

SAVE OUR LIVES (SOL), EUROPE



Date started: 2010 Date finished: Ongoing

Partners: GRSP and road safety organisations from Central Europe Space (CEUS)

Cost/time/resources: 3,7 mio EUR (public and private funding)

Main result so far: Project launched and is now being implemented by the partners involved



Every year more than 40,000 people lose their lives on Europe's roads. In the EU, 1 out of every 5 child deaths due to injury are a result of road crashes. While many western European countries are making continuous progress in reducing the number of lives lost, fatality rates in many New Member States (NMS) in the Central Europe Space (CEUS) remain high and in some they are even increasing. Rapid motorisation is a factor in the region but also lack of continuous and determined political effort. Road crashes have a severe negative impact on the social and economic situation in the CEUS countries, costing up to 2% or more of the GDP.

Summary project sheet.

Objectives and scope

Transnational cooperation for mutual learning and the joint development of standards and innovative road safety measures has proved to be the most effective instrument. The approach of Save our Lives (SOL) sees road safety within the context of sustainable mobility, i.e. to make walking and cycling safe and to promote a model shift from the private car to public transport.

Activities

The multi-sector partners from nine countries of CEUS have jointly developed a strategy that supports the region in catching up with highest EU standards in road safety:

- Assess the problem, policies and institutional settings relating to road safety and the capacity for road injury prevention;
- Strengthen institutions and create effective horizontal and vertical multi-sector partnerships;
- Prepare regional/local strategies and action plans and allocate endogenous resources to address the problem;
- Implement specific actions to prevent road traffic crashes, minimise injuries and their consequences;
- Create a greater level of awareness, commitment and informed decision-making at all levels;
- Develop replicable tools for CEUS and the EU;
- Put policies in the context of promoting sustainable forms of mobility.

Conclusion and main lessons learnt

All major outputs of SOL will be evaluated and validated regarding their applicability in other settings of CEUS and beyond. By the end of the project the following tools will be available and disseminated to followers:

- CEUS specific and comprehensive road safety assessment strategy to define the most urgent need for local action;
- Concept for ideal road safety management structures involving regional multi-sector focus groups of all stakeholders;
- Guidelines for jointly elaborating and implementing regional/local road safety programmes and action plans;
- Set of good practice for successfully tackling road safety challenges in different fields tailored to the target groups;
- Strategies for raising public and political awareness as a first step towards concrete action in target areas.