



## Great progress in ARC project work shown at Half Yearly Meeting in Warsaw

**The 50 participants from around 20 member regions had a both fruitful and valuable meeting in Warsaw Poland 16-18 June, clearly showing the development of ARC into an important regional stakeholder in Europe. It was also obvious that the project work has moved a big step forward.**

**- We have now gone from a loose network to a serious player in Europe, said ARC President Anne Devitt at the meeting.**

The conference in Warsaw was very well arranged by the hosts, Mazovia Province. During the first conference day several domestic speakers shared their experiences from the development of the airport region. The Warsaw Frederic Chopin airport in Okecie has seen a tremendous growth with a tripled number of passengers during the last few years. Now the capacity has become a major problem, and a second international airport is discussed. A possible alternative is the former military airport Modlin, which was also visited by the participants at the meeting.

The airport region is like many others in Europe facing several problems. Noise pollution around the airport is a big issue. The city structure of Warsaw is under development and several high buildings are under construction, something which creates problems concerning height limitations for the airport. The challenges of climate change are much discussed in the region and it is clear that this matter will affect the future demands on airports. One question was raised: "Are there limits for growth of aviation in densely populated areas?"

Dr David Marsh from Eurocontrol presented the study Challenges of Growth 2008 - the third in a series of studies that aim to provide decision-makers with up-to-date assessments of the challenges presented by the increasing demand for air transport.

The AIREA project presented for the first time a prototype of an interactive digital e-learning platform for vocational training for airport-related professions. Through video learning, chat, blogging, questions & answers, and other pedagogical tools the AIREA will connect students and teachers all over Europe under the theme "learning, living, working platform anywhere". The objective is to create a new, improved and pan-European range of vocational training options for the aviation and airport industries, through web 2.0 learning. AIREA is funded by the innovation in technology fund of the EU named "Leonardo da Vinci".



*Grzegorz Kostrzewa-Zorbas, Anne Devitt and Tomasz Slawinski at the HYM in Warsaw.*

The project Quality of Life in Airport Regions is aiming to find measures in order to improve the quality of life of inhabitants living nearby an airport. Within the project a best practise guide has been developed with a focus to improve information on website airports to the citizens. Regarding ground noise and compensation schemes the project has also gathered data on best practises. There has also been an investigation of the new ATM technology I relations to spatial planning. The project will conclude at the OLAIR conference in Amsterdam 3-4 December 2009. But the work will still go on with two new projects in 2010 – optimal land use and investment.

The Surface Access and Climate Change project is focusing on how to have an influence in the area of climate change, especially related to airport accessibility and public transport. One major focus is gathering data about the carbon footprints especially in destination airports. The project has become the main theme in the EU Commission Observatory working group 3, with discussions around the door-to-door perspective and intermodality.

*Visit at Modlin Airport*



The Mediation Centre in Vienna has developed a website through collecting information from airports and airport regions. After receiving input and feedback from the members during the summer of 2009, the website will be made public in the autumn. On this website participating members will also be able to upload documents in several languages with regard to mediation, for others to share.

- There has been a fantastic development in the ARC project work with people from all over Europe going right into business with each other, said Anne Devitt.

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