

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Vision Zero Academy



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A few words of introduction...

Vision Zero is an important part of the work with the 2030 Agenda and in being able to create a sustainable society in the long run. In autumn 2016, the Swedish Transport Administration was commissioned by the government to lead the overall collaboration on Vision Zero. An important aspect of this assignment is to manage, develop and spread knowledge about Vision Zero as a road safety policy both nationally and internationally. In order to create a platform for the international work, the Swedish Transport Administration in 2019 decided to transform the Vision Zero Academy (VZA) project into the regular operations.

In 2023, we continued to build on the last years' developments on a global level, with the UN resolution on Implementing Global Road Safety and the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety supporting us. The highlight of the year was without doubt the "international road safety week" in Stockholm, when we were able to welcome road safety professionals from across the globe to Sweden for almost a full week, and with our favourite topic, road safety, on top of the agendas. The week started with the fourth international *Vision Zero Conference*, a high-level policy conference on road safety and the Vision Zero, building on the Stockholm Declaration and the Global Plan on Road Safety. The conference took place in Stockholm at the end of June 2023 in conjunction with the first in-person meeting of the WHO's *Global Network of Heads of Road Safety Agencies*. The Vision Zero Academy was at the heart of the planning of the conference, meaning we were rather busy with the organisation the conference at the first half of 2023, and we were not able to be as active as usual on other arenas in this period.

Another highlight of 2023 was our *Vision Zero International Course*, with road safety professionals from different corners of the world joining us in Gothenburg for a week.

This document gives an overview of some of the activities we have carried out the past year.

Vision Zero Academy

Vision Zero Academy's secretariat 2023



Eva Björk
*International Operations
Manager VZA*



Kenneth Svensson
*Special Advisor on
Road Safety*

Administration & secretariat

Vision Zero Academy's organisation

In 2023, the secretariat has been staffed by Eva Björk, International Operations Manager and Kenneth Svensson, Special Advisor on Road Safety. During the year, the *operational working group*, consisting of resources from the two road safety units at the Swedish Transport Administration, has met once per week to discuss requests, progress and strategic development. Peter Larsson, Matteo Rizzi, Lars Ekman, Rikard Fredriksson and Kristina Mattsson have participated in the group, in addition to the secretariat. The *steering group* consisting of the Road Safety Director at the Swedish Transport Administration, the heads of unit of the two road safety units and the VZA secretariat has met every second week to discuss more strategic matters and to take necessary decisions.

At the end of August 2023, our cherished colleague Lars Ekman retired from a long career devoted to road safety – the Vision Zero Academy would like to send a warm thank you to Lars for his determined work to improve global road safety and for being a great colleague – thank you Lars!

Broad participation in Vision Zero Academy's work

Vision Zero Academy participates, organises and co-organises a large number of events each year and 2023 was no exception. This year we continued to carry out many digital events, but we also participated in a number of in-person meetings in different parts of the world. During the year, more than fifteen experts from the road safety units have participated as lecturers to events linked to Vision Zero Academy. VZA also collaborates to a large extent with other Swedish actors, such as the Swedish Transport Agency, Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI), the Swedish Police, Folksam, Volvo, Autoliv, Scania, IKEA, Business Sweden, several universities and Swedish embassies around the world. On the international arena, among others WHO, EU, UN, World Resources Institute, FIA Foundation, ITF, and the Global Road Safety Facility are important partners.

Vision Zero Academy website

The website - our main channel to the outside world where we share materials and information about the Vision Zero, our courses and other important events.

Vision Zero Academy at LinkedIn



The VZA has a page on LinkedIn, which is an important channel for spreading information about our activities. It is a flexible channel for sharing information about important road safety news and reports, upcoming events and follow-up from past events. The page is updated approximately twice per month, it allows us to connect with the global road safety community and to share knowledge and experiences with partners and road safety professionals around the globe. At the end of 2023, the page had around 1400 followers. The posts are mainly in English.

Strategic advice and information – an overview

Requests from all over the world



During the year, the Vision Zero Academy received a large number of requests to contribute with presentations, keynote speeches, lectures, workshops, advice, interviews and various texts linked to Sweden's work with the Vision Zero and road safety. Inquiries came from embassies, ministries, authorities, journalists, associations, NGOs and businesses, as well as from international organisations such as the EU, World Health

Organization (WHO), the ITF and the World Bank - from around fifty countries across the globe.

➤ **North America**

USA, Canada, México, El Salvador, Nicaragua, & Guatemala

➤ **South America**

Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Suriname, Argentina & Colombia



➤ **Europe**

Ukraine, Scotland, Germany, Finland, Slovakia, Denmark, Ireland, Romania, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Spain, Lithuania, Netherlands, Switzerland, Great Britain, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro & North Macedonia

➤ **Africa**

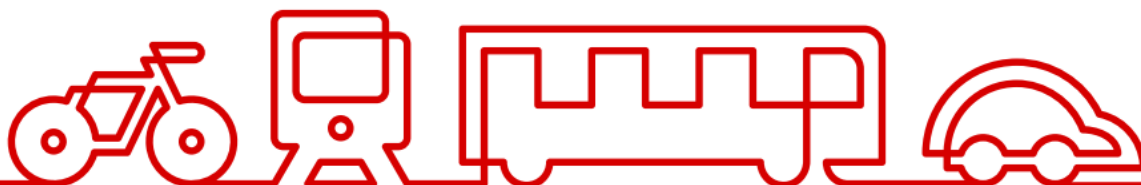
Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ghana & Botswana

➤ **Asia**

Kazakhstan, Armenia, Korea, Israel, Thailand, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, India & Taiwan

➤ **Australia**

Australia, New Zealand



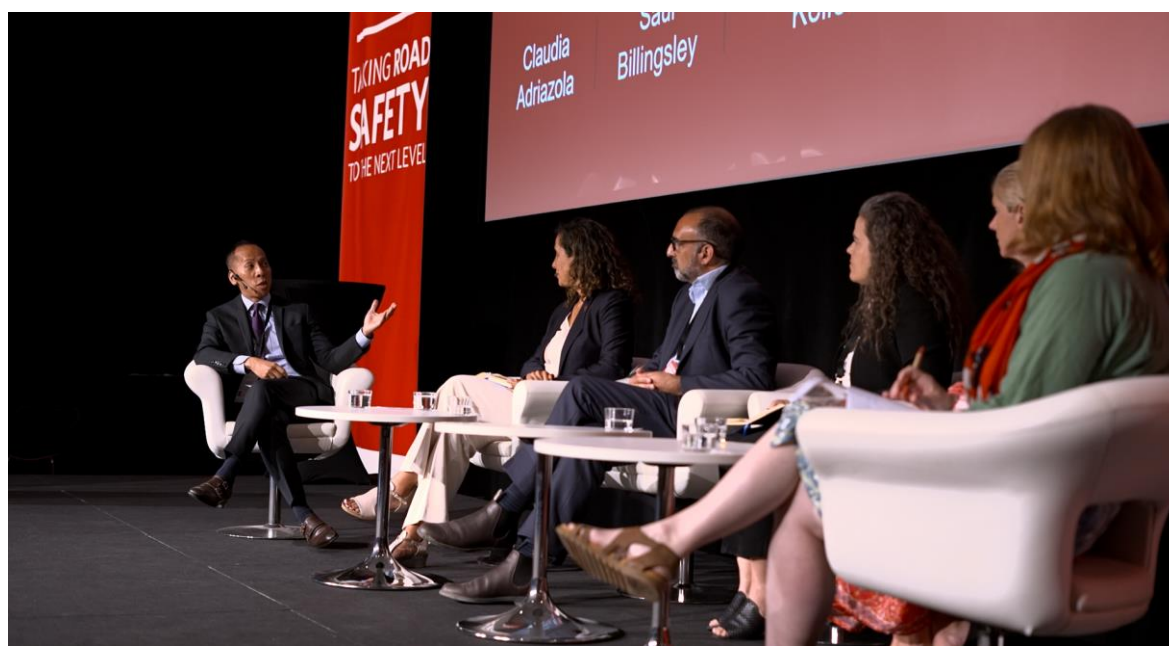
Training, education & policy cooperation

Vision Zero Conference 2023

In autumn 2022, it was decided that the Swedish Transport Administration would organise an international high-level policy conference on the Vision Zero in June 2023, in collaboration with the Government Offices of Sweden and the Swedish innovation agency Vinnova. The conference aimed at regaining the momentum and to take the next steps in our joint strive for a safer road transport system around the world, and to take road safety to the next level. The conference was organised with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank's Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF).

The conference provided an opportunity for international knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking and inspiration on road safety and the Vision Zero and around 250 road safety professionals, high-level representatives from government authorities, international organisations, private sector, academia, policy makers, NGOs, and development banks from more than 40 countries joined us in Stockholm to exchange knowledge, experiences, and discuss the way forward in order to reach the global goals.

The Minister of Infrastructure, the National Police Commissioner and the Director General of the Swedish Transport Administration participated as speakers, as well as the EU's road safety coordinator, the UN's special envoy on road safety and a large number of Swedish and international experts. The conference became an important arena for knowledge exchange, to discuss the way forward to reach the global road safety goals, and to highlight the connection between road safety and other global sustainability challenges. The



Panel discussion Photo: Gunnar Orvegård, Trafikverket

conference consolidated Sweden's leading role in global road safety work. You will find interviews and films from the conference here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCYiAAOUWtV_gYfUDmpRP6glblZIx3vRs

Some of the news presented at the conference included that the World Bank includes a road safety criteria to grant financial support for all types of projects from 1 September 2023; Total Energies became the first private company to receive three stars in the FIA Road Safety Index, a tool for measuring an organisation's road safety footprint; and the Swedish Insurance company FOLKSAM invests in a road safety bond, which is the first of its kind and has been produced in a collaboration between the Folksam group and the World Bank.

The Vision Zero Academy was at the heart of organising the conference, and the VZA secretariat was leading work of the programme committee, which apart from the secretariat consisted of a very experienced and knowledgeable group of road safety experts; Peter Larsson and Lars Ekman from the Swedish Transport Administration, Claes Tingvall representing Chalmers University, and last but not least Matts-Åke Belin representing the World Health Organization (WHO). Thanks a lot for fantastic contributions and for making the conference a great success. A big thank you also to everyone else who in different ways contributed to the work with the conference.



Programme committee VZC2023 Photo: Gunnar Orvegård, Trafikverket

WHO's Global Network of Heads of Road Safety Agencies

In conjunction with the Vision Zero Conference 2023, the World Health Organization's first physical meeting was held in its Global Network of Heads of Road Safety Agencies, on 28-29 June. It was a first-of-its kind global gathering of national road safety leaders, and delegates from nearly 100 countries took part, as well as representatives from the United Nations, civil society, academia and other stakeholder organisations from around the world. Swedish Transport Administration's Director General Roberto Maiorana addressed the network during the opening session of the event, and he welcomed the important initiative by the WHO to set up the network. He highlighted among other things the importance of having a lead agency to achieve success in the road safety work; at the same time as he emphasised the lead agency's mandate to act; challenging targets; collaboration and joint efforts as keys to effective and successful road safety work.

The two events in conjunction formed an "an international road safety week" in Stockholm, and the Vision Zero Academy is very happy that Sweden could host the first physical meeting in this newly started network. The meeting aimed to aid countries in implementing their road safety strategies in line with the Global Road Safety Plan 2021-2030. The network was launched following the United Nations High-Level Political Declaration on Global Road Safety in 2022, with the overall goal to aid countries to reduce road crash fatalities and injuries, in line with the global goal of halving these tragedies by 2030. In order to reach the ambitious global target, holistic, long-term efforts and systematic work from governments and societies is needed. The network aids governments and partners in establishing robust road safety policies, coordination systems and measures required to guarantee safe mobility for all citizens. It fosters collaboration and learning, seeks to provide technical and financial support, and monitors progress against the Global Plan.



Heads of Road Safety Agencies Photo: WHO

Vision Zero International Course 2023

In mid-September, the fifth edition of the Vision Zero International Course was held, and around twenty participants from ten countries gathered in Gothenburg. The participants are experts in the field of road safety and represent different road safety organisations and sectors. During a packed course week, the delegates met around thirty experts, mainly from the Swedish Transport Administration's road safety units, but also specialists from the Swedish Transport Agency, the Police, the Government Offices, VTI, the universities of Lund, Umeå and Örebro, international actors, non-profit organisations and companies.

A wide range of road safety aspects were discussed during the week. In addition to the theoretical parts, a bus tour was carried out in and around Gothenburg to look at road safety measures, such as speed reduction measures, roundabouts and 2+1 roads, as well as a visit to Volvo Trucks. Business Sweden arranged a side event where a number of industry actors and consultants with a road safety focus had the opportunity to briefly describe their work, followed by a networking session. The event gave the participants the opportunity to make contacts with Swedish companies that work with different types of road safety solutions.

Four important international road safety actors participated in the course, both as lecturers and participants; *United Nations Road Safety Fund*, *World Health Organization*, *World Bank's Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF)* and *Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS)*. The participants came from Brazil, England, Ireland, Israel, Canada, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Switzerland and Ukraine. The two delegates from Ukraine's Ministry of Transport were invited to the course as a direct result of talks between the Swedish Minister of Infrastructure and his Ukrainian counterpart, where Ukraine expressed interest in cooperation on road safety and Vision Zero, as part of the long-term cooperation and reconstruction of the country after the war.

Said Dahdah, head of the GRSF, who was a participant in last year's course, participated this year as a lecturer. He said that the course is very "hands on" and with good practical elements, and he underlined the importance of networking and experience sharing between the participants from different parts of the world as another important aspect of the course.



Vision Zero International Course 2023 Photo: Trafikverket

Collaboration within Europe

European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)

The EU Road Safety Exchange

The Swedish Transport Administration is an active member of the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC). The road safety performance differs greatly amongst the EU member states, and to address this issue and to exchange experiences across the EU member states and ETSC members, the EU Road Safety Exchange project has been running for a number of years. The project aims to help tackle disparities, linking up transport experts to exchange knowledge and good practice. The project is funded by the European Parliament and managed by the ETSC on behalf of the European Commission. In 2023, a new three-year phase of the project was launched and the official launch of the project took place in Brussels on October 18th. During the launch event a study visit was organised, which allowed the participants to get insights into the road safety work in Brussels, with examples of successfully implemented road safety initiatives, such as a variety of traffic calming initiatives and other interventions which have generated a substantial reduction in road collisions in the city. A number of presentations on infrastructure safety, effective speed enforcement, the protection of vulnerable road users, and comprehensive collision investigation were also given by experts from participating countries from Spain, France, Finland and Sweden. Vision Zero Academy's expert Dr Lars Ekman was representing Sweden and the Swedish Transport Administration.



EU Road Safety Exchange Photo: ETSC

Lithuania visits Sweden

As a part of the EU Road Safety Exchange project, a study visit was organised in Sweden for a delegation from Lithuania. The visit was organised by the ETSC, the Swedish Transport Administration and supported by road safety experts at the City of Stockholm. The

Lithuanian delegation was led by Vice-Minister Julius Skačkauskas and included representatives of the transport ministry and Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration. Since 2018, Lithuania and Sweden have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Lithuanian Ministry of Transport and Communications and its Swedish counterpart ministry on cooperation in the field of transport, traffic safety and Vision Zero. This study visit addressed Lithuania's interest in the topic of Vision Zero, with a specific focus on road infrastructure measures and safe urban mobility solutions. Other topics included Sweden's journey with the Vision Zero as a guiding star for all road safety work, in-depth explanations of the paradigm shift required for successful implementation of the Vision Zero principles, how Sweden works with management by objectives and other road safety approaches.

During the two-day visit, apart from meetings and discussions with road safety experts from the Swedish Transport Administration and the City of Stockholm, also a field trip by bus was carried out to have a look at various safe infrastructure measures, including 2+1 roads, an innovative system of reversing lanes to manage heavy traffic and looking at a congestion tool station. In addition, there was a guided walking tour in Stockholm showcasing urban traffic safety solutions, such as how to control traffic and vehicle speed, with a focus on vulnerable road users, pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Safe and sober

In the framework of the Safe and Sober project, the Portuguese national road safety authority (ANRS-*Autoridade Nacional de Segurança Rodoviária*), the PRP - *Prevenção Rodoviária Portuguesa* and the ETSC organised an international conference on sobriety in traffic and drink-driving in Lisbon on 3rd of April. Representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Governmental bodies, Traffic Police and local stakeholders, as well as international experts took part in the discussions of various issues related to drink-driving, as well as the impact Alcohol Interlock technology can have to help reduce the number of alcohol-related road deaths on the European roads. An overview of the situation of alcohol and driving in the EU and Portugal was given, and a number of case studies from countries such as Portugal, Belgium, France and Sweden were presented. Expert panels discussed the European experiences with alcohol interlocks, the possibilities and issues for the implementation, as well as the potential introduction of alcohol interlocks would have at national level. Side by side with other European experts on the topic, Dr Lars Ekman took part in the discussions and shared his knowledge and experience in the field.

European Roads Policing Network (ROADPOL)

For the past few years, the Vision Zero Academy has collaborated with ROADPOL, the European Roads Policing Network, which gathers police authorities from around 40 countries in Europe and beyond. The overall target of ROADPOL is to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on the roads. In 2023, the network agreed with the

European Commission, in the context of the project Strider III, that they would organise a webinar on speed enforcement during the “Operation Speed” week, carried out in April 2023. The webinar delved into topics such as different methods of enforcement, the choice of roads and check points, prevention, innovation, and special target groups when it comes to speed. The Swedish Transport Administration’s Eva Lundberg took part in the webinar and spoke about the more technical aspects of the Swedish Traffic Safety Camera System, the deployment, and how the Swedish Transport Administration collaborates with the Police in this field. The aim of the webinar was to improve the knowledge about speed management among the European police forces. We believe collaboration is key in achieving safer road transport systems and the police authorities are very important actors in reaching this objective.

European Road Safety Summer School

On June 26-30, the 2023 edition of the European Road Safety Summer School took place in an online format, and mobility experts from different parts of Europe took part. This annual five-day summer school focuses on an integrated approach to road safety. Topics that were covered throughout the course were the global road safety situation; road safety strategies; road infrastructure, data and vehicle technology; enforcement; and the European road safety framework, to mention a few. The Swedish Transport Administration and Vision Zero Academy’s Dr. Lars Ekman was one of the lecturers of the course and he shared his knowledge with the participants on the day focusing on infrastructure, data and vehicle technologies, and in his presentation he delved into how to lead a paradigm shift towards a safe system.

Ireland

International Road Safety Conference in Dublin

On October 4th, the Irish Road Safety Authority (RSA) held their annual international road safety conference in Dublin, this year focusing on the learnings which can be generated about road safety trends from analysing serious injuries on the roads. The Swedish Transport Administration’s road safety expert Kenneth Svensson gave a speech on the Vision Zero, including the reasoning behind shared responsibility, road design, traffic safety cameras, speed management and kinetic energy. Police Inspector Edström, from the Swedish Police Authority spoke about how the Swedish Police works in the traffic environment. She highlighted the importance of sobriety in traffic, collaboration between different authorities and stakeholders, how a small reduction in mean speed can make a huge difference when it comes to serious injuries and fatalities on the roads, and why all police officers in Sweden spend at least 20 minutes per day in the traffic environment.

Alongside these examples from Sweden, medical, enforcement and road safety experts from Ireland, UK, Norway, Belgium and Finland shared their experiences, knowledge and case

study examples and gave their perspectives on policy approaches to improve road safety. In addition, the EU's approach to reducing serious injuries on the European roads was presented by Jennifer Carson from the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC). One of the panels, consisting of international road safety experts, were discussing e-scooters and serious injuries. The panel discussion was moderated by Sarah Lynch from the European Commission's DG MOVE.

In the final remarks, Mr Sam Waide, Chief Executive at the Irish Road Safety Authority, highlighted among other things collaboration to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic. He specifically mentioned the importance of speed and lowering the energy at our roads, and gave Norway's and Sweden's work with the Vision Zero and evidence-based approach to road safety as positive examples. Mr Jack Chambers, Minister of State at the Department of Transport, when closing the conference, highlighted the importance of commitment to end road fatalities and serious injuries and that there is a shared ambition across Europe to achieve the Vision Zero. The safe system and an evidence-based approach to road safety were emphasised by the Minister as important aspects.



Irish RSA Road Safety Conference, Dublin Photo: RSA

Slovakia

Conference on modern trends in urban mobility

On May 25, the Smart Cities Club in Slovakia and the largest Slovak daily newspaper SME organised a conference in Bratislava with the title "Modern trends in urban mobility". Smart Cities Klub is an informal forum for the exchange of experiences and the promotion of cooperation between local decision-makers and experts in the broad concept of "smart cities". The conference is held annually and this year the conference had the overarching theme of "smart mobility", aiming to exchange both national and international experiences in the areas of smart and active mobility. The participants got to learn about and discuss

innovative mobility solutions with representatives from the government sector, business and academia and issues such as air quality, public transport, and autonomous means of transport were raised at the conference. The Vision Zero was one of the main topics for the conference and in this context the Vision Zero Academy was asked to present the Swedish experiences from more than 25 years of working with the Vision Zero. Dr Lars Ekman joined the event online and gave an overview of the basics of the Vision Zero.

Spain

FISITA Technology of Mobility Conference and Exhibition

Who is responsible for meeting the goals of Vision Zero? This was one of the questions Vision Zero Academy's Mr Kenneth Svensson addressed in his opening key note address at the Intelligent Safety Congress Europe (ISCE), held as part of FISITA Technology of Mobility Conference and Exhibition in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2023. FISITA is the international network for automotive engineers. Kenneth underlined that meeting the goals of the Vision Zero is a shared responsibility which requires collaboration between different actors and stakeholders involved in the transport system. Responsibility is shared between system designers, with responsibility for the design, operation and use of the road infrastructure and the vehicles that use them; and the road users, who have the responsibility for using the infrastructure in a safe way. He exemplified with points at which design and real-life use meet, and where the result is not always the one that was intended - and where the responsibility goes back to the system designers. Kenneth's talk covered the impact of speed, traffic management and infrastructure design, in the quest for Vision Zero. He also took part in a panel discussion.

Global collaboration

Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety and UNRSC in El Salvador

The eighth *Global Meeting of Non-governmental Organizations Advocating for Road Safety and Road Victims* was held in El Salvador in March 2023. The theme of this year's global meeting was *Rethinking road safety for people and planet*. Almost 200 persons from around 60 countries attended the event, including Eva Björk, representing the Vision Zero Academy. The meeting was organised by the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety, and co-hosted by the Vice Ministry of Transportation of El Salvador and the World Health Organization (WHO). The opening remarks at the global meeting was held by Edgar Romeo Rodriguez Herrera, Minister of Public Works and Transport of El Salvador; Nelson Eduardo Reyes Rivas, Vice Minister of Transportation of El Salvador; and Lotte Brondum, the Alliance's Executive Director. Keynote speakers were Etienne Krug, Director, Social Determinants of Health at the WHO, and Jean Todt, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety. To play their part in achieving the 2030 target, NGOs at the meeting

explored what accountability in road safety means and how NGOs can keep their governments accountable for global commitments to achieve the 2030 target. The NGOs pushed for more accountability and implementation of evidence-based interventions to reduce traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030. During the main symposium of the global meeting, the NGO Alliance also launched an Accountability Toolkit, which enables NGOs to assess and follow up on their governments' implementation of priority interventions to reduce traffic deaths and injuries at the country level.

In conjunction with the global meeting, a meeting of the *United Nations Road Safety Collaboration* (UNRSC) was held in the same venue, discussing among other things the plans for the global road safety week and the upcoming Global Meeting of Heads of Road Safety Agencies.



Global meeting 2023 Photo: Global Alliance of NGO:s for Road Safety

ITF: Advancing the Safe System

The International Transport Forum (ITF) and the World Bank have for some years been coordinating a project on implementation of the Vision Zero in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and a number of publications on the Safe System and Vision Zero have been released as results from this project. The publication released in 2022, the Safe system Approach in Action, presented a theoretical framework to guide those seeking to implement the Safe System approach. The Safe System framework describes how to improve the safety of roads, vehicles, road-user behaviour and other road-safety pillars through the various key components of a Safe System.

In 2022, a new working group on Advancing Safe System Implementation was set up by ITF and the World Bank, in which the Vision Zero Academy is one of the partners. Since then, the working group has reviewed the practical use of the Safe System framework, which was described in the 2022 report, through a selection of pilot projects. The working group has used the framework to assess and improve the Safe System components of these projects. The Vision Zero Academy has worked closely with IKEA, being one of the pilot projects, and

the Vision Zero Academy together with IKEA has looked into if and how the Safe System framework can be useful for private companies.

In 2023, this work continued and the Vision Zero Academy was involved in a working group led by the ITF, called Advancing the Safe System. The group has worked on supplementing a matrix that was developed in the previous project, with the aim to be able to measure how far a country, region or city has come in implementing the Vision Zero. The Vision Zero Academy's main contribution to this work has been to include the private sector, in collaboration with IKEA. The idea is that a web-based tool, based on the matrix, will be developed and that it will be launched in connection with the ITF summit in Leipzig in May 2024.

United States of America (USA)

TRB: Transition of road safety research into practice

The US Transportation Research Board (TRB) and its Committee on Transitioning Evidence-Based Research into Practice held a virtual committee meeting in January 2023, focusing on a consensus study aimed at improving the transition of road safety research to practice. TRB is a division of the US National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which serves as an independent adviser to the President of the US, the Congress and federal agencies on scientific and technical questions of national importance.

In this meeting, one of the sessions featured a European Road Safety Expert Panel discussing recent trends in fatal crashes. The Vision Zero Academy was contacted regarding a presentation on how Sweden is working on this issue. The purpose of the session was to consider issues associated with increases in fatalities that have been observed in the US over the past couple of years, and to what extent roadside safety is involved. Vision Zero Academy expert Dr Matteo Rizzi took part in the panel discussion, together with road safety experts from the Netherlands, Belgium and Israel. The panel discussed how their countries have addressed fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic, and shared their perspectives on the processes and factors that contribute to road safety in different parts of Europe.

International planning committee of the TRB's IRSC 2024

In 2022, the Vision Zero Academy was asked to become a member of the international planning committee of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) 2nd International Roadside Safety Conference (IRSC) which will be held in Orlando, Florida in June 2024. As a member of the planning committee, we give input to the organisers on the technical content of the conference; help identifying topics and presenters for presentations; and review abstracts and papers for the conference, among other things. The primary objective of the conference is to support and advance global efforts to reduce deaths and serious injuries associated with roadway departure crashes. The IRSC will contribute to this objective through peer exchange and improved dissemination of information within the

international roadside safety community; increased collaboration amongst international roadside safety experts, researchers, government agencies, and engineering consultants; and a more rapid implementation of new technologies, best practices, and products from around the world.

Mexico

Vision Zero in the spotlight in Jalisco

Mexico is facing big challenges when it comes to road safety. In 2019, more than 16 000 road traffic fatalities were recorded. Previously Mexico had a decentralised system where laws on for example speeding, alcohol limits and licensing were created on sub-national level, resulting in different government levels being responsible for the planning, design and operations of the road transport system. Following a constitutional amendment in 2020, a new national law on mobility and road safety was adopted in 2022, in order to harmonise the road safety regulations all over Mexico. The Vision Zero Academy was asked to share our experiences from Sweden's 25 years of working with implementing the Vision Zero in practise with the Transport Ministry in the Mexican State of Jalisco (SETRAN).

In February 2023, a webinar was organised on the Vision Zero for Jalisco, in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Mexico and Business Sweden. It was targeted to strengthen the road safety management knowledge with participants from agencies involved in planning, designing, building, controlling and maintaining the mobility system in the State of Jalisco and municipalities from the metropolitan area of Guadalajara. Mexico in general, and the State of Jalisco in particular, are taking solid steps towards the adoption of the Safe System Approach. A number of road safety experts from the Swedish Transport Administration took part in the webinar and shared their knowledge on their respective areas of expertise with the participants from Jalisco. Also, the WHO participated.



Vision Zero webinar Mexico

Vision Zero event in Mexico City

Vision Zero Academy expert Kenneth Svensson contributed to a hybrid event in Mexico in June 2023. The physical part of the meeting took place at the Swedish Embassy residence in Mexico City, and representatives from various Mexican states working on road safety at different levels, civil society, academia, the business sector, and legislators from the local and federal levels attended the event. Apart from the Ambassador, also the chairman of one of two commissions in the Mexican Congress, who was involved in the development of the Mexican law on road safety, as well as a representative of SEDATU (the Department of Rural, Territorial and Urban Development) spoke at the event. Kenneth joined the event online and, in his presentation, he shared his knowledge about the implementation of the Vision Zero; what the regulations and governance structures look like; and what has been done in Sweden. The Embassy of Sweden to Mexico organised the event, in collaboration with the World Resources Institutes (WRI).

Japan

Study on safe speed limits presented at ESV Conference

The International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV) is held every two years at a venue agreed upon by the participating Government Focal Points (GFPs). The conferences provide opportunities to share innovative advances in motor vehicle safety and encourage international cooperation. The 27th ESV conference was held in Yokohama, Japan in April 2023 and the theme this year was Enhanced and Equitable Vehicle Safety for All: Toward the next 50 years. During the conference, the Swedish Transport Administration and Vision Zero Academy expert Dr Matteo Rizzi presented a study on safe speed limits. The study, “Proposed speed limits for the 2030 motor vehicle”, was carried out by a Swedish expert group within the SAFER arena. It estimated the maximum safe speed limits for the 2030 motor vehicle based on the boundary conditions of vehicles, road infrastructure and human crash tolerance to achieve close to zero road fatalities and serious injuries. An important study, and a result of great collaboration.

United Arab Emirates

Vision Zero discussed at the World Police Summit in Dubai

In March 2023, the World Police Summit took place in Dubai. The Swedish Transport Administration was invited by the Dubai Police to give a keynote speech on the Vision Zero and the important role the police plays in the road safety work. Close to 15,000 visitors from all corners of the world, many of them high dignitaries, attended the summit.

In many countries, the police authorities have the overall responsibility for the road safety work and it is therefore of great importance that they are aware of which measures can contribute to a reduced number of fatalities and serious injuries. In his keynote address, Vision Zero Academy’s Mr Kenneth Svensson, highlighted that the police have an important

role to play in providing other authorities with information about the situation on the roads, including information about accidents that can be used to plan effective road safety measures and to evaluate their effects. The police need to focus on activities that have a demonstrated effect on reducing road traffic injuries, for example speed monitoring, measures to reduce alcohol and drugs in traffic, and support road users to use personal safety equipment, such as seatbelts and helmets. The importance of the police taking greater responsibility for checking the requirements companies place on their employees in terms of their own transports and procured transports was also discussed.

Mr Svensson also held a workshop on the Vision Zero for the General of the United Arab Emirates' Traffic Police and his staff. In addition to the Swedish Transport Administration's participation at the summit, the Swedish Police also attended the event and they held a workshop on how the Swedish Police contributes to the Vision Zero in Sweden. One of the examples highlighted was the unique method that all Swedish police on external duty must devote at least 20 minutes per day to police checks in traffic.



Kenneth Svensson at World Police Summit

Brazil

Brazil's national land transportation agency visits Sweden

In April, the Vision Zero Academy had the pleasure to welcome a high-level delegation from Brazil's *Agência Nacional de Transportes Terrestres* (National Land Transportation Agency), ANTT, to Sweden. The delegation was led by the ANTT Director-General Mr Rafael Vitale. In addition to representatives from the ANTT, also colleagues from Infra S.A; the National Department of Transport Infrastructure (DNIT); and the Federal Audit Court

(TCU) were part of the delegation. The objective of the visit was to build capacity, knowledge and exchange best practices on road safety and the Vision Zero, and to bring this expanded knowledge back to Brazil where it will be used in the continued work to improve road safety in Brazil. It was an intense five-day programme with numerous meetings and study visits, and the delegation visited both Stockholm and Gothenburg. The programme included technical visits and expert exchange meetings with to the Swedish Ministry of Infrastructure, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Transport Agency, the Swedish National Institute of Road and Transport Research (VTI), SAFER Vehicle and Traffic Safety Centre at Chalmers, as well as companies that are a reference in road safety, such as Volvo Group and Autoliv. The programme was organised in collaboration with Business Sweden.

After the return to Brazil, ANTT organised a workshop to present the results and success stories that can be implemented in the Brazilian context. The visit took place under the framework of the International Technical Experience Program (PETI) which aims to promote international training for civil servants, in order to enable the expansion of technical knowledge, good practices and successful experiences.



ANNT at Trafikverket Photo: VZA

Vision Zero digital course for Brazil

For the past years, the Vision Zero Academy has worked closely with Brazil's federal Ministry of Infrastructure, the Brazilian National Transport Secretariat (SENATRAN), Business Sweden and the Embassy of Sweden in Brazil. In 2021, we carried out a pilot project with the state of São Paulo; a Vision Zero course, which can be described as a digital replica of our annual *Vision Zero International Course*. During 2022, we organised three digital Vision Zero courses for stakeholders in Brazil, with the objective to provide a deeper

understanding of the Vision Zero linked to the implementation of PNATRANS - the national road safety plan in Brazil, which was launched in 2022. In total, around 700 road safety professionals, representing SENATRAN and other key actors within road safety from all over Brazil have attended the courses for the past years.

In December 2023, the fourth digital course was launched, and for this edition of the course more than 300 road safety professionals representing SENATRAN, the state transport department (DETRAN - *Departamento Estadual de Trânsito*), the Brazilian federal government, states, municipalities, NGOs, companies and other key actors within road safety from all across the country were registered to attend the course, which covers a wide array of topics related to road safety and the Vision Zero.

Apart from the above-mentioned collaboration partners in organising the course, also a number of other international partners such as World Resources Institute (WRI), The World Bank's Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF), the International Road Assessment Programme (IRAP), the World Health Organization and representatives from the Swedish industry are also involved in the course. Vision Zero Academy's Lars Ekman and Eva Björk spoke at the opening event in December. The lion's share of the course takes place in the first months of 2024, and will thus be explained in further detail in next year's VZA Annual Report.



Fourth Vision Zero digital course for Brazil

Taiwan

Vision Zero highlighted at the Taipei City Summit

Following an invite from Klement Ruey-Sheng Gu, Ambassador at the Taipei Mission in Sweden, Vision Zero Academy expert Dr Lars Ekman delivered a pre-recorded speech at the Taipei City Summit which took place in the beginning of August. The objective of Dr Ekman's speech was to shed light upon the strategies and principles behind the Vision Zero approach in Sweden, as well as its potential to enhance road safety and reduce fatalities and serious injuries. More than one thousand people attended the event in Taipei, including the Taiwanese Minister of Interior. The Vision Zero Academy was happy to be able to share valuable insights with the diverse audience of policymakers, industry professionals, local governments, NGOs and other stakeholders, in order to drive positive change on the roads and inspire innovative road safety solutions.



Photo: S. Chen, Taiwan Commonwealth Media

Canada

Vision Zero and Safe Road Systems Symposium

On April 4th, 2023, the Ontario Traffic Council organised the Vision Zero and Safe Road Systems Symposium in Mississauga, Canada. Road safety professionals, transportation and traffic engineers, technologists, planners, and police officers attended the event. The symposium covered themes such as national Vision Zero initiatives in Canada; key performance indicators and implementing initiatives towards achieving objectives; long-term road safety trends in Ontario; and how the Safe System Approach can be translated into community action. Other topics addressed during the symposium were how safer systems can be designed using Big Data, and also the equity perspectives of the Vision Zero.

Vision Zero Academy expert Mr Kenneth Svensson joined the event online and gave a presentation on Sweden's approach to road safety and the Vision Zero, highlighting among other things the importance of speed management and kinetic energy, when it comes to achieving a safe system.

Armenia

Introduction to Vision Zero

In September Vision Zero Academy expert Mr Kenneth Svensson took part in an Armenian programme called "Introduction to Vision Zero". Mr Svensson gave a presentation on the basics of the Vision Zero, brought up some of the success factors from the Swedish implementation process, and he highlighted among other things the importance of speed management and the role of kinetic energy in order to achieve a safe road transport system. The event was organised by the American Councils for International Education in Armenia with partners, an organisation committed to advance road safety and sustainable transportation in Armenia, and it contributed to strengthening civil society and promoting road safety in an Armenian context.

Interviews

Road Safety Director Maria Krafft interviewed in Polish magazine

The Vision Zero Academy was contacted by Sebastian Lupak, reporter at the Polish magazine Wirtualna Polska (wp.pl), regarding an article on the Vision Zero and following an interview with Swedish Transport Administration's Road Safety Director Maria Krafft, an article was published in the September edition of the magazine. The article focused on the Vision Zero and the Swedish approach to road safety. Road safety is an issue of big concern in Poland, as the country faces big problems in this field and there is an interest to learn more from Sweden, being one of the countries in the EU with the lowest numbers of fatalities on the roads. Topics being addressed in the interview were the story of the Swedish success; how issues with speeding and drunk driving is handled; road safety cameras; speed limits; road safety infrastructure interventions in line with the Vision Zero; and which challenges Sweden currently is facing in the field of road safety. The article (in Polish) can be read here: <https://wiadomosci.wp.pl/szwedzkie-bezpieczenstwo-gwarantowane-ludziom-trzeba-pomagac-nie-karac-6940751635569280a>.

Scandinavian approach to road safety highlighted in the Irish Independent

In December, Mats Pettersson, Kenneth Svensson and Eva Björk spoke to Irish journalist Geraldine Herbert for a piece on the Scandinavian approach to road safety in the Irish Independent. The headline of the article was "How do we stop people dying on our roads? Ask the Scandinavians." Geraldine also interviewed our Norwegian and Danish colleagues

Guro Ranes at the Norwegian Public Roads Administration and Anne Eriksson at the Danish Road Directorate for the same article. The article emphasises that the chance of dying in a road crash depends on where you live and that Northern Europe has the safest roads in Europe. The article concludes that there might not be a silver bullet to reach the Vision Zero on short term, but median barriers, good road design, 2+1 roads, effective speed management and control of the kinetic energy are effective solutions and interventions to move closer to the target. The article can be found here (pay wall):

<https://www.independent.ie/life/motoring/how-do-we-stop-people-dying-on-our-roads-ask-the-scandinavians/a335485007.html>

Thank you!

Finally, the Vision Zero Academy would like to express our sincere gratitude to all collaboration partners, globally and in Sweden, for another year of impactful cooperation in the field of road safety. It is a great pleasure to work together with so many devoted road safety professionals, from different parts of the world, and together we make a difference.

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