

WALK21: 10th International Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities, New York

Programme of Pre-conference Workshop

***Measuring Walking (part III):
Performance indicators for monitoring and benchmarking***

Tuesday, 6 October 2009, 9 am - 4 pm

New York University, King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, Screening Room

located on 53 Washington Square South (see map on last page)

Background

'Measuring Walking' is a joint (informal) project of the European COST Action 358 'Pedestrian Quality Needs' and the WALK21 international conference series*. It is based on the International Charter for Walking and aims to establish international standards for the collection, analysis and dissemination of qualitative and quantitative techniques for measuring walking. Based on existing standards the project seeks agreement among experts from different countries, professional backgrounds and cultures on common performance indicators and quality levels for data collection methods. The plan is to establish some of these standards as guidelines by the end of 2010.

At the first pre-conference workshop in Toronto 2007 we had an intense debate on what and how walking could and should be measured. This resulted in a principal agreement on a list of dimensions that need to be considered ranging from counting pedestrians, capturing perceptions to assessing walkability as well as institutional aspects.

The second workshop in Barcelona 2008 brought together users and producers of automatic counting equipment to exchange experiences, discuss approaches and opportunities to advance the development of adequate technologies. The papers from both workshops can be downloaded from this site: www.measuring-walking.org.

Objective of the pre-conference workshop

The pre-conference workshop 2009 will focus on performance indicators to assess walking as well as to monitor and benchmark cities. The goal of the all-day workshop is to discuss suitable indicators which are usable across countries and cultures based on the characteristics of walking and addressing a variety of needs. Building on the wealth of already existing indicators from areas such as health, environment, safety and planning, we will try to distill those indicators most relevant and important. Ideally we will reach some common understanding and achieve a draft agreement on indicators we consider to be a standard so we can compare results across the globe in the future.

This debate will benefit from the representation of many professional backgrounds and needs (practitioners, researchers, advocates, officers, politicians etc.). Everyone is, therefore, kindly invited to join the debate and provide input and experiences.

Workshop facilitator

The workshop will be chaired and facilitated by Daniel Sauter, Urban Mobility Research, Zurich, Switzerland. Daniel is a sociologist and researcher with a broad experience in the field of measuring walking (public space surveys, pedestrian counts, travel surveys etc.). He co-organised the 6th WALK21 conference in Zurich 2005 and led the efforts to create the International Charter for Walking. Currently he is involved in the European COST Action 358, where he is responsible, among other things, for the part on 'Measuring Walking'.

* For further information on COST Action 358 see www.walkeurope.org; for WALK21 see www.walk21.com

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9:00 **Welcome and introduction**

- Welcome and introduction (background, project update and objective of the day)

9:15 **Overview of the issues to be debated**

- Performance indicators and methods – what are the issues to be dealt with: Daniel Sauter, Urban Mobility Research, Zurich, Switzerland

10:00 **State-of-the-art: input from different backgrounds**

- Key quality indicators: *Camilla Richter-Friis van Deurs*, Gehl Architects and Centre for Public Space Research at Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen
- Walk Friendly Communities in the US: *Sharon Roerty*, National Center for Bicycling and Walking
- Urban life account in the city of Copenhagen: *Pernille Nørby*, Technical and Environmental Administration, City of Copenhagen
- Automatic classification, counting and modelling of non-motorised traffic: *Norbert Braendle*, Austrian Institute of Technology, Vienna, Austria

11:15 **Brainstorming: collecting and discussing suitable performance indicators**

- Discussion part 1: indicators for situational assessments on street level (single streets, squares, etc.)
- Discussion part 2: indicators for monitoring and benchmarking on community / city level

Coffee break in between 20 min.

13:00 **Lunch** (outside of venue)

14:00 **Trying to reach common ground: draft agreement for some standard indicators?**

In this discussion we will try to reach a common understanding of and possibly a draft agreement on a standard set of indicators on street and on community/city level.

15:30 **Outlook: research needs and next steps**

- Research needs and how to make the research happen (issues, finances, teams etc.)
- The next steps: future cooperation; how to continue the dialogue?

16:00 End of pre-conference workshop

Zurich, 16 September 2009 / DS

Directions

New York University, King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, Screening Room
located on 53 Washington Square South, one block west of Kimmel Center (1 min to walk)

