



Conférence Européenne
des Directeurs des Routes
Conference of European
Directors of Roads

Harmony

Procedures for the Design of Roads in Harmony with Wildlife

Research project funded under the CEDR Transnational Road Research Programme
CEDR Call 2013: Roads and Wildlife - Cost-efficient Road Management

CEDR Call 2013: Roads and Wildlife is a Transnational Road Research Programme organised by CEDR (Conference of European Directors of Roads). The funding partners for this programme are Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands and UK.

Details

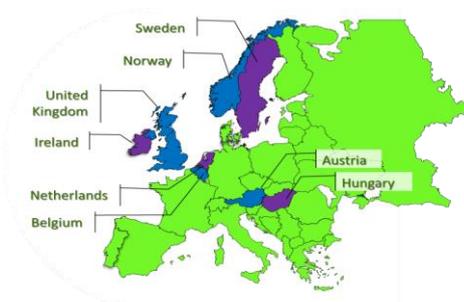
Acronym: Harmony
Start: March 2014
End: March 2016
Budget: EUR293.4k
Co-ordinator: Eugene O'Brien, RODIS, Ireland
Contact: eugene.obrien@rod.ie
Partners: BuWa, Netherlands
MTA Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary
VTI, Sweden
Mediterranean Subcontractor, TBC
PEB Project Manager: Vincent O'Malley, Ireland, vomalley@nra.ie
PEB Deputy Project Manager: Hans Bekker, Netherlands, hans.bekker@rws.nl
Website: <http://www.harmony-project.net/>



Project Summary:

The Harmony project brings together a consortium of ecologists and engineers to develop sustainable solutions to road transport challenges that are in harmony with wildlife. Our consulting engineer partners and project leaders, Roughan O'Donovan Innovative Solutions (RODIS) are a firm of 120 people with extensive experience of preparing road construction contracts. RODIS takes projects through the planning approval process with Environmental Impact Assessment followed by detailed design and construction supervision. RODIS has extensive experience of working with road owners and contractors and with procurement processes in Ireland, the UK, Poland and in several other countries around the world. The other partners, BuWa, VTI and MTA, bring extensive experience in ecological consulting and research. Two of the leaders, Prof O'Brien of RODIS and Dr Folkesson of VTI, were national delegates to the COST 341 action.

In reviewing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and procurement practices, Harmony will focus on eight 'reference' countries: the partner countries of Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Hungary; and neighbouring countries of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Norway and Austria (see figure). Mediterranean countries will be considered through a subcontract and other European countries will be included if their CEDR members wish to be. Projects will be considered at a range of scales (small, medium, large) and in a range of habitats and landscapes. Projects where wildlife adaptation is a very small financial part of the total will be considered as well as those that are dedicated to mitigation measures.



At least 80 case studies of environmental assessment will be considered in the reference countries and a matrix approach will be used to identify commonalities and differences. A common framework for assessment will be developed from this and recommended for use throughout Europe.

A wide range of procurement practices will be reviewed in a similar way and a small number of promising performance-based approaches identified for detailed consideration. A survey of experts will be conducted to identify procurement practices that give good ecological outcomes at minimum cost. Recommendations will be given for best practice in a range of situations.

An existing field study on maintenance in Hungary will be extended to investigate the implications of alternative practices in the maintenance of road verges. Maintenance of mitigation measures will be reviewed through consultation with experts.

Results will be presented in the form of three new chapters to the COST 341 Handbook. In keeping with the COST 341 philosophy, the handbook will focus on practical recommendations that can be implemented on the ground. For eco-friendly maintenance, a stand-alone maintenance handbook will also be delivered.