



WALK 21 IRELAND

19 - 23 September 2022

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Walk21 Ireland:

The Decade to Change

Steps to Deliver the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development

The 22nd International Walk21 Conference
on Walking and Liveable Communities

19 - 23 September 2022



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INTRODUCTION

Big steps are being taken to help people walking in Ireland. The Government has allocated €1m per day to support all the people already walking and to entice more short-distance trips to be walked by motorists too.

New infrastructure is being built as well as improvements to existing streets and public spaces. Everyday trips walked and walking access to public transport in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford, as well as local journeys in rural areas, are all being targeted.

By 2030, the Government expect that these steps will have helped them deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to: halve greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 3.9) and road fatalities (SDG 3.6); significantly reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and non-communicable diseases (SDG 3.2); and increase sustainable transport for all (SDG 11.2).

Ireland's policy blueprint is relevant to any country that wants a cleaner, safer, greener future and demonstrates how taking steps to help people walking now can deliver on the global goals.

TU Dublin, in partnership with the Government of Ireland, is proud to host Walk21 Ireland and invites you to join them to discuss these critical imperatives for walking.

Let's explore the research needed, the multi-disciplinary expertise to share, the actions to take and the political commitments and investments to make, at the 22nd Walk21 Conference, in **Dublin 19-23 September 2022**.

Together with experts from around the globe we will share insights and expertise on how to ensure this is the **Decade to Change**, to make the difference needed for a resilient, healthy, sustainable and safe future for everyone.

Whether you are a politician, a planner, a campaigner, an academic or a practitioner, you are welcome to share your experience and be part of the discussions and activities at Walk21 Ireland.

We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin and other sites across Ireland as we focus on the importance of national commitment to underpin local action.

You are invited to participate in person or online as part of this hybrid event.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Please submit a proposal that is relevant to the main conference themes wherever possible so that others can benefit from your experience, successes and contemporary research.

The four conference themes are:

1

Evidence
Based Actions

2

Active Places
for People

3

Including All
People Walking

4

The Decade
to Change

There will be a range of formats for presentations and activities, both online and in person. We welcome all creative ideas and opportunities to explore these themes to find innovative and constructive steps forward.

The conference will include an Academic Stream of peer reviewed abstracts with opportunities for publication.

1 EVIDENCE BASED ACTIONS

TU Dublin is supporting the Government of Ireland by conducting research, collecting local data and providing expert training for staff to improve the effectiveness and impact of walking policy.

Civil engineers, transport planners, health and physical activity experts, architects and urban designers are in collaboration with academics.

- ▶ Contributions are invited that share relevant walking research, data collection and training systems that are increasing knowledge and skills, and building capacity to deliver actions for people walking.

2 ACTIVE PLACES FOR PEOPLE

Streetscape improvements and networks of walking trails in both rural and urban areas are being developed by Sport Ireland and the Irish transport agencies to connect more people with quality infrastructure and support healthy lifestyles.

- ▶ Contributions are invited that demonstrate how places have been transformed to support and encourage more walking and the impact that has had on the quality of life all year round.

3 INCLUDING ALL PEOPLE WALKING

Encouraging more people to walk more often is a common goal.

Understanding the different walking needs of women, children, the elderly, people on low incomes and those with disabilities in particular is helping the Government of Ireland to ensure their policy and investment decisions are inclusive and responsive.

- ▶ Contributions are invited that share how citizens have been engaged, different needs identified from different groups, and investments in walkability tailored in response.

4 THE DECADE TO CHANGE

One of the first national campaigns - 'Get Ireland Walking' - has, for several years, promoted and celebrated the positive outcomes of people walking.

Increasingly walking is being valued and measured as integral to addressing the climate emergency and delivering the Sustainable Development Goal commitments.

- ▶ Contributions are invited that share how walking is being valued, invested in, and monitored, especially in relation to SDGs. This could include examples of walking in road danger reduction plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, or more accessible public transport, etc.

FORMATS

We have a challenge this year to create a hybrid event that is meaningful for participants in person as well as online. The programme committee will be looking for creative ideas for sessions, so please feel free to make any suggestions you like!

During the event, there will be in-person only sessions as well as fully online sessions and some for participants in both modes.

Contributions for interactive types of sessions are most welcome and we will be looking to create opportunities for clear outputs, e.g. policy notes and recommendations, as well as knowledge sharing and research dissemination. Slight changes of the format descriptions may occur due to final programming.

Potential formats are:

- **Topical discussion** – a group of 15-minute presentations on a similar topic
- **Roundtables/World Cafe** - brainstorming and feedback on a critical issue to generate a set of ideas and actions
- **Pecha Kucha** – 20 slides x 20 seconds to tell your story
- **Workshops** – focused topic discussions with colleagues with a clear output
- **Posters** – share your emerging research in poster format
- **Walk Shops/Urban Laboratory** – on-street real-world experiments in walking

TOPICAL DISCUSSION

This is a **15 minute oral presentation** in a session shared with other presenters to illuminate different perspectives and experiences on the same topic. The presentations will provide the framework for the subsequent discussion and will be selected to encourage debate.

ROUNDTABLE / WORLD CAFE

A roundtable allows for **extended discussion among a small cohort of colleagues**. Roundtables are good venues for the hands-on exploration of case studies. Speakers are encouraged to provide insight into their topic and encourage questions and discussion taking advantage of the expertise and insights of other attendees to build ideas and possibly an output. Please note that a roundtable is an interactive format and that presentations are limited to a certain length of time.

We are also looking to host a World Cafe-style event to have a broad-ranging, cross-fertilising discussion on a single topic, with participants brainstorming at different tables and then circulating to provide feedback and additional insights. It is proposed that after the Cafe we will collate a set of actions and ideas to take away.

PECHA KUCHA

Pecha Kucha is a presentation format where there is a show of a maximum **20 images, each for 20 seconds**. The images change automatically while presenters are talking, so that the storyline of the talk is built around the chosen images. There will be no time to digress or get hung up on a detail but it can be a very engaging and exciting session. Remember, the images of your talk automatically change after 20 seconds. There will be 6 presentations per session. After the talks are finished, the presenters and the audience will have time for discussion.

WORKSHOPS

At a workshop, **a smaller group of people deal with a specific topic or question.** A workshop aims at working together with workshop participants targeting a common goal. Please note that a workshop is more of an interactive format and that your presentation is limited to a certain length of time. You can propose a workshop in collaboration with a colleague working in the same field.

WALKSHOPS / URBAN LABORATORY

The street will be your laboratory. A Walkshop / Urban Laboratory is **an opportunity to use the public spaces in the communities to explore or carry out experiments,** pilot programmes and deliver direct interventions. You can facilitate your own urban laboratory and the participants will follow you outside the conference venue to the real urban fabric and discover your experience, ideas and research. Explore the city and its perceptions of public space and experience the impact of your idea.

POSTERS

Perfect for young researchers, **a poster session enables you to bring current research work, including work in progress,** to share with delegates. Posters will be A0 in size and displayed during the event as well as online, with a scheduled presentation to attendees.

GUIDELINES

Important deadlines

The Call for Contributions to Walk21 is now open.

The call closes on 7 March 2022.

Proposals submitted after this date will no longer be included in the assessment.

Notification of acceptance and non-acceptance of contributions: end April 2022.

Confirmation of participation: May 2022. After selection, contributors will be informed about the format, time, manner of presentation and embedding in the programme of Walk21 2022.

Assessment and Conditions

Submissions will be assessed by a committee of international experts based on substantive quality; focus on the discipline; and the degree in which the proposal links to the themes of Walk21 2022. The Academic Stream will be peer reviewed for selection.

Contributions must meet the following conditions:

- Matching one or more of the themes of Walk21 Ireland
- In the case of research or a project, the assertions and conclusions must be substantiated and verifiable with links to online resources (if completed already)
- Have news value, be innovative and stimulating
- Be written in clear and concise English
- Contain no more than 500 words

Please note: that if proposing several abstracts, it is essential that each proposal be submitted individually.

By submitting a proposal, authorisation is given to TU Dublin and Walk21 Foundation to publish and promote any information provided online and in conference materials.

**Please let us know if you intend/prefer to attend in person or online.
Please indicate if you want to be considered in the Academic Stream.**

REVIEWING CRITERIA

- The evaluation criteria will include: relevance to the conference theme; content quality and professional rigour; innovation and cutting edge; pertinence; originality; and, timeliness. The Programme Committee is responsible for making the final decisions (including geographical, gender and quality considerations).
- We very much welcome abstracts with inter- and trans-disciplinary (scientific) approaches as well as contributions that involve diverse partnerships (e.g. city administrations, politicians, industry, planners, advocacy groups, artists). In the same way, submissions made by contributors originating from different countries will also be appreciated.
- Every abstract will be reviewed by at least four expert reviewers. The reviewing will be anonymous.
- The Reviewing Team consists of more than 40 international reviewers and is managed by the Walk21 Ireland organisation. Reviewers originate from many different countries and have relevant and unique insight into the different themes. The reviewers provide the foundation for decision-making by the members of the Walk21 Ireland Programme Committee.

COPYRIGHT

- By submitting your abstract and/or presenting at Walk21 conference you guarantee that you have the right to present and submit the content of your abstract, of data, pictures and photos. Please make sure to include all necessary sources in your presentation where relevant.
- Copyright in any abstract submitted will be retained by the author(s). If selected for presentation at the conference, it is mandatory that the author will permit the conference organisers to use the abstract (whether in whole or in part) as part of the programme outline, promotion and presentation of the conference before, during and after the event.
- Copyright in any digital presentation given at Walk21 2022 will be retained by the author(s), but it is mandatory that Walk21 are permitted to share your digital presentation as part of the conference proceedings. The conference proceedings will be published on the Walk21 database and website.
- All abstracts and presentations (whether in whole or in part) must not be re-published by any person and/or organisation other than the author or Walk21.



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