

"PRAISE": Preventing Road Accidents and Injuries for the Safety of Employees

Praising Best Practice in Road Safety 'At' Work and 'To' Work

"Mobilising knowledge to create work-related road safety leadership"

Objectives:

-Advance the need for work-related Road Safety Management and provide the know-how to employers who have to take on that challenge.

-Discuss and expose the work-related road safety standards of EU Member States and carry out advocacy work at the EU level: work-related road safety is an area of road safety policy that clearly needs renewed political commitment.

-Communicate the message that work-related road safety should include road safety 'at' work (driving on duty) but also road safety 'to' work (commuting).

Background: work-related road crashes... a rising concern

Using the roads is a necessary part of everyone's daily business, often for work-related purposes. **It is therefore unacceptable that an ordinary activity leads to an incredibly high level of injury and death.**

Work-related crashes involve heavy goods vehicles and buses, but also cars and light vans. It must be considered that the service sector often emphasises the importance of travelling to meet clients on site and face-to-face.

This is defined '**mobile working**', where the car becomes a de facto office for employees. **Employers have a responsibility to provide their employees with a safe environment also on the roads.**

ETSC has launched **PRAISE**, a 3 year project addressing all safety aspects of driving 'at' work and driving 'to' work, that aims to "**praise**" best practices in order to help employers secure high road safety standards for their employees.



What are the benefits?

-Reduced running costs through better driving standards (fuel consumption/vehicle maintenance costs);

-Making informed decisions about matters such as driver training and vehicle purchase;

-Fewer working days lost due to injury;

-Reduced risk of work-related ill health;

-Reduced stress and improved morale;

-Less need for investigation and paperwork;

-Less lost time due to work rescheduling;

-Fewer vehicles off the road for repair;

-Fewer missed orders and business opportunities reduced risk of losing the goodwill of customers;

-Less chance of key employees being banned from driving;

-Promoting sound health and safety driving practices may well spill over into private driving.

"In Europe six out of ten work accidents resulting in death are road crashes, including both crashes while driving for work and commuting crashes." (Eurogip)

"It is estimated that in the EU-15, 39% fatal work accidents are road traffic accidents. This number excludes commuting to and from work". (ESAW, 2005)

For an overview of the situation in the EU 15 Member states click here

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How will PRAISE work? What are the Deliverables?

Deliverable:

- 9 PRAISE Thematic Reports (8/10 pages)

- **Thematic Reports:** documents prepared by ETSC and its experts. For every thematic report ETSC will organise one expert meeting in Brussels with 3 road safety experts in the theme covered. ETSC will cover 9 of the following 10 themes:

- In-vehicle safety equipment;
- Initial and continuous driver training;
- Working on the roads, EU regulations;
- Transportation of dangerous goods;
- The 'Moving Office';
- Speed Management;
- Intelligent Commuting;
- Developing road safety management programmes and Auditing road safety
- Fitness to drive
- Safety of work sites

Deliverable:

- 9 Fact Sheets presenting employer's 'Success Stories'

Deliverable:

- 3 PRAISE Brunches and Awards

ETSC will organise once a year, a high-level and highly visible event:

-the '**PRAISE Brunches**': an informal Brunch with decision makers and employers engaged in work related road safety. This will be a means to launch the Thematic Reports publicly

-the **PRAISE Award**, handed during the PRAISE Brunch to one employer identified for taking on the road safety challenge responsibly.

Deliverable:

- 6 PRAISE Country Seminars

Every 6 months ETSC will organise:

One **Country Seminar** focusing on one EU member state and its road safety standard.

There will also be:

- Key road safety professionals;
- National decision-makers.

There will be a seminar in 6 countries so divided:

- 2 countries with high standards in work related road safety (the UK and Sweden);
- 2 countries that are 'medium range' (France and Germany);
- 2 countries that need to improve standards in occupational road safety (Poland and Greece).

Deliverable:

- 1 PRAISE Handbook on Work Related Road Safety Management

The PRAISE Handbook entitled "Road Safety 'at' work and 'to' work-a Handbook". This Handbook will bring together all 9 thematic reports.

Moreover during the three years, ETSC will use the knowledge gathered in PRAISE to undertake **advocacy** activities at the European level aiming to integrate road safety into the EU's Occupational Health and Safety legislation.