

Good practice in collision investigation, Finland

EU Road Safety Exchange Launch Event, Brussels, 18 October 2023

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EXCHANGE





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Good practice in collision investigation in Finland

Kalle Parkkari. Leader of the road accident investigation.

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Investigation legislation and organisation

- Investigations started in 1968, legislation in 2001
- - Act on the Investigation of Road and Cross-Country Traffic Accidents 24/2001, revised in 2016 (512/2016)
- Action Plan send annually to Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom)
- Maintained by OTI
- Independent and impartial
 - 20 independent teams across Finland

Purpose of investigation – Safe System Approach

- To increase road traffic safety
- To provide material for safety research
- To find out for to prevent such accidents happening again
 - Contributing risk factors
 - Consequences
 - Circumstances
- To provide safety improvement proposals on
 - Human factors
 - Vehicles
 - Road environment
 - Traffic system

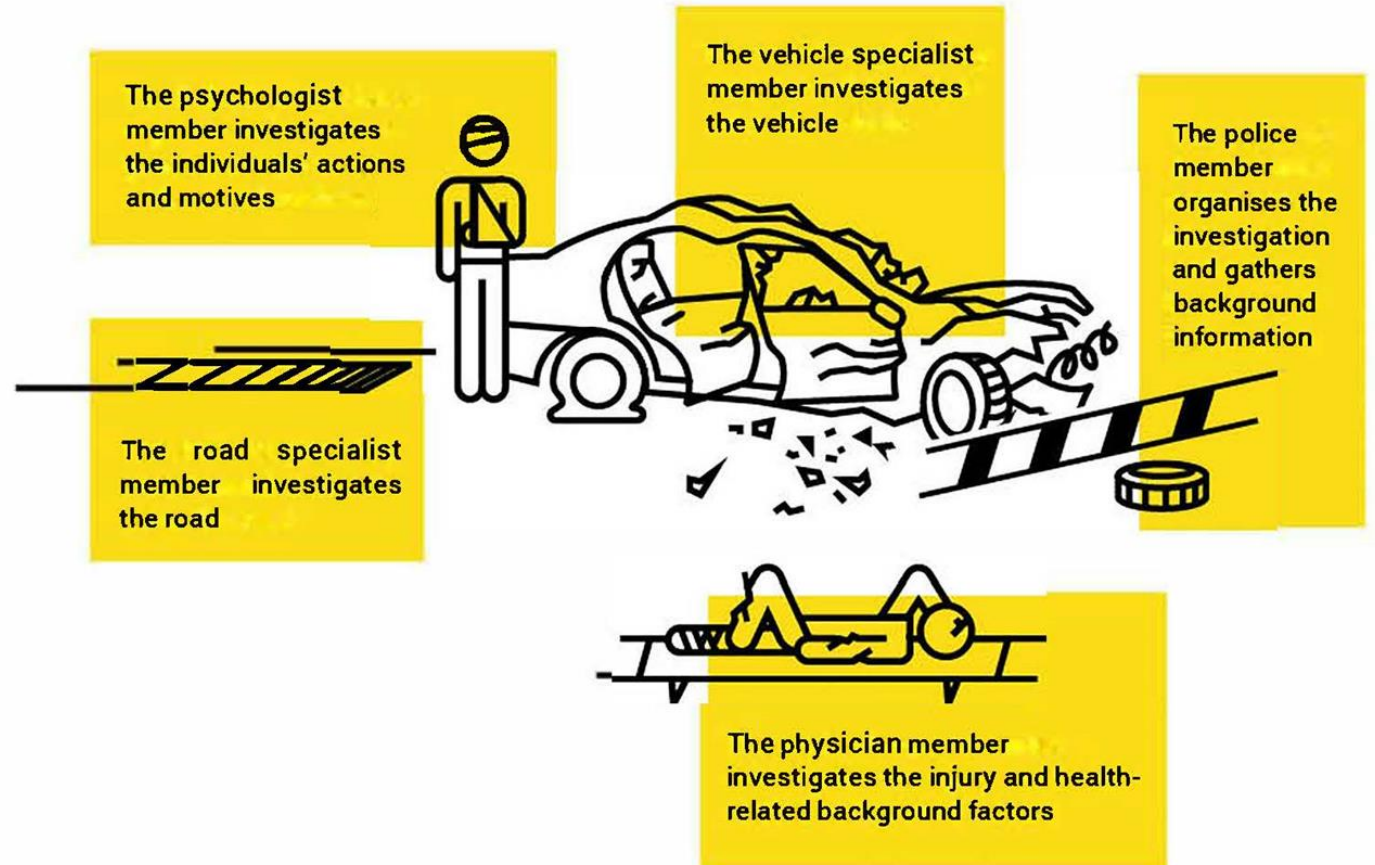
Investigation teams do not take stand on guilty issues or insurance compensations!

Multidisciplinary



OTI coordinates the independent investigation of road accidents

The information gathered on accidents is collected in the OTI database



Other experts if needed



In-depth investigation

- Investigation organised and background material collected
- Vehicle inspected
- Road inspected
- Injuries and underlying health factors investigated
- Actions and motives investigated
- Available registers (road, vehicle etc) checked and data collected

- Case analysis
- Final report

- Accident data register is collected in the OTI database

On-site

- Team visits collision site as soon as possible
- Documentation
 - Photos, measurements, interviews, initial vehicle inspection, initial reconstruction etc.

Legislation

- Scope and contents of the investigation
- Organisation
- Duties of responsible organisation
- Team requirements
- Initiating the investigation and co-operation during it
- Right to obtain information
- Investigation report
- Data register
- Confidentiality issues
- Financing

Methodology

- VALT-method (latest revision 2003)
 - Structure of the team
 - Call out procedures
 - Tasks of the members
 - Use of data and privacy protection issues
 - Operation at the scene of the accident
 - Analysis of the accident
 - Description
 - Risk factors
 - Safety recommendations
 - Final report
- Standardized data collection forms

Use of collected information

- Road improvements
- Vehicle safety
- Driver training
- Annual and thematic reports
- Road safety research
- Statements
- Road safety strategies and follow-up

Challenges

- Data protection issues with sensitive data
- Vehicle automation
- Funding
- Availability of experts
- Training

Further reading

- EU funded projects
 - Pendant
 - SafetyNet
 - DaCoTA
- UNECE Global Forum for Road Safety
 - Safe System Approach



Thank You

www.oti.fi