



DETRA
Developing the European Transport Research Alliance

International Cooperation Issues in Transport Research: Prospects, Problems, and EU added value

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Second DETRA Workshop

“International Cooperation Opportunities within the ERA: Focus on Research Governance Issues”

Tuesday, 21 June, 2011, Athens

- Non-profit organisation established in 2003 to
 - Promote integrated transport research and development in Europe
 - Tie together the foremost multi-modal transport research centers across Europe
 - Promote the excellence of European transport research
- 28 major transport research institutes from 20 European countries
- More than 4,000 research staff
- Brussels based organisation

International Cooperation, one of main ECTRI's missions

Statutes set up as an ECTRI objective to:

« participate in the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA) ». All ERA dimensions are covered in this objective, including the « International cooperation » aspects

Vision paper in 2003 sets up as an ECTRI mission:

« to create and keep open, acting in cooperation with other European Organisations, permanent links and liaisons with the US TRB, and similar bodies in Japan, Korea, China, India, and Australia »

...Renewed in **2008 Strategic paper**, stating to

« Further develops its established relations with US TRB and other major international organisations »

MoU with TRB, signed 22 Jan. 2006, Washington, TRB Annual Session

1. Cooperation in mutual activities

Meeting, Conference, Working Groups,
Committees

2. Dissemination of information and research results

TR News, ECTRI Newsletter

3. Organization of, or participation in, select activities i.e.

- Young Researchers Seminar
- Joint Committee or WG on future transport research needs
- Participation of ECTRI in annual TRB Conference (booth, sessions, keynote speakers)



Activities are formalized through a two-year common **Action Plan** approved on an annual basis

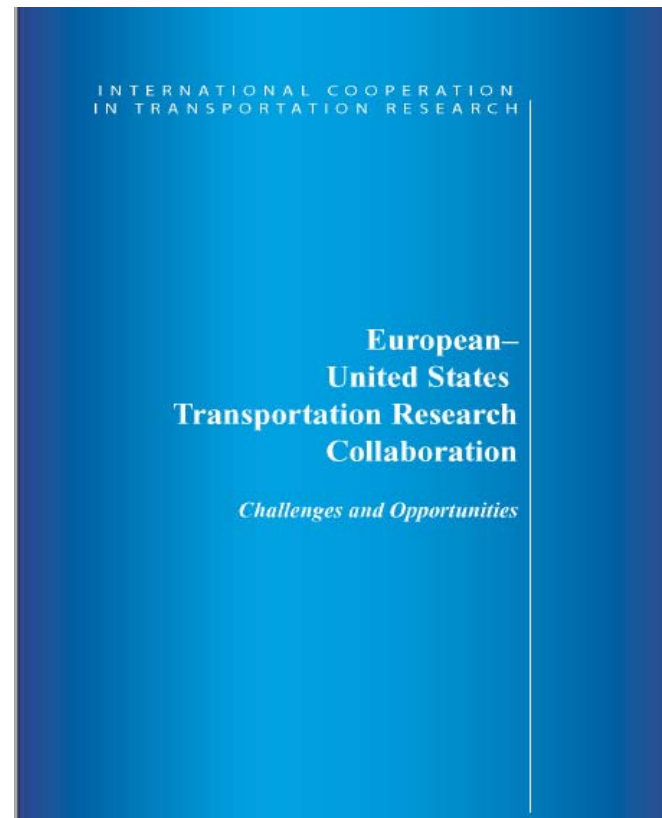
1. US Scanning tour in Europe [« on transport research programme »](#), April 2008
2. European participation in TRB Annual Conference events: « Global Climate Change Workshop », « Innovative research partnership sessions »
3. Active ECTRI members' participation in TRB Committees (47 from 14 different institutes)
4. US scientists' participation in YRS in 2007 and 2009
5. Regular exchange of information from both sides

ECTRI-TRB MoU achievements (2)

6. « ECTRI-TRB report » on EU/US Transport research collaboration: challenges and opportunities, Feb. 2009

Issues examined:

- Transport research environment on both sides of the Atlantic (research management, governance, financing)
- Barriers and prerequisites for cooperation
- Recommendations on ways and procedures to develop closer collaboration



Posted online at:

<http://www.ectri.org>

and

<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/general/EU-USResearch.pdf>

Touched upon wider International Cooperation issues

International Cooperation in Transport: Possible models for cooperation

1. Organised, centralised and **institutionally- driven collaborative RTD** (ex. SICA in FP7)
2. Flexible, spontaneous and dynamic **scientist-to-scientist** RTD collaborative activities
3. One-way (or two ways) **information exchanges** on technol. and best practices (for ex. scanning programmes)
4. International Information Exchange through **Technology Assistance Programs** (coop. among agencies on technol. exchanges)
5. Distributed collaboration through **joint programming** (joint research call by several adm.)

International Cooperation in Transport: Added-Value / Benefits

- Access to additional research capital, advanced equipment, and technical skills
- Greater awareness of advances in technology and practices
- Ability to deploy state of the art and state of the practice technologies and methods of operation more quickly
- Better relationships among professionals and better conduit for information exchange and deployment of technologies and innovations with a relatively small investment of resources
- Better understanding of the issues faced in other countries;
- Avoidance of costly duplicative research
- Building of positive multilateral and unilateral relationships between and among countries
- Benefiting individual researchers by providing international exposure (reputation building) and additional funding resources for research

International Cooperation in Transport: Most common problems

- High Information Costs
- Transactional and procedural obstacles
- Differences in Intellectual Property Regimes and Rights
- Cultural Differences
- Conception of “Capacity to *Go it alone*”
- Institutional inertia and bureaucratic procedures
- Research labor differences (e.g. in employment permit regulations, salaries and regimes)
- Differences in institutional cultures
- Limited financial capabilities and funds

International Cooperation in Transport: Recommendations on issues to be addressed

1. Formulation and adoption of appropriate **enabling policies** by the responsible administrations
2. Establishment of **common Programme Management structures and rules** including, among others:
 - Comparable research evaluation procedures (common criteria, methods) / research Governance and financing structures / Common benchmarking of research governance / Common or comparable Intellectual Property Rights provisions / Rules and procedures for joint programming;*
3. Address the **training and human resource management issues**
4. **Cooperation** and greater **accessibility between “soft” research infrastructures**
5. Establish **areas and research themes of common interest** (Thematic co-operation)

DETRA Project and related WP6 on International Cooperation

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the scope, status, and success so far of International Transport Research Cooperation actions within FP6 and FP7 in the context of the future ERA
2. Coordinate and promote actions by the EU and other relevant European and International bodies
3. Final Integration conference with recommendations to overcome barriers and promoting actions to realize ERA and finally identifying recommendations to improve cooperation

International Cooperation in Transport: Follow up initiatives and Perspectives

New European Project “**EUTRAIN**”
“European Transport Research Area International
cooperation activities”

Funded by the 7th Framework Programme – EC, DG R&I
(TPT.2011.3-1. A productive international cooperation to strengthening the European
Transport research area and facing global challenges)

Status: negotiation phase

Instrument: CSA

Duration: 2 years

Starting Date: October 1st, 2011 (tbc)

Partners: ECTRI (leader), ERTICO, FEHRL, VOLVO, EURNEX

Budget: about 900,000 €

- **Establishing a framework** for international transport research cooperation
- Investigate **practices, fields of interest, barriers, gaps**, and diversions for international transport research cooperation in regions of importance for ERA in transport
- **Determine common characteristics, research priorities, and needs** for transport related research
- Consider issues of **research management** including research governance
- **Assess benefits or added value to ERA in transport**, and investigate alternative models and tools for carrying out such cooperation in the most effective and productive way
- **Disseminate**, in the course of doing above activities, **European practices in transport research**

International Cooperation in Transport

EUTRAIN project – Regions covered

- Regions of immediate proximity and/or interaction with ERA-T: **US, Russia, Mediterranean** cooperation countries (with focus on the southern side of the Mediterranean, i.e.: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt), and **Eastern Europe Neighbourhood** cooperation countries (such as: the Balkan countries, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus)
- Regions of wider interest and importance: China, India, Korea, South Africa
- Other regions, e.g. Japan, Australia, Latin America (Brazil / Argentina / Chile), Canada

- Information and data sharing issues
- Achieving “global” research infrastructures
- Pre-standardization issues and means of harmonizing approaches and practices
- Intellectual Property Regimes
- Differences in Institutional cultures and research governance regimes
- Research training and human resource issues (Mobility of researchers and global networking)
- More open research programmes (ultimately joint programming).

International Cooperation in transport

Concluding remarks

- « **Grand Challenges** » can only be faced jointly at international level, and therefore implies to increase international partnerships
 - International Cooperation in Transport research should become **an increasing priority** aiming, primarily, at creating “critical mass” in moving collaboratively to solve critical 21st century transportation challenges
 - International cooperation in transport research will help to **establish the free circulation of specialized knowledge, experience and know how in facing transport problems and challenges**
- International cooperation in transport research has already made **remarkable steps**, and **efforts should be pursued** to further enact and foster this cooperation ; this includes to **overcome the significant problems and barriers** (such as issues related to IPR, RIs, researchers’ mobility and others, pre-standardization) in order to provide means of enacting solutions
- International cooperation in transport **requests efforts, time and resources**, but is worthwhile to undertake since **cooperation shall create the conditions for more European “breakthrough” research and achievements** that would otherwise require more time and resources if faced individually and separately
- International transport research collaboration can both help the **further strengthening and internal cohesion of the European Research Area in Transport (ERA-T)** as well as **boost Europe’s competitiveness in the global economy**

Announcement: ECTRI special session on Climate Change at the TRB 2012 Annual Conference



Session on “Extreme Weather and Transportation System” Sunday 22 January, 2012, 9.00 to 12.00, TRB Annual Meeting, Washington

- Sponsored by TRB International Activities Committee
- Latest research results of three major EU FP7 projects (WEATHER, ECCONET, EWENT - cluster on Climate Change), concerning extreme weather impacts on transport economy and operations
- Highlights the options to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts, and fuels the discussion and analysis around this global issue
- Open to practitioners, researchers and policy makers
- 6 -8 papers to be presented from US and Europe respectively



Thanks for your attention

For further information

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