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## Transport Research Knowledge Centre

### Five new Thematic Research Summaries put European transport research into context

The Transport Research Knowledge Centre (TRKC) has recently published five new Thematic Research Summary (TRS) documents. Each TRS aims to provide the reader with a synthesis of available results from completed European EU-funded research projects related to the theme in question. The themes covered by the new TRS publications are:

- **User aspects**  
This theme covers the ways through which users interact with transport systems, infrastructure and services, for all modes of transport.
- **Rural and regional transport**  
Rural transport deals with transport in low-density and remote areas, with projects focusing on accessibility (for public transport for example) and management of local roads. Regional transport is more concerned with national and EU connectivity and cohesion. Several projects in this theme concentrate on medium-distance transport corridors in Europe, particularly those that cross borders and operate within or between regions.
- **Passenger transport**  
The 'Passenger' publication refers to all forms of public and private transport of people, by air, land or water (or involving one or more modes) whether scheduled or unscheduled, urban, rural, coastal, local, long-distance or cross-border. This TRS only deals with research relevant to the planning, organisation or operation of passenger transport modes to the exclusion of freight.
- **Decision support tools**  
Decision support tools are concerned with methodologies and information tools for transport policy making. The tools

addressed by this publication are those for public decision makers concerned with transport policies and projects at all geographical scales (urban, local, regional, national, supranational).

- **Land use planning**

Land use planning focuses not on the transport system itself, but on the land use patterns which generate the demand for transport. The overall emphasis is usually on shaping the pattern of development and influencing the location, scale, density, design and mix of land uses in order to reduce the need to travel, reduce the length of journeys and make it easier for people to access jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling.

The new TRS publications are available for download from the [Thematic publications](#) section of the TRKC website.

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## Note to Editors:

### 1 About the Transport Research Knowledge Centre

The Transport Research Knowledge Centre (TRKC) is a project of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN) and is funded under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6).

The primary aim of the TRKC is to disseminate and promote the results of transport research activities at European and national level. It also illustrates how transport research programmes and projects help to develop guidelines and innovative tools to support European transport policy for sustainable mobility.

Like its predecessor project EXTR@Web, TRKC has the ambitious objective of stimulating knowledge transfer in the European Research Area (ERA). The project collects transport research information from a large variety of sources across a range of 30 countries (EU-27 plus Norway, Switzerland and Iceland). The information covers project life-cycles from research funding programmes to final results.

The TRKC web site contains information on almost 6000 projects in a searchable database, providing a comprehensive insight to ongoing and recent transport research activities in the ERA. More importantly, it links each project with its parent programme, assigns projects to themes, and provides accurate links or contact

details, where possible. It thus represents a unique pool of information on ERA-wide transport research projects.

Transport Research Knowledge Centre partners are:

- GOPA-Cartermill SA, Belgium (Project Coordinator)
- Industrieanlagen-Betriebsgesellschaft mbH (IABG), Germany
- Egis Mobilité, France
- Università di Roma - La Sapienza, Dipartimento Idraulica Trasporti e Strade (DITS), Italy
- University of Leeds, Institute of Transport Studies (ITS), United Kingdom
- CDV (Transport Research Centre), Czech Republic.

## 2 What is the European Research Area?

The European Research Area (ERA) was launched at the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 and has rapidly become the central pillar of EU activities in the field of research and the reference framework for European research policy issues. ERA objectives include improved coordination of national research initiatives between member countries, establishing genuine coordination of national research policies in order to create a European research policy, and creating an 'internal market in research'.

The ERA comprises all EU Member States, accession countries and other associated states (e.g. Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, etc).

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TRKC website: [www.transport-research.info](http://www.transport-research.info)

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