SUP&R ITN - SUstainable Pavement & Railways Initial Training Network

The FP7-funded Sustainable Pavements & Railways Initial Training Network (SUP&R ITN, EC grant No. 607524) aimed at forming a new generation of multi-disciplinary European professionals capable of conceiving, planning and executing sustainable road and railway infrastructures.

In order to do that a European consortium was setup in 2013 to generating scientific results and best practice that can be defined and disseminated during the whole training period with the researchers being the ambassadors of more sustainable engineering technologies and practices aiming at systematically integrating sustainability at an early stage in the product design.

SUP&R ITN achieved those objectives with a structured training-through-research programme lead by the Nottingham Transportation Engineering Centre (NTEC) at the University of Nottingham and carried out within six work Packages with more than 25 partners from all over Europe and beyond: Sustainable Pavement WP1 and Sustainable Railways WP2 investigated technologies that aimed at maximising recycling of alternative materials at the design stage and reducing energy consumption and maintenance needs within the infrastructure's lifecycle. Sustainability Assessment WP3, instead engaged the whole consortium to define sustainability itself and create a freely available tool supporting the eco-design of these technologies.

The programme was also enriched by multi-disciplinary training weeks delivered in 5 countries and complemented by dissemination activities worldwide. The "Sustainable Transport Infrastructure Engineers" have now being recruited mostly from public or private partners of the project and are now bringing their knowledge and experience to fasten the change of culture within this sector by spreading the message: Design to last, maximise recycling, minimise the impact •