


PROJECT PROFILE

Title	Safety at the heart of road design	 <small>An Údarás um Béithre Náisiúnta</small>
Contractor	Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)	
Contact details	Christian Pecharda Austrian Research Promotion Agency Sensengasse 1 1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA christian.pecharda@ffg.at	
NRA Mentor	Harry Cullen, Albert Daly	
Start date	Jun-09	
End date	May-12	
Status	On-going	
Type of project	ERA-NET ROAD Joint Research Programme SRO1	
Cost	€150.0k: Total budget: €1.8million	
Project reference	SR01	

Description	<p>The aim of this research programme is to improve road safety by increasing the awareness and acceptance of EU road administration to implement joint road safety solutions in a consistent way. It is accepted that road users perception of the road infrastructure has a strong influence on driving behaviour and contributes to drivers errors and accidents. The proposed research will focus on "forgiving roadsides" and "self explaining roads" and will be used to develop evaluation tools to assist road administrations in identifying feasible, valid and cost-effective solutions for improving road safety. The programme is being commissioned through the ERA-NET ROAD trans-national research programme with funding coming jointly from the NRA research budget and eleven other CEDR road administrations, achieving a total budget of over €1.8million. The partners that have agreed to participate are Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom.</p>
Objectives	<p>The overall aim of this joint research programme is to improve road safety by increasing awareness and acceptance of joint road safety solutions across Europe following the concepts of "self-explaining" roads and "forgiving" roadsides. The programme is based on following three objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of evaluation tools. 2. Assessment of forgiving road safety measures. 3. Comparison and implementation of approaches of self-explaining roads.
Benefits	<p>The benefit in participating in this research programme is that it provides the opportunity to share national research results, knowledge and experience which will result in a common EU-wide approach to road safety at an engineering level. The objectives of the research and the expected deliverables are aligned with the NRA strategic objective of improving road safety and our commitment to co-operating with our CEDR partners. It represents excellent value for money as we are giving the opportunity of being involved in a major research initiative for a relatively modest financial commitment.</p>
Outputs	<p>The outputs of this research programme will be a series of reports focusing on the concept of "forgiving roadsides" and "self-explaining roads" and how they can contribute to road safety. The five projects commissioned in the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPACE: Speed adaption control by self-explaining roads IRDES: Improving roadside design to forgive human errors EuRSI: European road safety inspection RISMET: Road infrastructure safety management evaluation tools ERASER: B16 Evaluations to realise a common approach to self-explaining European roads