

# The European Road Safety Observatory (ERSO): Supporting Evidence-Based Policy for Safer EU Roads

**George Yannis**

NTUA Professor

Together with:

Katerina Folla, Dimitrios Nikolaou, Maartje de Goede, Maria Scheibmayr,  
Hatun Atasayar, Peter Whitten, Sarah Lynch, Paolo Bolsi



8<sup>th</sup> IRTAD International Conference (IRTAD 2026)  
Better Road Safety Data for Better Safety Performance

15-17 April 2026, Athens, Greece



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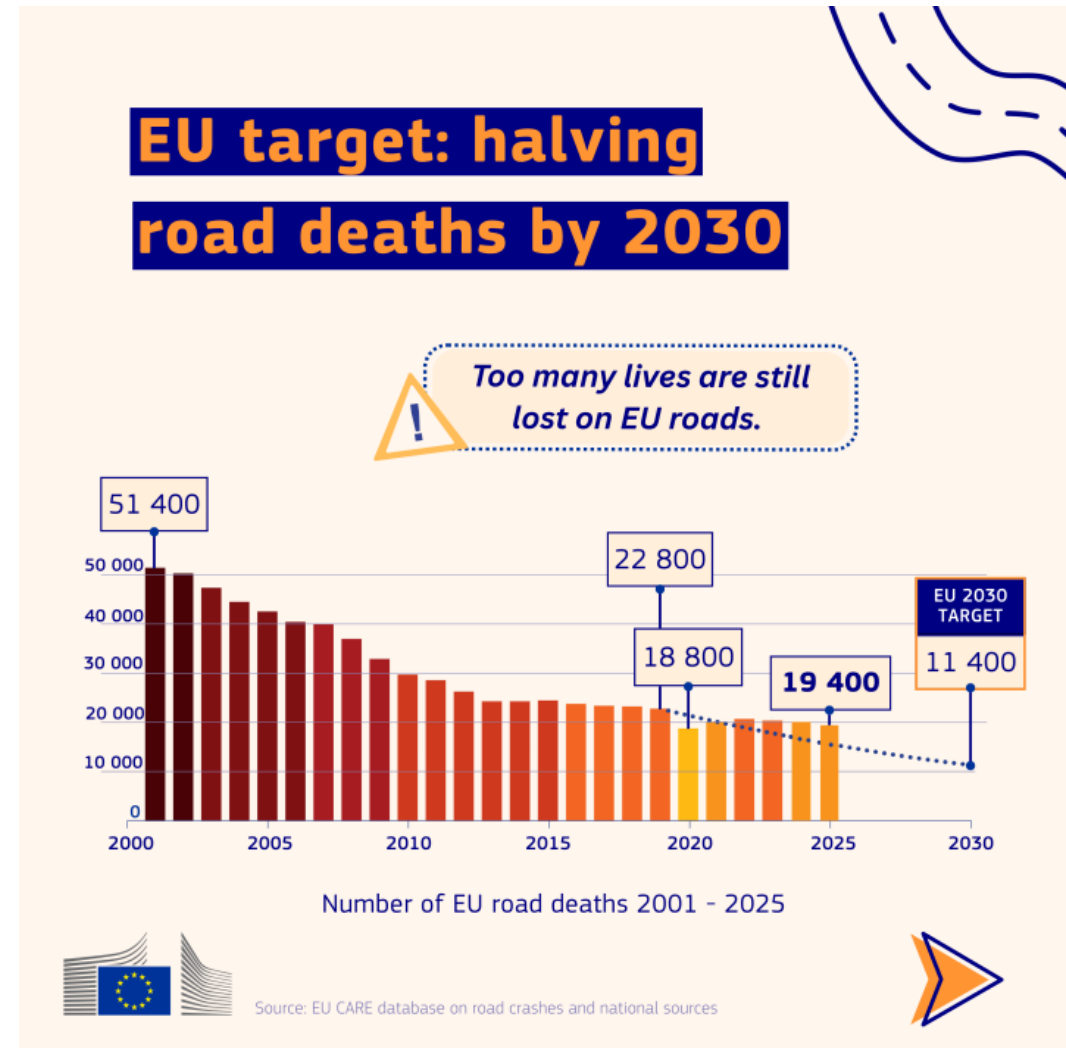


# Introduction

- The European Commission's **Vision Zero** strategy aims to eliminate road deaths and serious injuries by 2050, with an interim target of **50% reduction in fatalities and serious injuries by 2030**.
- The **European Road Safety Observatory (ERSO)** is the EU's central information system on road safety building upon harmonised national crash data from the European Commission's CARE database.
- By analysing and presenting these data, ERSO enables policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to monitor trends, assess progress, and design effective countermeasures to enhance road safety outcomes.
- The added value of ERSO lies in its ability to transform raw data into **actionable knowledge**.

# Key Statistics in 2025

- In 2025, around **19,400** people lost their lives in road crashes across the EU.
- This represents a **3% decrease from 2024**, meaning that 580 fewer people died on European roads. Given the increase in vehicles on EU roads and kilometres driven, this is a significant achievement.
- Despite progress, most Member States are **not yet on track** to meet the -50% fatality target by 2030.
- Only Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Poland and Romania are currently on track, while Sweden and Denmark remain the safest, with 20 and 23 deaths per million inhabitants respectively.





# ERSO - A wealth of Data & Analyses

- **Annual Statistical Report** (12 editions, 2007-2026)
- **Facts and Figures** 20 Reports (5 editions, 2018-2026)
- **Thematic Reports** 20 Reports (5 editions, 2018-2026)
- **Country Profiles** 30 Countries (5 editions, 2017-2026)
- **Key Performance Indicators** (Baseline 2019-2022, Trendline 2022-2025, and 7 SPIs Reports (2 Editions, 2023-2026))
  
- **Latest Key Figures** (updated continuously)
- **Collision Matrix** (5 editions, 2021-2025)
- **Map Library** (updated continuously)
- **Road Safety Atlas** (updated continuously)
  
- **Strong evidence-based policy support** with consistent methodology over the years



# Annual Statistical Report

- **Aim:** Update and improve the existing Annual Statistical Report
- The ASR 2026 was published in **March 2026**
  - Total crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries of all EU Member States and EFTA countries for **2024 from CARE database**
  - Detailed data on crashes, fatalities and serious injuries for **2024**



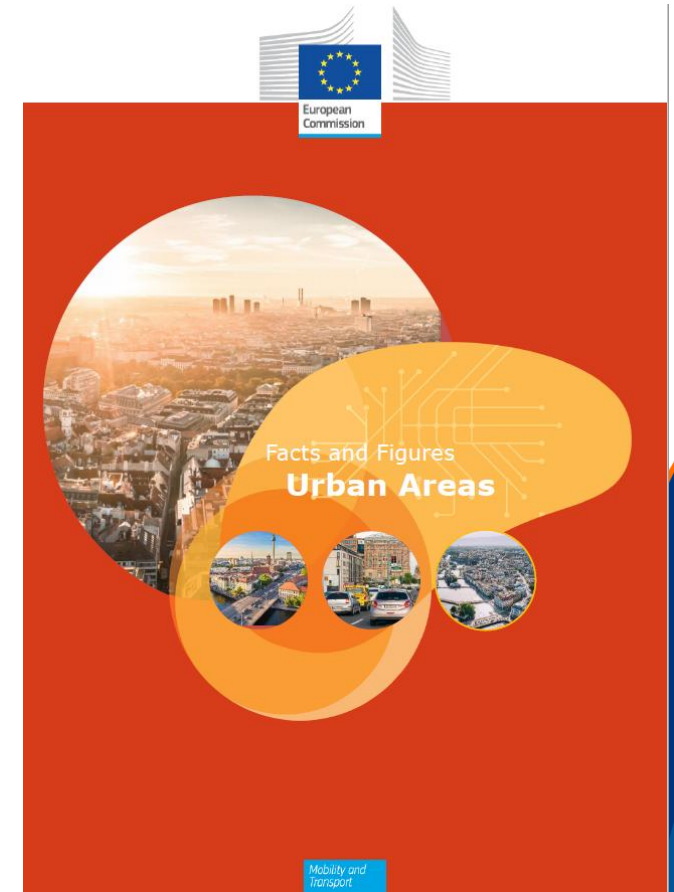
# Country Profiles 2026

- **Aim:** Develop an enhanced version of the Country Profiles to present the actual road safety situation of a country
- **30 CP:** 27 EU MS + IS, NO, CH
- Published CPs are available on [ERSO website](#)
- **Structure** of the CP:
  - Highlights
  - Road Safety Outcomes
  - Safety Performance Indicators
  - Road Safety Policy & Measures
  - Structure and Culture



# Facts and Figures 2025

- **Aim:** Update and enhance current Facts and Figures and draft several new ones
- Detailed data on crashes, fatalities and serious injuries of all EU Member States and EFTA countries for **2023 from CARE database**
- **20 FFs** Reports are available on [ERSO website](#):
  1. Buses & HGV
  2. Light goods vehicles
  3. Car Occupants
  4. Powered two-wheelers
  5. Cyclists
  6. Pedestrians
  7. New forms of mobility
  8. Road safety protective equipment
  9. Single Vehicle Crashes
  10. Regional Distribution
  11. Main Figures
  12. Motorways
  13. Rural areas
  14. Urban areas
  15. Junctions
  16. Children
  17. Seniors
  18. Young people
  19. Gender
  20. Serious Injuries



# Thematic Reports

- **Aim:** Update and enhance current Thematic Reports and draft several new ones
- An overview of the most **important research questions and results** on the topic in question are provided

➤ **20 TRs** are available on the [ERSO website](#):

1. Alcohol and drugs (2026)
2. Consequences of crashes (2026)
3. Distraction (2026)
4. Novice Drivers (2026)
5. Pedestrians (2026)
6. Personal mobility devices (2026)
7. Post-crash data (2026)
8. Seniors (2026)
9. Speed and speeding (2026)
10. Traffic law enforcement (2026)
11. Comparison of the main factors causing fatal crashes (2026)
12. Cyclists (2026)
13. Vehicle safety (2026)
14. Road design safety principles (2026)
15. Work-related road safety (2026)
16. Children (2025)
17. Professional drivers (2025)
18. Traffic safety culture (2025)
19. Protection (2024)
20. Powered two-wheelers (2024)



# Safety Performance Indicators

- **Aim:** Analyze road safety performance in EU MS, providing insights in road safety differences between countries
- Based on data from **Baseline/Trendline** and/or **ESRA** projects
- **7 SPI reports** are available on [ERSO website](#):
  1. Alcohol & drugs (2026)
  2. Distraction (2026)
  3. Fatigue (2026)
  4. Speed (2026)
  5. Support for policy measures (2026)
  6. Subjective safety (2026)
  7. Protective equipment (2026)



# Monitoring Road Safety Strategies

- The [Mid-Point Progress Report on the 2021-2030 road safety strategy](#) was published in mid February 2026
- ERSO has supported through the monitoring of national road safety strategies, action plans and other overarching frameworks based on a specially developed common methodology, which led to **27 National Reports**



The screenshot shows the European Commission website. At the top left is the European Commission logo. To the right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'EN'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with the following items: Home, Ukraine (with a dropdown arrow), Transport modes (with a dropdown arrow), Transport themes (with a dropdown arrow), Tourism, News & Events (with a dropdown arrow), and Facts & Funding (with a dropdown arrow). Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Home > News & Events > News > European Commission remains committed to halving road deaths by 2030. The main heading of the article is 'European Commission remains committed to halving road deaths by 2030'. Below the heading is the text 'NEWS ARTICLE' and '16 February 2026 — Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport — 4 min read'. The article text reads: 'The European Commission published its [report](#) to track progress towards the EU's goal of halving road deaths and serious injuries by 2030. While progress has been made in reducing road fatalities, it reveals that the current pace is insufficient. 19,940 people were killed on Europe's roads in 2024, representing a 12% decrease since 2019 but falling significantly short of the annual 4.6% reduction needed to meet 2030 targets. Road crashes continue to impose enormous costs on the EU economy, estimated at approximately 2% of GDP, while up to 100,000 people sustain life-changing injuries each year.'

# Conclusions

- ERSO plays a **central role** in guiding EU policy decisions, measuring performance, and advancing the commitment to safer roads for all under the Vision Zero framework.
- ERSO provides **reliable, comparable, and timely** road safety data across countries, supporting evidence-based policymaking.
- The **diverse output portfolio** (ASRs, Country Profiles, Thematic Reports, SPIs, Facts & Figures, Infographics) ensures comprehensive coverage of road safety dimensions.
- ERSO fosters **cross-country learning** and best practice exchange, enabling continuous improvement in road safety management.
- **ERSO monitoring** is essential to track progress, identify gaps, and inform targeted interventions toward Vision Zero.

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