



Scientific Research on Road Safety Management

Workshop 16 & 17 November 2009 and Special Issue Safety Science 2010

In the area of road safety there is a growing interest in policy-related research. The complex nature of this type of research combined with the observation that scientific journals pay limited attention to this type of research is the basis for SWOV to organise a workshop on *Scientific Research on Road Safety Management* and to publish the results of this workshop in a special issue of the peer reviewed journal *Safety Science*.

The need for scientific research on policymaking

We can observe a growing interest in, and an increasing wealth of information coming from, road safety research globally in recent decades. Road safety research mostly concentrates on rather specific, sometimes narrow themes, even more so when we see articles in several scientific journals. Many journals give space to publishing empirical research or to report on the results of pilot studies, small-scale experiments, etc. This research does indeed increase our knowledge and understanding and is certainly needed. However, additional work is required to translate these findings into effective policymaking.

A deep understanding of the research designs and the results is needed to establish working ingredients of (composite) interventions before deciding how these results can be applied in other conditions and settings, or before applying the findings to policymaking in other countries or jurisdictions.

Sound methods for ex-post and ex-ante evaluations

The design and evaluation of road safety programmes does not seem to be popular amongst researchers. This also applies to research which supports policymaking directly, suggesting that also designers of road safety policies make limited or no use of such studies. This can be illustrated by the fact that in many highly motorised countries significant improvements in road safety have been achieved although most countries have a limited understanding of the real reasons behind this progress, let alone a comprehensive insight into the impacts of implemented policies.

For several reasons this type of research is very complicated in nature. It is not easy to assess the safety impacts of policies using standard methodologies and which also meet the exacting requirements needed for scientific research. But, at the same time we welcome positive interests from policy makers and designers of road safety programmes in so-called ex-ante and ex-post evaluation. One of the reasons behind this is that a

growing number of countries are using quantitative targets for policymaking, and as a consequence, have an explicit wish to monitor their progress over the years.

This helps them understand why progress has been made or why there has been a lack of progress. From this, countries can determine whether it is realistic that road safety targets will be met or whether intensified efforts are required to meet these targets.

SWOV Workshop and Special Issue Safety Science

SWOV has organized an international workshop in the Netherlands on 16 and 17 November to discuss this type of issues of scientific research on road safety management.

Around fifty experts from all over the world were invited and agreed to participate. As shown in the preliminary programme, the discussions will be based on nine oral presentations and introduced by panellists. The organisation of the workshop is in hands of a Scientific Committee, consisting of Richard Allsop, Shalom Hakkert and Andrew Hale as well as SWOV researchers Marjan Hagenzieker and Paul Wesemann, chaired by SWOV's Managing Director Fred Wegman.

Late spring/early summer 2010, the presentations and a selected number of additional papers will be published in a special issue of the scientific journal *Safety Science*. The special issue will be edited by Fred Wegman in his capacity as associate editor.

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Preliminary programme of the workshop:

Sunday 15 November	from 18:00 onwards:	Arrival of speakers and other participants, reception/registration, informal get-together party and dinner at De Philharmonie Dinner starts at 19:00
Monday 16 November	08:30- 09:00	Reception and registration for late arrivals
	09:00- 09:30	Opening statement by Fred Wegman , Managing Director SWOV The European Commission's perspective by Jean-Paul Repussard , Road Safety Unit, DG TREN The World Bank's perspective by Tony Bliss
	09:30- 12:30	<u>Predicting road safety developments</u> Chair: Richard Allsop (University College London, UK) Speaking: <i>'Monitoring national casualty trends in Great Britain'</i> Jeremy Broughton & Jackie Knowles (Transport Research Laboratory, UK) <i>'Strengthening Road Safety Strategy Development 'Towards Zero'2008-2020- Western Australia's Experience'</i> Bruce Corben, David Logan, Lisa Fanciulli, Iain Cameron & Roger Farley (Monash University, Australia /Western Australia's Office of Road Safety)
	Coffee break	
		<i>'The expected number of road traffic casualties'</i> Henk Stipdonk, Paul Wesemann & Ben Ale (SWOV/TUDeft, NL)
	12:30 Lunch	

14:00-17:00

Evaluating road safety measures and programmes

Chair: **Shalom Hakkert** (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology)

Speaking: *'Road Safety in France: the hard path toward science-based policy'*
Jean Chapelon & Sylvain Lassarre (ONISR/INRETS, France)

'To which extent Road Safety Performance Indicators allow to explain road safety development: A critical view based on the experience of Central European Countries'

Péter Holló, Vojtech Eksler & Joanna Zukowska (Hungarian Institute for Transport Sciences/ CDV Transport Research Centre, CZ) /Gdansk University of Technology, PL

Coffee Break

'Is the effect of quantified road safety target sustainable?'
S.C. Wong & N.N. Sze (University of Hong Kong/TU Delft)

19.00 Dinner

Restaurant Stempels

Tuesday 17 November

09:00-12:15

General methodological issues

Chair: **Andrew Hale** (Technical University Delft, NL)

Speaking: *'The mistaken belief in the power of cost-benefit analysis'*
Rune Elvik (TØI Institute of Transport Economics, N)

'On prediction in road safety'

Ezra Hauer (University of Toronto)

Coffee Break

'Towards a method to forecast the effectiveness of national safety programmes'
Stefan Siegrist (Swiss Council for Injury Prevention – BFU)

12:15-12:30

Closing remarks by **Fred Wegman**, Managing Director SWOV

Lunch