

# road ERA net

## Coordination and Implementation of Road Research in Europe

### Message from the Coordinator

Less than a year since inception, the ERA-NET ROAD project has already delivered significant added value and helped strengthen transnational road research.

Our new programme call was published on January 29<sup>th</sup> (deliverable 1.1). It aims at answering road directors' needs as regards to asset management, and has already generated significant interest in the research community. We expect to receive a large number of exciting proposals.

This topic was identified through extensive discussions among road administrations. Another of ENR's deliverables is a new report on the requirements for our future Road research access facility (deliverable 2.1). This web-based research and aggregation tool will support road administrations in the identification of commonalities and the planning of future joint research. We have already started working on what the next topics could be, and this "RRAF" will be a great help.

Liaising with non-ENR stakeholders is a priority and we have established an Action plan (deliverable 5.1) to that effect. It details the steps we take towards enlarging our consortium and broadening our geographical scope. Talks that were held in Washington D.C. in January confirm that this is a path worth taking and very recently Malta Transport confirmed their intention to join the ENR consortium.

All ENR partners look forward to discussing these topics with our ever-increasing stakeholders.



Patrick Malléjacq  
Coordinator of the ERA-NET ROAD II project

### Opening of the next ENR2 Call "SRO4 – Effective Asset Management Meeting Future Challenges" on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2010

**ENR2 SRO4 "Effective Asset Management Meeting Future Challenges"** is the next cross-border funded trans-national joint research programme with a duration of 3 years and a budget of 2,85 MEUR. 13 National Road Administrations got together and agreed on the trans-national joint research programme. The funding NRAs are Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The **Call opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January**. The Asset Management programme will be based on the following four objectives:

- A. Meeting stakeholders' requirements and expectations
- B. Understanding asset performance
- C. Development of suitable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the future
- D. Framework for optimised asset management

Research Providers from different countries are welcome to make project proposals. **More information about the Call and the provided Call documents can be found on the ERA-NET ROAD website (eranetroad.org).**



## Possibilities for EU-USA Road Research Collaboration – Talks at TRB

For the 89<sup>th</sup> time the annual Transport Research Board meeting was held in Washington DC in early January.

One of the ERA-NET ROAD II objectives is to involve international administrations in collaborative research. The American research environment builds on a long tradition of intra-state collaboration. It therefore offers a great amount of experience in increasing value for money through a wide range of umbrella organisations and spreading of competencies. Hence, the American research environment aims at the same goals as ENR.

With attendance from more than 10 000 representatives from all over the world, the meeting is an important platform for transport officials to meet. At the meeting ENR and US representatives had fruitful discussions about possibilities for EU-USA road research collaboration.

It is our hope to see ASSHTO, the Federal Highway Administration and TRB's NCHRP at the Plenary Group meeting in Copenhagen in spring of 2010, so that the positive talks about how to collaborate can continue.

## Workshop: "ERA-NET ROAD II – Research Impacts"

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, ERA-NET ROAD II held an open workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania, which focused on the impacts, which ERA-NET RAOD II will have on research.



This workshop was aimed at

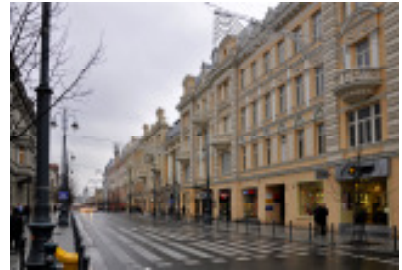
- Representatives of National Road Administrations
- People that are responsible for national or international research projects or programmes, particularly in road research and
- research organisations or research providers working on research projects.

The invitation for this workshop was published in our last newsletter (October 2009).

The response to the invitation was great and we ended up with 23 attendees at the workshop, of which 10 were from non-ERA-NET Road partner countries. The countries represented here were (in alphabetical order)

- Croatia
- Estonia
- Italy
- Malta

Furthermore, participants were from a variety of organizations within these countries. In



addition, there were representatives of organizations from Hungary and Lithuania other than those that are partners of ENR already.

The aim of the workshop was to show the participants what ERA-NET RAOD is about, what its benefits are and how they may become involved.

The workshop started with an introduction to ERA-NET ROAD and an explanation of how, and most of all why, we work together. Mr. Mikkel Bruun from the Danish Road Director explained the Coordination, Management and Monitoring Procedure used in ERA-NET ROAD and what benefits these bring.

The most significant part of the day was a question and answer period, which resulted in a fruitful discussion among the participants. Many important questions were asked and some misunderstandings eradicated. Finally, statements from the participating institutions and organizations were taken, with the aim of assuring further co-operation between the present and potential partners of ERA-NET ROAD.

The participants were encouraged to join in the ERA-NET ROAD approach to research. Be it as an NRA, which participates in a call, a research provider, who submits proposals to a call, or an NRA, which becomes an ENR consortium partner.

The first major success has already come from the workshop with **Malta Transport applying to join the ERA-NET ROAD Consortium.**

The current ENR partners are happy to welcome this potential new partner to the team.

We thank all participants for having taken a day out of their busy lives to learn more about our project and for making this workshop as successful as it was.

### Challenges SRO1 "Safety at the Heart of Road Design"

5 projects in the ENR SRO1 trans-national joint research programme started in autumn of 2009. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 there will be an SRO1 Joint Meeting with the CEDR group Road Safety in Budapest. The project coordinators and partners will present their funded projects, the progress and the expected results of the projects. Furthermore, it will be an interactive communication and discussion between CEDR group Road Safety and the 11 SRO1 Programme Executive Board members (PEB members) and the project coordinators.

### SRO3 "Road Owners Getting to Grips with Climate Change"

ENR became the first cross-border funded trans-national joint research programme with a duration of 3 years and a budget of 1,35 M€ and 11 funding NRAs. SRO3 started in September 2008 and one project IRWIN is finishing now. The final report will be evaluated through the SRO3 PEB members and should be published in March 2010 on the ERA-NET ROAD website.

### ERA-NET ROAD Plenary Group

ENR has established a Plenary Group as a forum for an exchange of information between the partners and other key stakeholders. It will provide both a forum for dissemination of the findings from ENR and an opportunity to receive feedback.

ENR's Plenary Group will meet for the first time in Copenhagen on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be hosted by Denmark's DRD. It will bring together the organisations involved in road related transport research in Europe including:

- programme owners and programme managers that are not part of ENR
- organisations that would like to learn more about ENR and might be interested in participating in collaborative research promotion by joint research procurement

- representatives from the European Commission
- relevant networks such as European Technology Platforms (eg ECTP and ERTRAC), structures such as ECTRI, FEHRL, FERSI, as well as other ERA-NETs such as ERA-NET Transport.

### Interview with a New Partner: Romanas Klimčiauskas (LRA)



Lithuanian Road Administration in Vilnius, Lithuania

Q: What is your name and for which organization do you work?

A: My name is Romanas Klimčiauskas. I work for the LRA.

Q: What is the name of your organization?

A: The Lithuanian Road Administration.

Q: Which country is your organization from?

A: The Republic of Lithuania.

Q: What does your organization do?

A: The Lithuanian Road Administration under the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania is an enterprise founded by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania which organizes and co-ordinates the reconstruction, maintenance and development of the roads of national significance. The total length of the state significance roads is 21,320.232 km. Routine road maintenance is carried out by 11 state-owned enterprises: 10 of them are formed applying the territorial principle. The roads maintained by them practically are within the limits of the counties; while SE Automagistralė is formed applying the linear principle: it maintains the roads Vilnius-Kaunas-Klaipėda and Vilnius-Panevėžys.

Q: Where can one find more information about your organization (e.g. website)?

A: More information about our organization one can find on the website **www.lra.lt**

Q: Which areas of research are most important to your organization?

A: The main research topics of interest in our Road Administration are as follows: road safety, intelligent transportation systems, road data collection and management, sustainable development of road network, analysis of characteristics of various pavements, reduction of environmental pollution, asset management and reduction of noise level on the main roads.

Q: What got your organization interested in ERA-NET ROAD?

A: Information about it came from the organization CEDR (Conference of European Directors of Roads). When considering proven benefits of ERA-NET ROAD (international best practice, improved quality of research, wider choice of suppliers, better value for money etc) it became clear that it would be worthwhile for Lithuania at least to join one call of ERA-NET ROAD. This kind of activity would be the way to break the boundaries of what is already known, to strive to be more flexible when integrating and expanding the scale of possibilities in this specific road research area.

Q: What made your organization decide to join ERA-NET ROAD?

A: Main arguments of the decision made were the following: the need for perfection, the necessity for an assessment of the actual situation in Lithuania compared with other countries, adoption of the updated knowledge and experience in trans-national collaborative road research field. The decision came when considering participation of LRA leaders in the activities of CEDR. Joining ERA-NET ROAD should be a step forward for the Lithuanian road research specialists.

Q: What do you hope to achieve through ERA-NET ROAD?

A: Following the rules of free market one of the aims is to make a profit on this trans-national collaboration in road research. A good example is the benefit from considerable resource savings by various indicators when participating in the joint calls.

Another aspect, for sure, is making an advance in cooperation, sharing ideas and discussing, adopting knowledge, working together when participating in the ERA-NET ROAD programme; seeing how this project works, understanding the scale of this cooperation.

When actually finding common goals for collaboration in the trans-national road research area these aspects are of particular significance: comparison of priorities and identification of topics for joint work; identification and analysis of common strategic issues; implementation of joint trans-national activities, including joint calls and programmes.

All this means a lot of dedication, commitment and attention when learning, studying, and analysing all the matters within the frame of the project, as well as making decisions and acting.

### Coming up next

The **SRO1 Programme Executive Board meeting** will be held in Budapest on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2010.

There will be an **ERA-NET ROAD II Plenary Group meeting** held in Copenhagen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2010.

The **next Newsletter** will be published at the end of April 2010.



This newsletter is a product of ERA-NET ROAD II and its objective is to disseminate information on ongoing activities in the project.

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