



December 4th – 6th
New Delhi, India

**67th Session of WP1 on Road Traffic Safety
"Actions for Youth & Vulnerable Road Users"**

In the scope of the EU funded project "AVENUE for Traffic Safety", Referral Centers for Road Safety are created around Europe and experiential learning activities take place for all road users, addressing different age-groups and means of transport.

The Hellenic Road Safety Institute (RSI) "Panos Mylonas" coordinates AVENUE project, with the participation of 13 partners in 9 European countries for the creation and implementation of "National NESTs", "Local NESTs" and "Mobile NESTs", (NEST standing for: Networks & Education for Safety in Traffic). The road safety centers, NESTs, provide experience based driving education and risk awareness trainings for novice drivers, but for other road users as well.

Project AVENUE's applications have already been presented and implemented in regions outside of Europe, as within the scope of the project "Scouting for Global Road Safety" initiated by RSI in cooperation with, Greek Scouts and Scouting Ireland, mainly in young road users of the age-group 15-29, for whom, road traffic accidents represent the first cause of death globally (*WHO, report*). Workshops have been carried out in:

- Canada (Aug.2013), during the 14th World Scout MOOT where Rover Scouts and Scout Leaders from all over the world were trained on road safety issues in order to train their Scout groups back in their countries.
- Hong-Kong (Nov.2013), during the 1st World Scout Education Congress, where again, Scout leaders and executives from around the world were informed about the prevention of road traffic crashes, providing thus the opportunity to further promote European road safety initiatives and actions.

Through the AVENUE/NESTs, RSI and collaborating organizations have trained so far:

- Primary & secondary school students
- University students
- Novice drivers
- Young delinquent road users – in cooperation with the Highest Court of Greece
- Elderly road users
- Corporate staff and executives

Through the project,

- experiential learning takes place
- statistical analyses are carried out
- national and international campaigns are published
- volunteer actions are implemented
- public authorities, NGOs and Private Organizations are brought together

The Greek Road Safety Institute (RSI) "Panos Mylonas" is in United Nations (UN) ECOSOC Consultative Status, it is an active Member of the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) and has been honored with the "European Citizen's Award" prize in 2011 by the European Parliament, for its actions to educate and sensitize citizens and support authorities in the prevention of road traffic accidents.

(see behind results from recent data analyses of young road users from around the world)

14TH WORLD SCOUT MOOT, CANADA, AUG.2013

RSI carried out a survey during the Canadian MOOT 2013, and the analysis proved that: Scouts are considerate regarding safety issues and the sample differs by far from the driving behavior of random samples of other surveys. 26% of the scouts mention that occasionally-to-quite often have had aggressive driving behavior; 44% of them mentioned that occasionally they make unjustifiable use of horn and take risks to overtake. Moreover, in our sample, the self-report aggressive driving behaviors associated with perceived stress of participants has a statistically significant value ($p < .001$).

Sample identity

- **300** people participated in the road safety workshop in the MOOT
- The average age was **21,3** years old
- **54,6%** of them were men and **44,5%** women
- **81** Countries of origin, such as: Greece, Sweden, India, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Portugal, France, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Austria, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, USA, Canada, Oman, Tunisia, Lebanon, South Africa, Nigeria, Australia

Q: "How to improve road safety?" – Multiple answers could be chosen

- **85,7%** of the participants said "through education of young people"
- **78%** stated that "Official Regulatory Institutions should focus on education and campaigns"
- **68,1%** proposed "running campaigns on public media"
- **68%** said that "Governmental Organizations should cooperate with Non Governmental Institutions"
- **55,5%** considered it is important to implement "changes in regulations"
- **43,7%** however, disagree with the previous statement and insisted on improving law enforcement

Q: "Propose freely what to do, to improve safety of vulnerable road users" – No set answers were provided

- **18,9%** believe that different level crossings should be built (bridges/tunnels)
- **13,63%** suggested the implementation of educational programs for all ages and to all road users
- **9,8%** supported the creation of exclusive pedestrian zones
- **8,3%** suggested that fences and barriers should be built, to separate groups of road users among them (eg. Pedestrians from vehicles, pedestrians from cyclists etc)
- **Other common answers:** "Put more pressure on Governments to implement rules that are already there" "Don't know, cannot answer"

Q: "Which road traffic issues you believe are main reasons of road traffic crashes in your country?" – No set answers provided

- **Canada:** Road users do not take the law seriously. Cyclists do not respect the "Highway Code".
- **Denmark:** Speeding.
- **Brazil:** Almost no education on road safety and speeding. DUI alcohol. System favors irresponsible drivers.
- **Argentina:** Speeding.
- **Switzerland:** Older people overestimate abilities. Young, DUI of alcohol.
- **Luxembourg:** Road users overestimate abilities, everyday stress & routine.
- **Mexico:** Poor traffic education, speeding, DUI of alcohol. No use of seat belts. Aggressive driving. Bad roads. Some traffic lights do not operate at night.
- **Taiwan:** Driving under excessive stress.
- **Netherlands:** Law enforcement is not strict. Traffic jams occur often.
- **UAE:** Excessive speed.
- **Sweden:** DUI of alcohol. Bad roads during winter. Cyclists do not respect the regulations.
- **Italy:** Young, DUI of alcohol.
- **Australia:** Speeding. Drivers not accustomed to cyclists. Hazards due to fauna.
- **Poland:** DUI of alcohol & speeding.
- **Oman:** Not respecting the law. Excessive speed.
- **UK:** Young aggressive drivers. In car peer-pressure. DUI of alcohol. Many crashes due to cyclists.
- **Costa Rica:** Not respecting the law. Driving long distances at night.
- **Finland:** Speeding. Young aggressive drivers.
- **France:** Speeding. Distracted driving.