

# **Expanding International Cooperation in Transport Research: A **sequel** to the WG10 recommendations**

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## Working Group 10:

A concerted attempt to promote **Transport Research collaboration issues between the US and the EU**, enacted by the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the *European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI)* and the *US/Transportation Research Board*.

- The work was sponsored by the Board of ECTRI and the TRB's Int'l Activities Committee.
- Active participation by some 25 individuals from several US (e.g. FHWA, US/DoT, Caltrans, NYDoT, PATH/Berkeley, etc), and European Organizations (INRETS, DLR, HIT, VTT, TRL, CEDEX, etc).
- The resulting report touched upon wider International Cooperation issues which are presented in an upcoming **TR News** publication.



HELLENIC INSTITUTE  
OF TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
IN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

**European—  
United States  
Transportation Research  
Collaboration**

*Challenges and Opportunities*

# Recommended “drivers” (1/6)

***Existence of statutory framework and enabling policies*** that:

- Alleviate concerns over intellectual property rights,
- Create standards and common frameworks for the conduct of research
- Take into consideration the role of the market in fostering innovations.
- Provide incentives and innovative funding schemes for international cooperation.
- Enhance mobility of scientists across borders.

# Recommended “drivers” (2/6)

## ***Mobilizing the human capital***

- Training and education of researchers in research governance and management
- Defining common thematic issues of global concern, (e.g. congestion, sustainability, etc).
- Facilitating communication across cultures - increasing cross-cultural competency and sensitivity.

# Recommended “drivers” (3/6)

## ***Building collaboration mechanisms and joint programs***

- Define common goals, and processes
- Build fair partnerships using credible champions and institutions.
- Strengthen the capacity of existing (research) networks
- Create mechanisms that would cultivate new productive collaboration.
- Exchange information on current success stories as guiding examples.

# Recommended “drivers” (4/6)

***Systematically address the main barriers***

- ❖ High Information Costs
- ❖ Transactional Hurdles
- ❖ Differences in Intellectual Property Regimes
- ❖ Cultural Differences
- ❖ Capacity to “Go it alone”
- ❖ Institutional Inertia
- ❖ Labor Issues
- ❖ Differences in Institutional cultures



# Recommended “drivers” (5/6)

## ***Improving data management and sharing***

Improved access to soft research infrastructures (libraries, data, and knowledge bases). Create common standards for technical documentation.

## ***Laying the groundwork for joint programming and funding***

- Intergovernmental decisions to collaborate towards facilitating the issuance of international research calls for tenders, bids and their evaluation;
- Finding ways of “merging” international sources of finance to create funding for specific “common” international research programs;
- Establishing common rules for the allocation and commitment of research funding;
- Laying common administration and monitoring procedures for (international) research projects;
- Setting commonly acceptable evaluation procedures of research results;
- Establishing common rules relating to IPR and exploitation – implementation of research outcomes.



# Recommended “drivers” (6/6)

## ***Facilitating transport (researcher’s) education and training***

- Exchanges at the PhD and post-doc phases
- Development of appropriately-trained research administrators and managers, ultimately in an internationally funded and supervised *Training academy for strategic and operational (transport) research governance*, and
- Develop a *professional certification process for international transport research work*.

## **In the one year since the report's completion a series of dissemination activities took place:**

- EU officials informed of results and presented with the report (at highest levels starting with the EU Commissioner on research).
- The report was published in TRB's and ECTRI's sites, as well as in the sites of several of ECTRI's member Organizations.
- Printed in paper form and distributed by ECTRI to a selected number of recipients.
- Main findings (to be) published in TRNews.
- Presented in several Workshops, Conferences, Seminars.

# Follow – up actions possible at many levels

## Level 1

- Further dissemination – discussion at all levels.
- In-depth analysis and documentation of possible actions recommended by the report, through collaborative research and funded studies. Funding through existing mechanisms.
- Bottom-up implementation of recommendations through “individual” initiatives

## Level 2

- Discussion in official bilateral or multilateral meetings between National delegations with a view to new research cooperation agreements.
- Gradual formulation of new statutory frameworks for international TR cooperation (*joint working groups by the responsible administrations, study of success stories, etc*).

## Level 3

- Implementing “drivers” through new enlarged International Agreements (bilateral or multilateral)
- Creating common mechanisms for joint TR programming and funding.
- Creating dedicated International bodies or Organizations (e.g. like the recent *EU-US Energy Council*).

# A suggested Level 1 activity

Investigating in depth and proposing concrete steps and actions by a ***“Project Office - PO”*** for the promotion of International (or EU/US) Transport Research collaboration.

- ***Possible actions of the suggested “PO”:***

Co-ordination and “catalyst” actions for the further promotion of international cooperation in TR including awareness raising, road-mapping and further study of issues raised in the WG10 report.

- ***Suggested form of operation:***

1. Flexible form - established as an international consortium of specific Organizations;
2. Support through competitive funding (e.g. through existing research programs);
3. Specific *Terms of Reference (ToR)* - work program;
4. Evaluation like any other funded research projects.

# An example :

**An FP7 - EU funded project proposal is under way in the current call ...**

- Initiative taken by several European transport research and innovation Organizations:  
(ECTRI, FEHRL, FERSI(HIT/CERTH), EURNEX, HUMANIST)
- Proposal to be submitted on January 14th.
- Indicative description of the work - see next Table.

Main objective: *Coordinating and promoting activities for the promotion of the European Research Area (ERA), and at the same time promoting the realization of the recommendations of the WG10 report.*

<b>Work package No</b>	<b>Work package title</b>	<b>Lead participant</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mobility for researchers</b>	<b>ECTRI</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>World-class research infrastructures</b>	<b>FEHRL</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Strengthening research institutions</b>	<b>EURNEX</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sharing knowledge</b>	<b>HUMANIST</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Optimising research programmes and identifying priorities</b>	<b>HIT</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>International cooperation</b>	<b>ECTRI</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Management and communication</b>	<b>FEHRL</b>



# Potential Level 2 activities

1. Detailed evaluation study of current International Research cooperation Agreements based on specific criteria and with a view to demolishing the “barriers” .
2. Review of Current Research Agreements in the light of the findings and recommendations of the study, in order to:
  - Enhance existing **statutory frameworks and enabling policies**;
  - **Systematically address the main barriers**;
  - *Plan and implement actions for the improvement of the human capital*;
  - *Facilitate data management and sharing*;
  - **Build collaboration mechanisms**;
  - *Develop thematic priority research areas and cross-cutting issues that are of relevance to international collaboration.*



## Potential Level 2 activities (cont'd)

Initiate new “closer” collaboration by:

- Defining common goals, and processes
- Building fair partnerships using credible champions and institutions.
- Strengthening the capacity of existing (research) networks
- Creating mechanisms that would cultivate new productive collaboration.
- Exchanging information on current success stories.

# Potential Level 3 activities

- Implementing “drivers” through enlarged International Agreements (bilateral or multilateral)
- Creating common mechanisms for joint TR programming and funding.
- Ultimately creating dedicated International bodies or Organizations for funding International Research.



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**



