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EuroS@P

WP2. Road Infrastructure Safety Management methodology - Network Wide Road Safety Assessment

T2.1 Strategy of cooperation between Partners and Associated Partners

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1 ABOUT THE EUROSAP-NWRSA PROJECT

The main objectives of the **European Road Safety Partnership - Network Wide Road Safety Assessment** project are for students to gain knowledge and improve the competence and skills of road authorities, auditors, and road safety inspectors, as well as lecturers and experts (teaching staff) in the area of Network Wide Road Safety Assessment (NWRSA) as part of Road Infrastructure Safety Management (RISM).

To achieve this goal, international cooperation within the project will be necessary to increase education quality, allow for knowledge exchange between partners, and implement and disseminate innovative solutions.

Achieving the project's main objective will increase the possibilities of solving such a socially significant problem as road safety. The main aim will be achieved through the implementation of sub-objectives:

- Prepare the methodological basis and develop didactic and training materials for six courses, including competence certification.
- Building a knowledge base of stakeholders and professionals in RISM for European Union countries.
- The participants of the pilot training courses verified, evaluated and recommended the prepared didactic and training materials and methodologies.
- Disseminate information about the project and its results using digital tools.

Work packages 2

Two primary goals of WP2 are:

- Preparation of the methodological basis for developing the didactic training materials for six courses under WP3, along with developing competency certification.
- Building two knowledge databases on stakeholders and specialists in the RSIM for the EU countries.

The main goal will be achieved through the implementation of specific objectives:

- development of techniques for the implementation of the training and teaching process with the use of supporting tools,
- development of recommendations for/to the necessary NRWSA supporting tools,
- development of a methodology for assessing the level of knowledge along with their verification for NRWSA specialists necessary to obtain a certificate of competence,
- preparation of a survey collecting detailed information about specialists and stakeholders in the field of the RSIM, along with conducting research,
- Elaborate on the survey results on specialists and stakeholders and prepare input data for knowledge bases.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLABORATION STRATEGY

2.1 Main Objectives

1. **Enhancing the quality of education and research:** Utilizing the knowledge and experience of Partners and Associate Partners to raise educational and research standards.
2. **Educational and professional mobility:** Enabling participants to gain international experience and develop skills in a European context.
3. **Strengthening collaboration networks:** Building lasting relationships between institutions and enterprises that will continue beyond the project's end.

2.2 Specific Objectives

1. **Development of educational programs:** Creating and updating curricula based on the latest research and labour market needs.
2. **Knowledge and technology transfer:** Promoting the exchange of know-how among Partners, including best practices, innovations, and new technologies.
3. **Career support:** Organizing internships, placements, and mentoring programs for students and researchers.

3 COLLABORATION STRUCTURE

3.1 Collaboration agreement

The collaboration rules have been set in the partnership agreement signed by all partners in March 2024. The Agreement defines the terms that govern the relations between the parties by establishing their rights and obligations and lays down the rules of procedure for the work to be carried out in order to implement the Erasmus+ project successfully

3.2 Types of Partners

1. **Full Consortium Partners:** These are institutions directly involved in the project implementation, including universities, research institutes, and enterprises. They have a direct impact on shaping project activities and achieving goals.
2. **Associate Partners:** These are entities supporting the project implementation, offering advice, access to networks, or resources. Associate Partners are not directly involved in the day-to-day project activities.

3.3 Organizational Structure

1. **Steering Committee:** The main decision-making body comprising representatives of key Partners. It is responsible for strategic directions and overseeing project implementation.
2. **Work Packages Working Groups:** Operational teams consisting of representatives from various Partners, focusing on specific project aspects (e.g., curriculum development, organising internships).
3. **Local Coordinators:** Individuals responsible for coordinating project activities at the local level representing each partner institution.

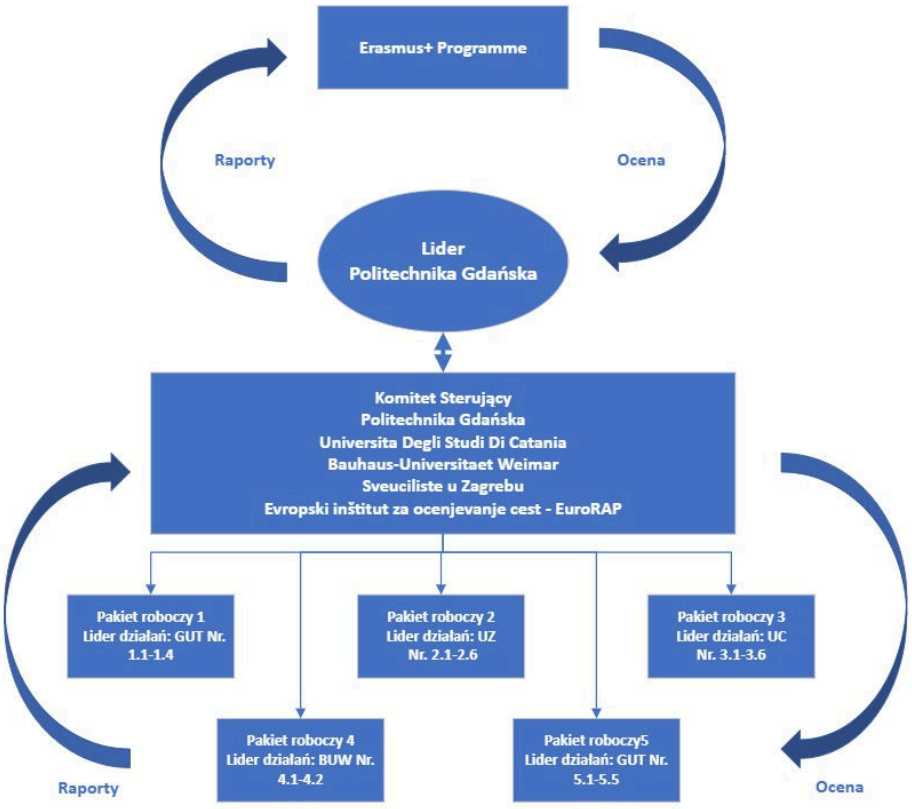


Figure 3.1 Organisational structure

4 COLLABORATION METHODS

4.1 Regular Meetings

1. **Steering Committee Meetings:** Held quarterly to review progress, make strategic decisions, and resolve issues.
2. **Working Group Meetings:** Organized monthly to facilitate ongoing information exchange and coordination of activities.
3. **Workshops and Seminars:** These are regular events aimed at knowledge exchange, research presentation, and sharing best practices.

4.2 Electronic Communication

1. **Online Platform:** A dedicated document exchange, communication, and project management portal.
2. **Newsletter:** A monthly information bulletin with updates and key project progress information is sent to all partners and associate partners.
3. **Videoconferences:** Regular online meetings enabling ongoing communication, particularly important for partners in different countries.

4.3 Project Management Tools

1. **Project Management System:** Software for planning, monitoring, and reporting project activities.

2. **Database:** A central database containing all relevant project information, accessible to all Partners.
3. **Project Calendar:** A schedule of key events, meetings, and project milestones.

5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

5.1 Monitoring Systems

1. **KPI (Key Performance Indicators):** Defining key performance indicators to be regularly monitored to assess progress towards project goals.
2. **Periodic Reports:** Regular reports presented to the Steering Committee and Partners, containing information on progress, achievements, and encountered issues.

5.2 Evaluation Process

1. **Mid-term Evaluation:** This is an assessment of project implementation halfway through its duration, allowing for necessary adjustments and improvements.
2. **Final Evaluation:** Comprehensive evaluation of achieved results after project completion, with conclusions and recommendations for the future.

6 INVITATION LETTERS TO ASSIGNED PARTNERS

Invitation letters have been prepared and sent to the associated partners. The copies are presented in the appendix.

Effective collaboration with Partners and Associate Partners is a key element of the success of the EUROSAP educational project. The developed collaboration strategy is based on clearly defined objectives, organisational structure, and effective communication and management methods. Regular progress monitoring and evaluation will ensure that the project is implemented according to the assumptions, bringing tangible benefits to all involved parties and program participants.

Appendix

Gdansk 26.05.2024

PhD Eng. Wojciech Kustra
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General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways
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Director of the Road Network Management Department
Monika Tuszyńska
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Dear Sirs,
The Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Gdansk University of Technology has been awarded funding for the European Road Safety Partnership - Network Wide Road Safety Assessment (EuroSAP-NWRSA) project under Erasmus + funding, project number 2023-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000156844. This project, which holds the potential to bring significant improvements to the road network, runs from 09.2023 to 08.2026. The EuroSAP - NWRSA project will be carried out by the Gdansk University of Technology as project leader, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, University of Catania, University of Zagreb, Lund University.

In connection with the project's implementation, we would like to invite you to join as an associate partner. We would like to ask you to :

- Participation in meetings to implement the method,
- Evaluation of the materials we have prepared,
- Participation in training courses/pilots at home and abroad

As part of the collaboration, we do not envisage remuneration for those attending events or giving feedback on our materials and methods. We deeply appreciate your willingness to collaborate with us on this project, which will enable us to create better teaching and training materials and their teaching methodology.

One element of the project implementation will be organising at least two free pilot training sessions and evaluating the prepared didactic and training materials and methodologies. Work is currently underway to determine the location of the trainings, the number of participants, and

the range of materials presented at the trainings. It is tentatively assumed that the training courses will be delivered in the second half of 2025 and the first half of 2026.

Below is a brief overview of the project.
In 2008, the European Parliament issued Directive 20082008/96/EC (the Directive) on Road Infrastructure Safety Management (RISM). Following a decrease in the rate of decline of fatalities and serious injuries in road accidents, the European Parliament and the Council (EU) issued an amendment to the previous Directive (Directive 2019/1936). The new one widened its scope of impact in relation to the road network (all roads financed or co-financed by EU funds, increased emphasis on improving the RS of vulnerable road users, etc.) and added new tools: Network Wide Road Safety Assessment (NWRSA). These elements will significantly increase the scope of the Directive's impact but require appropriate competence of the RISM.

It should be emphasised that one of the key requirements for the successful implementation of the EuroSAP-NWRSA project is the provision of an appropriate staff training programme. This is necessary to supplement knowledge with new aspects and areas of activity and to extend the competence of the staff involved in RISM. The training programme should cater to both those already involved in RISM, in the form of training courses, and a programme to train students as future staff.

The project envisages the development of solutions for practical application in the field of scientific, implementation and teaching cooperation, carried out within the framework of an international partnership. The project results will provide a foundation for developing long-term cooperation between the entities forming the Partnership. They will make a lasting contribution to education development in such an important socio-economic issue as road safety.

Extending the existing Directive 2019/1936 scope forces many institutions to implement new measures. It increases the directive's impact on all roads whose construction or reconstruction is co-financed with EU funds, including secondary roads. The scientific support of universities and research centres in the European Union is an important aspect that will help achieve the adopted objectives of the Directive.

The main objectives of the EuroSAP- NWRSA project are for students to gain knowledge and improve the competence and skills of road authorities, auditors, and road safety inspectors, as well as lecturers and experts (teaching staff) in the area of NWRSA as part of RISM.

Achieving the project's main objective will increase the possibilities of solving such a socially significant problem as road safety. The main aim will be achieved through the implementation of sub-objectives:

- Prepare the methodological basis and develop didactic and training materials for six courses, including competence certification.
- Building a knowledge base of stakeholders and professionals in RISM for European Union countries.
- The participants of the pilot training courses verified, evaluated and recommended the prepared didactic and training materials and methodologies.
- Disseminate information about the project and its results using digital tools.

International cooperation within the project will be necessary to increase the quality of education, allow for knowledge exchange between partners, and implement and disseminate innovative solutions to achieve all objectives.

The project is divided into 5 five work packages and 19 tasks:

1. Project management and coordination.
2. Road Infrastructure Safety Management methodology - Network Wide Road Safety Assessment.
3. Theoretical and practical teaching materials related to Network Wide Road Safety Assessment.
4. Pilot training with the evaluation of the prepared didactic-training materials and methodology.
5. Dissemination of project.

The EuroS@P-NWRSA project targets the following groups:

1. Students, researchers, and academic teachers at universities.
2. Road authority staff at national, regional and local levels.
3. Experts, specialists, and practitioners involved in RS activities, including staff who conduct training in various RS courses.
4. All users of road infrastructure, as an indirect target group, for whom the risk of road accidents will ultimately be reduced by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of RISM activities.

The project is a continuation of the 2020-2023 EuroS@P- European Road Safety Partnership project by the consortium Gdansk University of Technology, University of Zagreb, Bauhaus University of Weimar, European Institute of Road Assessment, and University of Catania. Erasmus+ financed the project.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Anna Gobis at anna.gobis@pg.edu.pl or Wojciech Kustra at wojciech.kustra@pg.edu.pl.

Best regards
PhD Eng. Wojciech Kustra

Wojciech Kustra

Gdansk, 25.05.2024

7 LETTER OF INTENT

Letter of Intent: Project EuroSAP - NWRSA European Road Safety Partnership - Network-Wide Road Safety Assessment

We are pleased to express our intent to support the EuroSAP - NWRSA project. The primary goals of EuroSAP - NWRSA are to enhance the knowledge of students and improve the skills and competence of road authority staff, road safety auditors, inspectors, lecturers, and experts in the field of Traffic Safety Assessment across the entire road network. This goal will be achieved through international cooperation within the project, fostering quality education based on knowledge exchange, and promoting the implementation and dissemination of innovative solutions.

We, [Company/City/Road Administration], are very interested in the objectives proposed by EuroSAP - NWRSA. We agree to support the project in developing practical, transferable, and applicable results that will significantly benefit road safety. Our support will be provided through participation in international expert panels, offering practical advice, input, and review of the project's results.

We commit to supporting the project consortium on a non-financial basis, in alignment with our priorities, possibilities, and available personnel resources. This Letter of Intent does not create any legally binding obligations towards the project consortium.

This Letter of Intent is valid exclusively for the EuroSAP - NWRSA research project and does not commit the partners beyond this study. All information received, unless separately identified, will be treated as confidential.

We are hopeful for a successful project submission and look forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Your Organization]
[Contact Information]