

Action plan for Road Design

Plan for period 1st July 2024 - 30th June 2028

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Terms of reference

A working group will be established to exchange experience in road design. Road design is about how you design streets and roads to consider the users' and society's interests as best as possible. The working group should address the following matters:

a) a) Universal design

The transport system should be designed so as not unnecessarily preventing anyone from fulfilling their need for mobility, including old people, children and functionally impaired users. How pedestrians and cyclists are handled in high speed environments.

b) Urban design

How to plan and design urban traffic areas and urban transits in rural areas. How to incorporate many new types of vehicles in the design of urban traffic areas? Problems with through traffic in smaller urban areas. Roundabouts, interaction with other road users (cyclists), etc. Goods delivery to ensure that the design of urban traffic areas takes the increasing need for goods delivery into account.

b) c) Future requirements for road design

What road design is required to ensure the driver support systems function? What road design and specific geometric solutions will allow automated cars on motorways, national roads and in urban areas? Knowledge about relevant road designs and new geometric solutions. Requirements and needs posed by the Lane Keeping Assistance (LKA) technology in automated cars in relation to the width of lanes, which has a considerable impact on road accessibility.

c) d) Climate adaptive solutions

Road technical solutions, how to coordinate future road design and climate adaptation solutions, such as handling torrential rain and increased amounts of stormwater.

2025 deadlines:

Focus areas and Planned Actions: 15th October 2024
Reporting and follow-up on the action plan: 1st November 2025

Focus Areas	Planned Actions	Short Report on the Completed Plans
The working group will operate under the theme "Future Requirements for Road Design". The objective is to find and share information and best	The activities will be organized by identifying active members within the working group, with regular meetings held around different topics. Meetings are organized via Teams,	

<p>practices for designing roads and streets under these UN's Sustainable Goals:</p> <p>7. Affordable and Clean Energy, 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12. Responsible Consumption and Production, 13. Climate Action, and 15. Life on Land.</p> <p>The relevant issues currently are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: The working group will explore strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly in vulnerable regions. 2. Sustainable Resource Management: This includes addressing issues such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, water conservation, and sustainable land use. 3. Circular Economy: Focusing on reducing waste, recycling, and promoting sustainable production and consumption models. 4. Renewable Energy Transition: Supporting the shift to renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower, and exploring innovative technologies to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. 	<p>Face to face and hybrid meetings respecting all organizations rules.</p> <p>Each country will appoint a contact person, or persons, for the activities. While the themes will be addressed as a whole, special focus - one for each year - will be given to themes: 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - ensuring access to reliable, sustainable, and modern energy.</p> <p>12: Responsible Consumption and Production - promoting resource efficiency and sustainable production practices.</p> <p>15: Life on Land - focusing on biodiversity, forests, and ecosystems.</p> <p>The goal is to organize one seminar per year around these special focused themes: in 2025 in Finland, in 2026 in Norway, and in 2027 in Denmark. Autumn 2024 will focus on organizing the group for the new term, and early 2028 will be dedicated to preparing for ViaNordica.</p>	
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Specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

7: Affordable and Clean Energy - ensuring access to reliable, sustainable, and modern energy.

12: Responsible Consumption and Production - promoting resource efficiency and sustainable production practices.

15: Life on Land - focusing on biodiversity, forests, and ecosystems.

Current and Relevant Issues:

- Global warming and the need for accelerated carbon neutrality.
- The loss of biodiversity and its impact on ecosystems.
- Water scarcity and management.
- The role of urbanization in environmental degradation and climate solutions.
- Promoting sustainable consumption and waste reduction in industrial sectors.