

EU ROAD SAFETY EXCHANGE

EU Member States highlight road safety improvements thanks to exchange programme

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Brussels - Dutch-inspired improvements to cycling infrastructure in Lithuania, harmonised day and night-time urban speed limits in Poland and major new national road safety strategies in Greece and Portugal are some of the changes inspired by the EU-funded Road Safety Exchange project, which wraps up with a final event this week in Brussels.

The project, which was funded by the European Parliament and managed by the European Transport Safety Council on behalf of the European Commission, has linked national experts from twelve EU Member States in partnerships spanning three years.

Teams of specialists from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden joined forces in a series of study visits and online webinars to learn about best practice in areas including speed management, drink and drug driving prevention, safety of cyclists and pedestrians, and data collection.

Participants also got to see some of the latest advances in road safety enforcement, such as the recently-introduced cameras that use artificial intelligence to detect hand-held mobile phone use at the wheel in the Netherlands. On a visit to Ireland, experts learned about roadside testing for drug use. In Sweden, participants were shown how medical staff in hospitals are able to complement police-generated data on road injuries – which gives policymakers a more accurate picture of the road safety challenges that still need tackling.

The project has already led to policy changes in several countries. Participants also say the programme has helped with the development of long term road safety strategies, such as those recently launched by [Greece](#) and [Portugal](#).

Elena Kountoura, the MEP who led the European Parliament's recent report on the EU's ten-year [road safety strategy](#), commented:

"Europe has the safest roads in the world, but, despite progress, there are still huge differences between countries. That's why it is so important that we support programmes, such as the EU Road Safety Exchange, they bring Europeans together to solve common challenges and save lives."

European Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean said:

"This project is an example of how, by working together and learning from each other, we can have a direct impact and make the EU's roads safer. I congratulate all participants and look forward to a bigger and better second edition of the EU Road Safety Exchange."

Theodora Calinescu, Project Manager at the European Transport Safety Council, which ran the project on behalf of the European Commission said:

"This project shows that it's not necessary to reinvent the wheel every time you want to improve road safety. It's fantastic that countries that have made great progress already are willing and able to share their knowledge so others can benefit faster from solutions that work. There's nothing like visiting a place and seeing how things are working on the ground. We think all the participating countries have appreciated the benefits of these exchanges."