Successes and failures of road safety policy in Europe

Francesco Mitis
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Athens, 22 November 2012

http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/disease-prevention/violence-and-injuries

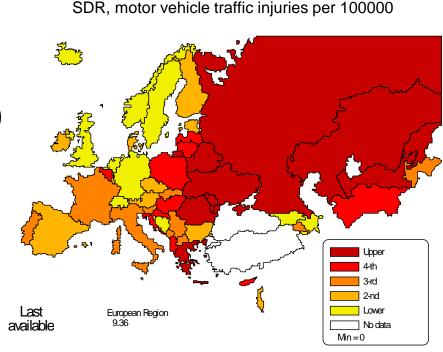
mit@euro.who.int



Road traffic injuries: a leading cause of death

- 110000 people die every year on the EURO roads
- Leading cause of death in 5-29 year olds
- Younger males more at risk
- Burden unevenly distributed
- Inequalities within countries
- Cost: 2-3% of GDP

Source: WHO, 2009 and WHO 2011



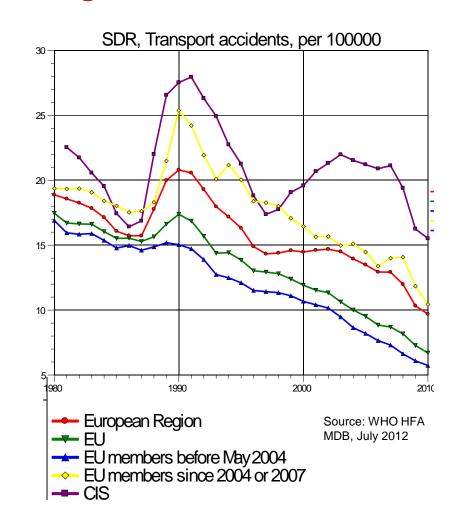
Source: WHO HFA MDB, July 2012



Road traffic injuries: a leading cause of death

- 110000 people die every year on the EURO roads
- Leading cause of death in 5-29 year olds
- Younger males more at risk
- Burden unevenly distributed
- Inequalities within countries
- Cost: 2-3% of GDP

Source: WHO, 2009 and WHO 2011





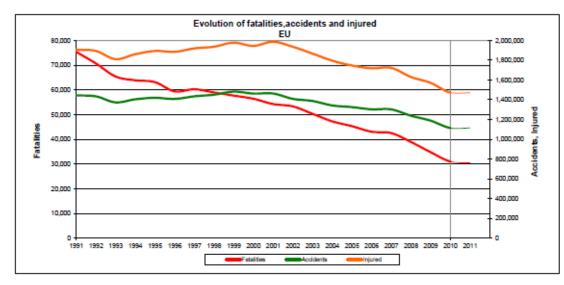
A focus on European Union roads

- Around 30000 deaths in 2010, a bit over the target
- Data from European Road Safety Observatory
- Central repository of data and knowledge to support evidence-based road safety policy-making:
 - data
 - legislations
 - Policies
 - projects
 - **–**



Road safety evolution in EU

Mars 2012



Source : CARE (EU road accidents database) or national publications

European Commission / Directorate General Energy and Transport



International response

- UN General Assembly resolutions
 - Appointed WHO as UN co-ordinator for road safety
 - Mandated a first Global Road Safety Week in 2007 (and a second in April 2012 – will be celebrated from 6 to 12 May)
 - Prepared 'good practice' manuals on key risk factors (helmets, seat belts, drink-driving, speed, child restraints)
 - Mandated the first ever global Ministerial Conference on road safety
 - Declared 2011-2020 a Decade of Action for Road Safety
- World Health Assembly and European Region resolutions
- EC Recommendations and Plan
- Synergy with European Alcohol Action Plan and policies



The Decade of Action for road safety

- Called for by UN resolution in March 2010 (tabled by Russian Federation)
- Runs from 2011-2020
- Launched on 11 May 2011
- Plan of action encourages action in 5 pillars
- 39 European countries have launched for the Decade of Action for Road Safety (3 with the Head of State)

Safer roads

and mobility

Safer

vehicles

Safer road

Post-crash

response

Road safety



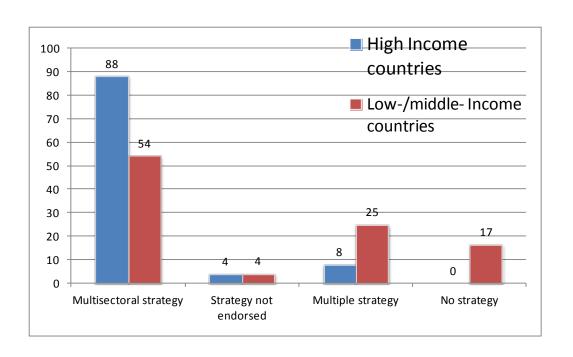


Risk factors and policy response

- Alcohol, speed, not using safety equipment, and aspects of transport policy and unsafe road infrastructure.
- In the European Region only 33% of countries have comprehensive laws relating to five key risks: speeding, drinking and driving, and the non-use of helmets, seatbelts and child restraints.
 - Legislation will only be effective if enforced, and few countries report that this is effectively enforced
 - Results will be updated in February 2013

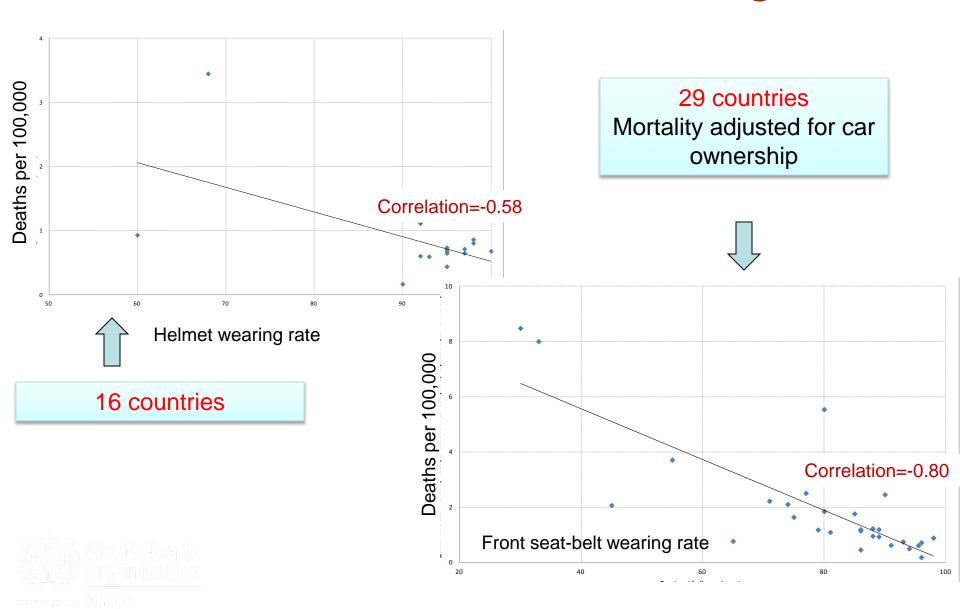
The facts: national strategies on road safety

National strategy on road safety by country income level

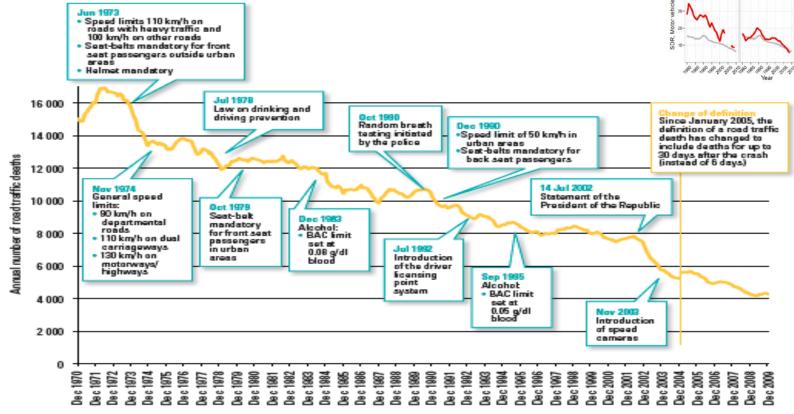


- Half of all low- and middle-income do not have a national multisectoral strategy on road safety
- Even in those countries with a strategy, this often does not set measurable targets nor present a clear budget plan

Seat belts and helmet wearing



Southwest Europe Metropolitan France, 1970-2009

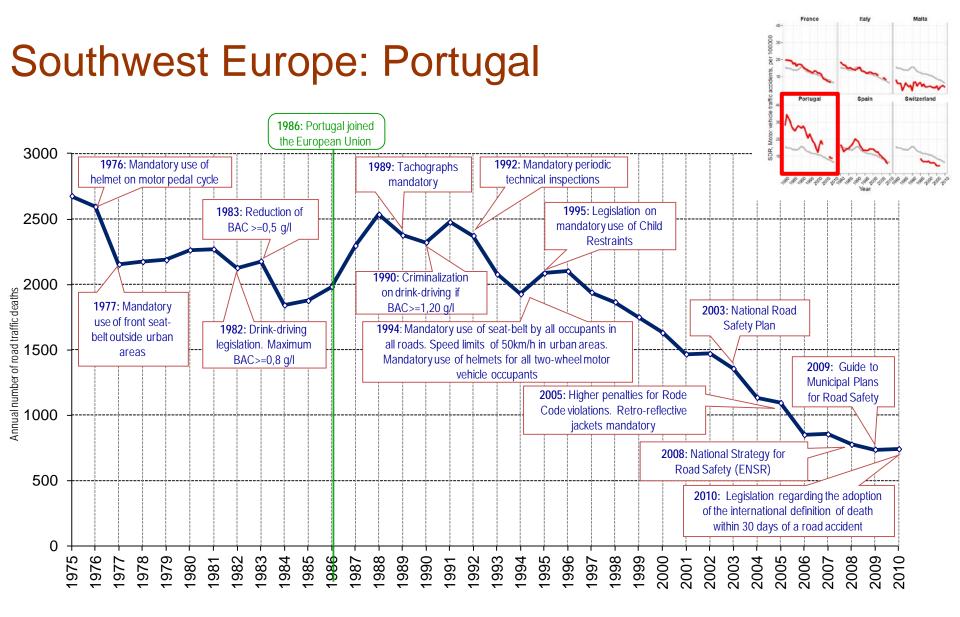


Switzerland

Source: Graphique reproduit avec l'autorisation de l'Observatoire national interministériel de la sécurité routière (ONISR), France

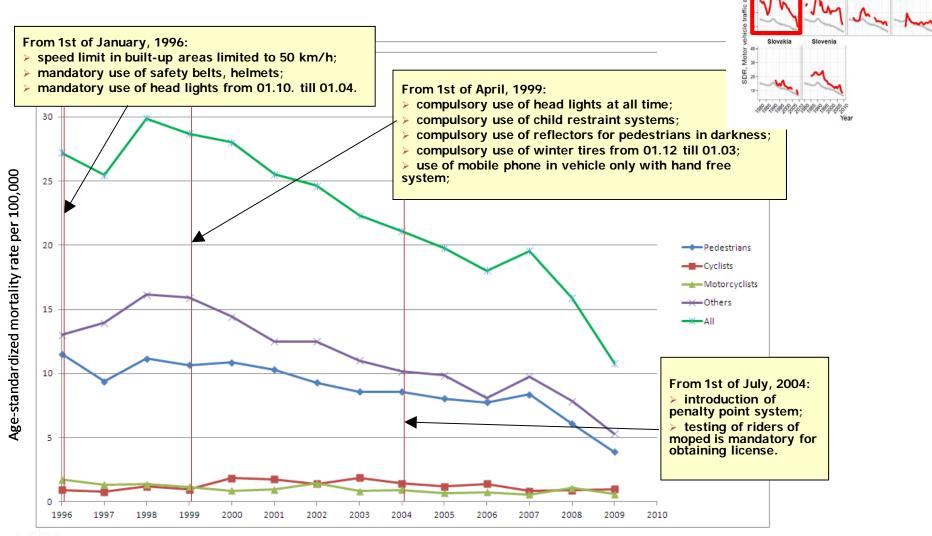
Comprehensive road safety policies require numerous actions as demonstrated by the example of France but steep decline after 2002





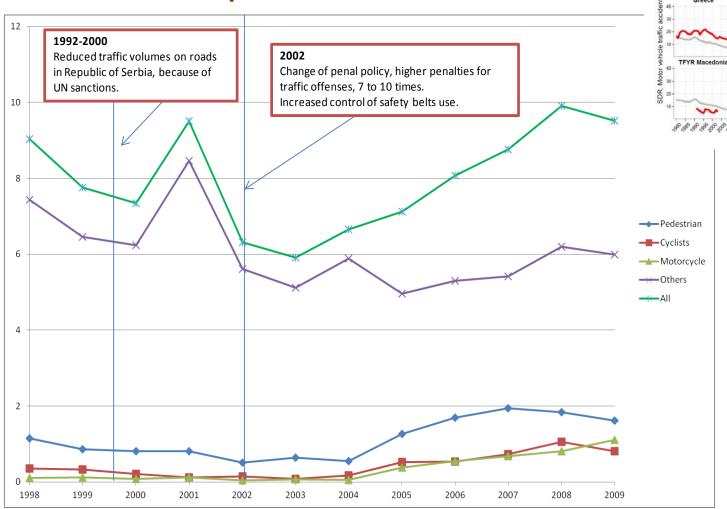


Central and Eastern Europe: Latvia





Southeast Europe: Serbia





CIS countries

- The countries of the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) appear to have RTI mortality rates which are stable of late and lower than those of the EU
- In contrast the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova have RTI mortality rates far higher than the EU
- Size of the problem and implementation in Russian Federation
 - speed limits
 - seat-bealts



Next steps

- Examine policy implementation for country groups using results of survey for European status report on road safety 2013
- Examine data for CIS countries
- Obtain detailed policy data for countries such as Estonia, Lithuania, Portugal, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Sweden, France



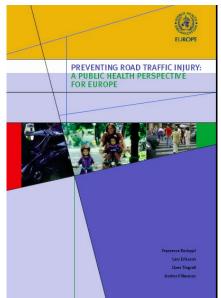
Possible implications for health policy

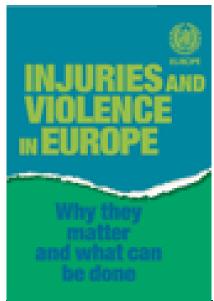
- Successful policy: good governance structure, intersectoral working, policies with targets, lead authority for road safety, strong capacity, civil society involvement in safety, societal capacity etc
- Unsuccessful policy: e.g. poor governance, no road safety plan with targets, no lead authority, weak capacity, inadequate resources, etc.

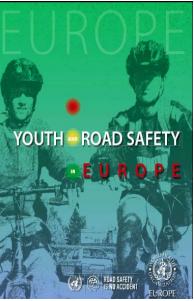
Conclusions

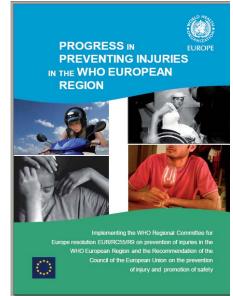
- Need of better data
- Can the declines in RTI mortality be attributed to policy
- What is the reason for these between country differences
- Lessons for other areas of health policy
- Limitations of this approach:
 - difficulty in ascertaining if policy is implemented
 - shortfalls of trend analysis and looking for associations
 - difficulty in measuring infrastructure changes
 - transport policies for vulnerable road users

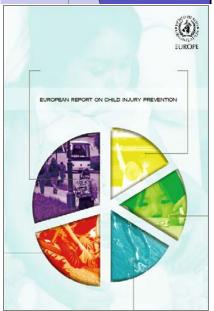




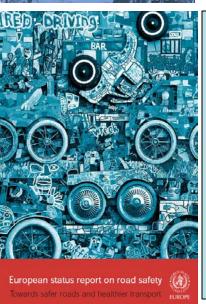












February 2013

World Health Organization

Global Status report on Road Safety 2

- Will be launched in February 2013
- A regional fact sheet
- Later on: a European report that should focus on pedestrian safety
- 51 countries out ot 53 (no MON and TKM)
- Information on data availability, key risk factors, evidence-based interventions, national policy, trauma care
- Data collection started in April 2012

