



**TRA 2026 VISIONS
HOST AWARD
GUIDELINES**

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1. TRA VISIONS 2026 Awards

1.1 Award Types

For TRA 2026, four types of Awards will be delivered:

- **Young Researcher Awards** – Recognising undergraduate students and early-stage researchers, for their outstanding research in transport studies.
- **Senior Researcher Awards** – Acknowledging established researchers for achievements and excellence in European research projects.
- **Special Honorary Award** – Recognising a senior respected researcher in the transport sector for a noteworthy and widely acknowledged contribution to research and innovation.
- **Host Award** – Delivered to the best paper author aligned with the conference theme “Re-Generation in Transport”.

1.2 Award Categories

The TRA VISIONS 2026 Awards cover the following six transport categories, per transport mode: Road, Rail, Waterborne, Airborne, Cross-modal Passenger transport, Cross-modal Logistics.

Applicants are requested to select one of the six categories that best align with their contributions. In Table 1, award categories and an indicative list of keywords are presented.

Table 1. Award categories (per transport mode) of the TRA VISIONS 2026

TRA VISIONS 2026 Award categories (per transport mode) and keywords	
Road	Connected and Automated Vehicles; Road Infrastructure; Traffic Management, Road Safety; Shared Mobility; Active Modes; Electric Vehicles; Electrification of Road Transport; Grid Integration; Batteries; Sustainable Fuels; Circular Economy; Alternative Materials; Life Cycle Assessment; Software Defined Vehicles; Artificial Intelligence, Digitalisation
Rail	High-Speed Rail and Beyond; Rail Traffic Management, Operation; Rail Vehicles and Infrastructure; Smart Railways, Autonomous Trains; Externalities of Railways; Freight Rail and Terminals; Railways Resilience, Safety and Security; Urban, Suburban and Rural Rail Networks; Rail Passenger Experience; Railway Stations; Railways Economics and Policy
Waterborne	Use of sustainable alternative fuels in waterborne transport, Energy efficiency of waterborne transport; Electrification of waterborne transport; Digital waterborne transport (digital includes automation); Design and retrofitting of waterborne vessels; Freight transport; Passenger transport; Shipyards and equipment manufacturers; Ports and infrastructure; Safe and secure waterborne transport; Green shipping corridors; All ship types (from inland waterway transport to intercontinental)

Airborne	Air Traffic Management; Sustainable Aviation Fuels; Electric Aircraft; Hybrid Aircraft; Urban Air Mobility; Airport Innovations; Drone Systems; Decarbonization in Aviation; Air Passenger Experience
Cross-modal: Passenger transport	Public Transport; Multimodal Transport; Integrated Policy and Planning; New mobility services including Mobility-as-a-Service; Seamless Connectivity; Smart and Integrated Infrastructure; Transport Hubs; Behavioural change; Active mobility
Cross-modal: Logistics	Freight Transport decarbonization; emissions measuring and reporting, automation; Physical Internet; Interconnected Logistics; Resilient logistics networks; Ports and hubs; Intermodality/Synchromodality; Transport modes integration in logistics networks, digital technologies (AI, 5G, Digital Twins...) applications in freight transport and logistics; Data exchange and data sharing, Urban logistics, Last-mile Delivery, Integrated Passenger and Freight Systems

Applicants for the Young Researcher Awards must submit a paper to the TRA 2026 technical programme as part of their application.

Aligned with the TRA 2026 key theme, *Re-Generation in Transport*, the conference topics focus on horizontal — i.e., not mode-specific — transport challenges. Applicants must select the research topics and subtopics, as defined in the Call for Papers, that best describe their contribution (Table 2). Brief descriptions of research topics of the TRA Conference is available in Table 2. Detailed descriptions can be found in the Call for Papers.

In their statements, applicants for the Young and Senior Researcher Award(s) shall explain how their research relates to one (or more) of the research topics defined in the Call for Papers.

Table 2. Research Topics of the TRA 2026 Conference.

TRA 2026 research topics and subtopics	
User Centered Mobility	Transport Policy; Transport Safety; Inclusive Mobility; Active Travel Modes; Shared Mobility Solutions.
Green Mobility and Decarbonization	Zero Emission Vehicles; Electrification and Alternative Fuels; Greening Freight Transport; Circular Economy; Climate Neutral and Smart Cities
Planning and Operation	Resilient Transport Systems; Urban Infrastructure Management; Innovative Logistics Solutions; Decision Support Analysis; Transportation Economics
Transport Digitalization	Automated Mobility; Connected Transport Systems; Big Data Analysis; Mobility as a Service; Predictive Transport Solutions

2. TRA VISIONS 2026 Awards Benefits

Participating in the TRA VISIONS Awards offers a unique opportunity for researchers to gain recognition, visibility, and support while showcasing their contributions to transport research and innovation. Winners and finalists benefit from a prestigious platform that enhances their professional standing, fosters networking opportunities, and provides tangible rewards to further their research and careers.

Finalists benefit from comprehensive support, including waived conference fees, a trophy and a certificate acknowledging their achievement, ensuring formal recognition of their contributions.

For the Young Researcher Awards, monetary prizes are awarded per category, with €5000 for first place, €3000 for second place, and €2000 for third place.

The table below summarises the awards, benefits, and responsibilities for each category:

Table 3. Summary of Awards and Benefits

Awards and related benefits	Partner responsible	Young Researcher Awards	Senior Researcher Awards	Special Honorary Award	Host Award
Winners categories		3 winners per category ROAD, RAIL, WATERBORNE, AIR, CROSSMODAL Passenger Transport and CROSSMODAL Logistics	1 winner per category ROAD, RAIL, WATERBORNE, AIR, CROSSMODAL Passenger Transport and CROSSMODAL Logistics	1 winner Regardless of mode	
Prizes	Sponsors	Trophy and certificate Money prizes per category: 1 st (5000€) 2 nd (3000€) 3 rd (2000€)	Trophy and certificate No monetary prize	Trophy and certificate No monetary prize	
Conference fee	CSA & TRA organisers	Waived for full conference	Waived for full conference	Waived for full conference	
Conference visibility	TRA organisers	Part of the programme Awarded at a high-profile event during the conference Acknowledged on website and social media			

3. TRA VISIONS 2026 Host Award – Process and Evaluation Criteria

TRA VISIONS 2026 introduces a new award category, the TRA VISIONS Host Award.

TRA 2026 conference's theme, defined by the TRA 2026 Host, is the "Re-generation in Transport". A multitude of factors – ranging from environmental concerns to technological advancements and societal changes – are driving the need for new generation solutions in the transport sector.

- **Target group**

All papers accepted for the TRA 2026 conference will be evaluated for the TRA VISIONS Host Award.

- **Evaluation criteria**

a) Papers must be innovative, clear, and scientifically and technically sound.

b) They should offer solutions for a transport system that is sustainable, resilient, and capable of meeting the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

c) Papers should address key challenges and propose substantial improvements to the mobility and logistics systems, including:

- Demographic trends (e.g., aging society, population growth)
- Emerging technologies (e.g., digitalization, connected systems, automation)
- Changes in the labour market (e.g., artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles)
- Energy transition (e.g., alternative energy sources, electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles)
- Climate change and environmental concerns (e.g., mitigation policies, active mobility)
- Mode-specific challenges:
 - Rail (e.g., high-speed rail, network integration, freight corridors)
 - Road (e.g., electrification of vehicles, smart highways)
 - Waterborne transport (e.g., decarbonization of shipping)
 - Air transport (e.g., sustainable aviation fuels, emissions reduction)
 - Multimodal and cross-modal transport solutions (e.g., seamless transitions between modes, integrated ticketing systems), including passenger transport and logistics.

d) Solutions should reflect the core implications of Re-Generation in Transport, such as:

- Accessibility and inclusivity for both passenger and freight transport systems
- User-centric design and personalized mobility for passengers
- Innovative logistics models for freight (e.g., smart warehouses, cargo-sharing platforms)
- Sustainable transport planning for multimodal networks (urban and rural)

- Smart infrastructure for all transport modes (e.g., connected systems, predictive maintenance)
- Reskilling and adaptability to meet the changing demands of the transport sector
- New job opportunities and flexible work arrangements
- Behavioural change and social innovation (e.g., promoting sustainable travel behaviour)
- Circular economy and resource efficiency in transport infrastructure and vehicle production
- Green and digital transition
- Collaboration between authorities, research institutions, tech companies, start-ups, and logistics operators

The authors of evaluated papers must not be affiliated with the organisations participating in the TRA 2026 (Project No. 101147335) consortium.

- **Submission and Evaluation process**

Papers shall be submitted to the TRA 2026 Conference portal via the submission platform according to the Call for Papers.

A selection committee, appointed by the host and involving the co-organiser European Commission, will screen the submitted papers. The committee will select the top 10 papers based on full paper review scores and the above criteria.

The selection committee will determine the final ranking of the shortlisted papers through an online, in-person or hybrid meeting.

4. TRA VISIONS 2026 Host Award – Rules

1. Eligibility

- All papers accepted for the TRA 2026 conference will be evaluated for the TRA VISIONS Host Award.

2. Submission process and requirements

- Submissions must be made via the TRA 2026 Conference submission platform (EasyChair).
- Any entry must be written in clear, academic English.
- The authors of evaluated papers must not be affiliated with the organisations participating in the TRA 2026 (Project No. 101147335) consortium.

3. Evaluation Process

- Eligibility check: Conducted by the TRA VISIONS organisers to verify compliance with requirements.
- Shortlisting: A selection committee, appointed by the host and involving the co-organiser European Commission, will screen the submitted papers. The committee will select the top 10 papers based on full paper review scores and the following criteria:

a) Papers must be innovative, clear, and scientifically and technically sound.

b) They should offer solutions for a transport system that is sustainable, resilient, and capable of meeting the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

c) Papers should address key challenges and propose substantial improvements to the mobility and logistics systems in the context of “Re-Generation of Transport”, including:

- Demographic trends (e.g., aging society, population growth)
- Emerging technologies (e.g., digitalization, connected systems, automation)
- Changes in the labour market (e.g., artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles)
- Energy transition (e.g., alternative energy sources, electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles)
- Climate change and environmental concerns (e.g., mitigation policies, active mobility)
- Mode-specific challenges:
 - Rail (e.g., high-speed rail, network integration, freight corridors)
 - Road (e.g., electrification of vehicles, smart highways)
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 - Smart infrastructure for all transport modes (e.g., connected systems, predictive maintenance)
 - Reskilling and adaptability to meet the changing demands of the transport sector
 - New job opportunities and flexible work arrangements
 - Behavioural change and social innovation (e.g., promoting sustainable travel behaviour)
 - Circular economy and resource efficiency in transport infrastructure and vehicle production
 - Green and digital transition
 - Collaboration between authorities, research institutions, tech companies, start-ups, and logistics operators
- Decision: The selection committee will determine the final ranking of the shortlisted papers and select the winner through an online, in-person, or hybrid meeting.

4. Deadlines & Notification

- All papers shall be submitted in line with the Call for Papers.
- The winner will be informed of the selection at least 8 weeks before the TRA 2026 Conference.

5. Award Benefits

- The winner will be invited to:
 - Receive his/her award on the TRA 2026 stage.
- The winner will receive:
 - A trophy and a certificate recognising his/her achievement;
 - Acknowledgment on the TRA 2026 Conference website and social media.
 - A waiver for the TRA 2026 Conference attendance fee.
- Winner is responsible for organising his/her own accommodation, and travel to and from the TRA 2026 Conference in Budapest, Hungary.

6. Winner's duties

- The winner will be invited to attend the TRA 2026 Conference.
- Winner is expected to cooperate promptly with competition organisers for reasonable requests, including:
 - Providing additional materials.
 - Engaging in publicity efforts for the TRA 2026 Conference.
 - Participating in media activities related to his/her award.

- If the winner is unwilling to receive the award, the organisers may award the prize to another shortlisted applicant.

7. Organisers' Discretion

- The judges' decision is final in all situations, including cases not explicitly covered in these rules.
- The organisers reserve the right to have discretion regarding the rules:
 - Change deadlines if deem necessary.
 - Not select a winner if no entries meet the required standard.
 - Cancel the Awards due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. In such cases, no costs will be refunded.

8. Data Protection & Confidentiality

- All submitted materials will be treated as confidential and used solely for evaluation purposes.

9. Ethical & Legal Compliance

- Anyone with a conflict of interest in the process, including during the nomination, assessment, and selection stages, shall not take part in the process.
- Nominee/Winner must comply with these rules to be eligible for awards, certificates, and financial contributions.
- The organisers are not responsible for:
 - Ineligible or fraudulent nominations.
 - Late or lost nominations due to internet issues (applicants are advised to submit early).