

Road Safety, Portugal

Action Plan

Introduction

This action plan sets out actions and initiatives for the short term, which will lead to a **National Road Safety Strategy** to be implemented during the medium and long term. For the purpose of this plan, the short term shall be defined as the first year, the medium term as years 2 to 4, and the long term years 5 to 10.

During the medium term, the Strategy may be refined in accordance with the results of various earlier studies.

The target is to reduce the annual number of road deaths and injuries by one-half by the end of the tenth year.

Below are 10 Priority Actions covering all aspects of road safety and involving many organisations. A lead organisation must be set up, or if existing, must be directed to co-ordinate this effort. It is vital that this is done with Government patronage at the highest level.

The 10 National Priority Actions:

Accident data and analysis

- Analyse the available accident data.
- Determine short, medium, and long term priorities for accident reduction in terms of road users, roads, and vehicles.
- Investigate data collection methods and degree of recorded detail, consider implementing improvements where necessary to improve accuracy of detail.

Speed Management

- Conduct a speed limits audit, investigate the signing of speed limits, the location of speed limits and speed limit boundaries with respect to land usage and vehicle type.
- Investigate speed limit enforcement, the degree of enforcement, the penalties, and the drivers perceived risk of being caught.
- Develop engineering measures designed to reduce speeds in areas deemed suitable for such measures.

Alcohol

- Investigate the volume of checking which is possible to be performed, and availability of alcohol measuring equipment in respect to the number of police officers.
- Investigate the current enforcement, in terms of where, when, and frequency of enforcement linked to alcohol use.
- Investigate level of enforcement linked to anticipated use of alcohol and random or target checks.
- Investigate the frequency of alcohol checks with respect to reported accidents.
- Devise and implement a strategy for increasing the frequency of alcohol checks.

Vulnerable road users – Pedestrians

- Investigate the degree of traffic training delivered to children at various ages.
- Audit the pedestrian facilities in terms of footpaths and pedestrian crossings.
- Investigate drivers perception of the priorities of pedestrians.
- Devise and implement a strategies for increasing pedestrian safety.

Vulnerable road users – Cyclists and motorcyclists

- Investigate the degree of traffic education delivered to cyclists.
- Investigate the degree of training given to motorcyclists.
- Audit the cycle and motorcycle facilities in terms of cycle paths and dedicated lanes.
- Investigate drivers perception of the priorities of cyclists and motorcyclists.
- Devise and implement a strategies for increasing cyclist and motorcyclist safety.

Policing and enforcement

- Audit the current levels of traffic policing
- Investigate principles and policies of traffic policing
- Audit the degree of enforcement for minor, serious and dangerous traffic violations.
- Investigate driver perception of enforcement of driver behaviour.
- Devise and implement a strategies for increasing active policing.

Vehicle roadworthiness

- Investigate levels of vehicle fitness testing and standards applied.
- Investigate level of use of, or fraudulent use of unfit vehicles, or fraudulent obtention of documentation.

Driver training and testing

- Audit the driving test in terms of standards of validity and reliability for all vehicle categories.
- Investigate driver training methods and standards.
- Investigate instructor training, testing and standards, and continued certification.
- Devise and implement a strategies for improving training, testing, and certification.

Highway standards

- Audit road signs, road markings, and traffic signals in terms of safety.
- Investigate compliance in the use of signs with respect to the traffic signs manual.
- Consider implementing improvements to the traffic signs manual where necessary.
- Audit typical junction design.
- Audit junctions known to have a high accident record.
- Investigate design standards and compare with international norms.
- Develop engineering measures designed to reduce accidents in areas deemed suitable for such measures.

Road Traffic Regulations

- Examine the current scope of the regulations in terms of prohibitions and obligations for drivers, and consider revising the regulations where necessary.