



[Journal information](#)

[Editorial board](#)

[Back issues](#)

[Instructions to authors](#)

[Search EJTIR](#)

[print this page](#)

## Assessing the Fitness-For-Purpose of strategic transport research in support of European trans-port policy

Anu Tuominen\*, Jacques Leonardi\*\* and Christophe Rizet\*\*\*

\* VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland  
P.O. Box 1000  
FIN-02044 VTT  
Finland  
T: +358207224976  
F: +358207227000  
E: [anu.tuominen@vtt.fi](mailto:anu.tuominen@vtt.fi)

\*\* Department of Transport Economics and Sociology  
French National Institute for Transport and Safety Research  
2 Av du Général Malleret  
F-94114 Arcueil Cedex  
France  
T: +33147407254  
F: +33145475606  
E: [leonardi@inrets.fr](mailto:leonardi@inrets.fr)

\*\*\* Department of Transport Economics and Sociology  
French National Institute for Transport and Safety Research  
2 Av du Général Malleret  
F-94114 Arcueil Cedex  
France  
T: +33147407221  
F: +33145475606  
E: [rizet@inrets.fr](mailto:rizet@inrets.fr)

[Full text pdf](#)

### Abstract

The transport policy environment is changing, because of increasing mobility of people and goods, world wide use of ICT, a rising importance of the knowledge economy, etc. Future meth-ods for transport policy assessments will have to integrate these emerging trends, but above all, the new research knowledge produced needs to be taken better into use within the policy proc-esses. To tackle the problem, the paper presents a generic fitness-for-purpose (FFP) Assessment method for research projects in support of transport policy. Based on the results of a case study, the paper argues that by linking a systematic FFP Analysis of transport research projects with researcher-civil servant network building, a method for accepting, elaborating and applying the produced European transport research knowledge can be provided. By doing this, the paper con-tributes to a more systematic and integrative assessment of transport research in policy support, and hopefully enhances the integration of transport research and policy making while at the same time, initiating a better based policy process. We see that FFP Assessments could offer an essential element for the policy relevant transport research knowledge production in the future.

Received: September 2007  
Accepted: May 2008

**EJTIR Alert service**

Subscribe to the EJTIR Alert service

Key words: fitness-for-purpose assessment; strategic transport research; policy networking; knowledge production; policy assessment tools