



Presentation on ECTRI and its contribution to ERA

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« Development of a Research Career in Europe »

Content



- ECTRI overview incl. basic features, Members, Vision/Mission/Objectives and Main activities
- ECTRI contributions to the « development of research careers in Europe »

ECTRI Basic Features

- Non-profit organisation established in 2003 to
 - Promote **integrated transport R&D** in Europe
 - Tie together the foremost **multi-modal transport research centers** across Europe
 - Promote the **excellence of European transport research**
- **28** major European transport research institutes / Universities from **20** European countries
- More than **4,000** research staff
- Offices and staff (3+1) located in **Brussels**

ECTRI Members

28 major transport research institutes or universities from 20 European countries



ECTRI Vision, Mission and Aims

■ Vision

- “An efficient, integral European transport system providing safe, secure, and sustainable mobility for people and goods”

■ Mission

- Provide the scientifically based competence, knowledge, and advice necessary to move towards the vision

■ Aims

- Provide applicable answers to questions of policy formulation
- Bring together foremost interdisciplinary scientific competence
- Improve quality and efficiency of European transport research
- Look for innovative solutions for challenges in the field of transport
- Support European transport research institutes in the development, maintenance, and exploitation of their scientific excellence

ECTRI Main Activities (2009-2011)

■ Strengthening the foundation for cooperation

- Promote the mobility and training of researchers and professionals
- Deepen the scientific cooperation between members (TWGs)

■ Making a strong contribution to the « ERA »

- Influence the European Policies and funding programmes (EC, EP)
- Maintain close cooperation with other European organisations (FEHRL, FERSI, EARPA, ERTICO, ITF...)
- Support high level European Scientific Conferences (ETC, TRA, ITS)
- Develop international cooperation in transport research
- Support dissemination of scientific research results via sponsored scientific Journal i.e. ETRR

“Development of a research career in Europe”

ECTRI Contributions by:

- Promoting the mobility and training of researchers and professionals
- Influencing the European Policies and funding programmes (EC, EP)
- Supporting the dissemination of scientific research results via sponsored scientific Journal i.e. ETRR

1. Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

A/ ECTRI Objectives and Instrument

- **One of ECTRI's objectives:** “to participate in the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA) by networks of mobility and training” (ECTRI Statutes, 2002)

■ **Working Group on Mobility and Training**

WG Objective: to promote human resources and mobility by:

- Tackling with the attractiveness and the preparation of next steps for the mobility and training of transport scientists (including the next generation)
- Discussing all the elements of “actions to promote human resources and mobility” through participation in Marie Curie & PEOPLE programme, exchanges of researchers, post-doc and PhD students
- Defining suitable areas for short, medium and long terms actions

1.Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

B/ Achievements: the Young Researchers Seminar

- Organisation of 5 Young Researchers Seminars (YRS) jointly with  &  since 2003
- Objective: to give opportunity to young researchers to present their researches' results during multicultural and interdisciplinary European tutorials
- Research domains:
 1. Transport economics, policy and transport behavior
 2. Transport sustainability and environment
 3. Transport safety
 4. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) & Traffic
 5. Transport Civil and Road Engineering
- 5th YRS took place in Copenhagen at DTU, from 8 to 10 June 2011; Next step: 6th Edition in 2013 (place to be confirmed)
- More information: <http://www.ectri.org/YRS11/>

1. Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

C/ Achievements: Members' particip. in Marie Curie & People actions

- In **FP6**, 3 “Marie Curie Actions” related to Transfer of Knowledge (TOK) and International Reintegration Grant (IRG) i.e:
 - **TRANS-AID** (TOK) : Transfer of Knowledge in Transport Infrastructure financing (INRETS, HIT, BUTE)
 - **TITaM** (TOK): Transport Infrastructure technologies and Management (CDV, TRL, BAST)
 - **VIUDEGFEM** (IRG) : Vulnerable road users: detailed geometry and finite element models for impact conditions (INRETS)
- In **FP7**, “People actions” related to Initial Training Network (ITN)
 - **ADAPTATION** “Driver’s Behavioural adaptation over the time in response to ADA use”
 - **VECOM** “Vehicle Concept Modelling”

1.Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

D/ A step forward: the project – Overview

- DETRA = Project funded under FP7 3rd call
 - Objective: Working on the deepening of the European Research Area objectives in transport in order to address the Grand Challenges with view to create a European Transport Research Alliance »
- Main scope of WP1:
 - to build up a new generation of transport researchers in the European Union and its Associated States, to increase their skills, to improve their employability and to favour their trans-national mobility in a multicultural and multidisciplinary context
- WP1 is divided in four tasks:
 - Task 1: Analyses of existing European actions related to Mobility and Training in transport and recommendations for improvements
 - Task 2: Design of a European PhD in Transport
 - Task 3: Organisation of an “ad hoc” training program
 - Task 4: Setting up of a dedicated Mobility web portal in transport

1. Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

C/ DETRA project – Analysis of current actions on Mobility and Training

- Several important and interesting initiatives...
 - EU initiatives like European Charter of Researchers (set up some principles supporting their mobility and favouring young researchers), scientific visa, researchers recognition, Mobility centres network, European portal for researchers mobility (euraxess)
 - A number of support schemes for early stage researchers exist in the ERA, e.g. two of the major international schemes are the ERC (European Research Council) Starting Scientists Grants and the Marie Curie Scheme as well another scheme from COST programme
 - Initiatives have been set up by NoEs-VCEs (HUMANIST, EURNEX, NEARCTIS) and Associations (ECTRI)
 - Initiatives set up in the education: ex. Erasmus exchanges, Erasmus Mundus, etc

- ... but not coordinated

1. Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

D/ DETRA project – Similarities of current actions

- Common points in the above initiatives
 - Main focus on young researchers:
 - preparation of project to be funded, favouring young researchers
 - giving prizes to young researchers for research projects or articles in conferences
 - Training schools in different context: Marie Curie projects, COST Actions, BUT no synergies among them
 - At university educational level: exchange of educational programme at master level, joint courses, double degree, Erasmus exchanges

1. Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

D/ DETRA project – Missing points in current actions

- What is missing ?
 - Promotion of exchanges of researchers between universities, research centres, industries, etc. **not on project basis** (EU project, COST actions), **but related to common research interests** → usually these are made on personal initiative by the researchers
 - Support **Joint PhD programme on big themes** (as transport) to give a common language and a common approach to the research in the different countries
 - Facilitate the **exchange of senior researchers** and the transfer of knowledge, with adequate family policies
 - Promoting a **transfer of knowledge programme**
 - Support the **exchange between academic and industry** worlds, valorising the PhD students

1. Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

D/ DETRA project – Preliminary recommendations (1/2)

■ What to do ?

1. Collect the different experiences overall Europe through a questionnaire sent to a large audience of universities, research organisations, industries, public administration, paying attention to their needs and “dreams”
2. Analyze the results, highlighting strengths and weaknesses
3. Propose a programme covering the “missing points” envisaged:
 - ❑ promoting the culture of “exchange” through a reciprocal understanding of needs
 - ❑ setting basic rules to facilitate the exchange (best practices)
 - ❑ avoiding the initiatives related to assigning prizes to young researches: more image, not strong effect on researchers career

1.Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

D/ DETRA project – Preliminary recommendations (2/2)

3. Propose a programme covering the “missing points” envisaged:
(continued)
- set up a programme to define the “research topics” and, on this basis, to design a training programme for:
 - Young researchers to get a common background related to:
 - basic research
 - skills in managing complex problems;
 - a good communicative ability
 - ability to cooperate and to work in team
 - Senior researchers to transfer their knowledge through ad hoc training programme

1.Promote the Mobility and Training of researchers and professionals

D/ DETRA project – Web-portal dedicated to “Mobility”

■ Objective of this initiative

- Encourage DETRA partners and their members to open part of their job positions to trans-European mobility
- Support them in disseminating widely these job opportunities to recruit students and researchers from all Europe

■ Web portal Scope and Features

- Job announcement website “www.transport-research-job-careers.eu”
- Focus on scientific employment
- Centralized access to positions like PhD, post-docs, researchers, both on permanent and fixed-term contracts opened in Europe
- Targeted users:
 - Job providers: DETRA partners, their research Institutions and universities members
 - Job seekers: all students and researchers looking for a position in European transport research institute or University

→ Expected to be operating end 2011

2. Influencing European Policies related to Mobility and Training

A/ General frame

ECTRI as advisor to the EC and others EU bodies



Inputs / contributions

- FPs updates / workprogrammes
- Consultations
- EU policy papers
- ETPs SRA & road maps



Benefits:

"Economies of scale" of a collaborating European research community

Position reflected in European Policies

Members find areas of interest covered in calls



2. Influencing European Policies related to Mobility and Training B/ ECTRI inputs to FP7 and FP8 (CSF/horizon 2020)

- **Many contributions to FP7 preparation**
Specific contribution to FP7 « PEOPLE » Specific Programme (2005)
- **ECTRI position on FP8, February 2011**
« Future FP architecture should include a competitiveness pillar with a sub-programme related to the ‘Development of the human capital of the 21st century »
- **ECTRI answer to Green Paper Consultation, May 2011**
« Researcher mobility and attractive career can be achieved by:
 - *Switchin between academia and industrial laboratories*
 - *Removing legal constraints existing to intra EU and international mobility of researchers »*
- **ECTRI answer to ERA framework public consultation in preparation**

3.Supporting the dissemination of researchers' scientific results

ETRR: ECTRI sponsored scientific Journal

- An open access journal; wide availability to all researchers with a minimum of constraints and costs
- Provides focus on issues of special interest to European transport research, its funding bodies and supervising organisations
- First 2 Volumes (4 issues both) in 2009 and 2010. First 2 issues in 2011.
- Published by  SpringerVerlag through contract with ECTRI
the language of science
- Journal website:
<http://www.springer.com/engineering/mechanical+engineering/journal/12544>
- For authors: online manuscript submission, review and tracking: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/etrr/>





Thanks for your attention

More information

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