

Action plan for deployment of ITS in European Union

Action plan for deployment of ITS can be considered as the document that initiated stronger and more focused ITS development in European Union. Preparation of Action plan included stakeholders' consultation, workshops, on-line survey (public debate) and discussion groups. The introduction of the Action plan presents three major challenges:

1. congestion and congestion's costs;
2. road transport related CO 2 emissions;
3. fatalities.

The main policy objectives arising from these challenges are for transport and travel to become: cleaner, more efficient, safer and more secure. ITS has been recognized as a possible solution, and the purpose of the Action plan is to accelerate and to coordinate the deployment of ITS in road transport, including interfaces with other transport modes. The potential of ITS could be realised only if its deployment in Europe is transformed from the limited and fragmented implementation into an EU wide one. The role of the EU is to create frameworks that will include policy priorities, choice of generic ITS components and clear timetable for specific activities.

The Action plan envisages six priority areas:

1. Optimal use of road, traffic and travel data;
2. Continuity of traffic and freight management ITS services on European transport corridors and in conurbations;
3. Road safety and security;
4. Integration of the vehicle into the transport infrastructure;
5. Data security and protection, and liability issues;
6. European ITS cooperation and coordination.

Within six priority areas the total of 24 activities were defined. Priority areas were later partially transferred in Directive 2010/40/EU.

Directive 2010/40/EU

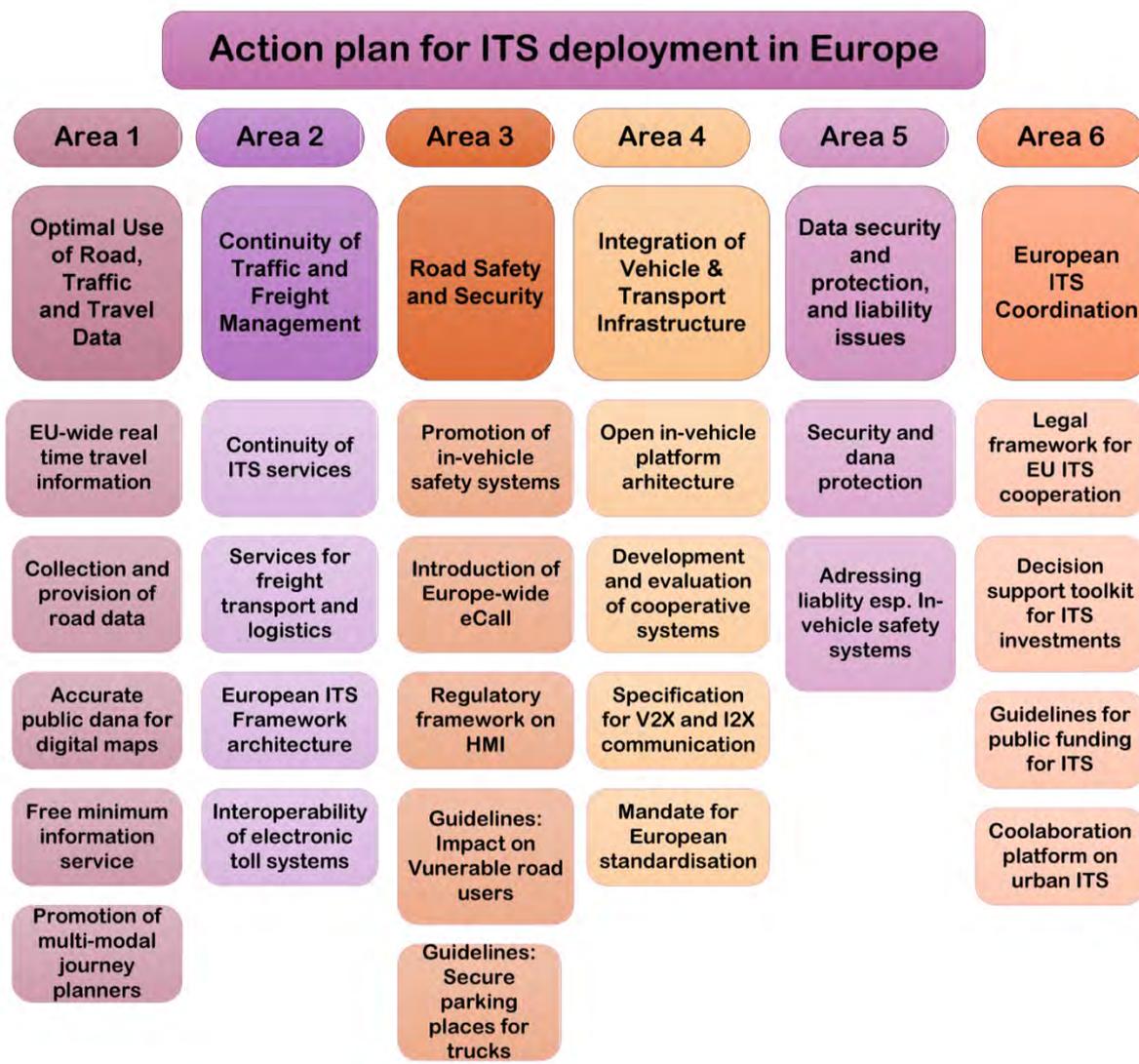
Directive 2010/40/EU is a general document for coordination of ITS development in the European Union. Like other directives, it is not directly applicable in each Member state. However, it is the obligation of the Member states to adapt their national legislation in order to achieve goals set by directives. The essential part of the document is the list of priority areas and priority actions, as well as plans with set deadlines. The basic objective of the Directive is the setting up of framework for future activities, which will consequently lead to the harmonisation of ITS development in Europe.

The adoption of specification for priority areas is the first step toward a harmonised development. Specifications will be developed individually and, depending on area covered, they can include different types of provisions:

- functional provisions that describe the roles of the various stakeholders and the information flow between them;
- technical provisions that provide for the technical means to fulfil the functional provisions;
- organizational provisions that describe the procedural obligations of the various stakeholders;

- service provisions that describe the various levels of services and their content for ITS applications and services.

Implementation of tasks from the Directive is assisted by the European ITS Committee (EIC). The European ITS Advisory Group is also established in order to provide advices on business and technical aspects of ITS introduction and deployment. The Advisory Group includes service providers, users, manufacturers, professional associations and local authorities.



Priority areas and priority actions

The Directive establishes four priority areas:

1. Optimal use of road, traffic and travel data;
2. Continuity of traffic and freight management ITS services;
3. ITS road safety and security applications;
4. Linking the vehicle with the transport infrastructure.

These four priority areas are also the priority areas of Action plan for ITS deployment. Within the priority areas, six priority actions are defined:

1. the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services;
2. the provision of EU-wide real-time traffic information services;
3. data and procedures for the provision, where possible, of road safety related minimum universal traffic information free of charge to users;
4. the harmonised provision for an interoperable EU-wide eCall;
5. the provision of information services for safe and secure parking places for trucks and commercial vehicles;
6. the provision of reservation services for safe and secure parking places for trucks and commercial vehicles.