

# COST

Domain Committee "Transport and Urban Development"

## COST Action 358

*Pedestrians' Quality Needs*

### MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT

*Period: from November 2006  
to September 2007*

This Report is presented to the relevant Domain Committee and contains two parts:

- I. Management Report prepared by the COST Office*
- II. Scientific Report prepared by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action*

The report is a "cumulative" report, i.e. it is updated annually and covers the entire period of the Action.

Confidentiality: the documents will be made available to the public via the COST Action web page except for chapter *II.C. Self evaluation*.

Based on the monitoring results, the COST Office will decide on the following year's budget allocation.

**I. Management Report prepared by the COST Office**



**I.A. COST Action Fact Sheet**

- **COST Action number - title**
- **Domain name**

• **Action details:**

**CSO Approval:** (day/month/year)      **End date:** (day/month/year)  
**Entry into force:** (day/month/year)      **Extension:** (day/month/year)

- **Objectives** (from DB as in About COST)
- **Signatories:** list of countries and date of signature

Austria (date)	Greece (date)	Poland (date)
Belgium (date)	Hungary (date)	Portugal (date)
Bulgaria (date)	Iceland (date)	Romania (date)
Croatia (date)	Ireland (date)	Republic of Serbia (date)
Cyprus (date)	Israel (date)	Slovakia (date)
Czech Rep. (date)	Italy (date)	Slovenia (date)
Denmark (date)	Latvia (date)	Spain (date)
Estonia (date)	Lithuania (date)	Sweden (date)
Finland (date)	Luxembourg (date)	Switzerland (date)
FYR of Macedonia (date)	Malta (date)	Turkey (date)
France (date)	Netherlands (date)	United Kingdom (date)
Germany (date)	Norway (date)	

- **Intentions to sign:** list of countries and date
- **Participating Institutes of non-COST countries:** (Institutes Name, Country, Town)

**Chair:** (name, institution, address, phone, e-mail)

**DC Rapporteur:** (name, institution, address, phone, e-mail)

**Science Officer:** (name, e-mail)

**Administrative Officer:** (name, e-mail)

- **Action Web site:** http://www.
- **Working Groups** (list of WGs and name)



**I.B. Management Committee member list**

Name	Country	E-mail



**I.C. Overview activities and expenditures**

**2006 Budget**

Total Action Budget:

Remaining Action Commitment:

**Meetings**

Meeting Type	Date	Place								Cost	Total
											<b>0</b>

**STSM**

Beneficiary	Date	Place								Cost	Total
											<b>0</b>

**Workshops**

Title	Date		Place							Cost	Total
	From	To	From	To							
											<b>0</b>

**General Support Grants**

Beneficiary	Date									Cost	Total
											<b>0</b>

**Schools**

Title	Date	Place								Cost	Total
											<b>0</b>

**Others**


**Action Total : 0**

## ***II. Scientific Report prepared by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action***

### ***II.A. Results achieved during the period November 2006 to September 2007***

The first year of the Action is mainly devoted to defining the research and setting up the organisation for doing the research. Since the Kick-off the following results have been accomplished:

- A Work Plan for the Action (including time setup of organisation and planning of research activities) is produced and agreed on at the PQN Kick-off. This includes agreement in general on the detailed research questions; for the time being the work plan is seen as a growing document, that needs to be updated and completed.
- Concepts to be used in the project have been defined and worded in a glossary; in addition to this an abbreviations list has been produced; the glossary and abbreviations list have been accepted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the MC.
- A first step in all good science projects it to assess what publications, information and ideas already exist. In PQN this preparatory work is done in quick scan Country Reports; a template for this purpose has been developed and distributed.
- Currently 19 out of the 20 countries have prepared or are preparing first draft Country Reports, in which recent publications, current projects on pedestrian issues, and a description of the general atmosphere received special attention;
- A first overview of publications and research projects has been produced; a draft report on the General Atmosphere in participating countries will be available before October 2007;
- A questionnaire on data availability in the participating countries has been developed and circulated. Although not all countries sent in some response yet, it proved that the situation regarding statistical information is heterogeneous, but actually quite bad. In most countries there are virtually no data on mobility, the quantity, and the quality of facilities and of problems encountered; most countries have some data on road traffic accidents, in which only accidents with moving vehicles are reported; rudimentary data regarding single pedestrian accidents are not generally available. Thus the research has to rely on expert opinions and occasional empirical studies.
- PQN participants published relevant papers: on the History of pedestrian policies, Future pedestrians' needs, the PQN project, personalised warning systems for safety improvement of vulnerable road users, the legal order with respect to pedestrians in the Czech Republic, and Shared Space.
- A dedicated website has been designed and is in the air: [www.walkeurope.org](http://www.walkeurope.org). The website serves as communication platform

for both the general public and the participants. For the latter a shielded section has been set up.

- A Short Term Scientific Mission involving a young scientist from Portugal has been accomplished. The young scientist carried out field observations of the organisation of vehicle traffic and the habits of pedestrians in the historical quarters of Barcelona, and has reported on this to his Spanish supervisor at Barcelona University.
- The planned Working Groups have been formed. At the October 2007 meeting of the Management Committee and the Working Groups the participants will report on their plans and first findings;
- In some countries steps have been taken to start new PhD projects relating to the PQN project (United Kingdom, Sweden, Poland)
- In several countries National committees of support are being formed. In The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland these committees are active.

## **II.B. Dissemination of results**

### *Action related Publications and Reports:*

- Methorst, R. (2006): *Work plan COST 358 Pedestrians' Quality Needs*, draft October 2006, [www.walkeurope.org](http://www.walkeurope.org)
- Methorst, R. (2006): *Pedestrians' Quality Needs*, In: proceedings ICTCT Workshop Minsk, at <http://www.ictct.org/>
- Introductory leaflet COST Action 358 Pedestrians' Quality Needs (available in English, French, Italian, Czech, Dutch, Spanish and German) in print and as PDF on the website [www.walkeurope.org](http://www.walkeurope.org) (November 2006; Spring 2007)
- Soares, R. (2007): report on field observations in Barcelona (title not available)
- Methorst, R. (2007): *Transport system requirements in 2040 for the elderly*, In: proceedings 4th International Transport Conference Wuppertal.
- Methorst, R. (2007): *Kwaliteitsbehoeften van voetgangers – een nieuwe zoektocht*, In: proceedings CROW Verkeerskundige Werkdagen 2007, CROW, Ede.
- Risser, R. & Methorst, R. (2007): *COST 358 - Pedestrians' Quality Needs*, Proceedings ICTCT Workshop Beijin 2007 at <http://www.ictct.org/>
- Muhrad, N. (2007): *A short history of pedestrian safety policies in Western Europe*, In: Proceedings ICTCT Workshop Beijin 2007 at <http://www.ictct.org/>

- Czogalla, O. & Herrmann, A. (2007): *Personalised hazard warning system for safety improvements of vulnerable road users*, In: In: Proceedings ICTCT Workshop Beijing 2007 at <http://www.ictct.org/>
- Schmeidler, K.(2007): *Changing position of vulnerable road users - pedestrians in the Czech and European Legal Order*, In: Proceedings ICTCT Workshop Beijing 2007 at <http://www.ictct.org/>
- Sauter, D. (2007): *Measuring Walking – towards internationally standardized monitoring methods of walking and public space, Pre-conference workshop WALK21 Toronto: programme and Background, Guidelines to be developed in the framework of Walk21 and COST 358*. (submitted).
- Methorst, R., Gerlach, J., Boenke, D. & Leven, J. (2007): *Shared Space: Safe or Dangerous?*, proceedings Walk21 Toronto (submitted)
- Gerlach, J., Methorst, R., Boenke, D. & Leven, J. (2007): *Sinn und Unsinn von Shared Space – Zur versachlichung einer populären Geslatungsphilosophie* (submitted to Straßenverkehrstechnik).
- 19 draft Country Reports on state of affairs regarding pedestrian issues, of which 10 have been posted on the PQN website and 9 will be posted within weeks.

*Conferences and Workshops (list and programme)*

- The PQN project has been introduced at several conferences
  - Walk21 Melbourne 2006, Australia
  - ICTCT Minsk 2006, Belarus
  - ICTCT Beijing 2007, China
  - 4<sup>th</sup> International Transport Conference Wuppertal 2007, Germany
  - Dag van de voetganger (2007, Breda – NL)
  - CROW Verkeerskundige Werkdagen in NL)
- *Web site (description)*
  - [www.walkeurope.org](http://www.walkeurope.org) is the dedicated website for the project. The website has a public and a shielded part. The latter is meant for internal communication, and is password protected. The public part of the website features 'home', 'news', 'publications', 'background', 'work groups', 'meetings and events', 'contacts' and 'links'.
- *Scientific and Technical Cooperation*
  - Contacts have been established with a number of organizations and platforms: WALK21, ICTCT, HEPA, European Centre on Public Space and the International Federation of Pedestrians.
- *Transfer of results*

- With regard to the Commission's normalisation and standardisation bodies no contacts have been made. Such contacts can be made at a later stage of the project.
- The dissemination plan is included in the Work Plan of the project. Provide the dissemination plan with regard to end users.
- *Contacts in the ERA*
  - as 'transfer of results'.

### **II.C. Self evaluation**

The MC did not yet discuss what the main successes are. What stands out is that in such a short period so many countries and researchers joined the action. Concrete successes are:

- the work that is already done on the Country Reports
- the degree to which the aim of comprehensiveness in coverage of the issue appears to be covered; tasks with regard to co-ordination of research and assessment of the current situation / state of the art have been divided and agreed on.

The aim of comprehensiveness and the sheer complexity of the idea have drawbacks: gaps in the coverage of the issue can be expected to appear, because of lack of expertise, knowledge, information and particularly the lack of empirical evidence. An important factor is also that the participants have limited time to do dedicated research, as planned in the Work Plan.

It took more time to form the Work Groups than was initially foreseen. At the moment the distribution of the partners across the Work Groups becomes clear; it will be finalised at the next MC meeting in Valencia 23 and 24 October 2007.

The idea that Working Group 4 Coherence and Integration would be able to co-ordinate the overall research content is not yet workable, since the Working Group is not yet fully operational. The Senior Management Group assumed this task for the moment, but will probably hand it over as soon as the Working Group is operational.

In the Kick-off stage of the project the MC was given the prospect of the advantages of the introduction of the COST Grant system. The work organisation and involvement of a supporting organisation, laid down in the PQN Work Plan, have been built on that promise, which has not materialised up till now. With regard to allocation of budget, the transition from the 'pay as you go' system to the more free COST Grant system

apparently has been postponed.

The postponement of the introduction of the COST Grant system has severe implication for the setup and day-to-day organisation of our project. Under the COST Grant system the Action would have been responsible for its own administration (which de facto it already is, since hardly any administrative support for drawing up minutes and communications is available) and have the freedom to allocate budget to specific tasks. In our project many administrative services will be taken care of by the chair's organisation, the MC agreed to have the minutes made in turn, and the maximum of 15% of the available budget for administration costs was planned to be allocated to professional website management and co-ordination of internal issues and of the project communication and dissemination. The development of the website [www.walkeurope.org](http://www.walkeurope.org) has been funded by the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (some 15,000 Euros). In the Work Plan € 16,000 were allocated for website management, coordination of the project, communication and dissemination for the period May 2007 – April 2008. This money is not available until the COST Grant system in fact is effectuated.

At this point of time, in our field (walking) dissemination of results and debate are absolutely essential to make progress. This is why we put so much emphasis on dissemination, the collaboration with other organisations and the establishment of a website within the PQN project. We planned to use these platforms even more extensively for debate and exchange, but lack of funds hinder us.

WALK21, the non-profit organisation that organises the yearly WALK21 conferences, was asked to perform the coordination of communication and website management. For them the delay forms a serious problem. Payment of the concerned employees depends on external funding; the organisation cannot fall back on national research budgets. Since the Grant system is not effectuated, the old COST system applies, meaning that up till now only € 2,000 was available for website costs. There have been external costs for additional website programming and some administrative costs. Thus hardly any money was available for paying the services of the website manager.

At the moment there is no certainty when the Grant System will be effectuated; the Access Company was forced to let the webmaster go. Our vice chair and director of The Access Company, Jim Walker, kept things running as good as possible in his own time, but without funding he will be forced to minimise his organisation's essential support.

The PQN Senior Management Group urges the Domain Committee to take the necessary action.