

Measuring Walking, part IV: Data Collection Methods

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Qualification of the presenter:

Daniel is a sociologist and researcher with a broad experience in the field of measuring walking. In the past years he has managed a number of pedestrian counts, public space surveys as well as analysed national travel survey data. He has been part of the team drafting the International Charter for Walking. Currently he is involved in the European COST Action 358 on Pedestrian Quality Needs as work group leader re 'The Future of Walking' and is responsible for the part on 'Measuring Walking'.

Proposal:

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 the agreement among ex-perts from different countries and cultures on common standards and (minimal) quality levels for indicators and data collection methods. The plan is to establish some of these standards by the end of 2010.

At the past three WALK21 conferences in Toronto (2007), Barcelona (2008) and New York (2009) pre-conference workshops on topics of Measuring Walking were held. The first two were attended by 30 to 40 and the most recent one by over 70 experts from various countries.

☐ The workshop in Toronto focused on the question what should be measured and how this should be done. As a result principal agreement was reached on a number of main dimensions

☐ The Barcelona workshop brought together users and producers of automatic counting equipment to ex-change experiences and debate approaches to advance the development of adequate technologies.

☐ The third workshop in New York centred on performance indicators resulting in a list of such indicators that participants found most relevant and important. Since the list is still very comprehensive, a further condensation is necessary. This will be done jointly by the experts via e-voting during this spring.

The documentation of the workshops with the papers and presentations are all online at the newly created website www.measuring-walking.org => Workshops. There is also a link from the WALK21 website which will be strengthened in the future.

Objective of pre-conference workshop in The Hague:

The pre-conference workshop in The Hague shall provide again a forum for professional debate and ex-change of experiences. This year's main objective is to find some common ground on data collection meth-ods. In order to compare data it is crucial that we not only agree on the indicators but also share the same basic data collection methods. Some proposals for specific methodological

standards will be made in this regard (e.g. on counting pedestrians). As in the previous workshops there will be 3 - 4 presentations by invited experts and lots of time for debate.

Experience from the previous years shows that people will contact me as facilitator with proposals for presentations in the time leading up to conference and that synergies with other planned (pre-conference) workshops could provide opportunities for collaboration. I'm open to any suggestions by the Programme Committee in this regard.

It is suggested to define the detailed programme at a later stage, as was done before. I'm happy to update the Programme Committee any time about talks with interested parties and progress made re the preparations.

Time and space requirements

The pre-conference workshop is suggested to go on for the full day. But if opportunities for co-operation with other workshops arise it may also be feasible to limit the part on Measuring Walking to half a day.

One room with presenting facilities will be necessary. Desirably it will have daylight. The number of participants is difficult to predict. In Toronto and Barcelona between 30 and 40 experts were present, in New York there were more than 70. The number of attendees also depends on other workshops offered in parallel.

Wish

As has been done in Barcelona and New York it would be appreciated to get a few minutes during a plenary session to inform all conference delegates about the endeavour and progress made with Measuring Walking, possibly together with the sister project on Making Walking Count.