



TU1406

COST ACTION

QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROADWAY BRIDGES,
STANDARDIZATION AT A EUROPEAN LEVEL

WG MEETING

OF COST ACTION TU1406



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WG MEETING - GENEVA

COST ACTION TU1406

QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROADWAY BRIDGES,
STANDARDIZATION AT A EUROPEAN LEVEL

DATE OF MEETING
September 21-22, 2015

Place of meeting
International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)
Geneva, Switzerland

ACTION CONTACTS

Chair of the Action
Vice Chair of the Action
Local organizer
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. ABOUT COST

Founded in 1971, COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology – is the first and widest European framework for the transnational coordination of nationally funded research activities. It is based on an inter-governmental agreement and comprises currently 35 European Member Countries plus one Cooperating State.

COST's mission is to strengthen Europe's scientific and technical research capacity by supporting cooperation and interaction between European researchers, covering from basic to applied or technological research and including research addressing issues of pre-normative nature or of particular societal importance.

As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays an important role in the construction of the European Research Area (ERA), by anticipating and complementing the activities of the Framework Programmes, acting as a "bridge" spanning the scientific communities of Europe as a whole, increasing the mobility of researchers across the continent, and fostering the establishment of large Framework Programme projects in many key scientific domains.

The funds provided by COST support the coordination costs of the pan-European research networks (COST Actions), ultimately multiplying the potential of nationally funded research work. In this way, COST has leveraged during the last seven years approximately EUR 5 billion of research funding through its support and reaches out to over 30.000 researchers across Europe. COST is funded from of the EU RTD Framework Programmes budget.

During the last eight years, COST scientific organisation was based on 9 scientific domains embracing all fields of research:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS);
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST);
- Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM);
- Food and Agriculture (FA);
- Forests, their Products and Services (FPS);
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH);
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences (MPNS);
- Transport and Urban Development (TUD).

COST also supports research networks spanning over several scientific domains (Trans-Domain) with broad, interdisciplinary dimension.

The scientific organisation of COST is currently being scrutinised in order to best fit the needs of the European research communities in the new context of Horizon 2020.

The key features of COST are:

- Open to all fields in Science and Technology through a "bottom up" approach - the idea and subject of a COST Action comes from the European scientists themselves;
- Fosters inclusiveness and equality of access;
- Commits to build capacity by connecting high-quality scientific communities throughout Europe and worldwide;
- Focuses strongly on providing networking opportunities for early stage researchers;
- Aims at increasing the impact of research on policy makers, regulatory bodies and national decision makers as well as the private sector.
- Offers a flexible structure, easy implementation and lean management of the networking activities.

1.2. COST ACTION TU1406

1.2.1. ABSTRACT

During the implementation of asset management strategies, maintenance actions are required in order to retain assets at a desired performance level. In case of roadway bridges, specific performance indicators are established for their components. These indicators can be qualitative or quantitative-based, and they can be obtained during principal inspections, through a visual examination, a non-destructive test or a temporary or permanent monitoring system. Then, obtained indicators are compared with performance goals, in order to evaluate if the quality control plan is accomplished. It is verified that there is a large disparity in Europe regarding the way these indicators are quantified and how such goals are specified. Therefore, this Action aims to bring together, for the first time, both the research and practicing communities in order to accelerate the establishment of a European guideline in this subject. An important aim is to define formal indicators related to sustainable performance of roadway bridges.

1.2.2. ACTION TU1406 WORKING GROUPS

In order to adequately achieve the objectives of the Action, six Working Groups (WG) have been established:

WG1: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Leader: Alfred Strauss
Vice-Leader: Ana Mandić Ivanković

E-mail: alfred.strauss@boku.ac.at
E-mail: mandicka@grad.hr

Working Group 1 focuses on the characterization of bridge performance indicators, which can address: (a) the safety: the load factor, the reliability index to ULS; (b) the serviceability: the condition index, the reliability index to SLS; (c) the availability, robustness; (d) the costs: the total LCC, values related to durability aspects; and (e) aspects of environmental efficiency: CO2 footprint. A technical report on performance indicators will be developed at the end.

WG2: PERFORMANCE GOALS

Leader: Irina Stipanovic
Vice-Leader: Lojze Bevc

E-mail: i.stipanovic@utwente.nl
E-mail: lojze.bevc@zag.si

The main objective of Working Group 2 is to identify existing performance goals (where the term goal pertains to quantifiable requirement and/or threshold value) for the indicators previously indicated in WG1. The performance goals will vary according to technical, environmental, economic and social factors. A technical report on performance goals will be developed at the end.

WG3: ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALITY CONTROL PLAN

Leader: Rade Hajdin

E-mail: rade.hajdin@grf.bg.ac.rs

Vice-Leader: Matej Kušar

E-mail: matej.kusar@fgg.uni-lj.si

Based on results from WG1 and WG2, as well as on a survey of existing approaches in practice, the objective of Working Group 3 is to provide a report with detailed step-by-step explanations for the establishment of QC plans for different types of bridges. The QC plans will address the dynamics and uncertainty of the processes that may significantly compromise bridge performance.

WG4: IMPLEMENTATION IN A CASE STUDY

Leader: Amir Kedar

E-mail: akedar@kedmor.co.il

Vice-Leader: Sander Sein

E-mail: sander.sein@mnt.ee

A series of benchmarks will be developed during Working Group 4. To this end, some of the performance indicators identified in WG1 will be computed for a set of roadway bridges over EU. These indicators will be then compared with specific goals, as identified in WG2. At the end of the process, a QC plan will be applied to those bridges utilising recommendations from WG3. A data basis will be then established for benchmarking.

WG5: DRAFTING OF GUIDELINE/RECOMMENDATIONS

Leader: Vikram Pakrashi

E-mail: v.pakrashi@ucc.ie

Vice-Leader: Helmut Wenzel

E-mail: wenzel@vce.at

Working Group 5 focuses on the development of guidelines, drawing support from all the other WGs. These guidelines for a systematic maintenance and management of highway bridge assets will acknowledge the variation of philosophical, technical and implementation methodologies throughout the EU, with the expectation that the delivered framework will be scalable and portable for standardised implementation in existing or new infrastructure networks.

WG6: DISSEMINATION

Leader: Guðmundur Guðmundsson

E-mail: gudmundur.v.gudmundsson@vegagerdin.is

Vice-Leader: Stavroula
Pantazopoulou

E-mail: pantaz@ucy.ac.cy

The aim of this WG is to disseminate all results which were obtained in all the other WGs. Dissemination consists in establishing liaisons with existing national and international associations, conferences, working groups and journals. Also, this group will be responsible to continuously update the website as well as all the other dissemination frameworks.

2. WG MEETING

2.1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the WG meeting are to develop a common understanding of the aims and ideas of COST Action TU1406 within the Action network and their dissemination. Further and according to the Scientific Work Plan, the WG meeting aims at the characterization of WPs and their interaction, in particular of WP1, bridge performance indicators, WP2, target values, and WP3, quality control plans.

This meeting has several objectives, such as:

- to initiate a discussion upon the systematizing of knowledge on quality control plans for bridges in order to achieve an overall state-of-art report;
- to establish a wide set of quality specifications aiming to assure an expected performance level;
- to collect and contribute to up-to-date knowledge on PI, including technical, environmental, economic and social indicators;
- to develop detailed examples for practicing engineers on the assessment of PI as well as in the establishment of performance goals, to be integrated in the developed guideline;
- to make a scientific discussion on proposed PI and thresholds, “Call for Participants” for clustering and organizing the PI with respect to the different life phases and assessment levels of road bridges and to provide final comments/suggestions by participants;
- to define the content of a technical report on PI associated with WG 1;
- to define all activities together with a detailed time schedule, necessary to adequately start with the PI database (i.e. to define PI inputs, formats and subjects, as well as the requirements for users, thresholds and goals that need to be valuable for practitioners and for scientific research, etc.);
- to define a procedure for a reasonable comparison of the large disparity of PIs in Europe (e.g. in the quantification and specifications of goals)
- to present WG leaders and allow them to express their ideas, demands, strategies, and expectations relating to their WG;
- to allow participants to present some contributions relevant for a specific WG (e.g. their experiences related to other PI research activities, etc.);
- to present expectations of WG members related to the results of PI survey;
- to allow participants to present themselves their scientific work in form of poster sessions.

2.2. PROGRAMME

Monday, September 21st, 2015

09:00 – 09:15	Opening of WG meeting by E.Chatzi & J.Matos
09:15 – 09:30	Opening presentation by A. Strauss “ Performance indicators for road bridges (WG 1) ” <i>Technical, environmental and other indicators</i>
09:30 – 10:05	“Performance Indicators for Bridges: Results Based on the ASCE SEI Technical Council on Life Cycle Performance, Safety, Reliability and Risk of Structural Systems”, by F. Biondini
10:05 – 10:25	“Output-only data normalization for bridge damage indicators”, by G. De Roeck
10:25 – 10:45	“On the Modeling of Vulnerability, Robustness and Resilience of Infrastructure”, by M. Faber
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break w/ Poster session

- 11:00 – 11:15 Opening presentation by I. Stipanovic
“Performance Thresholds and Goals (WG 2)”
Overview of existing technical, sustainable and other bridge performance goals
- 11:15 – 11:30 “Reliability level for evaluation of existing bridges”, by P. Kotes
- 11:30 – 11:45 “Swiss Standards: a basis for developing performance criteria based on durability indicators for concrete bridges”, by R. Torrent
- 11:45 – 12:00 “Using risk-management for setting performance goals”, by I. Xenidis
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 13:15 Opening presentation by R. Hajdin
“Establishment of a QC Plan for road bridges (WG 3)”
Survey of European roadway QC plans
- 13:15 – 13:30 “Bridge quality control supported by knowledge-based expert tools”, by J. Bien
- 13:30 – 13:45 “Risk-based performance assessment for bridges – Experiences from the Netherlands”, by I. Stipanovic
- 13:45 – 14:00 “Quality control plan for bridges with shallow foundations exposed to local scour in Serbian road network”, by N. Tanasic
- 14:00 – 15:00 First results of TU1406 – Technical Survey on Performance Indicators by A. Strauss
- 15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break w/ Poster session
- 15:15 – 15:55 WG dissemination plan for the 1st year by G. Gudmundsson
 Performance Indicator Database by A. Strauss
- 15:55 – 17:00 Bazar associated with WG1 Bridge Performance Indicators
 Facilitators: A. Strauss & A. Mandic
- 17:00 – 19:00 Geneva city visit (social program)
- 19:00 – 22:00 Networking Dinner (social program)

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2015

- 09:00 – 10:05 Bazar associated with WG2 Bridge Performance Goals
 Facilitators: I. Stipanovic & L. Bevc
- 10:05 – 10:20 Coffee break w/ Poster Session
- 10:20 – 11:25 Bazar associated with WG3 Establishment of QC plans
 Facilitators: R. Hajdin & M. Kusar
- 11:25 – 11:45 Discussion on progress and Interaction plan between WGs by A. Strauss
- 11:45 – 12:00 Other Action Items and Assignments
 Poster Award by J. Casas
 Closing of WG meeting by N.P. Høj, J. Matos & R. Hajdin

2.3. LOCATION, DATES AND TRAVELLING

2.3.1. LOCATION AND DATE

The meeting will take place at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), one of the most prominent conferences centres in Switzerland. The venue is located near the United Nations and only 10 minutes from City Centre. This outstanding building built in 1973 and renovated in 2005, has already hosted various international engineering conferences.

The CICG's versatile infrastructure offers a spacious and unique lobby along with a large number of conference rooms and a pleasant lounge area and other gathering spaces.

The meeting will be held between the 21st and the 22nd of September 2015 and the room event will be announced to all registered participants in due time.

Centre International de Conférence Genève (CICG)
17 rue de Varembé
CH 1211 Genève 20
Phone: +41 (0)22 791 91 11
Fax: +41 (0)22 791 90 64
GPS Coordinates: 46.220628 (lat) 6.138675 (long)

2.3.2. HOW TO GET TO CICG

The access to the CICG is facilitated by good public transport services from the international airport as well from the Cornavin main railway station, in downtown.

The Geneva airport, located 4 kilometres from the city is easily reachable by public transport: train and bus; taxi or shuttle. Train ride from the Airport to the central railway station in the city (Gare Cornavin) takes 6 minutes, bus about 20 minutes. Many Car Rental companies operate at the airport. Highway is connecting airport with the city, and there are plenty of various parking options.



Figure 1. Travelling from the airport to CICG.

On arrival, you can claim a free Unireso ticket for 80 minutes for public transport in Zone 10 - Tout Genève (central Geneva area, including Airport and most hotels). The ticket machine for free tickets is located at the baggage reclaim hall. You will need to provide a valid plane ticket in case of control by the ticket inspection.

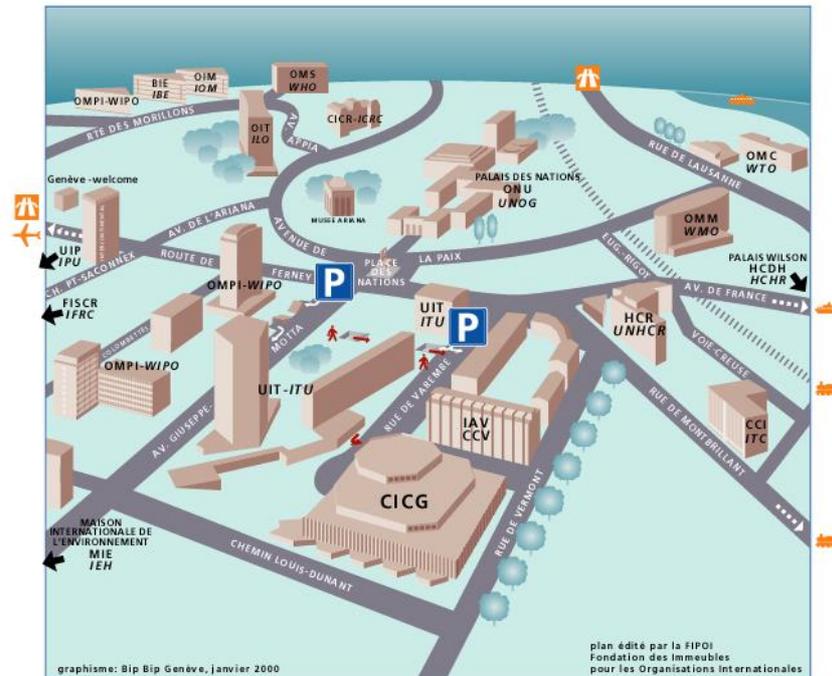


Figure 2. CICG surroundings.

Public transport from the international airport:

- Bus n°5 : Bus stop "Vermont"
- Bus n°28 : Bus stop "Nations "

Public transport from Cornavin main railway station:

- Bus n°5 : Bus stop "Vermont"
- Bus n°8 : Bus stop "UIT"
- Tramway n°15 : Stop "Nations"

Useful websites:

www.cicg.ch
www.gva.ch
www.unireso.com
www.geneva.info/airport/transport/
www.tpg.ch

2.4. ACCOMMODATION

Local organizers suggest using the following listed hotels for accommodation, as they are conveniently located near the venue:

Auteuil Manotel ****
 33, rue de Lausanne
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel.: +41 (0)22 544 22 22
 Fax: +41 (0)22 544 22 99

Hotel Les Nations ***
 62, Rue Du Grand Pré
 CH-1202 Genève
 Tel: +41 22 748 08 08

Hotel Cristal ***
 4, Rue Pradier
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel.: +41 (0)22 716 12 21
 Fax: +41 (0)22 716 12 22
 E-mail: cristal@fhotels.ch

N'vY Manotel ****
 18, rue Richemont
 CH-1202 Genève
 Tel: +41 (0)22 544 66 66
 Fax: +41(0)22 544 66 99

Best Western Strasbourg ***
 10, Rue Pradier
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel: +41 (0)22 906 58 00
 Fax: +41 (0)22 906 58 14
 E-mail: strasbourgunivers@bestwestern.ch

Hotel Lido **
 8, Rue de Chantepoulet
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel: +41 22 731 55 30
 Fax: +41 022 731 65 01
 E-mail: info@hotel-lido.ch

Hotel Intercontinental *****
 7 - 9 Chemin du Petit Saconnex
 CH-1209 Genève
 Tel: +41 22 919 39 39
 Fax: +41 22 919 38 38
 E-mail: inter-geneva@intercontinental-geneva.ch

Royal Manotel ****
 41, Rue de Lausanne
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel: +41 (0)22 906 14 14
 Fax: +41(0)22 906 14 99
 E-mail: royal@manotel.com

Hotel Cornavin ****
 23, Boulevard James-Fazy
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel: +41 (0)22 716 12 12

Hotel Mon Repos ***
 131, Rue de Lausanne
 CH-1202 Geneva
 Tel: +41 22 909 39 09
 Fax: +41 22 909 39 93
 E-mail: reservations@hmrge.ch

Kipling Manotel ***
 27, rue de la Navigation
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel.+41 (0)22 544 40 40
 Fax +41(0)22 544 40 99
 E-mail: kipling@manotel.com

Hotel Warwick ****
 14, Rue de Lausanne
 CH-1201 Genève
 Tel: +41 22 716 8000
 Fax: +41 22 716 8001
 E-mail: info.geneva@warwickhotels.com

Accommodation prices (CHF) per hotel are summarized in the following table.

HOTEL	Rank	Applicable Rate for		Applicable Rate for		City Tax Rate per Person per Night	Breakfast Rate per Person per Night
		Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy		
		20 & 25	21, 22, 23 & 24	20 & 25	21, 22, 23 & 24		
Auteuil Manotel	4*	145,00	290,00	145,00	290,00	4,00	20,00
Best Western Strasbourg	3*	190,00	210,00	230,00	250,00	Incl.	Incl.
Hotel Cornavin	4*	164,00	255,00	194,00	286,00	Incl.	Incl.
Hotel Cristal	3*	153,00	215,00	184,00	245,00	Incl.	Incl.
Hotel Intercontinental	5*	345,00	360,00	345,00	360,00	4,75	46,00
Kipling Manotel	3*Sup	140,00	270,00	140,00	270,00	3,30	18,00
Hotel Les Nations	3*	143,00	184,00	174,00	215,00	Incl.	Incl.
Hotel Lido	2*	135,00	175,00	155,00	195,00	2,80	Incl.
Hotel Mon Repos	3*	200,00	230,00	210,00	250,00	3,30	19,50

N'vY Manotel	4*Sup	150,00	310,00	150,00	310,00	4,00	20,00
		160,00	330,00	160,00	330,00		
Royal Manotel	4*	150,00	310,00	150,00	310,00	4,00	20,00
Hotel Warwick	4*	180,00	280,00	180,00	280,00	4,00	30,00

Rooms with special price will be available for a limited time for the participants through the following [accommodation request form](#), which is available on a first come first serve basis. That means that if there is no more standard room available, the hotel will give you a bigger room for a more expensive price.

If you are interested in this conditions, please fill in the form and mail it to tecsec@tu1406.eu.

2.5. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

The most significant deadlines participants are kindly asked to respect are summarized in the following table.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Registration	All participants	31 st August 2015
Poster submission	All participants	14 th September 2015
Presentation submission (1st submission)	GP leaders, other relevant speakers suggested by GP leaders, invited speakes	14 th September 2015

2.6. COMMITTEES

An executive scientific committee as well an organizing committee were defined.

2.6.1. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

<i>Name</i>	<i>TU1406 Position</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
José Matos	Chair	chair@tu1406.eu
Joan Casas	Vice-Chair	vicechair@tu1406.eu
Eleni Chatzi	Technical Secretariat	tecsec@tu1406.eu
Alfred Strauss	WG1 Leader	wg1@tu1406.eu
Irina Stipanovic	WG2 Leader	wg2@tu1406.eu
Rade Hajdin	WG3 Leader	wg3@tu1406.eu
Amir Kedar	WG4 Leader	wg4@tu1406.eu
Vikram Pakrashi	WG5 Leader	wg5@tu1406.eu
Guðmundur Valur Guðmundsson	WG6 Leader	wg6@tu1406.eu
Jan Bieñ	STSM Coordinator	stsm@tu1406.eu
Raffaele Landolfo	Monitoring & Evaluation	landolfo@unina.it
André Orcesi	Innovation	andre.orcesi@ifsttar.fr
Kenneth Gavin	Research & Development	kenneth.gavin@ucd.ie

2.6.2. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

<i>Name</i>	<i>TU1406 Position</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
José Matos	Chair	chair@tu1406.eu
Eleni Chatzi	Technical Secretariat	tecsec@tu1406.eu
Alfred Strauss	WG1 Leader	wg1@tu1406.eu
Irina Stipanovic	WG2 Leader	wg2@tu1406.eu
Rade Hajdin	WG3 Leader	wg3@tu1406.eu

2.6.3. SECRETARIAT

<i>Name</i>	<i>TU1406 Position</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Eleni Chatzi	Technical Secretariat	tecsec@tu1406.eu
Lara Leite	Administrative Secretariat	adminsec@tu1406.eu

2.6.4. LOCAL ORGANIZERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>TU1406 Position</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Eleni Chatzi	Technical Secretariat	tecsec@tu1406.eu
Adrian Egger	-	egger@ibk.baug.ethz.ch

3. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

3.1. REGISTRATION

Potential attendants are kindly asked to make early registration (please refer also to section 3.2).

The **deadline for registration is August 31st, 2015**. All the participants are kindly asked to use the online [registration form](#). Each participant is supposed to actively participate in the meeting through oral or poster presentation.

3.2. FUNDING AND REIMBURSEMENT

COST organization provides a certain amount of financial means for organizing such meetings and to reimburse participants. This includes for example accommodation costs, meals, transport expenses, etc. For more information about travel reimbursement request please visit the following [webpage](#).

Since [Management Committee](#) members, WG leaders, and invited speakers are automatically included, a limited number of other participants will be reimbursed due to the limited financial funds available. Remaining seats for reimbursement will be given to highly suitable applicants and early applications will be assigned priority.

3.3. INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATES FOR PRESENTATIONS

The participants are kindly asked to use the presentation templates available at <http://www.tu1406.eu/meetings/geneva> in order to achieve some degree of coherency.

Oral presentations should be mailed to tecsec@tu1406.eu.

3.4. INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATES FOR POSTERS

3.4.1. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATES FOR PREPARING POSTERS

Poster authors must be available at their posters during the workgroup session's (please refer to workgroup programme). All posters have to be prepared in A1 format (portrait orientation). The participants are kindly asked to use the templates available at <http://www.tu1406.eu/meetings/geneva> in order to ensure adequate coherency.

The following guidelines may also be helpful in the preparation of the posters:

- Use a large font size, and bullet your major points. Font size of no less than 28 is preferable. Please use one of the following text styles: Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri and Trebuchet.
- Keep the text to a minimum – most posters contain far too much text.
- Attractive charts, tables and graphics will greatly increase the effectiveness of any poster. Illustrations and tables should be kept relatively simple to maximize legibility. Avoid "artsy" style and keep captions brief.
- Lines in graphs should be heavy. Choose colours that are easily distinguishable from one another. Symbols, letters and numbers should be large enough to be seen from a distance of six feet (approx. 2.00 m).
- If possible, please arrange information in vertical columns rather than horizontal strips.

Poster presentations should be mailed to tecsec@tu1406.eu.

Authors are required to bring their posters to the meeting and contact the local organizers on arrival.

3.4.2. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING POSTERS

The objective of the poster is to present the recent and most important research achievements related to COST Action TU1406. They may include for example:

- (1) presentation of one or more of the following topics: (i) bridge performance indicators; (ii) thresholds or target values for these indicators; and (iii) quality control plans;
- (2) presentation of recent and/or most important scientific/research projects related to the COST Action TU1406 (e.g. PhD project, postdoc projects, etc.);
- (3) a list of recent and/or most important scientific/research papers related to the COST Action TU1406;
- (4) possible open positions for STSM;
- (5) others.

3.4.3. BEST POSTER AWARD

A special award will be given for best poster. The selection criteria to be taken into account is as follows:

- (1) Scientific relevance in the scope of TU1406;
- (2) Originality, appearance and presentation quality;
- (3) Voting by the elements of the assessment team.

The award winner will be announced during the WG meeting closing session, on Tuesday, 22nd of September at 11:45.

3.5. COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT, ISBN E-BOOK

The participants are kindly asked to accept copyright and publishing rules in order to allow organizers to publish and disseminate their posters and presentations. This is determined by ticking off a specific paragraph provided in the online Registration Form. In order to disseminate some posters and presentations, an ISBN indexed E-Book will be published after the workgroup meeting.

4. SOCIAL EVENTS AND LOCATION EVENTS

4.1. SOCIAL EVENTS

In addition to the scientific events, a short one-hour tour in the Geneva area will be organized at the end of the first day.

4.2. LOCATION DETAILS

4.2.1. ABOUT GENEVA

In a country of spectacular natural beauty, Geneva is one of Switzerland's most beautiful cities. Set on the banks of Lake Léman between the Alps and the Jura mountains in the Southwest corner of Switzerland, Geneva enjoys a temperate climate and breath taking scenery, with Alpine lakes, snow-capped mountains, lush forests and enchanting countryside.



Figure 3. Geneva, Switzerland.

As host city of many international organisations, Geneva has a long tradition of humanism and communication as well as an established reputation as a centre for arts and culture. The city has over 30 museums, as well as many art galleries, theatres and an opera house. Fashionable hotels, chic restaurants and elegant shops jostle for position along the flower-decked lakefront that encircles the famous “Jet d’Eau” Fountain. The fountain shoots 500 litres of water per second to a height of 140 meters above the Lake Geneva. The “Jet d’Eau” has come to symbolise Geneva around the world and traditionally signals the coming of spring each year.

4.2.2. ABOUT CIGG

The International Conference Centre Geneva is owned by the Foundation for the Building Foundation for International Organizations (FIPOI), statutory independent foundation created in 1964 by the Swiss Confederation and the Cantonal State of Geneva.



Figure 4. International Conference Centre Geneva (CIGG).

The CIGG was inaugurated in 1973 and was built by the FIPOI to accommodate international conferences at governmental level of a political, economic, technical or scientific nature as well as private congresses of any kinds. Between October 2004 and October 2005, the original construction was entirely renovated and its capacity enlarged. A new extended entrance and an innovative, flexible multi-purpose area, among other state-of-the-art improvements, make it the ideal venue for a wide range of events.

The CIGG's versatile infrastructure offers endless solutions and combinations. A spacious lobby, including an information desk, provides a perfect spot for exhibitions, receptions and banquets. There are six vast meeting rooms that can be used as is or converted into larger or smaller units by combining mobile partitions or dividers. The largest of the three meeting rooms can be merged with the large auditorium offering an amazing capacity of 2,200.

A pleasant lounge area equipped with a bar can be used between two sessions. The "Espace Léman", which offers a large assortment of warm, tasty snacks, a newsstand and gift shop can be used to make contacts, continue a discussion or simply unwind.

There are six committee rooms with office space at disposal.

The plush VIP suite has an adjoining terrace and four committee rooms, two of which can be combined into one. All are equipped with interpreters' booths.

A spacious restaurant, opening onto a sun-lit, tree-lined terrace, offers a varied menu.



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