

ISTIEE and South East European Transport Research Forum (SETREF): together for cooperation

A special issue for the SETREF

We are sincerely delighted to devote this issue of *Trasporti Europei* to a series of papers carried out by the SETREF (South East European Transport Research Forum) Consortium that ISTIEE has recently joined. The Consortium puts together universities and research institutes with common interests in the field of transportation in order to develop cooperation activities for the development of the South East Europe. Despite the fact that it was only by recently set up (December 1997), the Consortium has already developed some relevant activities, such as an analysis of the difficulties in crossing borders in S.E. European countries, the creation of a data base with traffic volumes on the road network of S.E. European countries, the preparation of a feasibility study of rail axis n° 10. Moreover, the Consortium takes part of some projects funded by the UE (DGXIII, Phare).

Giacomo Borruso

PRESIDENTE I.S.T.I.E.E.

This issue shows the concrete will of the ISTIEE to carry out and maintain some important international links in the field of transportation economics and engineering. In particular, the SETREF Consortium gives a chance to our Institute to achieve such objectives with regard to an area with which strong

historic and cultural links exist, and in a historical moment in which, more than ever, there are compelling needs to develop a pacific cooperation with some of South East European countries.

Therefore, I have great pleasure to guest within this leading article a note by the SETREF chairman Prof. G.A. Giannopoulos.

G. Borruso

A Note by the SETREF Chairman

G.A. Giannopoulos

The idea of creating the South East European Transport Research Forum grew out of a gathering of Transport professionals and researchers in Thessaloniki during an International Conference in 1996.

By mid-1997 it was formally constituted as a legal entity and it started operations in December of that year with a one day Conference in Thessaloniki.

In the two years that passed since then the SETREF has grown in membership to include 19 member Organisations from 10 countries and many individuals. It has supported a number of functions, it publishes one regular *Newsletter* to its members, and has participated in activities among which this present special issue of *Trasporti Europei*.

For those who live or do business with this part of Europe, the improvement of its Transport infrastructure and services is of major importance. We, in SETREF, believe that government efforts are not enough. They need the backing and initiative of all those organisations and individuals that are interested or involved in one way or another in the study of transport problems or in transport operations; they, in turn, have to interact with each other - be informed - co-ordinated - focused. This is the aim and the task that SETREF has set to itself.

For further information and related material on SETREF:

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This task becomes all the more important after the latest events in Yugoslavia (a country hosting a founding member of SETREF) and the long standing

repercussions that they will create.

In order to succeed in its mission and promote its activities, the Forum needs the widest possible support and participation. As its membership increases so will its voice and power of persuasion.

I therefore urge all those interested to join us, to visit our web site at <http://users.otenet.gr/~setref> or to fax us their interest at 30-31-995789.

Our next General Assembly is to be held in Sofia next October 16th, in conjunction with a 2 day workshop on Transport and Environmental Telematics applications. In this event we expect to set the objectives and the pace of the Forum's activities for the next 2 years.

We hope that with the support of its members, SETREF will succeed in consolidating its role as a constructive force of co-operation in an area that can benefit tremendously from such co-operation.

G.A. Giannopoulos

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