



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/AC.21/2004/5
EUR/04/5045236/5
22 January 2004

Original: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**
Regional Office for Europe

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
THE PEP Steering Committee**

(Second session, 29 and 30 March 2004,
agenda item 4 A.iv)

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A SET OF INDICATORS TO MONITOR THE INTEGRATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ASPECTS INTO TRANSPORT POLICIES, AND
THEIR IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Interim progress report by the WHO/Europe and UNECE secretariats

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This paper has been prepared by the secretariats for submission to the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) at its second session, 29-30 March 2004, under agenda item 4(A) on "Progress report on the implementation of current activities".
2. It presents an interim progress report on achievements in the implementation of this activity and makes proposals for a phased further implementation of the project in the years 2004-2005.
3. The Steering Committee is invited to provide its views regarding progress achieved so far, proposed directions of work and possible strategies to raise additional resources to further the implementation of this project. Delegations are invited to consider their possibilities to contribute to the implementation of the project.

II. INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

4. The project “Establishment of a set of indicators to monitor the integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policies, and their impacts on health and the environment”¹ was endorsed by THE PEP Steering Committee at its first session².

5. In particular, the Steering Committee decided to establish a Task Force including experts from the relevant organizations as well as experts from member States, to provide guidance on the further development of the project, agreed on implementing the project in phases and proposed the following directions to be taken:

- Focus on methodological aspects of the indicators;
- Definition of a restricted set of indicators, using as much as possible existing data;
- Extension of the geographical scope to cover the pan-European region;
- Introduction and development of new indicators as knowledge becomes available;
- Establishment of a network of technical focal points (e.g. taking as model and possibly building on the EEA network of contact points).

6. Progress on the implementation of this project has been affected by the lack of specific funds and by the need to focus the secretariats’ resources on the follow-up of on-going projects that had either delivery dates attached (e.g. the Workshop on "Sustainable and Healthy Urban Transport and Planning" held in Cyprus on 16-18 November 2003) and/or are supported by the allocation of specific resources (e.g. THE PEP Clearing House, and the “Transport Related Health Impacts and their Costs and Benefits with a Particular Focus on Children”).

7. On this basis, the secretariat proposed to THE PEP Bureau to re-prioritize this project to 2004-2005, and to follow a phased approach to its implementation, building to the extent possible on on-going relevant activities and the synergies that these would allow. The Bureau endorsed this proposal and recommended the preparation of an interim report on progress achieved and resources needed for a phased implementation for consideration by the Steering Committee.

8. In addition, the secretariat started the preparation of a background paper discussing relevant work currently undertaken at the international level by different agencies and reviewing existing sets of indicators and reporting systems that address transport, health and environment. The background paper aims at providing background material to the preparation of a report that would

¹ ECE/AC.21/2003/5 -EUR/03/5040828/5.

² See the Summary Report of the first session of the Steering Committee for THE PEP (10, 11 April 2003) ECE/AC.21/2003/6 EUR/03/5040828/621 May 2003.

analyze the existing sets of indicators, including their scope and geographical coverage, with a view to identifying indicators that would best allow to monitor the degree of integration between transport, health and environment, both in terms of policy development and the effects of transport policy on health and environmental aspects. The background paper will be tabled as a conference room paper at the second session of THE PEP Steering Committee.

9. The background paper reviews eleven sets of relevant indicators developed by six international organizations (WHO, UNECE, OECD, European Commission, EEA and the World Bank). The annex to this paper presents a table highlighting the main aspects of the sets considered in the background paper.

10. The main conclusions of the background paper can be summarized as follows:

- (a) The sets of indicators reviewed in the background paper differ in terms of focus, scope, geographic coverage and administrative level addressed (i.e. international, national and local).
- (b) They address a broad range of issues and topics, of technical, economic, political, social, epidemiological and environmental nature, which are relevant to different aspects of the integration between transport, health and the environment.
- (c) Some sets of indicators (e.g., those developed by the EEA under the Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism, and by the WHO, under the Environment and Health Indicators system) share similar approaches in the structure of certain indicators and in the collection of data among international organizations, which may allow for exchange of information between different data sets and for complementarities (e.g. between environmental and health effects).
- (d) While several of the sets of indicators reviewed address different aspects of integration, e.g. between transport and environment, or between health and environment, none address aspects related to the level of integration between transport, environment and health.
- (e) Only indicators developed for application at the level of cities deal with public transport, walking and cycling, and very few of them (namely only those developed with a focus on health) deal with morbidity and mortality aspects.
- (f) Although several indicators sets appear to cover the same topics, a more in-depth analysis often reveals differences in the underlying definitions and data collection methodology, which makes it difficult to establish connections between these different sets.

III. REVISED WORKPLAN AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

11. In line with the proposal submitted to the Steering Committee at its first session³, the project will identify indicators, building to the possible extent on existing sets, to inform about interactions between transport, health and the environment and about progress in achieving environmental and health targets in relation to transport policies, with a special focus on aspects related to the integration between these three sectors.

12. The proposed phased implementation of the project includes the following steps and outputs:

- (a) Finalization of the background document presenting an overview of existing relevant sets of indicators, based on on-going work at the international level (Months 1-3).
- (b) Preparation of a report which, on the basis of the background overview, identifies those indicators that would be most useful to assess the integration of transport, environment and health policies, giving consideration also to qualitative indicators of policy implementation, and to other relevant aspects, such as issues related to the geographic scope of the indicators (local vs. national vs. international), as well as issues of comparability and consistency of statistics collected by different administrations within the same country, and possibility to take stock from monitoring and reporting systems already in place (Months 5-12).
- (c) The report will be prepared in consultation with experts from relevant international organizations (WHO, UNECE, EEA, OECD, Eurostat) and country experts from research institutes, Governments, other IGOs and NGOs. Recommendations will focus on the definition of a possible set of indicators measuring the degree of integration of transport, health and environment.
- (d) Discussion and endorsement of the recommendation of the report by the Steering Committee at its fourth session in 2006.

IV. ESTIMATED RESOURCES

13. The cost for the implementation of the above steps of the project are estimated as follows:

- (a) Preparation and finalization of a report identifying possible transport health and environment indicators by a senior consultant: ca US\$ 20,000.
- (b) Organization of one meeting of the advisory expert group (with in-kind support provided by hosting organization and travel costs of participants covered by the respective Organizations

³ ECE/AC.21/2003/5 - EUR/03/5040828/5.

or administrations), including support for ca 5 participants from EECCA countries, at ca. US\$ 2,000 per participant (US\$ 2,000 x 5 x 2) Total US\$ 10,000.

- (c) Additional human resources to support the secretariat (to be covered with in-kind donation or 3 months person-time at US\$ 6,500/month) Total US\$ 19,500.

Total US\$ 49,500

NB: It should be noted that these costs estimates assume that additional resources in the order of ca. US\$ 100,000 would be made available through, e.g. in-kind donations provided by institutions hosting meetings and participants, person-time of technical experts made available to the secretariat and the task force, technical resources, data and computation time.

Annex

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT SETS OF INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL RELEVANCE TO TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AND OF ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The table presents the most relevant characteristics of the sets of indicators reviewed by the Secretariat in a background paper presenting an overview of relevant sets of indicators of potential relevance to transport, health and environment and of on going international activities.

The background paper covers relevant indicators sets that have already been identified by the following international organizations:

- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- European Commission (EC)
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

The table identifies the responsible agency, the name of the indicators sets, the geographic scope (i.e. whether international, national or local), the focus (e.g. on integration between transport and environment), the geographic coverage (i.e. member States of cities covered by the set of indicators) and a web address, for further information.

Overview of existing sets of indicators of potential relevance to integration of transport, health and the environment:

ORGANIZATION	SET OF INDICATORS	GEGRAPHC SCOPE	FOCUS	GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE	Web address
EEA	TERM (Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism)	International	Integration of environment into transport policies	EU 15, AC 10 plus, EFTA, 3 candidate countries	http://reports.eea.eu.int/term2001/en
European Commission	ETIS (European Transport Policy Information System)	International	Trans-European Networks	EU 15, AC10	http://www.etis-link.info/index.html
European Commission (DG Environment)	SCALE “European Environment and Health Strategy”	National	Environment and health, children	EU15, AC10	http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/health/index_n.htm
European Commission	ECI (European Common Indicators)	Local	Local sustainable development	Eurocities, Sustainable cities and Towns Campaigns,	http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/
OECD (Environmentally Sustainable Transport)	Transport-Environment Indicators	National	Integration of environment into transport policies	OECD member States	http://www.oecd.org/
UNECE (Transport division)	Transport and road safety statistics	National	Transport and injuries	UNECE member States	http://www.unece.org/transport
UNECE (Environment Division)	Transboundary air pollution reporting system	National	Transboundary air pollutants	UNECE member States	http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/
WHO (European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn)	Environmental Health Indicator system	National	Environment and health	WHO European Region	http://www.euro.who.int/EHindicators
WHO (Urban Health Centre)	Healthy Cities indicators	Local	Health and urban development	WHO Healthy Cities (47)	http://www.euro.who.int/urbanhealth
WHO (Children’s Health and the Environment)	Indicators of children’s health status	National	Children’s health and the environment	WHO European Region	http://www.who.dk/childhealthenv/monitoring/20020802_5
World Bank	Integration of environmental and health (service) related issues into transport policies and decisions.	National/Local	Road safety, accessibility, EIA		http://www.worldbank.org/