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Development of a R&D programme for road traffic information

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THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- To create a research and development plan for information activities in road traffic until years 2007 and 2010 based on
  - the current development needs
  - the decision-making levels of the driver
  - the vision of an idealistic future

- To direct the development of the field

- To help the actors involved to direct their own work and to help them to create useful and effective ways of co-operation
BACKGROUND

- Information provision a complex process
  ⇒ Effective development of information services needs to be co-ordinated

- Some services produced in co-operation
  - 1995 agreement on authorities’ roles in incident information
  - 1997 national road weather service

- Road administration one of the main actors
  ⇒ Road administration’s need to direct future R&D funding in the most effective way
INFORMATION NEEDS OF DRIVERS

Traveler information

Strategic

Tactical

Operational

Driver support
METHODS

- Expert discussions
- Personal interviews
- A workshop

- Lead by a core group

- Focused on
  - information that affects travelers' decisions in everyday trips
  - road traffic and drivers

- Information campaigns were more or less excluded
RESULTS - VISIONS

- Grouping by the information type
  - Information on road and weather conditions
  - Information on incidents
  - Information on traffic situation

- Grouping by the predictability and the normality
  - Information on transportation system and driver behaviour
  - Information on exceptional situations or circumstances
  - Information on general traffic conditions based on traffic monitoring
VISION FOR INFORMATION ON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND DRIVER BEHAVIOUR

- Road users are told in an understandably way the reasons why the transportation system, traffic rules and traffic management is being developed as it is, and how the behaviour of a road user affects on traffic safety and fluency and supports the sustainable development of the society.
VISION FOR INFORMATION ON EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES

- Reliable information on incidents and unexpected changes in weather and road conditions is available for road users any time concerning any desired place. Information is available when planning the trip as well as on the trip.
VISION FOR INFORMATION ON GENERAL TRAFFIC CONDITIONS BASED ON MONITORING

- Information eliminates insecurity and gives an overview of the weather and road condition, traffic situation and forecasted situation on the most important roads already before the trip. All information is available from the same source. The road user gets a reliable and clear picture of the traffic situation, such as travel times by using different traffic modes, of the desired route.
RESULTS – GOALS FOR YEARS 2007 AND 2010

- Concrete, and also realistic, goals to reach the visions, or to get closer to the idealistic future presented in the visions
- Focus not only on services that should be available by those years but also on the pre-requirements
- A five stage process
  - data acquisition
  - data processing
  - information packaging
  - information transmission
  - support and billing
RESULTS – PROJECTS

- A list of 22 projects, which aim to develop either
  - information on road and weather conditions
  - information on incidents
  - information on traffic situation.

- The project descriptions consist of
  - background information
  - the expected outcome of the project
  - the needed research
  - responsible organization and other organizations involved
  - the scheduling.
DISCUSSION

- The methods chosen were found to be effective and creative.
- It seemed to be hard to see the development needs at the end of the period.
CONCLUSIONS: Implementation recommendations

- The program is aimed to all actors involved in traffic management and information both on private and public sector;
- Projects are mostly financed by ministries, Road Administration and cities;
- Project proposals are tendered;
- The implementation of the program will be followed up at least once-a-year. The follow-up meetings will be call either by the ministry or the road administration. All of the actors will be invited;
- The program will be up-dated in the meetings and publicized by the ministry;
- Organizations and actors are informed about the program and if needed, specific workshops are called.