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## Making use of research based knowledge in boosting innovation in the European roads sector: a case study on climate change from the CEDR transnational research collaboration

Christian Axelsen <sup>a</sup>, Heather Brookes <sup>b</sup>, Tiina Jauhiainen <sup>c</sup>, Paul Johnson <sup>d,\*</sup>,  
Ruud Smit <sup>e</sup>, Hamid Zarghampour <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The Danish Road Directorate, Guldalderen 12, DK-2640 Hedehusene

<sup>b</sup>Highways England, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

<sup>c</sup>Finnish Transport Agency Raatimiehenkatu 3, FI-53100 Lappeenranta, Finland

<sup>d</sup>Highways England, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street Birmingham, B1 1RN

<sup>e</sup>Rijkswaterstaat, Dienst West-Nederland Noord, Toekanweg 7, 2035 LC Haarlem

<sup>f</sup>Swedish Transport Administration, Röda vägen 1, 781 89 Borlänge

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### Abstract

The Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR) has carried out a pilot study examining how well the results of its first transnational research programme on Climate Change have been implemented in member states. The study forms part of a wider initiative to develop a number of key performance indicators for research implementation and to ensure that implementation of CEDR research leads to innovation in the European roads sector. Eleven European countries took part in the study which was carried out using qualitative interviewing techniques. While the overall perceptions of the interviewees were that the research programme successfully met its objectives, the results indicate a varying degree of implementation across countries. The paper reports the key benefits of the research, identifies a number of barriers to implementation and gives recommendations to improve future implementation of research.

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\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +07825722760.

E-mail address: [paul.johnson@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnson@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

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## 1. Introduction

To better understand how well transnational research is being implemented, the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR) research group carried out a pilot study of dissemination of the research results and implementation of the 2008 Climate Change Research Programme Call. The results of the study are being used to develop guidelines to improve and streamline innovation in the European road sector. And, the results can be utilised when further developing the key performance indicators (KPIs) for analysing the degree of implementation and impacts of innovations.

The Climate Change Call was chosen for the pilot study due to the importance of international research collaboration in addressing global challenge and to mitigating the impact of climate change on national infrastructure networks. Furthermore, this Call was the first transnational jointly funded CEDR research programme.

The empirical data for this study was collected by interviewing key informants of eleven CEDR member states' representatives involved in the CEDR Research Programme "Road Owners Getting to Grips with Climate Change". The Programme was aimed at providing road authorities across Europe with the knowledge and tools necessary to increase the resilience of road systems to climate change by adapting design rules, collecting relevant data and developing risk management methods.

The implementation of four climate change projects within this €1.35M programme was reviewed together with the original research objectives and final programme reports.

In this paper the key findings of the pilot study are reported.

## 2. Background

### 2.1. The Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR)

CEDR is a European platform for cooperation and the promotion of improvements to the road system and its infrastructure, as an integral part of a sustainable transport system in Europe. Its members represent their respective national road administrations (NRAs) or equivalents and provide support and advice on decisions concerning the road transport system that are taken at national or international level.

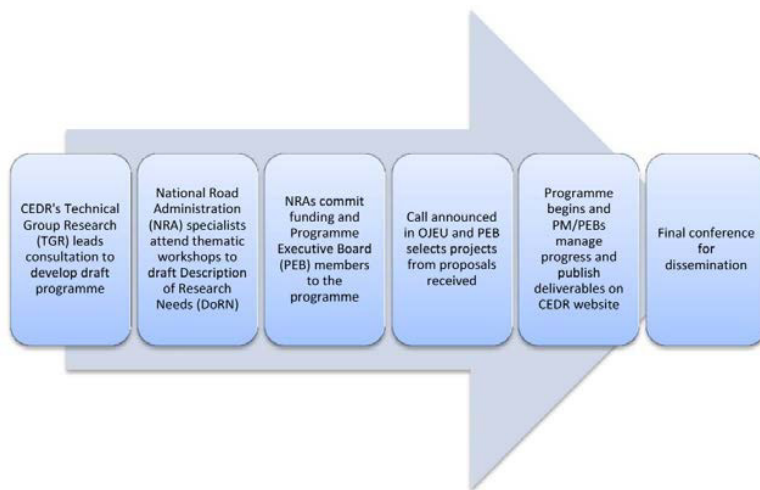


Fig. 1. CEDR transnational research process.

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