

“Roads to Respect” Reaches out to 14 EU Countries

29 January 2009, Brussels – In its third year the Roads to Respect (R2R) project is expanding to four new participant countries, bringing up their total number to 14. Coordinated by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)⁽¹⁾ and supported by the Toyota Fund for Europe and 3M, R2R involves graduate students and young professionals from across Europe in science-based road safety work.

R2R campaigns are designed to make a significant and measurable contribution to bringing down road safety casualties within the concerned area. Through improving road infrastructure, in particular treating high risk sites, most substantial and sustainable casualty reductions can be achieved in relatively short time and at relatively low cost.

After Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain in 2007 and 2008, this year the R2R programme will focus on infrastructure safety in Portugal, Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic, and for the second time, in Italy and Poland. Between March and May 2009 ETSC staff will tour 20 universities with a one-hour lecture on infrastructure safety engineering and high risk site management. After identifying a high risk site in their country, 25 selected students will participate in a one-week camp in Brussels in September 2009 for training on infrastructure safety and effective road safety lobbying.

Students will then return to their home countries and try to apply their newly acquired skills to convince their local politicians or local administration to fix the high risk site they had previously identified. At a ceremony in Brussels in September 2010 the most active participants of the 2009 programme will be awarded for their achievements.

“R2R is an important educational programme as it seeks to build road safety knowledge and awareness amongst future professionals,” said Daniel Ugarte, ETSC Project Manager in charge of R2R. *“It motivates those who will shape our transport environment to make a life-long commitment to caring about the prevention of death and injury on the roads.”*

For more information please contact ETSC Project Manager Daniel Ugarte at daniel.ugarte@etsc.be, tel. +32 (0)2 230.41.06 , fax +32 (0)2 230.42.15

Notes to Editors:

(1) **The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)** (www.etsc.be) is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of the number and severity of transport crashes in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 42 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.