

P. Thomas, A. Morris  
Vehicle Safety Research Centre, Loughborough,  
United Kingdom

G. Yannis  
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Ph. Lejeune  
CETE de S.O., France

P. Wesemann  
SWOV, The Netherlands

G. Vallet  
INRETS, France

W. Vanlaar  
ISBR, Belgium

## Establishing the European Road Accident Observatory – the SafetyNet Integrated Project

### Background

The need for improved EU level accident information and data was identified in the EU White Paper on Transport Policy (2001)<sup>1</sup> and detailed in the Road Safety Action Plan (2003)<sup>2</sup>. The plan specifies that the EC will develop a road safety observatory to coordinate data collection within an integrated framework.

### What Is SafetyNet?

SafetyNet is an integrated project, funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme. The project addresses the shortfall in accident data and will develop the structure of the

European Road safety observatory to provide a coordinated set of accident information resources for the EU, to meet the needs for data to support public policy. The project will focus on the development of the structure of the observatory and will populate many parts with data. Macroscopic data will be gathered by EU member states under an agreement between ministers<sup>3</sup> according to technical specifications developed within SafetyNet. In-depth data will be gathered by specialist teams within the project, largely employing the infrastructure developed within the Pendant Fifth Framework Project.

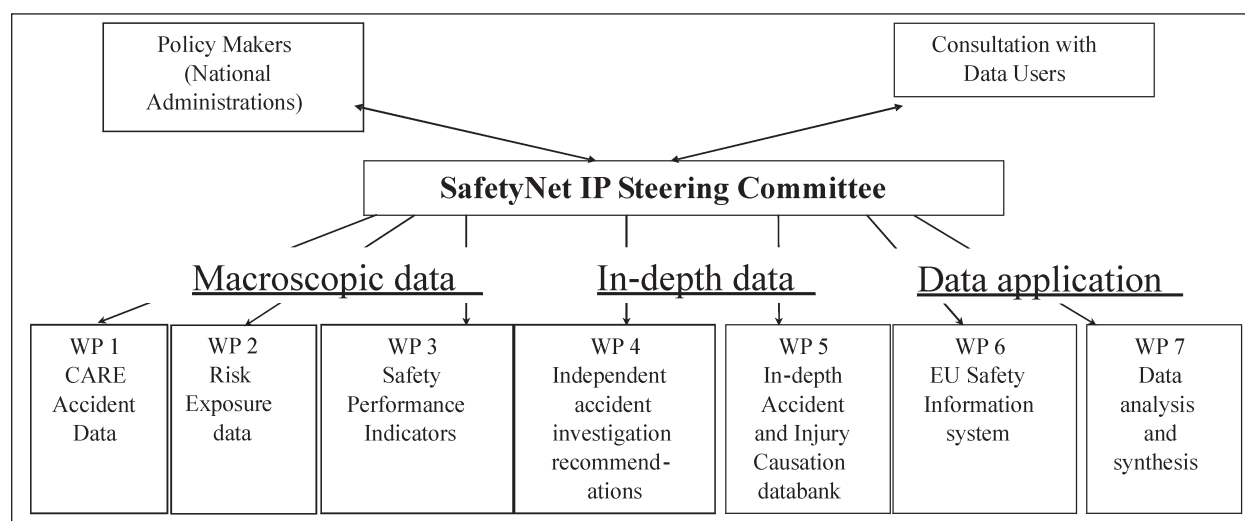
### Macroscopic Data

#### Work Package 1 - CARE Accident Data

Work Package 1 will extend the CARE database to include the data from the 10 new member states, Switzerland and Norway. It will produce a series of analyses of the complete data, the first ever that will be publicly available and will examine the issues of classification of non-fatal but serious injury crashes.

#### Work Package 2 – Risk Exposure Data (RED)

This WP will develop new transformation rules that will be applied to exposure data from the member



<sup>1</sup> European Commission White Paper, European transport policy for 2010: Time to decide, Brussels, 2001

<sup>2</sup> European Commission, Road Safety Action Plan, COM (2003) 311 final, 2.6.2003, Brussels

<sup>3</sup> Council doc. 10753/1/03 REV 1 – discussion on the Road Safety Action Programme – conclusion #8, 5 June 2003, Brussels

states permitting comparable comparisons of accident risk for a range of conditions.

### **Work Package 3 – Safety Performance Indicators**

Safety performance indicators are support tools to understand better the causes of accidents and to monitor policy interventions. This WP will develop a new framework within which data gathered by member states will be brought together in a comparable format.

### **In-depth Data**

#### **Work Package 4 – Independent Accident Investigation Recommendations**

This WP will examine issues concerning “independence” and produce guidelines for assessing the independence of accident data and its analyses. It will also give guidance on constraints of existing EU legislation and particular requirements in the investigation of major accidents.

#### **Work Package 5 – Independent Accident and Injury Databases**

This WP will develop a framework for two new representative accident databases and populate them with data gathered by the project. A fatal accident database will provide details of the circumstances of 1000 fatal crashes while a new accident causation database will give particular attention to infrastructure safety and the needs of eSafety technologies.

### **Data Application**

#### **Work Package 6 – European Road Safety Information System**

WP 6 will assemble an extensive range of information and data related to traffic accidents including the results of other SafetyNet WPs and make them accessible over the web. It will provide a single source for policy makers and researchers wishing to obtain details of accident related information.

#### **Work Package 7 – Data Analysis and Synthesis**

WP 7 will review available analysis techniques and apply them to data to demonstrate the added

value. It will focus on time dependent data and clustered data.

SafetyNet includes three main types of information. Macroscopic accident, exposure data and safety performance indicators will be gathered at national level and supplied to the project following a decision by the European Council of Ministers of Transport. New in-depth data will be gathered by the partners while the results will be analysed and made widely available over the web.

### **List of Partners**

#### **Project Steering Committee**

- Vehicle Safety Research Centre, Loughborough University, UK
- National Technical University of Athens, Greece
- Centre d'Études Technique de l'Équipement du Sud Ouest, France
- SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research, The Netherlands
- Institut National de Recherche sur les Transports et leur Sécurité, France
- Institut Belge pour la Sécurité Routière, Belgium

#### **Partner Organisations**

- Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona, Spain
- Bundesanstalt für Straßenwesen, Germany
- Centrum dopravního výzkumu, Czech Republic
- Chalmers University, Sweden
- University of Rome, Italy
- Finnish Motor Insurers' Centre, Finland
- Institute of Transport Economics, Norway
- Közlekedéstudományi Intézet Rt, Hungary
- Kuratorium für Schutz und Sicherheit, Austria
- Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil, Portugal
- Medical University of Hanover, Germany
- Road Directorate – Ministry of Transport, – Denmark
- Swedish National Roads Administration, Sweden
- Swiss Council for Accident Prevention, Switzerland
- Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel
- TNO, Netherlands
- TRL Limited, UK