

# EUROPEAN TRANSPORT RESEARCH ALLIANCE (ETRA)

Terms of Reference  
(June 2017)



*EURNEX*



# European Transport Research Alliance

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## 1. Overview

- a. The European Transport Research Alliance (ETRA) is a voluntary collaborative platform of surface transport research Associations that aims at supporting the European Research Area in Transport (ERA-T).
- b. It shall provide a forum for collaboration between the partners. It is not expected to manage or absorb its partners. The cooperation between ETRA partners will provide them with a more powerful collective voice. ETRA will be a benefit by allowing cross-fertilization and achieving the highest visibility for the transport research community.

## 2. Challenges for the European Research Area in Transport (“ERA-T”)

Our shared transport system is part of the problem and at the same time part of the solution for all pressing societal and political challenges addressed by the European Union. These challenges include climate change, energy, water and food, public health, ageing societies and globalisation. With regard to transport issues, the European Union shall:

- i. Reduce the climate, air quality and noise impacts of transport,
- ii. Make transport infrastructure and transport systems more resilient to a changing climate,
- iii. Reduce energy consumption in the transport system and increase the security of supply,
- iv. Reduce transport system impacts on ground water supplies,
- v. Consider transport in land-use planning,
- vi. Increase the effectiveness of transport necessary for food production (including in developing countries) and improve transport logistics to reduce food waste,
- vii. Raise the standards of public health by increasing access to health facilities (including developing countries), increasing the resilience of the transport system in pandemics and improving safety and security, reducing traffic accidents fatalities and injuries,
- viii. Adapt transport and mobility systems for an ageing population,
- ix. Shape and maintain a transport system that reflects the needs of developing globalisation and help European transport system stakeholders to adapt accordingly.

Research, technological development and innovation is one of the pillars for the solution of these challenges. The European Research Area in Transport (ERA-T) provides the comprehensive set of tools to successfully integrate scientific solutions and deploy innovative technological concepts in the European transport system. ETRA wishes to be a visible contributor to this endeavor. In particular, it believes that those challenges shall be addressed and debated by the Scientific Community within the Transport Research Arena (TRA) conference.

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### 3. Objectives and purpose

The main objective of ETRA is to provide a platform for the main transport research associations to work together and thus contribute to developing the ERA-T.

ETRA focuses on two main objectives:

- 1) Being an open platform of communication and cooperation among its partners to facilitate synergy in the following activities:
  - a. Sharing strategic agendas
  - b. Sharing position papers and possibly supporting each other's ones papers, including joint development of common statements, when possible and relevant
  - c. Organising common activities (e.g. Young Researcher Seminar)
  - d. Inviting partners to join each other activities (e.g. FEHRL Scanning Tour...)
  - e. Sharing general information of relevance to the partners
  - f. Arranging possible common promotional activities (e.g. sharing a common stand between interested partners)
  
- 2) Supporting the TRA conference<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Supporting the TRA strategy (Participating in and contributing to the Management Committee (MC))
  - b. Raising the TRA scientific quality
    - Promoting the call for papers
    - Participating and contributing to the Programme Committee (PC)
    - Reviewing papers and supporting the publication of papers
  - c. Sustaining the organisation of TRA by providing the TRA Secretariat (assuming external funds are available)
    - Keeping the record and archive of documents
    - Supporting the day-to-day business
    - Contributing to outreach activities
    - Attending the Organising Committee (OC)

Such objective will be achieved in close collaboration with the Conference host and the other TRA supporting organisations, such as the European Commission, the 6 European Technology Platforms (ETPs), and the European Conference of Road Directors (CEDR).

If relevant, other objectives can be pursued and added assuming that a unanimous decision is reached by all ETRA Partners.

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<sup>1</sup> Since October 2016, ETRA is one of the 8 official supporting organisations to the TRA conference, after it was accepted as full Member of the TRA Management Committee. This implies an increased involvement of the Transport research providers in the Conference ([www.traconference.eu](http://www.traconference.eu)).

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## 4. Core values of the Alliance

The partners of the Alliance will share the following common core values and apply them in all their activities:

- i. Mutual respect for distinctive roles and positions;
- ii. Flexible and open cooperation;
- iii. Transparency;
- iv. Trustworthiness.

The partners of the Alliance are expected to work in true partnership and mutual understanding.

## 5. Structure of the Alliance

The Alliance will be composed of the appropriate partner organisations necessary to achieve its goals.

### 5.1 Partnership of the Alliance

- a. Partners will be Research Associations.
- b. Applications for partnership may only be accepted from entities based in EU or EFTA countries whose main focus is transport research and its application. Such Organisations shall include in addition members from at least five (5) EU/EFTA countries.
- c. Requests for partnership shall be considered by the Plenary of partners. Decisions on partnership shall be decided by unanimous agreement.
- d. There is no limit on the number of partners.
- e. Partners will not be charged a fee by the Alliance. However, partners should provide information and from time to time make voluntary contributions to commonly agreed activities in order to achieve the objectives of the Alliance.

### 5.2 Legal basis

- a. The Alliance is not a legal entity.
- b. It shall work according to its Terms of Reference.
- c. The Alliance will be governed by the Plenary of the partners. Each partner is represented by its President or a substitute. A Plenary may be held when a quorum of at least two-thirds of the partners are present.
- d. A Chair shall be appointed consensually by the Plenary among the Presidents of the partners. The Chair shall convene and chair the Plenary.
- e. The Chair is appointed personally for a period of one (1) year.
- f. Changes to the Terms of Reference can be made by the Plenary of the partners by a two-thirds majority.
- g. The Alliance can be dissolved at any time by the partners with a two-thirds majority.

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### 5.3 Plenary

- a. The Plenary will meet once per year or otherwise as required by the Chair or by two-thirds of the partners.
- b. The Plenary will establish an agreed process and the necessary resources to carry out the work. Decisions should be reached on the basis of consensus.
- c. The partners will appoint a Chair every year.
- d. The Chair will prepare and organise Plenary meetings with the support of his/her partner's secretariat.
- e. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken by the partner's secretariat of the Chair and stored on the shared zone set-up for ETRA (e.g. current ETRA Dropbox).

### 5.4 Costs and funding

- a. Each partner shall cover their own costs and provide services in-kind for the operation of the Alliance.
- b. Membership fees shall not be charged to partners.
- c. The Alliance may mobilise public and private funds to achieve its objectives.
- d. Proposals for European funds may be submitted to support the activities of the Alliance. Such funds shall be managed through the Alliance partner Associations or their members. However, the Alliance itself will not apply for research funding.

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### 6. Accession to the Terms of Reference

Partners acceding to these Terms of Reference are:

Association	President	Signature
ECTRI	Mark Robinson, UNEW	
EURNEX	Markus Hecht, EURNEX	
FEHRL	Marit Brandtsegg, NPRA	
FERSI	Horst Schulze, BAST	
Humanist VCE	Wouter Van den Berghe, BRSI	

Those terms of reference enter into force in June 2017.