



**Sustainable Transport & Mobility
Research and Climate Change Challenge**
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**WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR THE YOUNG
RESEARCHERS ? ECTRI REPLY**
11 December 2008 – Young Researchers Session

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ECTRI

ECTRI: WHAT IS IT ?

- ECTRI, the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes, is an international non-profit organisation that was founded in April 2003.
- Its members are 20 major transport research institutes or universities from European countries. Together, they account for more than 3000 European scientific and research staff in the field of transport.
- ECTRI's aim is to help build the "European Research Area" (ERA) in surface transport by cooperation in thematic and process oriented working groups, task forces, Framework Programme projects, seminars.

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THE PAST

ECTRI: before the beginning (2002)

- Establishment of the WG2 on Mobility and Training: the aim is the promotion of human resources and mobility to:
 - ✓ tackle with the attraction and the preparation of next steps of mobility and training of transport scientists including the next generation;
 - ✓ discuss all the elements of “actions to promote human resources and mobility” including or not proposals to Marie Curie programme, exchanges of researchers, post-doc and PhD students;
 - ✓ define the most suitable areas for short, medium and long terms actions
- POLITO is moderator of this WG2 and DVS, CDV, DLR, DTU, HIT, KTI, TRL and UPM participate in this activity.

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FROM THE PAST TO NOW

ECTRI: the recent and running activities, the YRS

- ECTRI has jointly organized a cycle of Seminars, first with FERSI and then with FERSI and FEHRL
- The seminar activity has been set providing a Young Researchers Seminar (YRS) each two years:
 - ✓ The series began in 2003 (Lyon): 32 young researchers from ECTRI and FERSI were present and accompanied by 15 tutors
 - ✓ followed by 2005 (The Hague): 60 young researchers from ECTRI, FERSI and FEHRL were present and accompanied by 23 tutors;
 - ✓ and 2007 (Brno) seminars: 49 young researchers from ECTRI, FERSI and FEHRL were present and accompanied by 19 tutors;
 - ✓ the next YRS will be held in 2009 (Torino).

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FROM THE PAST TO NOW

ECTRI: other recent activities

ECTRI also takes part in Marie Curie and People actions by submitting proposals. In FP6, ECTRI participates in 3 Marie Curie Actions related to Transfer of Knowledge (TOK) and International Reintegration Grant (IRG):

- ✓ *TRANS-AID (TOK) : Transfer of Knowledge in Transport Infrastructure financing: 3 partners including INRETS and HIT;*
- ✓ *TITaM (TOK): Transport Infrastructure technologies and Management: 3 partners including CDV and TRL;*
- ✓ *VUDEGFEM (IRG) : Vulnerable road users: detailed geometry and finite element models for impact conditions: INRETS*

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FROM THE PAST TO NOW

The YRS format

- The format: the seminar is focused on five research domains:
 - ✓ Transport economics and transport behaviour
 - ✓ Transport sustainability and environment
 - ✓ Transport safety
 - ✓ Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
 - ✓ Transport Road Engineering
- These domains are presented in workshops moderated by a tutor and closed by a cross-cutting session.
- Young researchers are enabled to train their presentation skills in written and oral scientific communication by tutorial means

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THE FUTURE

New forthcoming initiatives

- The **main way** is to prepare a new generation of researchers who are open minded and grow in a multicultural and multidisciplinary background;
- The **first step** is to provide high quality education for Ph.D. students through an “ad hoc” training programme focused to:
 - ✓ basic disciplines to tackle complexity and manage complex systems;
 - ✓ the acquisition of a specific and high level knowledge through specialist courses at doctoral level;
 - ✓ the acquisition of experience in managing a project, working in team and integrating the knowledge through specialist courses (theory and practice);
 - ✓ the learning to manage a discussion where there are several and contrasting point of views, to solve the conflicts and find good compromise solutions;
 - ✓ the acquisition of the experience in communication and the capacity to dialogue with the stakeholders to understand their point of view, translating it in a problem to solve.

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THE FUTURE

New forthcoming initiatives (continues)

- the **second step** is to allow the access to training and the use of equipment and facilities at the ECTRI members;
- the **third step** is the sharing of the knowledge as transfer from a young researcher to another as also from experienced researchers to youngsters. The main aim should be the transfer of the tacit knowledge:
 - ✓ knowledge exists on a continuum from explicit to tacit;
 - ✓ at one end of the continuum is knowledge that can be laid out in procedures, steps, and checklists - explicit knowledge. At the other end of the continuum is knowledge that is primarily in the heads of people – tacit knowledge;
 - ✓ the explicit knowledge is relatively easy to capture and store in databases and documents. It is shared with a high degree of accuracy and can be either structured or unstructured;

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THE FUTURE

New forthcoming initiatives (continues)

- ✓ the tacit knowledge is knowledge that people carry in their minds and is, therefore, difficult to access. Often, people are not aware of the knowledge they possess or how it can be valuable to others;
- ✓ tacit knowledge is considered more valuable because it provides context for people, places, ideas, and experiences;
- ✓ effective transfer of tacit knowledge generally requires extensive personal contact and trust.

How to reach the above steps ?

- ✓ to continue the cycle of Seminars
- ✓ to set up a training programme that could be the basis for establishing a EU Doctorate, adopting EU vision and needs as also researchers needs to form the future generation of researchers.