

Shaping the ERA for Transport



ERA-NET TRANSPORT (ENT) is contributing to the European Research Area (ERA) for transport through a number of transnational research funding activities

ENT brings together programme owners and managers of transport research programmes from 12+ countries and regions, representing an annual public funding volume of around 300 million Euro. With current interest from several new partners, ENT is broadening its geographical coverage in and around Europe.

The vision behind ENT is to supplement and enrich national and regional transport research programmes through transnational cooperation. ENT improves the outcome and quality of transport research and thus contributes to the European Research Area (ERA) for transport.

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Some key results of ERA-NET TRANSPORT

- 23 thematic transnational funding initiatives initiated since 2004 representing all surface transport modes
- Joint research funding initiatives of app. 50 M Euro through 10 funding initiatives
- One of these being an ERA-NET Plus initiative on Electromobility pooling 21.7 million Euro from 12 national and regional programmes (topped up with up to 10 M Euro from the EC)
- Participation of all partners in one or more joint funding initiatives
- Networking based on the regular and close contact between programme representatives leading to exchange of research results, research policies and information
- Efficient tools and structures for transnational funding cooperation activities and dissemination
- Shaping national programmes to transnational funding cooperation





The ERA-NET Plus initiative “Electromobility+” has brought together representatives of 12 countries and regions pooling about 22 million Euro, which may be topped up with up to 10 million Euro from the EC. A list of 20 project proposals has been selected for funding following the review of the international evaluation panel. And the negotiation of contracts with the selected projects has started.

Joining research funding

The ENT II partners have focused on the opportunity for a large-scale ERA-NET Plus initiative in the field of transport, supplementing the medium sized transnational cooperation activities within the established framework of ENT.

ENT has intensively supported the idea and the preparation of the position paper “Europe-wide electromobility for 2025: perspectives for multilateral cooperation on research action”. This position paper formed the basis of the “Electromobility+” transnational funding initiative, set up as a joint call of national/regional programmes under the ERA-NET Plus scheme.

Getting researchers together

To get researchers matched to meet the call, a central Information and Brokerage event of the Electromobility+ initiative was launched on 13 January 2011 in Cologne. It was organised in cooperation with ERA-NET TRANSPORT and ETNA, the Transport National Contact Point network. There was great interest from the research community in the event. About 200 people from all the countries and regions involved attended. As part of the brokerage session, participants looking for partners had the opportunity to present their organisation profile and ideas for project proposals in oral and written form.

At the closure date of the call, on 31 March 2011, the following outcome was registered:

- Submitted proposals: 40
- Involved applicants: 229
- Requested funding: 48.586.222 Euro
- Total costs of proposals: 63.684.441 Euro

The evaluation

The evaluation of the received proposals followed a 2-step procedure. Immediately after the closing of the call the evaluation on national/regional level started (step 1), followed by a peer-review of independent international experts (step 2). This evaluation process resulted in a ranking list of 20 proposals. Correspondingly, the Governance Board decided in early November 2011 about the selection list of proposals, which were invited for contract negotiations. The negotiation is still on-going. The expected funding volume of the call is about 22 million Euro, of which two third is coming from national/regional budgets and one third from the EU 7th Framework Programme.

Mutual learning

All in all, the ERA-NET Plus on Electromobility is an example for a further step of cooperation between national/regional programmes. Without the support of ENT it would be much more difficult to prepare such a large-scale measure. Nonetheless, the relation between ENT and Electromobility+ is characterised by mutual learning: The experiences made in transnational cooperation activities within ENT I and II have been the basis for launching this large transnational call under the ERA-NET Plus scheme. Therefore, ENT II is now monitoring the process of ERA-NET Plus preparation and implementation. The experiences made will provide valuable knowledge for the preparation of further comprehensive, large-scale calls.

For more information, please see transport-era.net/electromobility.

Reflections from an Action Group

INTERVIEW



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Tuomo Suvanto from the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communication has been involved in ENT 17 SURPRICE – Sustainable mobility through Road User Charging.

“Having only been involved in one Action Group, I do not have a wide experience regarding cooperating under the umbrella of ERA-NET TRANSPORT. However, my experiences with ENT 17 SURPRICE have been very positive.

The work of SURPRICE has been very well organized and has functioned well. The proposals selected were all such that the results have multinational benefits. There is always a risk that different countries will only finance projects, which have value only to themselves. I think this was avoided pretty well in SURPRICE.

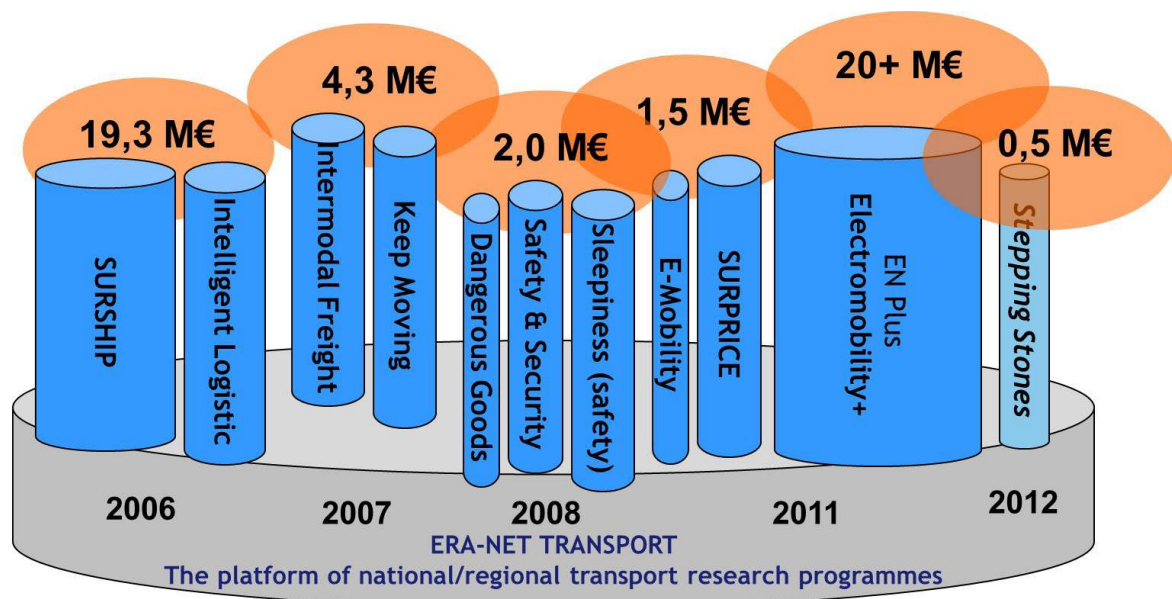
In Finland we have already used the mid-term research results, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications has been satisfied with the progress of the projects.

Personally, I hope that there will be an ERA-NET TRANSPORT III.

Successful transnational funding initiatives

Since the start of ENT, 23 transnational Action Groups have been set-up on various topics in all modes of surface transport. These have resulted in 11 successful transnational funding initiatives with a total allocation of national/regional public research funds close to 50 million Euro. And more initiatives are in the pipeline.

The figure below gives an overview of the scope and the joint national/regional funding allocation of the successfully launched transnational funding initiatives.



Expanding ENT

Geographical coverage
2011 and 2012



ENT is continuously open towards new partners. At the door step of the third period of ENT (ENT III), this is clearly visible with 29 partners on board - nearly doubling the scope of ENT.

In particular the preparation of the ERA-NET Plus initiative Electromobility+ provided evidence that the opening of ENT for regional programmes is of added value to transnational cooperation and, thus, the shaping of the ERA in transport. Besides of the inclusion of formal partners, ENT will step up contact and dialogue with other interested countries, regions and transport related research and innovation programmes in Europe.

ENT I 2004 – 2008:
11 partners (9 countries)

ENT II 2008 – 2012:
16 partners (12 countries)

ENT III 2012 – 2015:
29 partners (23 countries + regions)

The consortium of ENT III consists of established as well as many new partners – amongst others: TUBITAK (TU), FTA (FI), EVE (ES), Innobasque (ES), NASB (BY), DASTI (DK), ISERD (IL), IMTT (PT), TPSD (CZ), IWT (BE), ACC1Ó (ES), MTITC (BG).

INTERVIEW WITH A NEW PARTNER



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firms. It was unfortunate, but we have learnt that we should spend more time and effort on dissemination and follow up with potential innovative firms in this specific research area.

What is the advantage of being a part of ENT?

ENT gives us the opportunity to be an active part of an international group of experts on funding of collaborative R&D projects focusing on pre-specified topics. Based on previous and on-going similar projects, we can claim that participating in ERA-NETs yields sustainable networking opportunities, understanding alternative ways of doing things, organising/reviewing national priorities in specific research areas and higher motivation to mobilise funding for international projects. Therefore, we believe that it is worth the effort to participate in ENT!

What is your experience from participating in ENT so far?

We have cooperated with ENT since mid-2010 and participated in the call on Electromobility+. However, we did not receive any proposal from Turkish

Why ERA-NET TRANSPORT?

- because it is worth the effort!

INTERVIEW WITH A NEW PARTNER



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What is your experience from participating in ENT so far?

The experience from participating in ENT is not extensive yet; we joined the ENT consortium for the first time at the ReachOut Workshop in Vienna in June 2011. However, the Basque Country has been very active participating in ERA-NETs.

Since 2004 the Basque Government together with Innobasque has participated in different ERA-NETs aligned with the Science, Technology and Innovation Plan of the Basque Government (PCTI). Together with the fact that the ENT consortium, especially the core group, has introduced us in ENT efficiently, providing us information about the work already done until now and informing us about all the steps that will be followed in the future, makes the experience overall positive.

What is the advantage of being a part of ENT?

By joining ENT we unify efforts carried out for the internationalisation of R&D in the transport sector. It provides the opportunity to share political strategies and information about different funding programmes.

The Basque Country is the region leading the Spanish participation in European R&D projects in the area of intelligent transport, sustainable mobility and electric vehicles. Furthermore, the Basque Government has a funding programme for Basque enterprises in this field and also inter-cluster initiatives.

Is it worth the effort to participate in ENT?

Yes, it is. Mainly because it helps Basque enterprises, especially SMEs, to collaborate in transnational projects internationalising their R&D in the field of transport. Transport is one of the pillars in the new Science, Technology and Innovation Plan of the Basque Government for 2015 and the Basque Government will mobilize as much resources as possible in order to get good results, especially in the flagship funding initiatives.

What would you expect from participating in ENT III in the coming years?

From this collaboration we expect:

- Fruitful and long term collaboration between funding agencies
- High participation of Basque companies, not only in the regular flagship funding initiatives but also in the medium-sized and smaller transnational funding initiatives, with high quality proposals



The partners of ENT are working actively for a continuation of the consortium in cooperation with the EC. ENT III is foreseen to be widely built on the successes, experiences and achievements of ENT I and II since 2004 as well as on related ERA-NET Plus Electromobility+ activities. But ENT III activities also aim to step significantly beyond previous achievements.

Implementing transnational activities

The core business of ERA-NET TRANSPORT is implementing transnational funding activities in the field of transport research.

Here, ENT aims at installing a regular large-scale flagship funding initiative with a call budget up to 10 million Euro. The flagship approach will, however, not fit all transnational cooperation initiatives. Therefore, ENT will continue to support a number of small and medium-sized cooperation activities, typically initiated by the ENT partners.

Strategic framework

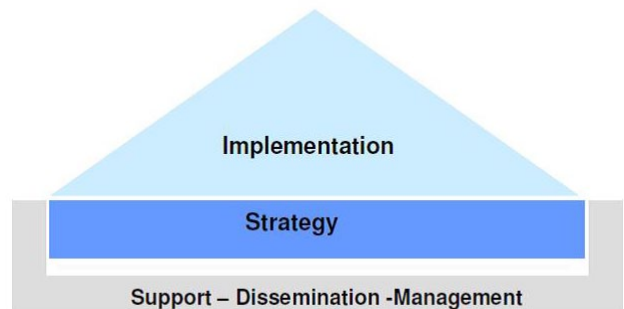
ENT will also provide a strategic framework for transnational research and innovation funding. A solid strategic foundation is the pre-requisite for overcoming existing barriers in national/regional funding architectures and for better utilizing windows of opportunities for cooperation activities.

Participating organization name	Country
1. Technische Universiteit Delft	NL
2. Technische Universiteit Eindhoven	NL
3. Technische Universiteit Twente	NL
4. DLR - German Aerospace Establishment	DE
5. Fraunhofer IPA	DE
6. Fraunhofer IPA	DE
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Objectives of ENT III

The planned third phase of ENT (ENT III) is developed along the guiding principles and objectives of:

- Enlarged network of European countries and regions
- Intensified support to (new) ENT partners
- Increased transnational call budgets (flagship initiatives)
- Broadened scope and funding possibilities
- Improved visibility of national R&D&I programmes and projects in Europe
- Optimised exploitation for shaping funding architecture
- Enhanced collaboration activities
- Enhanced contribution to EC's Horizon 2020 and White Paper





Tools in ERA-NET TRANSPORT

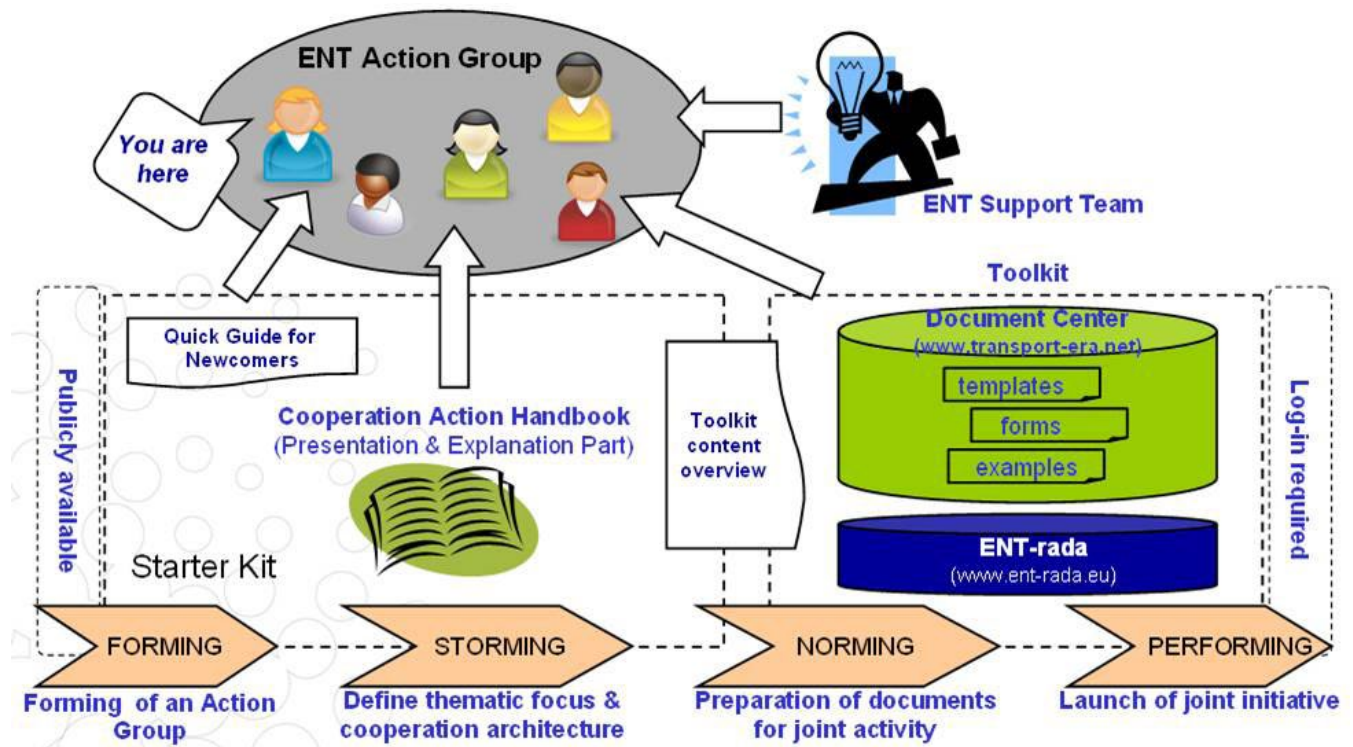
ENT has developed a suitable reference structure and tools for implementing transnational funding initiatives, which goes for all cooperation activities – small, medium sized as well as large-scale.

The tools comprise of:

- Experienced Support Teams facilitating contact to other programme representatives and assisting with the development of transnational calls
- Starter Kit, Cooperation Handbook, templates, and examples
- EPSS: Electronic Submission System for proposals and calls
- Call flyers for national/regional distribution
- ENT newsletters

- ENT Conference/Plenary Group
- Networking with EC and stakeholders
- ENT-rada: Web-based cooperation platform for funding programmes
- ENT repository and website: transport-era.net

The existing structure is ready to support partner-initiated cooperation ideas from day one.



ENT News and publications

The partners of ERA-NET TRANSPORT are continuously setting up new calls as well as publishing related information on the ENT website. The list below illustrates the on-going work in ENT.

April 2012: A draft Strategic Roadmap on topics for transnational cooperation is developed to initiate new cooperation activities. The Roadmap is the foundation for a rolling planning process in ENT

April 2012: The Support Team Portfolio is updated based on the lessons learnt from cooperation activities

April 2012: Contract negotiation is on-going with the selection list of proposals from the Electromobility+ call

April 2012: The ENT II End Conference on transnational research funding collaboration in transport is held in Brussels

March 2012: The latest transnational call is launched - ENT 22 Stepping Stone, Making mobility patterns sustainable

February 2012: The lessons learnt from Electromobility+ are summarised

November 2011: ENT 17 SURPRICE midterm conference with research results on Road User Charging is held in Zurich

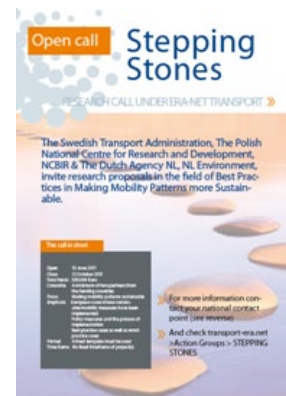
October 2011: The research results from ENT 19 Electric Mobility is published

September 2011: Best practice examples of how to design national research and innovation funding programmes for transnational cooperation is published

September 2011: Outcome of transnational funding activities is published

June 2011: A list of options to improve end-use of research results is published

For more information about ERA-NET TRANSPORT and the latest activities, please visit transport-era.net.



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Please find more information on our website transport-era.net

- Basic information about ERA-NET TRANSPORT
- Action Groups
- Research calls
- Dates and events
- Latest news and links
- Links to other transport research related sites