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## Editorial



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Dear readers,

The European transport research community had again the opportunity to bring the problems they are dealing with to the broader audience during the European Transport Research and Innovation Week (ETRIW). This event organised by CDV, an ECTRI member, under the auspices of the Czech Ministry of Transport within the Czech Republic Presidency took place in Brno on 11–15 May. The international conference „Urban Mobility” as the main event of ETRIW tackled the issues concerning the sustainable transport development in cities and urban areas in order to fulfil increasing demands with respect to environmental protection. ETRIW was also an occasion to hold in the same place and time meetings of FEHRL, FERSI, EURNEX and HUMANIST. Their representatives signed the „Brno Declaration” which is a follow-up of the Lyon Declaration of December 2008 with reaching common views and consensus on mobility research and policy. One of ECTRI strategic goals is to create a more representative entity in the area of European transport research. We wish to engage leading transport scientific and research institutions of

all EU member states. At present we welcome on board two new members: the Transport Economics Laboratory (LET) from France and the Centre for Innovation in Transport (CENIT) from Spain, whose profiles are presented in this newsletter.

At the beginning of June was held the fifth Young Researchers Seminar (YRS) organised jointly by ECTRI, FEHRL and FERSI and hosted by ECTRI member Politecnico di Torino (POLITO). Young researchers belonging to these organisations had an opportunity to show their achievements. The YRS, thanks to the active engagement and support of the tutors, reaches higher and higher level of its content. It was also an excellent and important possibility to establish personal contacts which will in future facilitate and foster the cooperation between the research institutions represented by the participants.

ECTRI would like to be an active player in the European Research Area. Consequently, ECTRI President Guy Bourgeois sent a letter to Janez POTOČNIK, Commissioner for Science and Research concerning some ECTRI members' problems with legal and financial management of European research projects. In

response, the Commissioner thanked for the valuable ECTRI feedback to the Research Framework Programmes. He encouraged ECTRI members to apply for the new FP7 certificates (CoM and CoMAv) to obtain more certainty regarding the cost claim methodology, and assured ECTRI that the Commission will take the Discharge resolution of the European Parliament (23 April 2009), resolution on which ECTRI based its initiative, into great consideration.

The present ECTRI activities focus on the exchange of information with its Thematic Working Groups asking them to work out strategic research agendas in their field of research in order to support the work of the newly created ECTRI Strategy Taskforce whose aim is to complete the «ECTRI vision, mission and strategy» paper, with focused research priorities and themes.

The Taskforce shall deliver a draft paper on that matter to the next General Assembly which will take place in Warsaw, Poland, 10-11 December 2009.

*Witold Olpinski*

## The European Transport Research and Innovation Week (ETRIW)



The ETRIW event was hosted by ECTRI member CDV, in Brno, in the frame of the EU-Czech Presidency, on 11-15 May 2009. This event was a follow-up of the EU-French Presidency event of 8-12 December 2008, which took place in Lyon, France. ETRIW gathered the signatories of the Lyon Declaration, representatives of the European Commission, key European transport research associations, networks of excellence and technology platforms, including the meeting of the FP7 Transport Program Committee. In particular, ECTRI held its General Assembly and Board meetings and the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) on Freight Transport, on Safety and Security and on Urban Mobility met during that week. The central theme of this European

event was «Urban mobility in the light of Lisbon strategy», which resulted in the signature of the 'Brno Declaration'. ECTRI TWG on Urban Mobility participated to this related Conference with a presentation by the group moderator Nadine Morand along the implementation of the EC Green Paper "Towards a New Urban Mobility Culture". Following the initiative of the 'Lyon Declaration', the 'Brno Declaration' focusing on mobility research and policy, was signed on May 13 by ECTRI, EURNEX, FEHRL, FERSI and HUMANIST. The signatories committed their organisations to establish partnerships in order to tackle urban mobility problems. They are convinced that innovation is the solution for sustaining transport and support initiatives like CIVITAS. They underline that an upgrade of

the statistics and databases in urban mobility is needed as well as improvement of public transport services and the extension of soft mobility modes (cycling, walking) and the integration of electric vehicles power supplies. They stress that there should be an equitable treatment between the transport of goods and passengers and between the different transport modes. This can't be achieved without European cooperation and coordination. Finally the declaration underlines the environmental impact of infrastructure, planning and land use, and the urge to create a sustainable development of urban mobility.

The presentations and the 'Brno Declaration' are available on <http://etriw.cdv.cz>

### Young Researchers Seminar 2009 - Torino, Italy - 3-5 June 2009

The 5th Young Researchers Seminar (YRS09) was a real success. It was jointly organised by ECTRI, FEHRL and FERSI, and was hosted by ECTRI member Politecnico di Torino (POLITO), in Torino, Italy. It was meant for young researchers working in the following research areas: Transport economics and transport behaviour; Transport sustainability and environment; Transport safety; Intelligent Transport Systems; Transport Road Engineering; Rail and Traffic. In total, 48 young researchers from 19 countries and 24 institutes participated in YRS09, mostly from EU countries and EFTA, but also from the USA (2), from Russia (1) and Serbia (1). The seminar was opened by a welcome cocktail near the Po River, and the official dinner took place in the "Ristorante del Cambio".

**Tutorship:** Each young researcher was supervised by a tutor. 14 tutors (including one from the US) participated to YRS09. In addition to the regular sessions, 2 keynote sessions took place: in the frame of the MoU signed between ECTRI and the US-Transportation Research Board (TRB), the first keynote session was given by Jorge Prozzi, Chairman of the TRB International

Activities Committee. He indicated how young researchers could participate to US research groups and encouraged them to submit their paper to participate to the next TRB Annual Meeting in January 2010. Alan Stevens, from TRL, United Kingdom animated the second keynote session. As Editor in Chief of the Intelligent Transport Systems Journal (IET), he gave his advices on how to succeed in being published in a scientific journal. He encouraged to submit to the new free-access online Journal: the European Transport Research Review (ETRR).

**Best papers of YRS09:** During the Seminar, the tutors and the members of the Steering Committee met to identify the 3 best papers of the Seminar. They remarked that the general level of the papers and presentations was very high and that the scientific quality was increasing from Seminar to Seminar. Johan Olstam from VTI, Sweden, whose paper was "Combining autonomous vehicles and controlled events in driving simulator experiments", was awarded as the best written paper and oral presentation; Agathe Baker-Grøndahl from TØI, Norway: "Healthy driving - a study of drivers' health condition and relative crash risk", was first

runner-up, and Aurélien Duret from INRETS, France: "Measurement of variability involved in the car-following rules", second runner-up. During the closing ceremony, ECTRI, FEHRL and FERSI were presented and the winners received their YRS09 diploma.



3 YRS09 winners and tutors

**Prizes:** A money prize will be offered to the 3 winners of YRS09. They are also invited to participate to a special session about 'safe driving' during the European Transport Conference (ETC), to be held in The Netherlands, in October 2009. They will also be automatically finalist of the YEAR2010 competition, which will take place in June 2010 during TRA 2010 in Brussels.

from left to right:  
- Aurélien Duret  
- Johan Olstam  
- Cristina Pronello (Chairwoman of YRS09)  
- Agathe Baker-Grøndahl



## ECTRI welcomes two new members: CENIT, Spain and LET, France



**The Centre for Innovation in Transport (CENIT)**, from Barcelona, Spain, was created in 2001, as a consortium between the Government of Catalonia and the Technical University of Catalonia.

Its objective is to become a centre of reference in research development and innovation in transportation and mobility at the national and international level.

CENIT's traffic sector activities are road transport, rail transport, air transport, waterborne transport and cross cutting work. It is truly a multimodal research centre. CENIT's scope of activities includes generating knowledge and transferring it to the society through research, training and technology transfer in the fields of transportation, logistics and mobility. CENIT uses multidisciplinary, scientific and system approaches to perform

quantitative analysis of service, behaviour, perception, functionality, sustainability, management, quality, reliability, risk and safety. Their activities and research lines include operations analysis, pricing, appraisal, demand behaviour, optimization in network and route design, location and physical layout; mobility and urban transport; railways; traffic management; logistics and terminals; ports and maritime transport; airports and air transport; safety, security and reliability; ITS; demand; financing; transport system management; PPP - concessions and regulation; territory and city planning; environment and energy.

Every year CENIT is present at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual meeting in Washington DC, USA, and Francesc Robusté as director of CENIT and president of FIT (Spanish Association of Transport Engineering, an asso-

ciation that integrates over 40 full time professors of Transport Engineering in Spain), has organised a Spanish reception in order to promote the relations between the Spanish assistants at TRB. Francesc Robusté also participates to the Joint OECD/ITF Transport Research Centre, representing Spain. Moreover several researchers of CENIT have participate in different working groups (congestion and reliability of networks) and in a round table of the taxi sector.

By joining ECTRI, CENIT increases its international collaboration and presence in Europe and shares a niche of expertise among the ECTRI network. CENIT will be actively involved in ECTRI Thematic Working Groups 'Urban Mobility', 'Freight transport' and 'Transport economics and policy'.

More information about CENIT:

<http://www.cenit.es>



**The Transport Economics Laboratory (LET)**, located in Lyon, France, is an academic research unit specialised in transport economics and land use analysis. It is attached to the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research) and the University of Lyon (University Lyon 2 and ENTPE – National School of Public Works). LET's research activities are at the crossroads of transport, regions and society. Its research staff (45 researchers and support staff plus 25 PhD students) come from various disciplines, principally economics and engineering, but also from others such as geography, sociology or political science. LET uses the concepts and tools of these disciplines in order to: analyse and model the spatial mobility of persons and goods, as well as residential and activity location; evaluate transport and land use policy; and provide decision-support to stakeholders seeking solutions to current critical issues facing society.

LET members publish regularly in international peer-reviewed journals, and they also provide expertise to the development of public po-

licy in the form of technical reports, decision-support models, and the diffusion of research information through professional and popular media. With the active participation of their professional partners in the transport sector, the faculty and research staff of LET support several undergraduate, graduate and PhD programs. Their alumni typically hold professional positions in transport enterprises or in local or national administrations, or pursue academic research and teaching.

LET has partnerships with several universities around the world and hosts the Secretary of the World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS). LET is currently participating in four EC research projects (FP 6-7 and Interreg).

In their current research program, activities are organised around three main lines:

- "Mobility and use of land and time by individuals or organisations": this refers to geographic and temporal dynamics of mobility, through analysis of activity location of households and firms, accessibility, time-budgets and activity patterns, in developed or developing countries.

- "Markets, organisations and incentives": at the junction of public and industrial economics, transport sector is a good example of market failures but also public decision failures. Research activities here refer to cost-benefit analysis, pricing and assessment, including inequality, acceptability and equity issues in transport policy, and more recently benchmarking and efficiency of contracts in the context of deregulation of transport markets.

- "Modelling of passenger and freight transportation": this is a tradition in their laboratory and this continues today with efforts to renew urban passenger and freight transport modelling, including the interaction with activity locations, and the development of agent-based simulation models.

Regarding ECTRI activities, LET will actively participate in at least four of the ECTRI's Thematic Working Groups: 'Urban Mobility', 'Energy and Climate Change', 'Freight Transport', and 'Transport Economics and Policy'.

More information about LET:

<http://www.let.fr>



There is quite euphoria about the introduction of electrical traction, with the media buzz suggesting there will be more than a million electrical cars on Dutch roads in 2020. 'We really need electrical traction to hit our long-term targets for CO2 reduction, so we can't afford to trivialise the hurdles that still exist,' argues TNO strategic advisor Richard Smokers. In the 1990s local air quality was a key stimulus for electrical cars. In California the Zero Emission Vehicle mandate compelled manufacturers to sell a steadily rising share of emission-free vehicles from 1998 onwards. In Europe energy companies had money available for innovation experiments. But the ZEV mandate was diluted, which allowed extra-clean combustion engines to comply, and privatisation of energy companies in Europe meant a shift in their priorities. The initiatives thus died a slow death. The lesson is that a stable long-term policy is essential. Smokers: 'The need for success is

### The pull of the electrical car

now greater than ever. Europe has to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 80% compared with 1990 levels. Meanwhile traffic emissions just go on rising and if it continues, the traffic in 2050 will account for more than the entire permitted CO2 emission.' **Stable increase:** biofuels and hydrogen are options, but ultimately it is full electrical traction based on renewable electricity that is the most efficient 'well to wheel' route. 'Fortunately, improved battery technology has provided a better basis, with lithium-ion technology boosting the range from 75 to 200 kilometres,' Smokers explains. 'But we are not there yet.' The development of a sustainable demand requires the development of a sustainable supply. 'The electrical car has to be attractive for the consumer. And, right now, it is not.' Who is going to buy a car with a quarter the range of a petrol-driven equivalent and is twice the purchase price? For the time being, policy has to ensure that the supply is attractive - like long-term tax

incentives or preferential parking. This will create a predictable, stable increase in demand for electrical cars. **Towards application:** this will give the automobile industry and companies that lay the infrastructure the confidence to keep investing and solving the questions that remain. In time lower production costs and more product innovation will have to make the electrical car a sought-after product. Smokers: 'large-scale, well monitored practical tests can answer many of the questions. A hundred test sites with a single charging unit and two cars will teach you very little. Large-scale testing gives different manufacturers the opportunity to demonstrate their competitiveness, ensure there is commitment rather than subsidy-driven opportunism.' Of the million electrical cars in 2020? Smokers: 'That is the equivalent of fifty per cent of all car sales, which is not realistic. I just hope we can achieve a good balance between enthusiasm and a healthy respect for uncertainties.'

### Access 2 all: First Workshop - 29 September 2009 - Porto, Portugal



The ACCESS 2 ALL consortium, in which ECTRI member INRETS, France is partner, announces its first workshop "Accessibility in Public Transport - Barrier-free Travelling for All Citizens". This workshop aims to bring together all stakeholders in the area of the public transport including the special role of mobility impaired users. The programme will include presentations by key experts of the consortium and of external attendees, such as the EC and experts of the

MEDIATE project as well as interactive parallel sessions for all interested participants. The topics of the workshop will revolve around: -The overall problem of mobility in today's societies; -The addressed user groups, their needs; -Experience through best practices and primary implementation scenarios; -Accessibility as a universal concept. Moreover, open discussion and interactive sessions are foreseen. The workshop is being organised by the High Institute for Education and Sciences ISEC (PT) in cooperation with the

University of Stuttgart (DE), with the support of the coordination team of the project. The workshop will be held in Porto (PT), on 29 September 2009. There will be state of the art presentations on accessibility of public transport, key stakeholders and industry's representatives from around Europe and open discussions with EC officers and National or European authorities. The workshop is free of charge. Complete programme and the registration details will be available on the website. <http://www.access-to-all.eu>

### 18th International Symposium on Transport Economics and Policy, 16-18 November 2009



Organised every 3 years by the Joint Transport Research Centre of OECD/ITF, the Symposium aims to stimulate thinking on transport economics and policymaking. This year it is hosted by ECTRI member CEDEX, which is the Research Centre of the Spanish Ministry of Transport. This event brings together researchers from

universities, institutes, government, consultancy, transport operators, and transport industries and transport users. It attracts over 300 participants from all the world. The focus will be on the development of interurban passenger transport, with a keynote address from an influential thinker on economic geography, Professor Jacques-François Thisse. There will be debates on presentations from transport economists on

the following themes:

- future trends in inter-urban passenger transport;
- adapting networks to the passenger transport market: long-term planning and assessment;
- competition and regulation of interurban travel;
- transport system interactions and innovation;
- sustainable interurban mobility.

<http://istep2009.cedex.es>



## HUMANIST VCE Conference, Berlin, 29-30 April 2010: call for paper

  
Humanist  
Due to the non-existence of a specific conference focused on safety and usability of vehicle information and communication technologies, the HUMANIST NoE decided in 2008 to set up a European conference on Human Centred Design for Intelligent Transport

Systems. The aim of this conference was to gather the community of Human Factors researchers, to offer an overview of the current developments and trends and to create an area for discussions and debates on these topics. The first conference was held on 3-4 April 2008 in Lyon, France. It was successful with 120

participants from Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada, USA. The second European conference, organised by the HUMANIST Virtual Centre of Excellence, will be held in Berlin on 29-30 April 2010. The call for papers for this Conference is opened until 30 September 2009.

<http://www.conference2010.humanist-vce.eu>

> **General Assembly meeting:** on May 11 and 12, the ECTRI members met during the ETRIW event, which was hosted by CDV, in Brno, Czech Republic. ECTRI was very pleased to welcome two new members: the Transport Economics Laboratory (LET), France, and the Centre for Innovation in Transport (CENIT), Spain. The main discussions concerned the activities of the Thematic Working Groups, the preparation of FP8, the outcomes of the meeting with Commissioner Potočník and the relationships with other organisations. The Assembly also dealt with ECTRI's participation in Conferences like the European Transport Conference (ETC), the Transport Research Arena (TRA2010) and the Conference of Road Safety for all Continents (RS4C), ECTRI's participation in the YEAR2010 project and the organisation the Young Researchers Seminar 2009. Some management issues were tackled, in particular the recruitment of a Secretary General for the ECTRI

### ECTRI's facts and figures

Brussel's office and the approval of ECTRI 2008 Activities Report and accounts.

> **Joint Programme of Activities:** the Assembly also finalized and approved the new JPA for the period 2009-2011. This third JPA built on the basis of 2003-2005 and 2006-2008 JPAs, takes at the same time into consideration the lessons learned and the future move of the secretariat to Brussels. The JPA is the vehicle of the implementation of ECTRI's vision and mission. It is built around two pillars: "Strengthening the foundation for cooperation" and "Making a strong contribution to the ERA in transport". The first pillar aims at intensifying the cooperation between ECTRI-members, the second at increasing the relevance and visibility of ECTRI in the international arena. The JPA strives for moving ECTRI from an organization mainly reacting to external developments to a proactive player at the forefront of the European Research Area. The JPA also includes two newly

created Taskforces: a Strategy and a FP8 Taskforces. The latest is common with the signatories of the 'Lyon Declaration'.

> **ECTRI-TRB:** the ECTRI cooperation with the US-Transportation Research Board (TRB) was the aim of a separate meeting held on May 12 in Brno, during the ETRIW event, gathering the ECTRI members interested in deepening such cooperation. The participants discussed the implementation of the report made by Working Group 10, entitled «EU/USA - Transportation Research Collaboration - Challenges and Opportunities». They also further worked out possibilities to organise a scanning tour to the US around research issues of special interest. Other addressed issues were the organisation of European sponsored sessions at the next TRB Annual meeting, the possibility to set up a focal point of contact on both ECTRI and TRB sides and the joint participation in TRB Committees and ECTRI groups.

> **Brno Declaration:** ECTRI co-wrote and signed the Brno Declaration, with FEHRL, FERSI, EURNEX and HUMANIST on 13 May 2009.

> **ECTRI-TRB report:** «EU/USA - Transportation Research Collaboration - Challenges and Opportunities», a report made by Working Group 10 has been officially published on the TRB web-

site in May 2009. It is now also available in French and Spanish.

> **2008 Activities Report:** this report, which details all activities of the association conducted in 2008, has been approved during the last General Assembly meeting.

> **FP7 input:** a document entitled "White spots in European transport research traced by EC-

TRI's Thematic Working Groups", gathering some inputs from the TWG's to the FP7 transport work-programme update has been officially distributed mid-June to the relevant EC Directorates.

All these publications are available on the ECTRI website.

### Publications

### Upcoming ECTRI events

- > Board Meeting - 29 October 2009 - Brussels, Belgium
- > General Assembly - 10 & 11 December 2009 - CNTK, Warsaw, Poland

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