

What are the Benefits to Expect from ERA-Net Road?

Presentation to ECTP

21 November 2006

ERA-NET Programme Introduction

What I am going to talk about:

- A brief description of the vision for the ERA-Net Road programme
- An update on results achieved to date
- Technology areas of interest
- The benefits we can expect from ERA-Net Road

ERA-NET Scheme - Vision

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and Associated States through:

- the networking of research activities conducted at national or regional level, and
- the mutual opening of national and regional research programmes.

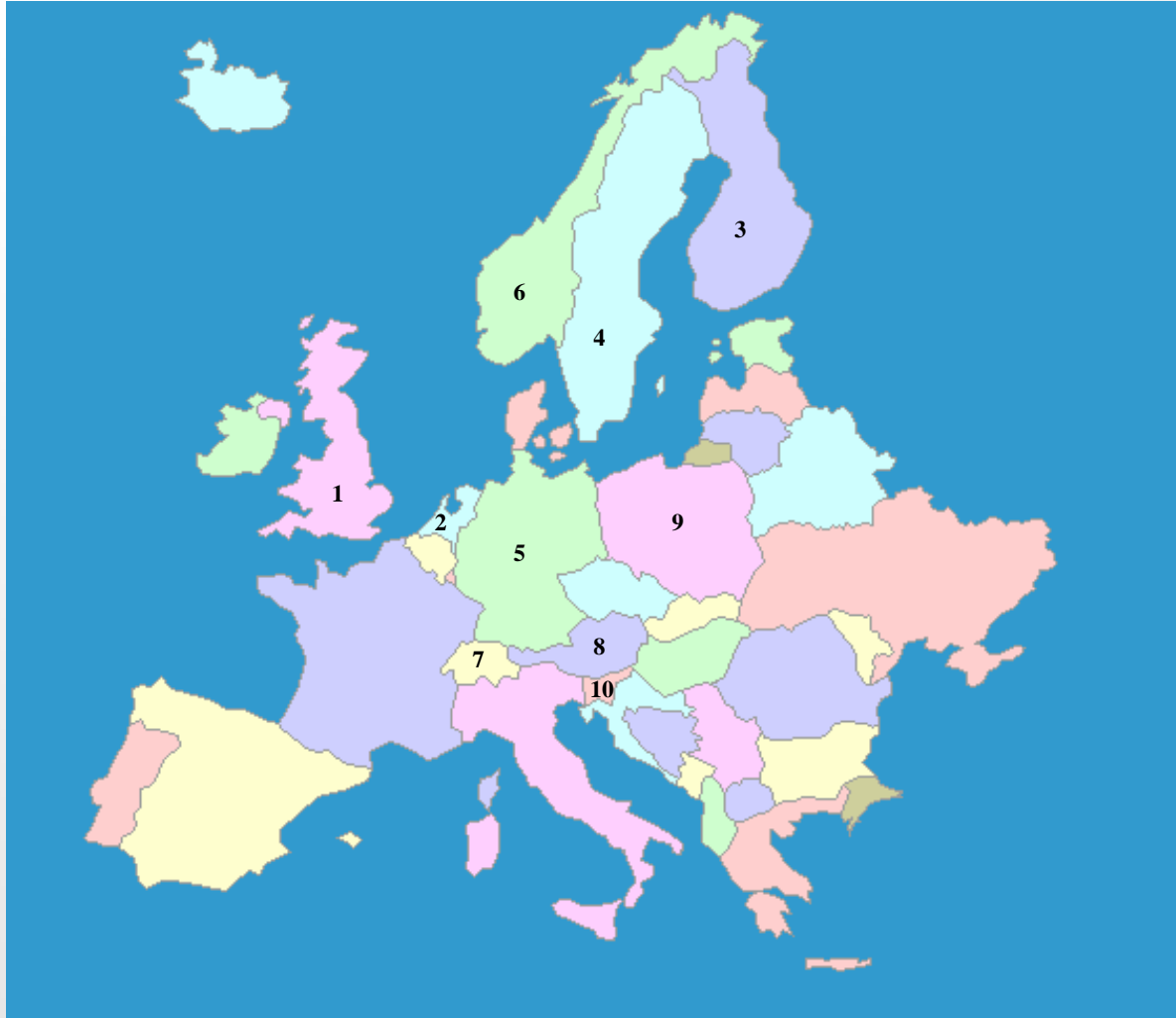
ERA-NET Road

- A three year programme to focus on initiation and coordination of research relating to the management and operation of the strategic road network.
- Start date 1st June 2005
- Complements ERA-NET Transport which addresses the full spectrum of transport and transport technology research, particularly policy related issues

ERA-NET Road: The Vision ...What Success Looks Like...

By 2008 ERA-Net Road will have:

- achieved agreement on trans-national programmes
.....which are.....
- strategically planned,
- trans-nationally funded,
- leading to the mutual opening of national research programmes



Partners:

- UK
- The Netherlands
- Finland
- Sweden
- Germany
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Austria
- Poland
- Slovenia

Sub-objectives of ERA-NET Road

Within the participating National Road Administrations it will:

- Encourage a systematic exchange of information
- Identify and analyse complementary research themes
- Implement any joint opportunities on current programmes
- Develop multinational project delivery and programme management procedures
- Develop and implement common trans-national strategies
- Disseminate the progress and achievements of ERA-NET Road

Results to date (1): Mechanisms for collaboration

- 4 collaboration models developed
- Issues relating to procurement, finance and intellectual property examined
- Data on existing programmes and collaborations collected and analysed

Results to date (2): Fast Track Pilots

- Pilot 1
 - Project: Lifecycle analysis of open-graded asphalt pavements
 - Germany, Austria, Switzerland
 - Three contracts have been awarded
- Pilot 2
 - Project: Lifecycle of silent roads
 - Call in Nov 06 to all ten ENR partners
 - Contract award in April 07
 - 6 months duration, led by the Netherlands

WP 6 – Next Steps: Workshops to Define Technology Areas for New Trans-national Programmes

- Safe and Secure Traffic
 - *Vienna* (January 16 and 17, 2007)
- Asset Management (incl. Value Appraisal)
 - *Warsaw* (February 6 and 7, 2007)
- Sustainable Road Infrastructure
 - *Cologne* (February 13 and 14, 2007)
- Operating a High Quality Transport System
 - *Stockholm* (February 27 and 28, 2007)

What are the Benefits to Expect from ERA-Net Road?

4 viewpoints to consider:

- The European Commission
- The Roads Administrations
- Research Project Managers
- The Research Industry

Benefits: The European Commission

- Retaining Europe at the leading edge of roads research
- Enhanced delivery of research to address challenges in the roads sector

Benefits: The Road Administrations

- Opportunity to identify and share best practice in developing and implementing research strategies
- Development of national research programmes informed by international experience
- Opportunity for larger projects with greater likelihood of definitive results
- Sharing of research results
- Collaborative projects can achieve better value
- Reduced duplication - compensates for diminishing research resources
- Reduced costs of research administration and procurement activity

Benefits: Research Project Managers

- Larger, more challenging projects
- Greater availability of resources for research
- Opportunity to share international best practice in research
- Development of collaboration skills
- Gaining an international perspective
- Working alongside international experts
- Insight into other approaches and cultures

Benefits: Research & Innovation

- Greater opportunity to win research contracts awarded in other countries
- Larger, more significant research projects
- Longer term projects
- Better understanding of the strategic context for research projects
- More consistent allocation of research budgets
- Collaborating clients adopt best practice research management
- Opportunities to form research consortia
- Clients achieve better value, raising the profile of research activity – virtuous circle

- Good understanding of current programmes
- Collaboration mechanism for projects established-four possible collaboration models identified
- First pilot initiated (3 partners)
- Second pilot which is due for award in April 07
- Work has commenced on the final work package (WP 6) to initiate trans-national programming
- Further joint calls anticipated
- Joint team meeting with ENT at TRA 2006
- All deliverables supplied to the Commission on programme
- Further potential partners seeking to joining – steering group actively addressing how to enable this

End of Presentation by the Coordinator for the ERA-NET Road Programme

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