



**IRF WORLD ROAD
MEETING 2017**

/ 14-17 NOVEMBER / DELHI / INDIA /

CROSS/ ROADS

LINKING MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

SPECIAL SESSION

FEHRL

Transport Infrastructure: Innovation and Exploitation

Session Leader: Dr Thierry Goger, Secretary General of FEHRL

An efficient and reliable transport system is essential for society, the transport of goods, employment and leisure. Currently, transport systems all over the world struggle to cope with extreme weather events such as droughts, heavy rain and snow, storms and floods; and climate change is predicated to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The entire transport infrastructure (road, rail, airports, sea ports and inland waterways) will be significantly impacted by climate change, affecting the way the transport sector plans, designs, constructs and maintains infrastructure in the future.

To tackle the challenges facing the transport network the following steps are crucial:

- **More innovation is needed!**
The question we need to ask ourselves is, do we continue the business as usual i.e., with the present technologies, with our present systems made up of a set of applied engineering disciplines (struggling to keep the existing infrastructure in the right shape ... or face reality and embrace a new order i.e. more innovation (get the courage and foresight to embrace a new order of things even if it takes us far beyond our comfort zone).
- **More exploitation is needed!**
An urgent need in the transport infrastructure sector is to foster the exploitation of research results. There is a huge backlog in this field and our ability to tackle the above-mentioned challenges depends on how much and how fast we can bring research results to real life situations.
- **More collaboration across all transport modes!**
Infrastructure owners, transport operators, engineering and construction companies and other stakeholders across all the modes should work together, share knowledge and cooperate in a way that will be beneficial to all parties and that will increase the overall performance of multimodal transport infrastructures.

This session is dedicated to these issues and will look, among others, in details at the challenges (and their impact) on transport infrastructure and how innovation can be of help through two flagship programmes **Forever Open Road (FOR)** and **Forever Open Road, Rail, Runway and River (FORx4)**.



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Demonstration activities of innovation projects under the **ERA-NET Plus INFRAVATION** programme are presented as examples of how research results can be exploited.

An area that has been neglected for so long is the skills requirement for transport sector employees. As we face the challenges mentioned above, we will need to equip the future workforce not only to tackle these challenges but also to have skills needed for the innovation of tomorrow.

This session will present the work currently being done in a research project aiming at reviewing the existing, emerging and future knowledge and skills requirements of workers at all levels in the transportation sector, with emphasis on competences required by important game changers and paradigm shifters, such as electrification and greening of transport, automation, MaaS, etc.