins with clustering the existing transport research projects under the ERA-NET TRANSPORT umbrella and proceeds with the launching of joint projects and programmes. ERA-NET TRANSPORT monitors and evaluates the success of these practical experiences and assesses their impact on national and European transport research and policy planning. Programme results are widely disseminated to increase the knowledge of trans-national research methods, possibilities and best practices.

An open opportunity

Retained autonomy is one of the founding principles of ERA-NET TRANSPORT. There is no intention to take over the administration of national research programmes. The ERA-NET TRANSPORT cooperation is organised around specific research topics or programmes that can be pursued on a multilateral basis depending on the interests of the participating countries. A further goal is to expand the group with new partners and countries in order to ensure a stronger European cooperation in transport research.

In pursuing the overall goal of the ERA-NET TRANSPORT programme, the work is organised into six WORK PACKAGES (WP):

WP 1 Development of model procedures and rules for cooperation and coordination

WP 2 Identification of areas for cooperation and research programming

WP 3 Implementation of cooperation and coordination activities

WP 4 Communications

WP 5 Coordination of network activities

WP 6 Contract and consortium management

ERA-NET SCHEME

The ERA-NET scheme is the principal means for the EU's 6th Framework Programme (FP6 2002-2006) to support cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level in Member States and Associated States. It's objective is to step up the networking and implementation of joint national and regional research activities. It pools scattered human and financial resources to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of Europe's research efforts.



PARTNERS

AUSTRIA Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology	
BELGIUM Federal Public Planning Service Science Policy	
FINLAND Ministry of Transport and Communications	
FRANCE Ministry of infrastructure, transport, housing, tourism and the sea	
FRANCE Institut des sciences et des techniques de l'équipement et de l'environnement pour le développement – ISTED	
GERMANY Federal Ministry of Education and Research	
GERMANY TÜV-Akademie Rheinland GmbH	
NETHERLANDS Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management	
NORWAY Ministry of Transport and Communications	
SWEDEN Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems – VINNOVA	
UNITED KINGDOM Department for Transport	



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ERA-NET scheme please visit:
www.cordis.lu/coordination/era-net.htm