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Multidisciplinary Crash Investigations (MDCI)
Submitted by Sweden

Sweden is of the opinion that it's important to see Multidisciplinary Crash Investigations (MDCI) as a part of a greater whole. It's important not only to describe how such investigations should be organized, carried out, which data that should be obtained etc. Sweden is of the opinion that some basic principles regarding the purpose and strategic directions of MDCI first of all should be established. For that reason Sweden would like to present some ideas about such principles.

- MDCI should be complementary to the collection of statistical data and statistical analysis. Statistical analyses is an important tool for indentifying areas of road safety problems, their magnitude, their prevalence in time and space etc. They are though not always efficient as a tool to establish the underlying causes and causal connections of road safety problems. Such knowledge is a prerequisite to be able to identify effective countermeasures. One important purpose of MDCI is hence to identify and establish those causes and connections.
 - MDCI should be system oriented. It's not always possible to understand the origin of an accident or its consequences by simply analyzing the components of the road traffic system in isolation from each other (e.g. the road user, the vehicle and the road and its environment). It's important to understand how the components interact with each other and also how the system context (e.g. organizational and "political" factors) influences the accident and its outcome
 - MDCI should be seen as a strategic tool to improve road safety. Therefore they should be an integral part of a safety management system or quality assurance system (e.g. the forthcoming ISO 39001). One example of this is the system for taking care of deviations based on in-depth studies of accidents which have been established by the Swedish Transport Administration. Otherwise there is a risk that MDCI will become an isolated phenomenon which has a weak connection to the basic activities.
 - MDCI should only be used for learning. They should as far as possible be separated from the legal process. An important reason for that is that the flow of information to the investigation otherwise will risk to choke.
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