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Decision Models for Transport Infrastructure Projects

Summary Report Phase I, May 2001

Introduction :

In the course of the 20th century decisions on transport infrastructure have been more and more embedded in often complex procedures and 'standardised' methods. Nevertheless, decisions about large infrastructure investments remain difficult and can be the source of much friction because there is no common agreement on the final basis for the decision.

The decision criteria to develop transport infrastructure could be socio-economic considerations, but there are many examples of projects that were realised for other than economic reasons : transport connections, creating employment, political or strategic.

The current report aims to analyse in detail the existing decision-making processes and methodologies in use for transport infrastructure in various EU countries. The study compares for all transport modes the evaluation methodologies that are

applied as well as the related planning procedures. In cases where a country uses distinct models for separate modes, the emphasis will be put on the waterborne transport evaluation.

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