

2. Key Topic Reports

Each KT expert has produced a KT report, in which the main findings of the related projects are included. The KT report focuses on the outcomes and results of the projects under the key topic and contains additional information that was not recorded in the catalogue as described above. In the KT reports, recommendations for Work Packages 4 and 5 are included. Amongst others, the following items have been described:

Methodology

- availability of sources
- availability of interesting information on the projects

Description of the Key Topic

- short description/definition of the key topic
- contents of the key topic and possible subtopics it covers
- possible overlap with other key topics, if relevant
- list of projects for the given key topic and a short description of each project

Project Results (Main Focus)

- short description of each project and a short summary concerning:
 - materials available
 - persons in charge of sites for study visits
 - leading educational institutes
 - websites
- description of the results and findings of each project (for as far as it was not recorded in the catalogue)

Recommendations on the Take Up of Project Results for Modules / Units and Final Conclusions

- input for Work Package 4 and 5
- initial ideas for possible courses / modules



8th International Scientific Conference MOBILITA '01, Bratislava, Sep '01

Forthcoming Events

- ▶ ECOMM 2002: "Responsible Mobility, Active Partnerships!" - 15-17 May 2002, Gent Flanders (www.epomm.org/events)
- ▶ 5th Spanish Transportation Engineering Congress - 11-12 June 2002, Santander Spain (www.cit2002.unican.es)
- ▶ 5th International Conference "Environmental Engineering" - 23-24 May 2002, Vilnius Lithuania (www.vtu.lt)
- ▶ Enhancing Change for Alternative Means of Mobility - 28 March 2002, Paris France (<http://pfe.enpc.fr>)
- ▶ Effects on Conventional Systems and Network Operation in Passenger Transportation, 22-23 May 2002, Paris France (<http://pfe.enpc.fr>)

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NEWS

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PORTAL WE PROVIDE LEADING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH EUROPEAN TRANSPORT RESEARCH RESULTS FOR TEACHING & STUDYING

This edition covers the results of activities delivered and already completed since the beginning of the project in:

- ▶ Work Package 1 (Education and Training Courses: Analysis of Existing Supply and Future Demand) and
- ▶ Work Package 2 (Identification and Analysis of Existing EC High Quality Research Materials, experts who could be trainer/teachers and demonstration sites).



University of Kaiserslautern, International Workshop, Esch, Alsette

WP1

Analysis Of Existing Supply and Future Demand



Leader: PTRC
Contact Person: Andy Costain

1. Results of WP1

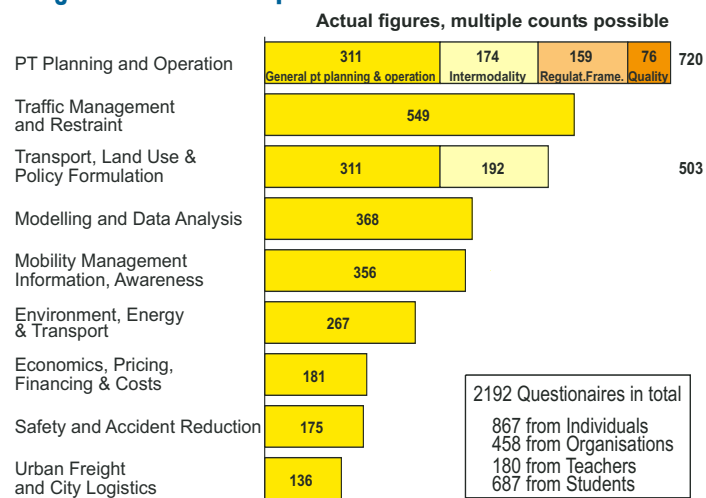
The results of WP1 have given some clear insights into the following areas:

- ▶ The key challenges of those working in local and regional transport
- ▶ A picture of the educational needs of the transport profession in Europe and how this is being met at the present time
- ▶ An indication of the current level of awareness of EU Transport Research Projects, their results and degree of incorporation into teaching programmes
- ▶ How the PORTAL project can provide teaching materials which are based on verifiable need

The starting point for the PORTAL project was: a) a thorough investigation into the skills and knowledge gaps of a wide range of professionals involved in the transport sector in 24 countries across Europe and b) a look at how far these needs are currently being met by educational institutes. The analysis (more than 2000 responses) was intended to help pinpoint the key subject areas where the resources of PORTAL could be channeled and to build up a picture of the preferred format, style and duration of educational courses (see **Diagram 1**, next page).

Public Transport Planning and Operation emerged consistently as the most important area which PORTAL should focus on. It was ranked as the most important priority for all categories in the survey and in nearly all of the 24 countries. This clearly reflected a current concern about how to enhance public transport to make it more attractive to the user, to reduce car dependency and to achieve a modal shift with the aim of cutting congestion and traffic

Diagram 1: Selected Topic Areas



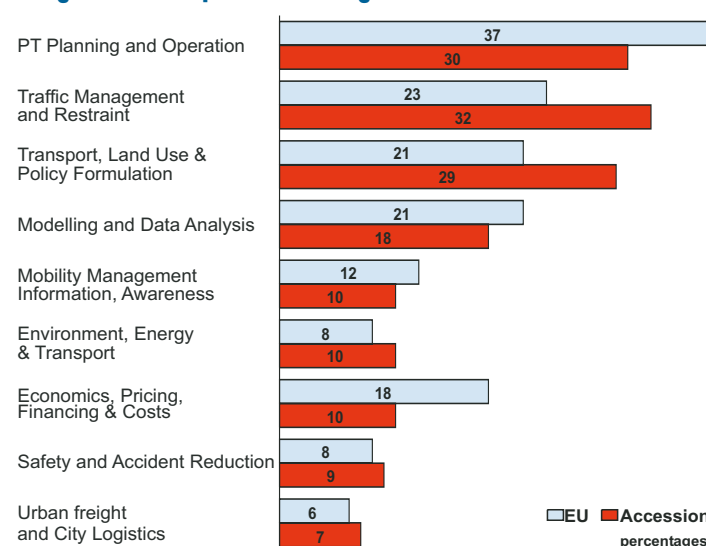
related pollution. The second ranked priority of traffic management and restraint measures signifies the complementary interest in reducing traffic congestion and in improving the flow of traffic in urban areas. Knowledge and skills are required in such topics as Traffic Enforcement, Traffic Control Systems, Traffic Calming, Pedestrianisation Schemes, Park and Ride, Car Parking Measures, a Demand Management and Congestion Charging.

The survey enabled the needs of different stakeholders to be compared against the entire sample. Those working in central and local government highlighted policy formulation as a high priority. Young professionals stressed the need for enhancing their knowledge of analytical techniques and forecasting methods.

Important feedback on other features of education was derived from the survey and will help shape the future direction in the development of PORTAL.

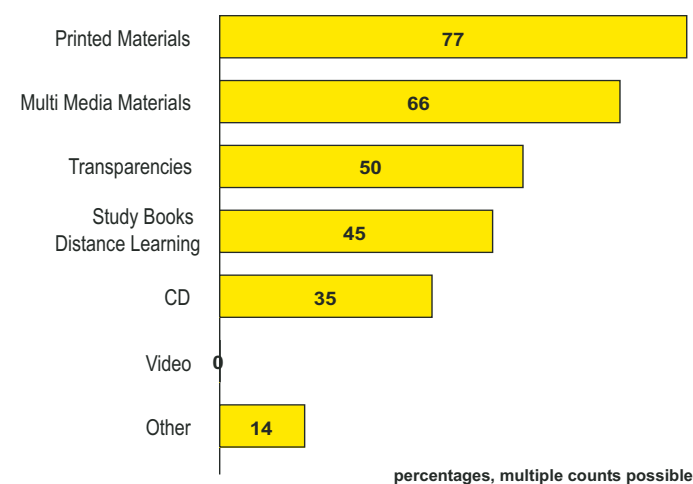
Although there was remarkable geographic consistency, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe mentioned management courses and the need for new skills in marketing, business management, costing and financing of services, customer service, tendering and project management. The following diagram shows a comparison of needs among EU Countries and Accession Countries (see Diagram 2, below).

Diagram 2: Comparison Among EU and Accession Countries



All the categories surveyed stressed the benefit of having learning and teaching material to support an educational activity. Teachers would welcome support in the development of new case studies and other material and those involved as course participants have a need for reference material to support the course. There was still a bias in favour of traditional printed materials and little support for videos (see Diagram 3, below).

Diagram 3: Preferred Material



2. The Gaps in Supply

Work Package 1 also built up a picture across Europe of what types of educational courses and programmes are on offer and what are the gaps in provision:

- ▶ At the macro level it was seen that there is a lack of dedicated transport courses in many countries because transport is still seen as an off shoot of another discipline. Transport is often neglected as a specialist subject
- ▶ Even where there are specialist transport courses there may be an absence of some topic areas especially where they relate to the “softer side” of transport
- ▶ There is a lack of courses offering practical techniques and solutions
- ▶ Many of the materials used in course delivery are old and out of date. There is a lack of regular updating of materials and introduction of new case studies, particularly on EU research projects

3. Conclusions on the Integration of EU Funded Research Projects in Current Teaching Courses

One of the main findings of this survey has highlighted the lack of awareness of the results of EU Transport Research Projects. The survey probed 2 key issues in relation to such projects:

- ▶ The awareness of the transport profession in each country of the projects which have been conducted
- ▶ The extent to which the results have been absorbed into educational courses

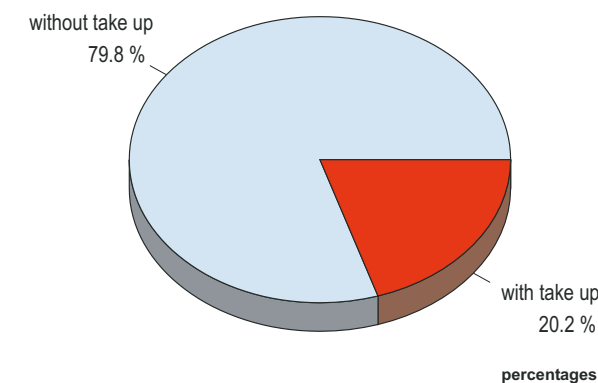
All the countries were unanimous in their view that EU projects are generally not well known. The awareness that does exist is found mainly among researchers and academics and, to a lesser

extent, among consultants. Practitioners in transport operations and management and in local authorities had the lowest level of awareness.

The take up of research results by the educational community also appears to be very modest. The Diagram 4 below shows that 80% of the institutions responded that their teaching programmes do not take account of the results of recent research projects and there is a very clear gap in the dissemination process.

These findings have clear implications for the future

Diagram 4: The Take Up of EU Project Results



development of PORTAL and support the need perceived by the EC for a project along the lines of PORTAL. PORTAL has a significant role to play in being the vehicle for the EC to improve this situation.

WP2

Analysis of Existing EC High Quality Research



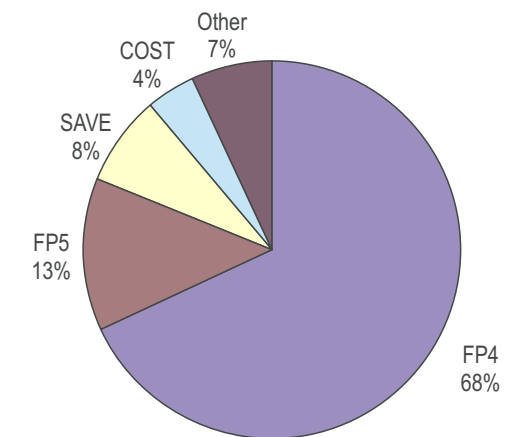
Leader: DTV Consultants
Contact Person: Willem Buijs

1. Project Catalogue

Based on the selected key topics and sub key topics from WP1 the first step in WP2 was the allocation of a number of EU projects to these different key topics.

In total, approximately 120 projects (from different EU programmes) were included in Work Package 2. Projects included are mainly from the 4th and the 5th Framework Programme but also from Programmes such as SAVE, COST and LIFE. The breakdown between Programmes is illustrated in Diagram 5 opposite.

Diagram 5: Projects from different EU Programmes



Each Key Topic was managed by a Key Topic (KT) expert. The KT experts come from Leading Educational Institutes (60%), Research Institutes (25%) or Governmental Organisations (15%) and have contributed to Work Package 2 from the point of view of one of their specialisations. The Leading Educational Institutes incorporate a combination of both research and teaching activities.

The KT experts have made a catalogue of the projects that were allocated to their Key Topic. For each project, the KT experts have made a catalogue of *partners* that were involved in the relevant EU project, *materials* that were delivered, *sites for study visits*, *Leading Educational Institutes* that were involved in the project and project related *websites*.

The completed databases contain the 'best bits' of the EU projects included and will help project partners of future Work Packages to find persons in charge of projects, materials, etc. Some projects are still ongoing (especially FP5 projects), which means that only limited information is available as yet. The catalogue provides input for Work Package 7 (Networks & Databases) of PORTAL.



6th International Seminar on Transportation & Town, Bratislava 2001