



**European Cooperation
in the field of Scientific
and Technical Research
- COST -**

Brussels, 27 September 2006

Secretariat

COST 289/06

NOTE

To : COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Subject : Terms of Reference for a mandate of a COST Domain Committee in the field of Transport and Urban Development ¹

Delegations will find attached the "Terms of Reference for a mandate of a COST Domain Committee in the field of Transport and Urban Development" as approved by the CSO at its 164th meeting on 29/30 March 2006, and the domain descriptor, as approved by the CSO at its 165th on 27/28 June 2006 (in Annex 1).

¹ This document replaces previous version as set out in doc. COST 245/06.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MANDATE
OF THE COST DOMAIN COMMITTEE
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

1. The COST Domain Committee in the field of Transport and Urban Development, hereinafter referred to as "the DC"¹, is established by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) for a period of four years as of 1 June 2006.
2. At the end of this period, and on receipt of a report by the DC, the CSO shall decide whether to extend the mandate of the DC for an additional period of time and, in that case, review these Terms of Reference.
3. The CSO may at any time amend these Terms of Reference or terminate the mandate of this DC.
4. The DC will adopt its Rules of Procedure on the basis of the model set out in doc. COST 236/06 or in any new document amending or replacing it.
5. The DC is responsible for general oversight of COST activities within its domain, including the development of strategic initiatives, and, in particular, for the quality assurance of new Action proposals, for monitoring progress of ongoing Actions and for evaluating completed Actions.
6. Within the framework of the COST Continuous Open Call and the two stage submission process, the DC will assess proposals for new COST Actions assigned to its domain. This assessment will be in accordance with the "Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of COST Actions" in the Vademecum (<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=38>). The DC will be responsible for the assessment and selection of preliminary proposals and for implementing quality control, through external peer review, of full proposals and for making recommendations for new Actions to the CSO.

¹ The detailed descriptor of the domain is set out in Annex to this document.

7. COST Actions should:
 - a. have an innovative character and a high scientific/technological standard and contribute substantially to the coordination of research efforts;
 - b. give a strong and visible contribution to the European Society; through being of potential interest across Europe to scientific communities and research organisations; public environmental authorities; policy institutions; and to private companies and industry;
 - c. be based on careful considerations of interests, resources and budgetary consequences in the interested countries, as well as on assessments of the added value expected to be achieved through the coordination;
 - d. be broad and flexible enough to permit an interdisciplinary approach and later inclusion of activities not foreseen during the preparation, taking due consideration of point 10 below;
 - e. identify and take into account R&D efforts in other fora;
 - f. assist in the mobility of European young researchers.

8. When submitting a new Action to the CSO for approval:
 - a. the COST Office should ensure that the Technical Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding is structured as set out in the "Guide for Proposers of new COST Actions" in the Vademecum (<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=38>).
 - b. the DC should provide the CSO with an Assessment Report and any additional information that the CSO may need for making a decision on the Action.

9. The DC will:
 - a. monitor the implementation of its COST Actions to ensure that the objectives as set out in their Memoranda of Understanding are met;
 - b. ensure coordination and exchange of information, as required, as well as complementarity and synergy between its Actions as well as with relevant activities in other Domain Committees in COST, the Community R&D programmes, EUREKA, the European Science Foundation, other European cooperative research frameworks and standardisation bodies and will appoint members of the DC as liaisons with these bodies, as appropriate;
 - c. take account of interdisciplinarity within its domain and with other domains and of new developments in its domain.

10. The DC should give an opinion to the CSO on any proposal pertaining to one of its COST Actions and concerning:
 - a. an extension or prolongation of an Action,
 - b. a change of the title or a modification of the objectives of an Action, or
 - c. participation of an international organisation or an institute from a non-COST country in an Action.

Such an opinion shall be given with full knowledge of the views of the Management Committee of the Action concerned; a decision on the proposal will then be taken by the CSO.

11. The DC advises the Actions assigned to its domain with regard to the scientific aspects within the objectives as laid down in the respective MoU.

12. The DC is responsible for the evaluation of its COST Actions on completion of each Action, according to the "Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of COST Actions" in the Vademecum (<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=38>).

13. The DC should take all the measures it considers necessary to ensure efficient dissemination and/or exploitation of the results of its COST Actions, in close cooperation with the relevant Management Committees and taking account of the COST Policy on Dissemination and Monitoring the Impact of COST Results as set out in doc. COST 327/05 or in any new document amending or replacing it.
 14. The DC will be represented by its Chair or by an appointed substitute at all meetings convened between the CSO President, the CSO or the JAF Group and the Chairs of the DCs.
 15. The DC will report on its activities, as requested, to the CSO and will provide an overview report to the CSO at the end of each mandate period.
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TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (TUD)**Domain descriptor**

The Domain TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT aims at fostering international research networking activities of scientists and experts dealing with transport systems and infrastructures, urban land use and development, architecture and design, and civil engineering issues. The focus is on multi- and interdisciplinary approaches and the aim is to cover both basic and applied research activities including technical and technological developments and their changeovers that are relevant to policy and decision making processes. A significant concern is devoted to activities exploring new research needs and developments.

The domain is by definition cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary, encompassing a wide range of scientific expertises within the transport and land use planning, design, and management activities with a special emphasis on the strong interrelationships among the relevant policy fields as well on all aspects related to sustainable development. The domain activities should be innovative and complementary to other European programmes in the relevant fields.

The following non-exclusive examples illustrate aspects of actual research in this Domain. The scope of the Domain is not restricted to these activities.

Sustainable transport and urban planning policy, addressing issues of both sustainable transport and urban development. The focus is on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of transport, traffic safety, security and energy consumption, as well as modal diversion and modal re-equilibrium, intermodal solutions and interoperability among the different systems. The integrated spatial and land-use planning, environmental and transport planning and modelling will focus on recommendations for sustainable and interdisciplinary policy and planning concerning transport issues and urban development, solutions for a safer mobility of people and goods, securing living conditions, including psychological issues of these problems.

Design of transport systems and development of urban infrastructures, addressing issues related to transport infrastructures (building, development, maintenance, rehabilitation), the development of new technologies both for infrastructures (materials, etc.) and the vehicles (alternative fuels, etc.). and encompassing issues related to the construction and management of networks and utilities, urban safety, security and disaster management.

Urban architecture and civil constructions: planning and design, covering urban design and architecture, urban constructions, reconstruction and rehabilitation of structures and buildings, including cultural heritage areas, green structures as well as issues of quality of life.

The management of the transport systems, infrastructures and urban structures, addressing on one hand transport policies, also related to transport demand management, traffic management, market issues, people education towards more sustainable behaviours, and on the other civil engineering and construction topics, such as rehabilitation, organisation and management of the construction sector, logistics and energy use.