TRA
TRANSPORT RESEARCH ARENA

Call for Candidate
To host the 13th TRANSPORT RESEARCH ARENA (TRA) Conference in 2030

1. Background

The Transport Research Arena, in short TRA, is THE European research and technology biennial conference on transport and mobility.

Following editions around Europe (2006 Goteborg/Sweden, 2008 Ljubljana/Slovenia, 2010 Brussels/Belgium, 2012 Athens/Greece, 2014 Paris/France, 2016 Warsaw/Poland, 2018 Vienna/Austria, 2020 virtually in Helsinki/Finland, 2022 Lisbon/Portugal, and 2024 Dublin/Ireland), the next planned editions will take place in Budapest/Hungary in 2026 and Milan/Italy in 2028.

As a key event in Europe for the latest research and innovation results and the development of future mobility visions, TRA covers all modes and forms of transport and the issues influencing it for both passenger and freight transport, in urban, inter-urban, rural and long distance settings.

The TRA Conference is the culmination of a rolling two-year cycle of cooperation between transport research and innovation stakeholders, and provides the continuous arena for:
- Researchers, industry, public administrations, users and other stakeholders
- Policy makers framing research and transport policies
- New ideas and technological solutions, and new services and business models
- Exchanges of information, research results and best practices
- Motivation for young researchers to work in transport
- Experiencing the future of mobility

2. Governance of TRA

TRA is hosted on a rotation principle between European countries and is jointly organised by the host country together with: the European Commission and the European Platforms
- European Technology Platforms for Aviation (ACARE)
- Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe (ALICE)
- Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR)
- European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP)
- European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)
- European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC)
- European Transport Research Alliance (ETRA)
- Waterborne Technology Platform (WATERBORNE)

The Management Committee (MC) is the permanent governing body consisting of senior representatives of all the above-mentioned bodies. The host country is the President of the MC and is also supported by the previous and next hosts. The MC is the ultimate decision-making body of TRA. As such, it is responsible for all necessary strategic decisions, and for coordinating all preparatory activities. The TRA MC then establishes the relevant subcommittees (Programme Committee, Organising Committee) in order to support its preparation work.

The host country is the main organiser with the following responsibilities:
o Chairing the TRA Management, Programme and Organising Committees (MC, PC, OC), based on the TRA's Terms of Reference detailed in Annex 1
o Control and implementation of the MC, PC and OC decisions
o Legal and financial responsibilities of the organisation of the TRA
o Organisation of the conference

The working language for TRA is English, all sessions, website and conference literature shall be in English. All TRA MC, PC and OC meetings shall be held in English.

3. Call for Candidate to host TRA 2030

Timing: this call for **expression of interest to host the TRA 2030 edition** is launched on 30 April 2025 and closes on **31 January 2026.**

Responsible organisations: the following organisations (in alphabetical order) issue this call and will assess and select together one candidate: **ACARE, ALICE, CEDR, ECTP, ERRAC, ERTRAC, ETRA, WATERBORNE**. The European Commission is not directly involved in this selection process following an obligation of neutrality towards different countries.

Selection: the organisations will identify the best application based on the requirements listed below as "selection criteria". Candidates are therefore requested to provide information and formal commitments on each of these criteria.

4. Selection criteria

1. The application must be proposed and formally supported at the appropriate level by the national Ministry of a European country[1] in charge of transport, and also if relevant by other Ministries e.g. in charge of research and innovation.
2. The application shall be supported by a host country consortium consisting of at least the following partners: the national Ministries as the main responsible actors, at least one internationally renowned national research entity, the local host city and/or region in which the conference is proposed to take place. Any support of the national transport related industries is highly welcomed.

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[1] Member or not of the European Union but located in Europe.

3. The application shall demonstrate the partners' availability to support the organisation of the event through dedicated staff experienced with events, communication, marketing and budget management. Proven experience in organising similar events of scientific, innovation and international dimension will be essential.

4. The applicant shall demonstrate established links between the host partners and relevant international transport organisations associated with TRA.

5. The application shall detail the commitment in funding the event and covering all the necessary financial duties to organise the conference, and present a conference budget plan. Such budget plan shall rely on the financial commitment of the applicant, based on expectations on income from registration, exhibition and sponsorships but not dependant on any potential form of EU funding. The applicant shall detail an attractive sponsorship package that respects the interests of the TRA stakeholders and assures sufficient financial support.

6. The application shall present an attractive and suitable conference venue: internationally well-connected city, venue accessibility through public transport, overall capacity with rooms for Plenary, Strategic and other sessions, space for exhibition area, outside/inside demonstration, potential technical visits, social programme, etc.

- The Congress and Exhibition Centre should have the capacity to host the Congress and use state of the art facilities (technological/audio visual/…).
- The Congress and Exhibition must take place at the same location and not be at split sites.
- The Congress venue needs to be easily accessible from an Airport/train station/city centre/proposed sites for social events.
- Demonstration area facilities should be close to the Congress and Exhibition Centre.
- Hotels and accommodation available for the anticipated number of participants with also hotel offer close by the Congress and Exhibition Centre (walking distance options).
- Transport/accessibility facilities: fast and regular transport from airport/city centre and hotels to Congress and Exhibition Centre is essential.

7. The application shall demonstrate an attractive conference concept: main theme proposed, potential topics emphasis, etc, following on the concept of former TRAs. The application shall include the expected legacy of the event and its implications for future cooperation in European transport and innovation.

8. The application shall indicate how the conference will be linked to the European, regional and national research and innovation ecosystems and how the host plans to engage with the co-organising platforms to ensure continuity and proper engagement of stakeholders. Early engagement with local partners/members of the co-organising platforms is a plus and may be indicated in the proposal.

9. To better ensure a high political and strategic relevance, the proposal should describe how it intends to involve a Member State holding the Presidency of the European Union in year 2030.

10. The applicant shall commit to the management of the TRA website including the main event webpages as well as legacy pages for the previous TRAs. CEDR is responsible for managing the registry for the URL, www.traconference.eu, and will manage the name server record changes. The TRA logo is a registered trademark in Europe (no.016381841) and should be used exclusively for activities to promote and support TRA.

Key figures to consider for reference, based on the past TRA experiences:
• About 3000 physical participants
• About 800 papers in more than 100 sessions
• 7000 m2 exhibition area
• Gala dinner
• Participants coming from about 60 countries

5. Application timeline

Opening of the call: 30 April 2025

Deadline for application: 31 January 2026

Review of proposals by the organisations: February 2026

Decision on selected host supported by the organisations: March 2026, for public announcement at TRA2026 Budapest (18-21 May 2026).

For further information on TRA, please visit the TRA website www.traconference.eu

Application shall be sent via email to all the addresses below:

info@etp-alice.eu
research@cedr.eu
info@ertrac.org
research@uic.org
secretariat@ectp.org
info@eurnex.eu
info@waterborne.eu