WG tasks and outputs

WG 1: Network building and methodological guidance

No	Title	Main purpose	Output	Activities needed to deliver output
Task 1.1	Network building	To develop a network of researchers working on environmentally sustainable transport assessment in Europe (and elsewhere) in order to: • Identify information sources for the Action's work • Identify main target group for dissemination • Prepare for future research collaboration Three levels of network membership are foreseen: I) the active participants in the action through its working groups, ii) the researchers in the field of the action, providing input but not participating actively to the working groups, and iii) the people only interested in the outputs which are essential for the dissemination. The levels 2 and 3 give feedback to level 1.	• Lists of persons with contact info and main fields of expertise • Events to consolidate the network, in connection with task 4.3	• Name responsible participant(s) in the action to collect and co-ordinate • Consideration of possible networking events, consider funding options • The participation of users is encouraged through national networks. • A way to build the COST network is to identify and utilize existing national networks.
Task 1.2	Methodological guidance	• To generate consensus between participants on the basic concepts to be used throughout the project and to define the detailed structure of the work	• Concept notes • Detailed structure of tasks	• Identify need for concept notes • Writing teams for notes • Design and reach agreement on tasks
Task 1.3	Transport and environment in the concept of sustainable development	• To analyse the concept of sustainable development in relation to transport and environment, taking into account environmental aspects, their link to social and economic aspects, decision making processes. • To ensure that the wider debates about sustainability are known and understood by participants	A report with review and critical evaluation of the state-of-the-art of sustainable transport definitions and concepts	• Putting together team for writing the report • Considering if report can be made into article

WG 2: Environmental assessment (indicators as measurement tools)

No	Title	Main purpose	Output	Activities needed to deliver output
Task 2.1	Analysis of the chain of causalities for each environmental impact	To analyse the chain of causalities for the full range of transport-related impacts on humans and ecosystems, from the driving parameters of the long-term dynamics of the transportation system to the final impacts. Starting for instance from the 16 impact categories listed in the summary of WG3 of COST 350.	A report describing the chain of causalities, from the transport activities to the final impacts	• Identify and attract specialists who could take part in review for each major impact • Undertaking state-of-the-art reviews for each major impact based on the literature
Task 2.2	Defining criteria for environmental indicator quality assessment	• To identify operational quality criteria needed for assessing indicators from a scientific perspective (representativity, simplicity, transparency etc) based on available literature – thus forming the basis for task 2.3	A working note summarising criteria for good quality indicators	• Putting together a team to review criteria • Writing the working note
Task 2.3	State of the art of building indicators per individual impact	• To identify relevant indicators that can represent and measure each impact • To review the different scientific approaches for each impact category considering their underlying assumptions, applicability and constraints, including natural and social science based methods • Methods to move from basic impacts to next level.	A report including: • A list of indicators per environmental impact, with an analysis of their building method • A choice of the 'best' indicators according to task 2.2 or/and proposals of building of new ones • Pros and cons of aggregation methods from the natural sciences perspective.	• Review of literature • A selection procedure

WG 3: Integration in decision making (indicators as decision making tools)

No	Title	Main purpose	Output	Activities needed to deliver output
Task 3.1	Defining requirements of EST indicators from the planning and decision making point of view	• To define (from literature) functional criteria for indicators to be used in various policy making frameworks for sustainable transport (including ex ante assessment/scenarios, continuous monitoring and ex post evaluation) • To identify (from literature) factors that matter for making indicators actually useful, applied, and influential in planning and decision making	A report with a framework for understanding 'policy and decision making related' conditions for indicator use	Review of literature built on the output of the task 1.3.
Task 3.2	Options for integrating EST indicators	To analyse options and methods for aggregation (e.g. cost-benefit, multi-criteria decision methods), or selection (e.g. based on participatory process), or other ways to create integrated measures of environmentally sustainable transport, based on individual (non-aggregated) impact indicators	A report with: • Pros and cons of the aggregation or selection methods available in the social sciences literature • A choice of the 'best' methods or/and proposals of building of new ones	• Review of literature • A selection procedure
Task 3.3	Case studies: Applications of EST indicators in decision making	• To select practical sustainable transport assessments examples /cases, including EU, national and local projects • To review the examples/cases with regard to the identification and application of environmental sustainability indicators and indicator systems • To analyse in each case the potential application of relevant indicators as reviewed in tasks 2.3 and 3.2, while taking into account criteria and research reviewed in both tasks 2.2 and 3.1	A report with case study results and recommendations for the application of indicators and indicator systems in policy making	Undertaking analysis of the ability of environmental indicators (non-aggregated, integrated) to be used for each (relevant) case of assessment.

WG 4: Integrative synthesis, research needs and dissemination

No	Title	Main purpose	Output	Activities needed to deliver output
Task 4.1	4.1. Further research needs	Identifying white spots and research needs	Final report	
Task 4.2	4.2. Synthesis	Synthesis of the whole Action		
Task 4.3	4.3. Dissemination	Dissemination of the results	Papers, Internet, CD-ROM, short focussed syntheses	Assign person responsible for each dissemination function