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Editorial



By **Liisa HAKAMIES-BLOMQVIST**

Scientific Director of VTI

ECTRI has during its relatively short history developed towards an important arena for European Transport Research, both for increased collaboration between members and as an independent voice influencing policy. The ECTRI views on future research priorities have been expressed in different contexts and reached important audiences. Among others, ECTRI has pointed out an increasing need for behavioural research in the transportation area.

Applying a behavioural perspective on ECTRI itself, some success factors

can be identified. *Foresight* is a central one. The ECTRI secretariat is well informed in important matters, which makes it easy for us to act upon rather than react to important developments. *Optimism* is a second one. Psychological literature has produced very robust evidence for the claim that higher levels of confidence and optimism, even if not quite realistic, are related to success. ECTRI optimistically adopted a high ambition level on its activities from the beginning, and the different task forces and working groups have performed very well. A third success factor that may well be increasingly important in future is *altruism*. When working in geographically spread networks, especially using large EU financing instruments such as NoEs, it is important that all parts understand that for such activities to be possible, joint success

should be the highest goal. If temptations there are to increase own profits more than is reconcilable with common goals, they should be firmly resisted. One way of clarifying common goals as contrasted to competing interests are bilateral collaboration agreements on areas where competencies match; some ECTRI members already have made such agreements.

The second ECTRI Young Researchers' Seminar will take place in May. It is an excellent instrument to strengthen all the three success factors mentioned above and an investment into future research quality, optimism and enthusiasm. It is also an arena for the important players of the future to get acquainted, thus creating a good groundwork for a collaboration based on genuinely shared goals and efforts.

Last Board meeting in Lyon, France

The last ECTRI Board meeting was held on February 24th at INRETS Lyon-Bron center.

During this meeting the Board drew up the 2004 accounts in order to present them to the next Assembly meeting

to be held on April 6th and 7th in Oslo.

Moreover, this Board meeting also aimed at preparing this next Assembly and deciding the points to be discussed in Oslo.

The Board agreed on the 2004 Annual report of ECTRI association proposal to be proposed to the Assembly approval. This report will be then available on the ECTRI website.

SAMNET (5th FRDP) and ECTRI members involvement British Library, London, 18th January 2005

SAMNET is a Thematic Network for exchanging information, knowledge and expertise among the research institutes, public transportation operators, industries, suppliers, authorities and procurement agencies, especially in the field of railway regulations and safety.

The project activities focus on the implementation of safety and interoperability Directives (High Speed and Conventional Rail), and Technical specification of Interoperability.

Three ECTRI Board members are members of the SAMNET Steering Committee (INRETS, FHG-IVI, DTF).

The SAMNET Working Group preparing Rail Safety Research Strategic Agenda is composed of TU Delft and four ECTRI members with associated universities: INRETS, DLR, FHG-IVI and DTF.

More information are provided on the website <http://www.samnet.info>.

ECTRI-FERSI-FEHRL Young Researchers Seminar 2005 The Hague, May 11 to 13th, 2005

The ECTRI-FERSI-FEHRL Young Researchers Seminar will be held from 11 to 13 May in The Hague, The Netherlands at the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management.

The preparation of the meeting is now well under way. The deadline for

Young Researchers submission their abstracts was October 10th and the deadline for submission of the complete papers was January 20th.

All the papers have now been sent to the tutors in order to be commented; the final papers will be sent to

the organising committee for next April 10th.

More information concerning the venue, the programme and the accommodation can be found on the dedicated webpage of the ECTRI website at <http://www.ectri.org>.

Actualities

↳ The NET-TRACK proposal (**NET**working **T**ransport **R**ese**A**rch **R**esources, **C**ompetencies and **K**nowledge) has been retained by the Commission. This project concentrates on the following issues: exchanging experiences through 2 workshops with organizations from New Member States (NMS), Accessing Countries (AC) and Western Balkan Countries (WBC) in the field of research management and in the fields of human resources and 'Soft infrastructures'.

↳ Those who are interested by the **e-safety initiative** can visit the website: <http://www.escope.info>. The ECTRI Secretary, Jean-Pierre Médevielle, is serving within the Plenary and the Steering Group and in the International Cooperation Working Group. Some ECTRI seniors scientists are serving in International Cooperation Working Group, Human-Machine Interaction Working Group and Implementation Roadmaps Working Group.

↳ ECTRI welcomes in 2005 a new member. The **Vilnius Gediminas Technical University - Transport Research Institute** (VGTU-TMI) located in Lithuania, Plytinės 27, 2016 Vilnius, officially joined the ECTRI association at the beginning of 2005. More information about this new member are available on the website: <http://www.vtu.lt/english/vgtu/>.

Danish Transport Research Institute DTF

DANMARKS TRANSPORTFORSKNING



The Danish Transport Research Institute (Danmarks Transport-Forskning (DTF)) is a research institute under the Danish Ministry of Transport and Energy, located in Knuth-Winterfeldts allé, Building 116 Vest, DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark.

The Institute commenced its activities as from August 2000 and is thus in a building-up stage. The purpose of the Institute is to strengthen transport research with special focus on such fields as transport safety and risk as well as transport economics and modelling. Within these research fields Danish Transport Research Institute carries out academic research, applied research besides working with innovation, science-based support to the

policy making process and communication of know-how with a view to making the results of research and development available for practical exploitation. The Institute is built up with a broad research basis, and activities are planned with special focus on the inter-disciplinary aspects of transport problems.

The Institute participates actively in national and international (including EU) research co-operation and in its co-ordination.

In addition, Danish Transport Research Institute participates actively in the education and training of researchers, for instance, by employing Ph.D. students.

Publication of the research results obtained by Danish Transport Research Institute takes place partly in the Institute's own report series, partly in relevant Danish and international journals and at conferences, etc. Additionally the Institute's research results, activities and other relevant information are available at the homepage. Furthermore, the Institute attaches great importance to the application-oriented and instructional communication of these research results to wider circles. At present the institute has a research staff of 18, but in the future the institute will expand the staff.

Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute

VTI



The Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (Statens Väg-och Transportforskningsinstitut (VTI)) is a National Research Institute under the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, with registered offices in Linköping, Borlänge, Stockholm and Gothenburg. Its headquarters is located at Olaus Magnus Väg 35, SE-581 95 Linköping, Sweden.

The Institute employs 180 researchers and other personnel, of whom 49 hold a doctor's degree. Nine senior researchers are associate professors at Swedish universities or institutes of technology.

VTI performs advanced applied research and development of high quality aiming to contribute to the national transport policy objective for sustainable development. The principal duty is to carry on research and development concerning infrastructure, traffic

and transport. The R&D shall also include general analyses of the impact of the transport sector on the environment and energy use. The research shall contribute to enhancing knowledge and skills within the transport sector aiming to fulfilment of the six sub-goals of the national transport policy objective: an accessible transport system, high transport quality, safe transport, a sound environment, favourable regional development and gender equality.

The VTI's competence covers traffic engineering, transport economics, transport supply and demand, traffic safety, environmental impact of traffic, road user behaviour, collision safety, human factors research, automotive engineering, and railway engineering, in addition to the planning, design, building, operation and maintenance of roads, railways and runways. The range of skills

indicates the interdisciplinary composition of the research staff. This broad competence among the VTI's experts enables the Institute to apply an interdisciplinary basis in its research commissions and to tackle problems from a variety of angles.

The Institute's applied research and development contributes to: developing and applying methods and models for target analysis and status measurement, studying and analysing causes and relations between design/condition and effects, developing and applying methods and models for predicting future condition and effects, in addition to evaluation development and improvement of measures. VTI also performs commissions on a consultancy basis, such as investigations, empirical measurements, literature searches, courses and seminars expert assistance.

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Actualities

👉 The **ERTRAC Strategic Research Agenda** has been published. It can be downloaded on the ERTRAC website at the following hyperlink:
<http://www.ertrac.org>.

A CD-Rom is also available.

👉 The first meeting of the two **State of the Art** task force was held on December 16th and 17th, 2004 at DTF offices in Lyngby, Denmark.

👉 The ECTRI Working Group 4 dealing with “Soft research infrastructure issues” had a meeting on February

15th, 2005 in Rotterdam at AVV Headquarters. A final proposal of their work will be submitted to the next Assembly meeting in Oslo.

👉 The **Commissioner for Research, Janez Potočnik**, sent a letter on February 14th as a receipt acknowledgement of both the content and research process issues of the **ECTRI contribution to the 7FRDP preparation**.

👉 A new **Working Group on Urban Mobility** has been

created at the Crowthorne Assembly of members on November 12th, 2004 further to INRETS initiative. This Working Group is on thematic and content side (differing from Working Groups 2, 3 and 4 that deal with process and horizontal side). A first meeting is scheduled on 29th March 2005 at INRETS and shall bring together seniors experts of INRETS, VTI, DLR, TRL, FHG-IVI, TOI, TMI-VGTU, VTT, UPM, HIT, DTF, AVV and CDV.

Next Events / News

- Next international events where ECTRI will be represented
 - > 1st FERSI Scientific Road Safety Research Conference, 7 and 8 September 2005, BAST office, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany
 - > AET European Transport Conference, Strasbourg, France, 3 to 5 October 2005
- Next Assembly meetings :
 - > 6 and 7 April 2005, Oslo, Norway
- Next Board meetings:
 - > 6 and 7 April 2005, Oslo, Norway