CASE STUDY - IRELAND

The following information is based on a response to a survey carried out by the International Transport Forum on innovative policy initiatives within member countries, and countries’ efforts to promote innovation.

What initiative(s) does your country have to promote innovation in the transport sector? Are these initiatives part of a larger effort to promote innovation across the economy? Please provide any additional material you have regarding these initiatives, including web sites, reports, etc.

- Competition funds for smarter travel projects and initiatives in local areas - see www.smartertravel.ie;
- Developing an ITS action plan;
- Green tech economy plan has potential to cover transport;
- Irish government initiatives on electric vehicles - pledged 10% target for EVS across Fleet by 2020; linked to potential for enterprise and R&D.

What are the specific objectives of these initiatives? (e.g. Do they focus on certain challenges, such as climate change or safety, or on certain modes? Do they take a wider approach focusing on all of the challenges faced by transport?)

The overriding objective of these initiatives is about sustainability and climate change, and particularly the 20% non-traded sector reduction target for Ireland by 2020. Innovation in safety tends to be covered for Ireland through EU regulations and standards.

Please describe the funding arrangements associated with your efforts to promote innovation in transport:

The Smarter Travel Project Fund is a 15 million euro fund to 2012 for demonstration projects that will pilot sustainable transport initiatives or technology.

The Smarter Travel Areas Competition is a €50 million fund over five years to deliver a comprehensive sustainable transport and travel plan for a local area (rural, small towns, urban centres, etc.). The fund is intended to cover a mixture of infrastructure and behavioural change policy instruments. The aim and objective is to reduce private car travel, and to encourage switches to more sustainable modes of travel.
What is the lead ministry or agency for your efforts to promote innovation in transport?

The Irish Department of Transport.

What other public entities are involved and what are their roles?

Sustainable Energy Ireland - a government agency promoting energy efficiency; continued in next question.

What other partners are involved (e.g. the private sector, universities, states/provinces, etc.)?

The Electricity Supply Board - a state-owned electricity distributor, responsible for the delivery of electric vehicle strategy.

The Department of Transport is establishing an All Island Freight Forum, which will include private freight operators, public and private transport stakeholders, to advise on a sustainable freight strategy for Ireland.

What international partnerships are involved in this?

The All Island Freight Forum covers both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Please provide a summary of any results or outcomes already achieved as a result of your efforts to promote innovation in transport?

Policy in these areas is really at an early stage in Ireland, so results will only become evident over the next few years.

Please describe the performance indicators or measurements that you use to evaluate the outcomes of your efforts to promote innovation. Please attach more detailed documents on this issue, if they are available.

These are in development. One of the main challenges for us has been to successfully to assess the impacts of packages of measures, covering both infrastructure and travel planning investment. By the end of summer 2010 the Department will publish a common evaluation framework for Smarter Travel Areas. It is expected that indicators and measures within this framework can be used to monitor on the success of sustainable transport initiatives more widely, as well as being the main evaluation tools for Smarter Travel Areas.

What are the principal means by which your agency keeps track of new innovations and trends in transport?

Contact with international organisations such as the International Transport Forum, ITS International Congress, EU transport councils etc.

This is sometimes done on an *ad hoc* basis, depending on individuals in specific roles.