

### The WHO Health Economic Assessment Tool for Walking and Cycling

### 10 years and counting





Zurich

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# Health and environment challenges in transport



## **Physical inactivity**

- A lack of adequate physical activity causes:
  - Ischaemic heart disease
  - Hypertension
  - Diabetes type 2
  - Cancer (e.g. breast and colon)
  - Stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness
- A leading risk factor for health in Europe: nearly 1 million deaths/year
- 40% of car trips in EU28 are < 5km long







# Health effects of walking and cycling: integrated assessment



# Opportunities for better health through transport

- Health potential from reduced air pollution and increased physical activity clearly recognized
- But: collaboration across relevant sectors to find win-win-win situations needed
- How to integrate health into transport planning?







## Integration of health in transport planning

- Importance of economic analysis in transport planning
- Economic value of the health benefits of regular walking and cycling
  - -> easy-to-use tool needed



## The answer: Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for walking and cycling

### www.euro.who.int/HEAT

S HEAT Health economic assessment tool

Introduction

HEAT for cycling

HEAT for walking

Current Assessment

Previous Assessments

Acknowledgements

HEAT 

Introduction

#### Welcome to the WHO/Europe Health Economic Assessment Tools (HEAT) for walking and for cycling.

This tool is designed to help you conduct an economic assessment of the health benefits of walking or cycling by estimating the value of reduced mortality that results from specified amounts of walking or cycling.

The tool can be used in a number of different situations, for example:

1. When planning a new piece of cycling or walking

#### **More information**

#### What data do I need?

To produce an assessment, you need to provide data on the number of people walking or cycling, and the amount of walking they are doing (or are projected to do).

more ...

## What is the HEAT?

- Online tool <a href="http://www.heatwalkingcycling.org">www.heatwalkingcycling.org</a>
- Designed for transport planners
- Economic assessment of health benefits of walking or cycling
- Prevented premature mortality 'only'
- Evidence-based
- Transparent
- Adaptable



## A collaborative project



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#### **Expertise involved:**



## The question

If <u>x people walk/cycle</u> an <u>amount of y</u> on most days, what is the <u>economic</u> <u>value</u> of the <u>health benefits</u> that occur as a result of the <u>reduction in mortality</u> due to their <u>physical activity</u>?

## What can you use it for?

- Project evaluation: new or old projects
  - Value of health benefits of investements
- Assess current use
  - What is walking/cycling worth now in my city, region, country?
- Modeling projected future walking/cycling
  - How much value walking/cycling can have...
    - .. and does it work ....??



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