



3rd POLISH ITS CONGRESS THE FINAL CONCLUSIONS

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The 3rd ITS Congress, held in Warsaw on 19-20 May 2010, attracted around 180 attendees – representatives of companies working in the ITS business, representatives of central and local government authorities, the academic community and the media. A total of 43 papers were presented, including 22 by foreign speakers and 21 by Polish speakers.

The conclusions from the presentations at the congress, the discussions in sections and the summary of the event can be divided into the following thematic groups:

ITS development in Poland

The attendees expressed their satisfaction with the competition for ITS projects as part of Measure 8.3 of the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme.

They were, however, concerned about the lack of progress in work to develop a National ITS Architecture. It was emphasised many times that lack of such architecture may lead to the emergence of autonomous systems whose integration in the future may be very expensive or even impossible.

Under the present circumstances, it is more likely that local and/or regional ITS architectures will be created. Developing such architectures is the responsibility of local government authorities.

ITS technology transfer

Project *Civitas Caravel*, presented at the congress, is an example of an ITS technology transfer project. Thanks to the project, Cracow is taking advantage of the good practices and solutions developed in Genoa.

Central and local government authorities should be encouraged to participate in European ITS-related programmes, such as e-FRAME or Urban ITS Platform, for 2010-2012.

ITS a way to deal with the crisis: little money – big benefits (the motto of the 3rd Polish ITS Congress)

The use of intelligent transportation systems means making better use of the existing road infrastructure. Compared to the funds needed for heavy infrastructure, ITS systems require little funding and offer high returns.

It is important to note that time losses caused by an inefficient road system result in users suffering considerable financial losses.

Environmental benefits of ITS solutions

Undoubtedly, relatively little attention is given to the environmental benefits of ITS systems. ITS solutions offer three main environmental benefits: reduced energy consumption, reduced exhaust emissions and reduced noise emissions.

Good quality required

Technically advanced and highly complex, ITS systems provide great opportunities to improve the situation in road traffic, but increase the risk of errors at the same time. For intelligent transportation systems to work as they should, good quality information is vital, as incorrect information leads to defects in the systems, which in turn may result in the systems being seen as unreliable by the public. To prevent such a scenario, the information gathered by and transmitted to ITS systems must be of good quality.



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Road traffic safety

While running a major information and promotion campaign, the public should be encouraged to require the authorities to improve safety.

Emphasis should be placed on the measurable benefits of fewer road accidents and on the significant role of ITS solutions in bringing road accident numbers down. Not denying the gravity of the personal and social consequences of road accidents, note should be taken of the considerable financial losses caused by road accidents (1m zloty for each person who dies in an accident, according to estimates), including the costs of damage to the infrastructure and the costs of medical and technical rescue operations.

The benefits of improved road safety are several times higher than expenditure on intelligent transportation systems related to road traffic safety. The paradox of the situation is that the benefits are enjoyed by the public as a whole (it is difficult to say who is the beneficiary), but the money need for the development, maintenance and operation of intelligent transportation systems must be provided by a particular administrative unit.

From the point of view of improving road safety, it is important to monitor dangerous places on the roads.

ITS community networking portal

Today, the ITS community has no networking portal that could be used for discussion and exchange of information by those interested in the development and implementation of ITS in Poland. It is important to find money to create and maintain such a portal – this is an important task for the ITS Polska Association.

The challenges facing intelligent transportation systems

In the years to come, the challenges in ITS are as follows:

- giving priority to public transport vehicles (especially buses);
- adopting ITS directives, (open) standards and specifications;
- making ITS user-oriented systems: avoiding driver distraction caused by too much information;
- using ITS to protect roads from degradation;
- providing training opportunities for people to work in the ITS area in the future.

Conclusions Committee
3rd Polish ITS Congress