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ICARUS

Inter-Cultural Approaches for Road Users Safety

Project details	
Domain	Training, education and campaigns
Duration	from 01/04/2009 until 30/09/2011
Website	
Other sources	 ICARUS handbook (1.8MB)

As reported in White Paper adopted by European Commission "among all the means of transport used by Man, road transport is the most dangerous one". Since human factors are implicated in about 95% of the accidents, international scientific studies have focused on the individual characteristics of young drivers in order to identify dimensions that can account for risky driving.

The aims of the project articulated in a plan of 30 months, are

- the identification of the most important psycho-social characteristics related to high risk driving behaviour in novice drivers in different countries of the E.U. and
- the construction of a European training package focused on the modification of these characteristics aimed to the reduction of accidents in young drivers.

Definition of the objective(s) of the project

Car accidents are determined by different interacting causes. Factors affecting the driver have a great importance. Statistics indicate that the responsibility of road accidents is largely due to human factors, such as driving errors, deliberate violations of the highway code, psycho-physiological condition of the driver. All these potential causes are very relevant in a population at particularly high risk for car accidents, which are young drivers. The elective strategies to prevent car accidents in this population have to be sought in training and formation. In order to guide new and effective strategies and preventive action that could be implemented on a European scale, the psychological and social factors that cause the risk behaviour in young drivers should be identified. The project ICARUS pursues as objective:

- to identify the factors that influence the risk behaviour in young drivers
- to build a European training model based on these factors.

The project may be declined following three different targets:

1. identify a European network of training agencies for road safety
2. conduct an analysis on the style and driving habits of young drivers in different EU Countries. The following variables will be considered: errors, violations, risk taking, perception of internal control on road accidents, aggressive driving behaviour, anxiety, consciousness, etc.
3. define a set of guidelines to approach the theme of road safety with young drivers on a European scale.

These guidelines will be reported in a manual, supported by a CD-Rom with specific exercises and by a dedicated movie.

Coordinator

- Ministero dell'Interno - Dipartimento della Pubblica Sicurezza (IT)

Partners

- Republic of Slovenja - General Police Directorate (SI)