THE AFRICAN ROAD SAFETY OBSERVATORY – AFRICAN RSO

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Background

- The African RSO was developed within the project “SaferAfrica - Innovating Dialogue and Problems Appraisal for a Safer Africa”.
- Its aim is to support stakeholders with evidence on key risk factors and related good practices using high quality data and knowledge.
- The African RSO follows the structure of the European Road Safety Observatory, adjusted to the road safety status in Africa, the availability and quality of relevant data and consequently the needs of African road safety stakeholders.

Road Safety Level in Africa

- Africa is the worst performing continent in road safety, representing 31% of global road fatalities.
- With 26.6 fatalities/10,000 population, African fatality rate is almost three times that of Europe’s.
- The disparity in road safety results seems to be increasing.
- In Europe, fatality rates improved from 10.3 per 100,000 population in 2010 to 9.3 per 100,000 population in 2013.
- Over the same period, road fatality rates in Africa increased from 24.1 per 100,000 population to 26.6 per 100,000 population.
- Road trauma in Africa is expected to worsen further, with fatalities per capita projected to double from 2015 to 2030 (WHO, 2015).

Developing The African Road Safety Observatory

- Within the SaferAfrica project, a pan-African road safety data and knowledge centre is developed.
- In this framework, road safety data and safety performance indicators of African countries are collected, analysed and main risk factors are identified.
- This work serves as the basis for the development of the African RSO (www.africanroadsafetyobservatory.org) (Figure 2).
- The “Dialogue” section is the heart of African RSO, aimed at promoting a road safety culture through the so called “Dialogue Platform” (DP).
- The DP represents a high-level body, with the objective of providing recommendations to update the African Road Safety Action Plan and the African Road Safety Charter, as well as fostering the adoption of specific initiatives, properly funded.
- The African RSO strongly encourages public participation.
- In the “Participate” section, certain crowdsourcing functions serve as a networking platform through which end users could contact experts and other stakeholders, submit questions or data and exchange knowledge and experiences.
- A crucial in terms of importance and information variety content of African RSO is the “Knowledge” section, where outcomes directly related to certain work packages from the SaferAfrica project are provided through the following sub-sections:
  - Road Safety Management
    Assessment of the traffic and road safety management status, with a view towards developing African guidelines–recommendations for establishing and improving national road safety agencies.
  - Capacity Building
    Identification of training, research and innovation needs for staff involved in road safety related activities.
  - Good Practices
    Collection of effective road safety measures and policies from African and global experiences.
- The “Statistics” section provides a variety of information related to road safety; namely, road accident, fatalities and injuries data, survey collected data, statistics tables and statistics resources (Figure 3).
- The African RSO includes links to the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, the SaferAfrica project website (http://www.saferafrica.eu), to a list of key African road safety stakeholders and key road safety web-resources.
- Finally, the latest news (events, conferences, etc.) are published in a dedicated area of the portal.
- A further challenge for the future is to maintain the operation of both African RSO and the Dialogue Platform and further enhance their significant contribution in improving road safety performance in Africa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The present research was carried out within the research project “SAFERAFRICA - Innovating Dialogue and Problems Appraisal for a Safer Africa”, which has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 724029.