

Sustainable development indicators for road projects (NISTRA)



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTOR
Transport



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
*Asset performance throughout its life;
Fiscal sustainability, affordability and
value for money*

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: NISTRA is a tool used by the Federal Roads Office (FEDRO) for evaluating road infrastructure projects in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Agency in charge
Federal Roads Office (FEDRO)



Levels of government
National



Year of implementation
2003



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

The Federal Roads Office (FEDRO) uses the NISTRA tool to assess the sustainability of road infrastructure projects. NISTRA evaluates projects using 42 indicators related to direct costs, transport quality, safety, urbanization development, environment, implementation and coherence. These indicators can be monetised (in francs), quantified (in efficiency points) or represented in qualitative terms (in words or by a rating on a scale from -3 to +3). NISTRA therefore combines a cost-benefit analysis (KNA), a cost-effectiveness analysis (KWA) and a qualitative analysis (QA). Each of the KNA and KWA analyses is autonomous, i.e., it produces its own evaluation result. Therefore, two independent evaluations are carried out using two different methods (KNA and KWA). The results of the KNA and KWA analyses must be supplemented by the additional information provided by the QA. There is therefore no complete aggregation of all the effects. The three assessment methods (KNA, KWA, QA) are therefore complementary. A complete assessment is only possible if the results of the KNA, KWA and QA are considered together and compared. Only then is it possible to provide a balanced recommendation to political decision makers. The various partial results obtained are deliberately not summarised in a numerical value but presented transparently in a well-ordered table. This approach makes it possible to highlight the conflicts of interest inherent in the projects. In this way, NISTRA supports evidence-based decision making founded on the notion of sustainability and simplifies the political assessment process. FEDRO has been applying the NISTRA evaluation method and its Excel calculation tool (eNISTRA) to major construction and development projects on national and main roads since 2003. The updated NISTRA 2022 version has been available since 2023.

REFERENCES:

- Office fédéral des routes, *Indicateurs du développement durable pour les projets d'infrastructure routière (NISTRA)*, <https://www.astra.admin.ch/astra/fr/home/services/dokumente-nationalstrassen/documents-pour-les-routes-nationales/nistra.html>