Building the European Road Safety Observatory

the SafetyNet Project

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http://www.erso.eu
Road Safety Priorities – National Level data

• International comparisons
• Counting crashes, fatalities and casualties
• Monitoring the progress of casualty reduction actions
• Identifying overall priorities for safety countermeasures
• Allocation of resources
Supporting Highway Design Policies – In-depth Data

- Highway design requirements
- Requirements for ITS
- System interactions e.g. vehicle and barrier
Supporting Road User related Policies – In-depth Data

- Effectiveness of enforcement measures
- Understanding driver decision making
- New priorities in accident prevention
Supporting Active and Passive Vehicle Safety Policies – In-depth Data

- Feedback on existing safety systems
- Development of new systems
- Support for Industry – new products and technologies
- New priorities in regulation
- Assessment of non-regulatory activities e.g. Euro-NCAP

EuroNCAP
Accident data is an essential part of casualty reduction

- Government - policy support
- Industry - product development
What are the different levels of accident data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Availability at EU level</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Level</td>
<td>CARE IRTAD</td>
<td>Priorities Trends</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Progress to targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Identification of blame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reconstruction of pre-crash events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Depth level</td>
<td>Pendant for injury causation</td>
<td>Accident causation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nothing for accident causation</td>
<td>Injury causation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basic research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Engineering feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Technical standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>Various research studies</td>
<td>Specific research questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No single database can meet all needs
5.6.5. *European road safety observatory*

The Commission intends to set up a European road safety observatory within the Commission as a pilot project funded from the EU budget. This observatory will coordinate all Community activities in the fields of road accident and injury data collection and analysis.
What is SafetyNet?

- Integrated Project to build the data framework of the Observatory
- Primarily directed to EU and national level road safety policymaking
- Infrastructure safety
- Support to eSafety initiative
Organisations involved

**Partnership**
- 21 Partners
- 18 Countries

**Project Steering Committee**
- Vehicle Safety Research Centre, Loughborough University, UK
- National Technical University of Athens, Greece
- Centre d'Etudes Technique de l'Equipement du Sud Ouest, France
- SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research, Netherlands
- Institut National de Recherche sur les Transports et leur Sécurité, France
- Institut Belge pour la Sécurité Routière, Belgium
- Instituto Nacional de Engenharia Civil, Portugal
- Medical University of Hanover
Work Package overview

SafetyNet IP Steering Committee

Policy Makers (National Administrations)

Consultation with Data Users

Macroscopic data

WP 1 CARE

WP 2 Risk-Exposure data

WP 3 Safety Performance Indicators

In-depth data

WP 4 Independent accident investigation recommendations

WP 5 In-depth Accident and Injury Causation databank

Data application

WP 6 EU Safety Information system

WP 7 Data analysis and synthesis
Macroscopic Data

**CARE Database**
- Extend to 10 new Member States of EU
- Produce new statistical reviews and fact sheets
- Estimate under-reporting

**Exposure data**
- Develop new protocols for disaggregated exposure data
- Prepare pilot measures

**Safety Performance Indicators**
- Define protocol for SPI
- Evaluate availability in MS
- Gather and prepare SPIs
In-depth data

Accident Investigation procedures
- Recommendations for transparent and independent accident investigation

Fatal Accident data
- 1000 cases of fatal crashes from 6 countries
- Around 150 fields of information

In-depth Accident Causation data
- 1100 cases investigated using specialist teams
- Around 500 fields of information
- Accident causation determined using systems failure approach
- Link to infrastructure and eSafety
Recommendations for transparent and independent accident investigation

Why Investigate Accidents

- Judicial process – “Who is at fault?”
  - Normally police and court experts
  - Can be basis for scientific learning
  - Outside the scope of the Observatory
Why Investigate Accidents?

- Public interest – "Why did this happen?"
  - Comparable process to aviation, rail and maritime investigations

- Accident prevention – "What can we do to prevent further crashes?"
  - Systematic investigation on scene or retrospective
  - Statistical samples of crash investigations
Where does the data come from?

**Macroscopic data**
- Huge support from Member States and Commission (CARE and SPI national experts groups)
- Eurostat (Exposure data)

**In-depth and fatal data**
- New protocols with expert investigating teams
Overview of the Observatory

www.erso.eu
Summary

- SafetyNet is a large ambitious project
- Observatory launched May 2006 – www.erso.eu
- For the first time it brings a broad ranging, co-ordinated set of accident data together
- It will become a core activity of the EC
- Wide support to road safety policy, new resources for Government and Industry
- ERSO will grow and broaden – feedback needed please
Acknowledgements

- European Commission for supporting the work
- EU Member States for providing data
- SafetyNet partnership for contributing to the project so positively
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