



Impact of Transport Infrastructure on International Competitiveness of Europe

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Introduction

The European Union just turned a new page with the commencement of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Replacing the previous Lisbon Strategy (2000 – 2010), the transition process between the two strategy plans coincides with the EU's hardest economic crisis since its formation. The objective of getting out of the crisis in the context of fiercer competition on the global market with the new emerging economies has made Europe's competitiveness and economic performance fundamental issues.

In line with The Europe 2020 Strategy's flagship initiatives, the White Paper of 2011 summarizes the main objectives of the European transport strategy, which is to help establish a system that underpins European economic progress and offers high quality mobility services, while using resources more efficiently. In consequence it is essential to clarify the relationship between investments in transport infrastructure on economic growth and competitiveness.

Project description

I-C-EU is a 2 year FP7 project that clarifies this relationship, by exploring the state-of-the-art of the methodology and assessment tools for public and private investments in transport infrastructure. These tools include modelling frameworks as well as decision tools. The I-C-EU project explores and further develops the methodology. It proposes a modified framework for policy intervention. The practical use of this framework will be tested on a representative set of transport projects. I-C-EU will then provide recommendations to the European Commission on making political intervention in order to enhance the international competitiveness of Europe as well as between its countries and regions.

Main output

- A synthesis of the relationship between transport infrastructure investment, competitiveness and economic growth
- An improvement of the methodology used to assess the impacts of investment in transport infrastructures especially on competitiveness and economic growth
- A synthesis of recommendations on assessing EU policy in transport infrastructure investment in respect of competitiveness and economic growth





Activities

The I-C-EU project starts with a methodological study. The main objective is to define the issue of competitiveness and to explore the state of assessment methods used to evaluate transport infrastructure projects. The project involves a set of selected case studies which represent all transport modes and different EU regions, and which affect accessibility to the international market in some way.

The project also considers transport and economic models in the analysis of competitiveness and regional growth by studying a number of tools. This activity aims at analysing ex-post modelling results, determining if competitiveness and regional growth were taken into account by those tools and formulating possible improvements.

Finally, the project provides an overview of the EU policy case. It establishes a set of indicators to be used at country or region, comprising the direct and indirect impacts of transport infrastructure investment. Furthermore it elaborates a set of recommendations on the assessment of transport infrastructure investments.

In order to disseminate the results and to get feedback, I-C-EU organizes 3 workshops, elaborates a stakeholder questionnaire, participates and presents at the different conferences, publishes regular newsletters and maintains a public website.

Interested? Please contact...

Joko Purwanto

Transport & Mobility Leuven (TML), Belgium (Project Coordinator)

Telephone: +32 (16) 31.77.37

E-mail: joko.purwanto@tmleuven.be

...or visit our website at www.i-c-eu.eu

Project Partners:

- Transport & Mobility Leuven (TML), Belgium
- Panteia, business unit NEA, The Netherlands
- VU University Amsterdam (VU), The Netherlands
- Fraunhofer Center for Maritime Logistics and Services (CML), Germany
- Uniwersytet Gdanski (UG), Poland
- Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada (FEDEA), Spain

