



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MONDAY 30th OCTOBER 2017

FOX final conference presents results and next steps!

Some 40 key transport research stakeholders attended the H2020 FOX project's final conference on Wednesday 25th October at FEHRL member BAST near Cologne, Germany to learn all about the results of this project. Maria Cristina Marolda of the European Commission's (EC) DG MOVE first introduced the rationale behind the project and its sister CSA project USE-iT, as well as related projects [SETRIS](#), [REFINET](#) and the [Infrastructure Cloud initiative](#). Thierry Goger, FEHRL Secretary General, explained the history of USE-iT and FOX and how they both were influenced strongly by FEHRL's [FORx4 initiative](#), as well as the common process used for both USE-iT and FOX, which included:

- An Inventory of the state-of-the-art and best practices from May – December 2015 presented at the first workshop in January 2016
- Description of the best practices/most promising opportunities useful for other transportation modes and identification of common research needs from January - November 2016
- Development of roadmaps for future initiatives on cross-modal research from December 2016 – August 2017

The conference then presented the recommendations from each of these four FOX roadmaps for Construction, Maintenance, Inspection and Recycling & Reuse, as well as the next steps for implementation and exploitation. Veronique Cerezo of IFSTTAR first described the recommendations for Construction. She was followed by Ursula Blume from BAST who outlined the Research Areas for Maintenance. Darko Kokot of ZAG then gave an overview of the Inspection results and challenges. Finally, the fourth area of Recycling & Reuse was described by Jos Wessels of TNO.

Martin Lamb, Forever Open Road and FORx4 Programme Manager for FEHRL, closed the event by outlining the achievements of both FOX and USE-iT, which comprise the identification of hundreds of technologies, 42 research challenges for the four above-mentioned FOX areas of Construction, Maintenance, Inspection and Recycling & Reuse and three USE-iT areas of User Information, Safety & Security and Energy & Carbon. He outlined the development of the large community of almost 840 stakeholders and the active core community and explained how all these achievements can be built upon to create a fully integrated transport infrastructure. A Summary report of recommendations has been prepared and submitted to the EC, which, once approved, will be disseminated to public and private transport infrastructure operators, research funders and providers, construction and technology companies amongst others, as a document produced and endorsed by their peers on the challenges and opportunities facing the transport sector. See the presentations from the event [here](#) and photos [here](#). More information can be found in the individual Deliverables produced so far [here](#) or by contacting Miglė Paliukaitė at migle.paliukaite@fehrl.org.

This event was one of a series that took place during the whole week, most notably the [ERA-NET Plus Infravation Annual Event 2017](#) on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th October and the Infravation [Healroad](#) project demonstration event on Thursday 26th October. Contact Claudia Ciuca at claudia.ciuca@fehrl.org for more details on these events.

Background to FOX

An efficient and high-quality transport infrastructure is a fundamental requirement for the connectivity of people and goods in Europe, as well as the basis for economic growth, competitiveness and territorial cohesion. In light of the present and future challenges facing transport infrastructure (increasing transport demand, ageing infrastructure, scarcity of natural resources etc.), collaboration between transport modes needs to be strengthened in order to create an improved future integrated and functioning transport system for Europe. The FOX project helped achieve this by developing a highly efficient and effective cross-modal R&D environment and culture which meets the demanding requirements of our transport infrastructure.

Based on the already existing co-modal transport research programmes and agendas, the FOX project identified common needs and innovative techniques in the technical areas of Construction, Maintenance, Inspection, and Recycling & Reuse of transport infrastructure. This was reached by the involvement of stakeholders from all the modes using a phased approach, starting with the determination of the state-of-the-art in research and practice, followed by the identification of the most promising practices and ideas. By mapping the common needs, the final aim was to establish a cross-modal Working Group – this was reached by founding a core group to further develop the required themes, topics and demonstrators over the next decades. The final Deliverable of FOX was the development of a roadmap for the whole transport sector and the setting of the agenda for the further improvement of cross-modal research development innovation.

The FOX concept stemmed from FEHRL's FORx4 (Forever Open Road, Rail, Runway and River) initiative. FORx4, which focuses on infrastructure innovation for seamless mobility, contains the four modes of road, rail, runway and river and four shared domains of infrastructure, technology, governance and customers. In FORx4, stakeholders from all transport modes have strongly engaged to develop a broad strategy for the programme research plan.

- [USE-iT and FOX website](#)
- [FORx4 Linked In group](#)

Contact

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