

ERSCharter webinar - Evaluation on Road Safety actions

Speech from Susanne Lindahl, Policy Officer DG MOVE, European Commission

Thank you for logging in to this webinar.

Evaluations and impact assessments are very important in the European Commission – in all policy areas.

Why? Because we work with tax payer's money and limited resources and because road safety is a serious topic, it's about saving lives and preventing injury and we need to know that we work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Last year an initiative was finalised by the European Commission together with the Member State representatives in the High Level Group on Road Safety. A paper with recommendations and good practice examples on national road safety plans and strategies was developed. This paper is available via our website.

The paper put stress on the need for monitoring and evaluation:

- for transparency and accountability
- for lessons learned, so that evaluation results make a difference for design of next action plan
- for a fact-based approach
- to make it work, it is recommended to set indicators, measurable targets and concrete actions.

We also have a policy framework on EU level: the Policy Orientations on Road Safety 2011-2020. This document sets our strategic target of halving road deaths by 2020 and identifies seven focus areas.

Now at half-time, we are running an interim evaluation of this policy framework. Road Safety problems change over time and the framework might need adjustments. Maybe we need to shift the focus a little bit here or there. Most importantly: this is to take stock of where we are and whether we are on track as planned.

The evaluation will focus on five questions:

- are the targets realistic and relevant?
- are the actions effective and providing the right outputs and results?

Together we are road safety

- are the actions efficient when looking at the costs?
- are the road safety objectives complementing or conflicting with other EU policy objectives?
- is there an EU added value, could the same results have been achieved in other way?

The difficulties of this and other road safety evaluations are the complex reality, several causal factors. It is difficult to link impacts and results to specific outputs or actions. There is also a lack of comparable EU-wide data. Also, what is done now on EU level mostly has impact only in next decade.

The report is expected around May and will be published online.

If you are interested in more information about the EU road safety work, check our website, there you find facts and figures, research reports, all our legislation and much more.

Thank you for your attention.