

TRA2016 – Workshop
Wednesday, 20 April 2016

ACADEMIA AND JOB MARKET: HOW TO MATCH?

*BUILDING EUROPEAN TRANSPORT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:
WHICH OFFER TO STUDENTS? WHICH CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION?*

Proposer/Organizer

European Transport Research Alliance (ETRA) – European Commission (DG MOVE, DG RTD)

Summary of the session

The workshop is dedicated mainly to young students and professionals in the transport field and focuses on better educational and research opportunities to match future professional needs. It will aim to highlight the opportunities offered by higher-level studies in transport disciplines and to stimulate an in-depth analysis of the need for new academic curricula to respond to the emerging sectoral needs. It will focus on the experiences of young as well as more experienced academia and professionals through presenting success stories and difficulties. Moreover, the workshop will provide an arena in which to express the future needs and the current weaknesses in offering the necessary skills and expertise needed by today's youth to embrace a transport career and to provide them with a state-of-art advice.

Furthermore, the workshop will address Europe's need to create strong networks of academic excellence centers in the field of transport by building on the head start of existing such networks. In doing so, the workshop will examine the creation of scientific connections between Universities and Research Centres at European scale and the further integration of the work of the existing transport research associations in order to cover an important gap in the landscape of transport education and science in Europe.

The aim will be to blend the views of the academic education providers with the needs and requirements of the "users" of academic excellence (especially industrial ones but, also, for research and innovation). The organizer ETRA, as a partnership of leading transport research associations whose members are involved in activities related to transport research, education and training, has particular expertise and record of previous achievements in this field (e.g. the creation and maintenance for 15 years of the Young Researchers Seminar -YRS - and summer schools, training seminars, etc). Furthermore, the fact that the European Commission, through its two most relevant DGs, is a co-organiser of this workshop further guarantees that a most important future "user" of academic excellence in the field of transport is on board. Connection with, and participation of, the ETPs (the European Technological Platforms) will also be provided as an essential link to bring into the discussion the industrial professionals.

Tentative programme

There will be 2 keynote speeches at the beginning, in which one academician and one industrialist will present the 'hot issues' to stimulate the conversation with the audience. The rest of this double session will be devoted to conversation between the various stakeholders that will evolve along some basic questions to be posed by the moderators and other questions and positions to be made by the participating students and other audience attending the workshop.

The overall schedule of the event is as follows:

Part 1

Introduction by the organizers (5' The European Commission and 5' the European Transport Research Alliance)

One introductory keynote speech from an Academic with experience in forward-looking educational programmes and curricula (will speak on success stories and obstacles and bottlenecks experienced).

One introductory keynote speech from an industrialist (will speak on what skills and experience are critical to enter the transportation professional world, what are the barriers, what are the keys to success, what are the current profile gaps the transport industry is faced with).

Part 2

FIRST CIRCLE OF CONVERSATION, CONCERNING: STAKES, CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

Participants will be asked to join 3 **"circles of conversation"**:

(a) Transport education (conversation on curricula / methods / degrees /gaps and trends in trans-disciplinary careers, current challenges and recommendations for the future)_–

Possible questions: Which matters and combination of subjects are the most appealing for students? How do student value their education for the future job market? Which are the training needs that are not found in Universities? How could the education be completed (internships at industry, exchanges with other Universities abroad, specific in depth studies via e.g. Sumer Schools)? How to enter a research career?

(b) Professional profiles of the future:

Possible questions: How is transport industry evolving? What are the new jobs of the future? Which are the main profile shortage faced by industry/public sector? What do the youngsters see as their future professional engagement?

(c) Networking in transport research and education (Personnel networks, existing academia networks, gaps and bottlenecks, complementarity in Europe - liaison between networks and subjects, how to link networks with research topics? How does industry and academia link and what role/option for students?).

Each circle of conversation can gather up to 20 people each. In each "circle" there will be:

- ✓ One moderator (defined by the organisers)
- ✓ Two "seed discussants" or "facilitators" (to be invited by the organisers)

After 20' conversation, people move to another 'circle' to engage in another conversation. Moderators and facilitators remain to keep note of the new ideas emerging from the new asset of the conversation table.

Part 3

CONCLUSIONS (in plenary)

Each "circle" moderator will be asked to present the conclusions of the conversation in his/her "circle of conversation":

(a) Transport education

(b) Professions of the future

(c) Networking in transport research and education

Overall conclusion by the organizers - future steps:

