



Partners for Roads



thinking in
all dimensions

Partners for Roads

"Partners for Roads" is a Dutch initiative in the field of road infrastructure for sharing knowledge, expertise and experience between the new member states and the Netherlands. This initiative offers the framework and opportunities for all stakeholders to deploy any kind of activity, as long as it is road infrastructure related, and help to adopt the EU standards.

The start of the initiative program took place in the year 2001. It started small sized then with 3 countries. Momentarily 13 (future) Central & East European (CEE) member states take part in the program. In the year 2005 the program has been evaluated. Judging by the results the initiative program is broadly and well appreciated. These results led the board of directors of Rijkswaterstaat to decide on the continuation of the program until the year 2010 with focus on Poland, Turkey and Romania.

By sharing mutual knowledge, expertise and experience the Dutch National Road Administration (Rijkswaterstaat) wishes to contribute to that economic development; especially in the new member states of the European Union (EU) to everyone's advantage. So, Rijkswaterstaat initiated a multinational cooperation program called "Partners for Roads". All new member states as well as candidate member states can take part(nership) in this program.

During the first stage of the implementation of Partners for Roads, eight different areas for cooperation have been selected. One of them is the window "Safe Road Design". The Dutch Consultants DHV and Royal Haskoning participate in this program with their expertise in the field of road safety.

Safe Road Design (SRD)

Mission:

Partners for Roads will contribute to the European Road Safety Action Plan by enhancing safer traffic in CEE countries. This will be done through definition of best practices and development of standards for the design of safer roads (Toolbox Safe Road Design). This toolbox may also be used in other parts of the world. The activities of Partners for Roads in the field of Safe Road Design like training and knowledge exchange is in line with what the EU propagate, i.e exporting knowledge from countries with recognized expertise in road safety to support CEE countries in achieving the goals on National and EU level.

Strategy:

Promotion of "Sustainable Safety" and application of Dutch best practices may help to improve traffic safety in partner countries. The implementation of cost effective, low budget measures to upgrade the existing road infrastructure contributes to reaching a higher level of traffic safety.

In the framework of Partners for Roads experts from participating countries will form an international group for peer review of road safety problems.

Activities:

- Performing "quick scans" together with Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), International Road Federation (IRF) (2008) and/or other organisations, for instance in Romania and Turkey
- Nestling knowledge in EU-guidelines (together with GRSP, CEDR, and others)
- Performing benchmarks

Results:

- An internationally acknowledged manual on Safe Road Design is developed in cooperation with the World Bank. The manual is the basis of trainings and workshops in different countries.
- A large number of well-trained national experts (about 600) all over Europe. The participants of the so called TIN-network meet two times a year. A website is in use to inform the members and to exchange knowledge.
- Cooperation between the National Road Administrations and other parties involved.
- Pilot projects in Pulawy (Poland) to establish the first 30 km/hr area and in Karmelava (Lithuania) for redesign of the National Road A6 in this linear village.
- Supporting the foundation of the Romanian Network Safe Roads (RoNSaR).
- Supporting the exchange of knowledge within several countries in Central and Eastern Europe (for instance Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania and Hungary)
- A lot of improvements in road design and execution of measures in the participating countries. It is aannemelijk dat dit directe positieve invloed heeft op de verkeersonveiligheid in deze landen.

CEE European countries definitely need improvement where traffic and road safety are concerned. To a certain extent this can be achieved by adapting the existing road infrastructure eliminating most dangerous (black) spots. Identifying black spots and practical (low cost) solutions in order to reduce risks involved ask for an expert view.

Manual Safe Road Design

One of the first activities of the Safe Road Design Program was the establishment of the "Manual Safe Road Design". A strategic alliance was formed between "Partners for Roads" and The World Bank, to jointly contribute to the further development of interpretation and application of the safe road design concept. The outcome of the discussions between the parties was the decision to undertake a project, which would involve the wider application of the safe road design concept in selected countries in Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, the Baltic's, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey). The manual, financed by the World Bank, describes the process and technical elements of the design of roads, based on the Dutch philosophy "Sustainable Road Safety". The manual can be downloaded from the World Banks' website.

The manual "Safe Road Design" was launched during the congress "Road Safety on four Continents" in 2006 in Warsaw.

Road safety management

A special theme which will take the attention is Road safety Management. Due to the ongoing preparation of the EU directive on this subject many activities have been and will be organized on e.g. Road Safety Audit, Road Safety Inspection, Network Safety Management and Black Spot Management.