

# Towards safer roads in Europe

Road Safety Research Challenges

Rob Eenink FERSI

# Trends

- PROS, Priorities for Road Safety research, FP7
- FERSI to balance industry and public sector
- The most important and certain trends are:
  - population growth,
  - older population
  - urbanization
  - growing cities.

# Trends

- Road fatalities: downward trend has stopped
- Severe injuries: where known, unfavourable trend
- Ageing society: frail, walking & cycling, dementia, ...
- Automation: active safety, no drink-driving, ...
- Urbanisation: vulnerable road users, nodes, ...

FERSI Position Paper – April 2014



# Ageing society

## *'Ageing and Safe mobility',*

FERSI International Conference (Bergisch-Gladbach Nov 2014)

- sustainable safe mobility of older people is a fundamental social matter
- accident risk of older road users is relatively low
- there is no evidence of safety benefits from obligatory driving ability examinations for elderly drivers
- the segment of elderly road users is highly heterogeneous

# Ageing society

- Vehicle technology: ADAS, crash test dummies
- Develop voluntary cognitive training (simulator, practice)
- Self-regulations: physicians, counseling, medicine labelling, self-screening tests, campaigns, technical feedback
- Infrastructure: avoid complexity, ensure vivibility
- Focus on interaction of human factors, infrastructure and vehicle technology.

# The burden of injuries

## FERSI-position paper:

- MAIS(3+) assessment: **investigation of the current situation in the EU Member States**
- Promotion of a uniform injury classification in hospitals: development of IT-tools to standardise and facilitate MAIS classification

# The burden of injuries

## **FERSI Country Survey:**

- 15 of 34 EU/EEA countries responded (44%)
- Challenge: cooperation between institutions (e.g. police-hospital)
- Differences, e.g. responsibility police, ministry, hospitals, ..
- MAIS 3+ assessment may take years for some
- Different methods hinder a 'unique' European number
- Few countries have MAIS3+ and crash information
- That is a problem for finding effective countermeasures



# Vulnerable Road Users

- Unprotected Road Users: pedestrians, (powered)2-wheelers
- EU 2014, road fatalities:
  - 22% pedestrians,
  - 8% cyclists
  - 18% Powered Two-Wheelers
  - Total: 47% of the fatalities.
- Explorative studies on injuries:
  - 2/3rd are URUs,
  - of which 2/3rd single accidents



# Vulnerable Road Users

- Netherlands: urbanised, aged, ICT-ed
- => NL now = EU 2030
- ☺ or ☹?
- MAIS2+
  - 60% cyclists
  - 50% single crash cyclists (no-mv)
- Walk-in clinic injured (estimates)
  - Pedestrians 48,000, single 43,000 (no road safety)
  - Cyclists 78,000, single 54,000



it's the  
~~economy~~ URU,  
stupid!