

## 1. Proposal Summary

The IMPRINT-EUROPE thematic network responds to task 2.1.2/3 of the Key Action ‘Sustainable Mobility and Intermodality’ of the Thematic Programme ‘Competitive and Sustainable Growth’. It will bring together researchers, professionals, policy-makers and operators in order to promote the implementation of transport pricing reform based on marginal cost principles. The network encompasses both urban and inter-urban transport and all of the main passenger and freight modes. The specific objectives are:

- 1) To facilitate the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge among scientists and practitioners in the field of pricing;
- 2) To draw together the results of previous and ongoing research in the field of pricing and to make them accessible to policy-makers, practitioners, industry and other professionals in a series of seminars and deliverables designed to assist them in developing and responding to pricing policy reform;
- 3) To identify, through critical comparative work, the prerequisites for the development of an integrated approach to implementing the White Paper’s proposed pricing reforms.

The proposal is organised into seven workpackages which link together to form a cohesive, yet flexible, structure. Workpackages 1 to 4 will each deal with specific themes relevant to the topic of the network, involve the organisation of a seminar and deliver one main report which will, upon approval, be developed for publication. The seminars will have pre-written peer-reviewed position papers, a clear yet flexible agenda and goals and a formal written output which is intended to disseminate the deliberations of the group quickly and widely. Workpackages 6 and 7 concern management and dissemination.

Core partners will share responsibility for organising seminars, commissioning and peer-reviewing papers and production of deliverables. Members will be commissioned by the core partners to contribute pre-written papers presented at the seminars and published in the network’s publications. Experts participate at the seminars but do not present papers. This includes national representatives nominated by the member states - helping to promote the participation of national level policy-relevant actors - and other policy-makers, operators and professionals.

Clear Community Added Value is demonstrated by the proposal. As the network members and experts will come from government, research organisations, consultancies, the industry and stakeholder groups all over the European Union and Central and Eastern Europe, there will be a strong element of networking and institutional learning, drawing on experience in a wide variety of countries.

The proposal objectives relate directly to the priorities of the Call for Proposals, and to the objectives of the Common Transport Policy. By facilitating the dissemination and exploitation of research findings and by providing a forum for debating the key issues in implementing pricing reforms, the proposal will support directly the development of sustainable, economically efficient and safe transport systems.

The proposal will contribute to economic growth and improved competitiveness by providing recommendations for implementing pricing reform in transport that result in sustainable and economically efficient transport prices. This will encourage changes in transport behaviour in order to exploit the least-cost form of transport, technological innovation in vehicle and engine production and improvements in operational and managerial efficiency including better inter-modal solutions.

Four key groups of dissemination activities are planned:

- Proactive dissemination to target users.
- Face-to-face dissemination through the five high-profile seminars which form the core of the network's activities;
- Reactive dissemination – summary information will be available on a website and by e-mail, and the deliverables will be provided at no cost (in Adobe Acrobat or similar format);
- Dissemination through additional publications - books, journal articles and the trade press

Exploitation potential of the project is very high in the short-term, due to active policy development at the European and National levels following the White Paper on “Fair Payment for Infrastructure Use”.

The core partners are a mix of research, operator and consultancy organisations with in-depth experience of transport pricing and strong links to national governments and the transport industry. Particular strengths include:

- close involvement in key 4FP transport charging projects and current policy development;
- excellent links with potential members, experts and users of the research outputs at the European and national levels;
- full coverage of passenger and freight modes.

The scientific management of the project will be carried out by a Steering Committee that includes the coordinator and the four partners. The administrative and technical network management will be the task of the Coordinator.