

# Establishment of Road Transport Research Needs in Hungary

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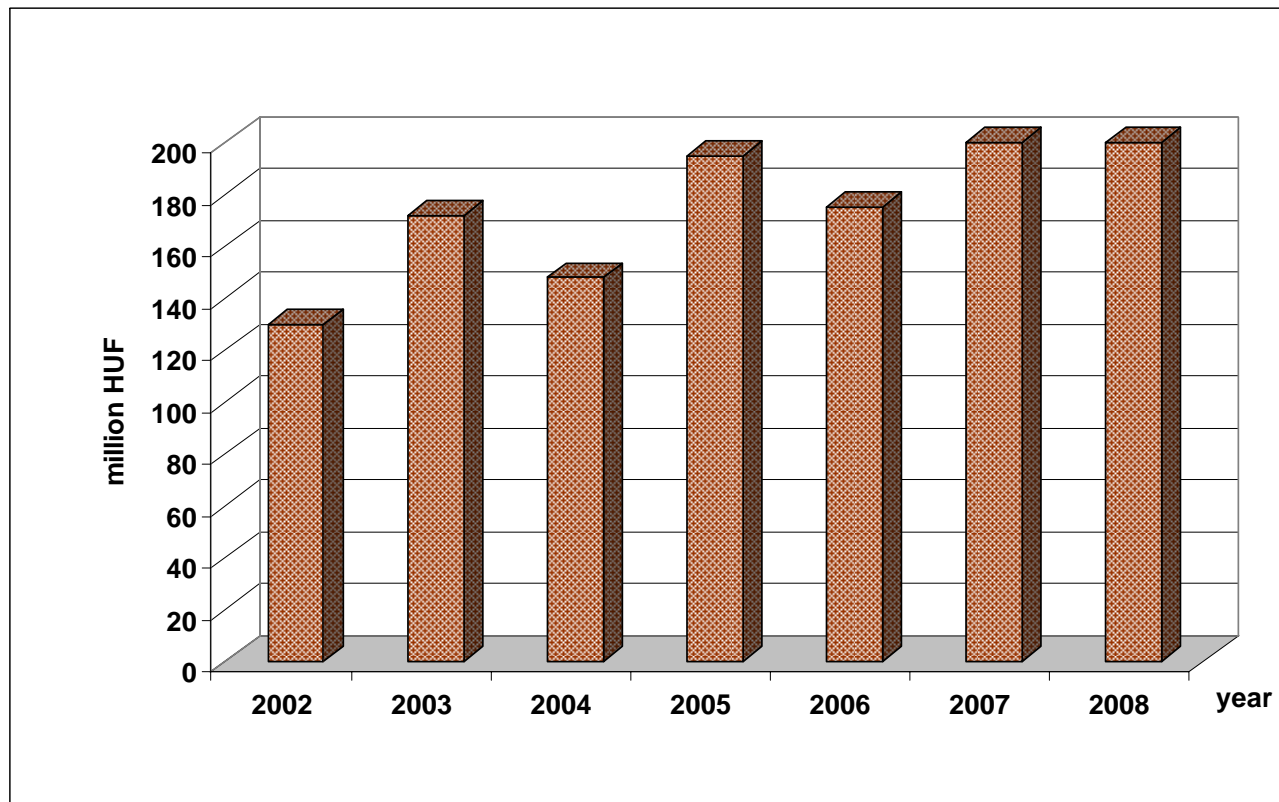
## Contents

- Introduction
- Establishment of road research needs in 2006
- Independent assessment of feasibility studies
- Road research contracts for 2007-2008
- Conclusions

## Introduction

- Road transport research in Hungary was sporadic as occasional resources were used for individual tasks generated by researchers.
- There was a need for a structural establishment of research needs for the road sector
- The road research program worked out for 2007-2008 ensures more effective use of constrained resources.

## Central road research budget in recent years in Hungary



## Establishment of road research needs in 2006

- In 2006 the Road Management and Co-ordination Directorate and the Hungarian Roads Management Company implemented a new system for establishing road research needs by feasibility studies in topic groups.
- A special tendering procedure has been applied for working out feasibility studies giving rather strict requirements.

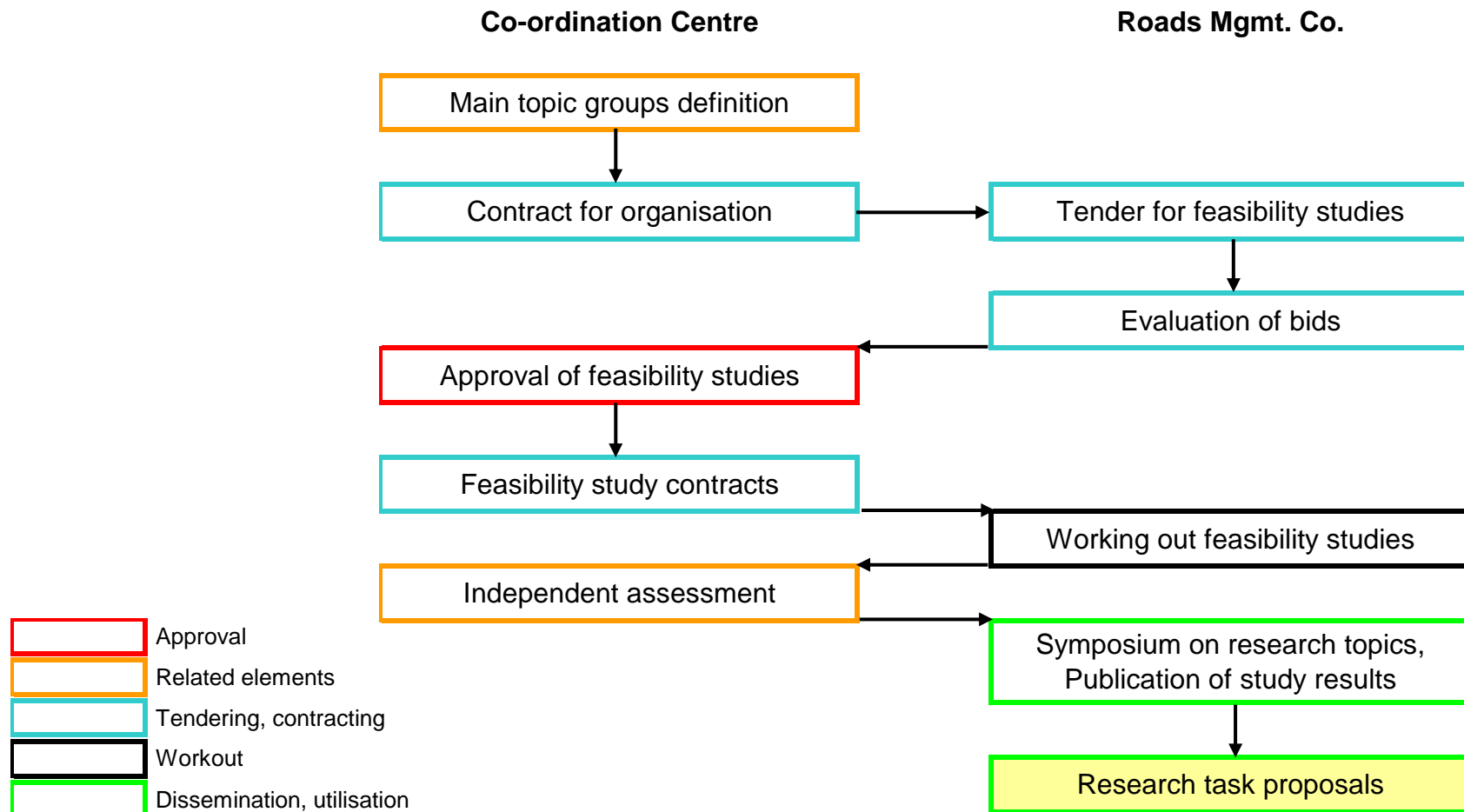
## Aim of the feasibility studies

- to establish and determine road research tasks for 2007-2008,
- to ensure actuality of recommended research tasks,
- connection to main national and EU goals,
- possibility for practical utilization.

## Main topic groups

- asset management of roads and bridges,
- bridge condition survey and cost analysis, bridge construction technologies,
- road pavement design methods, road pavement construction technologies,
- safer roads by speed management, by design and construction and by traffic engineering,
- environmental tasks of road management.

# Flow chart of road research topics





## Independent assessment of feasibility studies

- The maximum number of offers for a certain topic group was 3.
- Evaluation is a critical issue for all types of research programmes and projects.
- An independent expert working for a US University but familiar with Hungarian research was invited to assess feasibility studies.
- Expectations have been met by getting studies of high standard. The assessment provided a good help in prioritising recommendations.

## Original aspects of evaluation

- International state-of-the art (completeness)
- Domestic state-of-the art
- Recommended actual research tasks (scientific content)
- Potential additional resources

## Additional aspects of evaluation

- Fulfilment of formal requirements (size, structure, logic, distinctness)
- Professional details of recommendations (soundness, originality, importance)
- Expected effects of recommendations
- Reality of the proposed budget and workout time
- Estimation of expected results

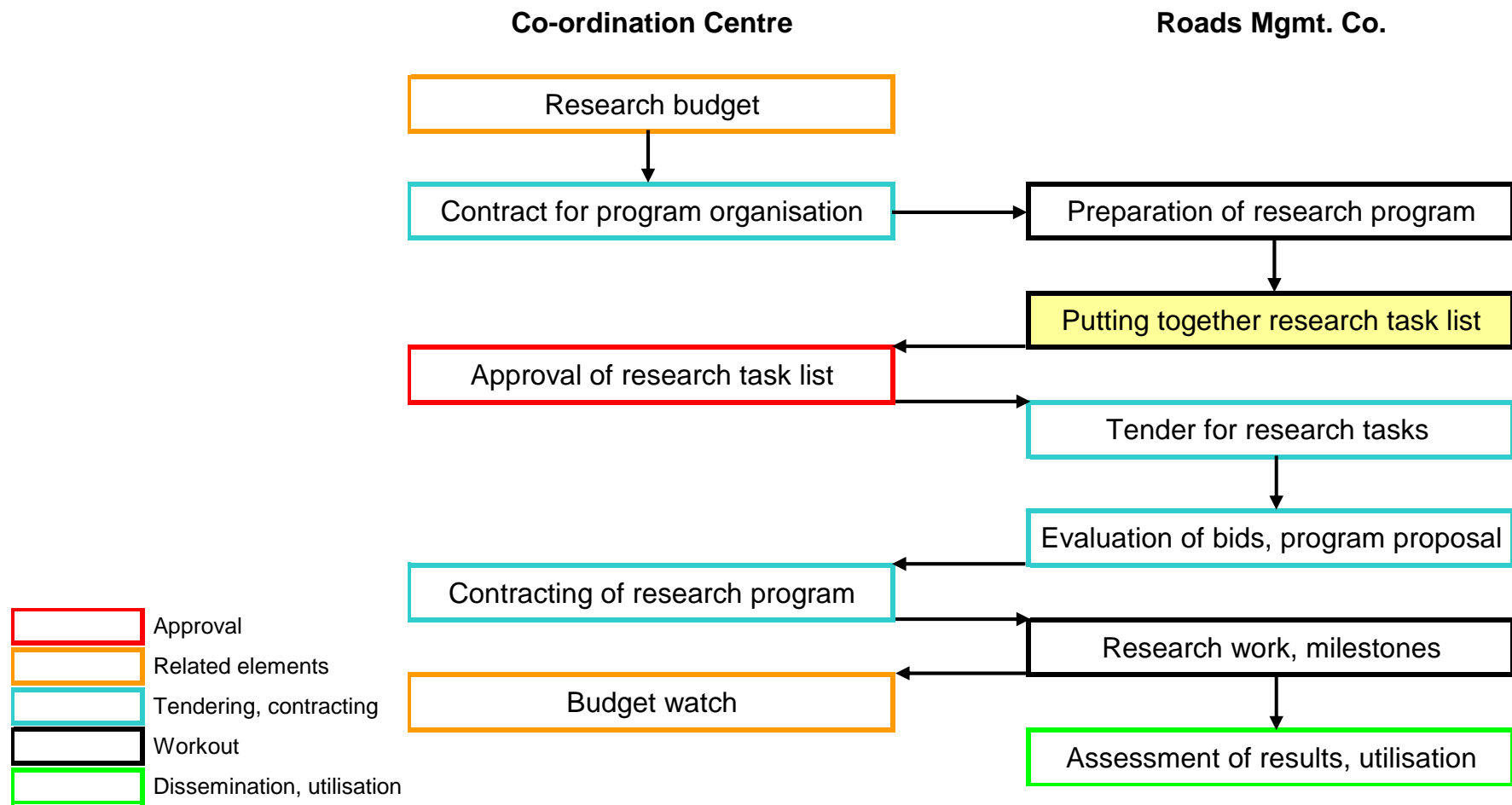
## Distribution of studies and contracts by topic groups

Main topic group	Feasibility studies 2006	Research contracts 2007-2008
Asset management of roads and bridges	1	2
Bridge condition survey and cost analysis, bridge construction technologies	2	4
Road pavement design methods, road pavement construction technologies	2	4
Safer roads by speed management, by design and construction, by traffic engineering	3	3
Environmental tasks of road management	1	1
Total	9	14

## Road research contracts for 2007-2008

- In 2007 the Co-ordination Centre for Transport Development made a contract with the Hungarian Roads Management Company for the implementation of the road research program in 2007-2008.
- The research contracts have been signed mainly for 2 years, finishing in 2008 in order to provide proper time for the research process.

# Flow chart of road research program



## Distribution of studies and contracts by providers

Providers of work	Feasibility studies 2006	Research contracts 2007-2008
Technical universities	5	8
National transport research laboratory	4	6
Small enterprise (consultant)	1	2
Total (certain tasks have been worked out by consortia)	10	16

## Dissemination of results

- Dissemination of results is very important.
- In 2007 a scientific symposium involving almost 100 participants has been organised.
- The results have been published in the Hungarian monthly Revue of Roads and Civil Engineering.
- A similar scientific symposium is planned at the end of 2008 to present and disseminate the results of the ongoing research contracts.



## Conclusions

- In 2006 Hungary has implemented a new system for establishing road research needs by feasibility studies in topic groups.
- Independent assessment provided a good help in prioritising recommendations.
- The road research program for 2007-2008 has been based on a thorough preparation and ensures more effective use of constrained resources.