



PEDESTRIAN QUALITY NEEDS
www.walkeurope.org

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Pedestrians' Quality Needs **COST Action 358**

INTRODUCTION and OBJECTIVES

People need to walk. The quality of their experience however can vary greatly and this in turn is known to directly impact on their decisions to choose to walk against other modes and the frequency, length, scope and enjoyment of their trips.

The Pedestrians' Quality Needs Project (PQN) has been established to identify what people need for their safe and agreeable mobility in public space and to show the added value of a systems approach compared with sectoral approaches. The main objective is to provide knowledge of pedestrians' quality needs and how those needs relate to structural and functional interventions, policy making and regulation to support walking conditions across the EU and other involved countries.

PQN will be informed by and build upon the research published by previous studies (including WALCYNG, ADONIS, PROMPT, Vulnerable Road Users and HOTEL). The project is expected to network 25 countries and is being supported by the COST office of the European Commission.

PQN secondary objectives are:

1. Improve the understanding of how the public space, the transport system and the social, legal and political context interrelate with pedestrians' quality needs.
2. Advance the effectiveness and efficiency of future policy and research by developing a new and coherent system of concepts, theories and models which influence the quality and provision of pedestrian facilities.
3. Enable relevant organisations to work together to identify, prioritise, tackle and prevent current and future restrictions on the full potential for pedestrians by providing an accessible knowledge base and easy to use auditing tools.
4. Stimulate partners to innovate tools and disseminate knowledge that help to shed new light on the issue and stimulate a new enthusiasm to provide for safe and agreeable mobility.
5. Provide recommendations for further research.

COST is an intergovernmental European framework for international co-operation between nationally funded research activities. COST creates scientific networks and enables scientists to collaborate in a wide spectrum of activities in research and technology. COST activities are administered by the COST Office. For further information please visit: <http://www.cost.esf.org>

WORKING GROUPS

PQN will be a multi-disciplinary study, exploring the needs of pedestrians and developing models in context, based on evidence, and with measurable outputs. The project starts with an inventory of available statistics, national and international research and development publications with regard to pedestrians and documented policy statements of stakeholders on the various political and institutional levels. The outcome will be input to four work groups, of which three explore the successive levels of pedestrian needs and a fourth safeguards the coherence and the integration of the results.



Work Group 1 – Functional needs

This work group will focus on the physical needs of pedestrians, visible and objective behaviour and the 'technical' ergonomics of the physical and social environment and the transport modalities.



Studies are expected to explore the presence and behaviour of pedestrians in public space, and the relationship and influence of mobility, safety, physical health and exclusion.



Standards will be recommended for land use, public spaces, infrastructure, information, legislation and transport modes and will allow for the substantial different situations in the participating countries and sub-regions.



Work Group 2 – Perceived needs

This work group will focus on the 'emotional' perspective and include the perception of walking and how attitudes, expectations and motivations influence behaviour of other road users, planners, policy makers and politicians, and of walkers themselves. Perceptions of physical and social environments, the transport system and their interrelations will be identified.



Studies are expected to explore the perception of accessibility, comfort, safety, security, health, social climate, aesthetics and spontaneous mobility in particular.



Appropriate interventions will be recommended to influence the determinants of current barriers, to breakdown institutional and social obstacles and improve the quality of life for pedestrians.



Work Group 3 – Durability and future prospects

This work group will focus of the durability of interventions, designs and policy measures and on forecasting the potential of future usability and perceived qualities. The group will explore how the needs evolve over time and what new policy directions are needed.



Studies are expected to explore the long term interventions, designs and measures and pedestrian trends and relationships with the physical and social environments and transport modalities.





Positive and negative trends will be indicated and evaluated and the consequences of limiting the functional and perceived needs of pedestrians reported.



Work Group 4 – Coherence and integration

This work group will focus on the interrelationships between the first three work groups and a model will be constructed to identify pedestrian needs and the main influences on quality and behaviour.



Gaps will be identified in knowledge and policy processes. Attempts will be made to determine and justify what options policy makers and practitioners have to support both short and long term commitment to invest in the need for quality to support pedestrian activity.

OUTPUTS

Information from the project will be interpreted and published in a variety of formats targeted towards different audiences to have maximum influence on increasing the effectiveness of national and local policies.

PQN will set up an accessible online area (www.walkeurope.org) to help manage, share and promote information between partners to stimulate debate and develop translatable best practise.

Four individual work group reports will be published and a periodical e-news letter will promote the progress of the project.

Conferences and courses may be organised nationally and internationally to disseminate the findings of the project. At the conclusion of PQN a special conference will be organised by ICTCT and WALK21 as part of the annual WALK21 International Conference Series.

PQN will specifically publish:

1. A conceptual framework and action plan for the life of the project
2. An analysis of the effectiveness of relevant social, legal and political statistics, research and policy in participating countries
3. A handbook on the needs of pedestrians
4. An easy to use auditing tool for measuring the quality in relation to pedestrians' needs
5. A consistent qualitative and quantitative methodology for recording pedestrian activity
6. Guidance on national and local procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of pedestrian investment
7. A system model, responsive to the needs of pedestrians, to steer effective investment which supports and encourages the quality of walking
8. Recommendations for future research.

The Cost Action 358 Management Committee has overall responsibility for the co-ordination of the Action on Pedestrians' Quality Needs. The action is made up of 4 Working Groups.

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Coherence and integration

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A, BE, CH, D, E, EE, FI, FR, GR, H, IL, IT, NL, NO, PT, SE, SRB, UK



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