

SafetyCube www.safetycube-project.eu



**International Traffic Safety
Data and Analysis Group**

Design of the European Road Safety Decision Support System

George Yannis and Eleonora Papadimitriou

23rd MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC SAFETY DATA AND
ANALYSIS GROUP

Rome, 13 October 2016

SafetyCube project

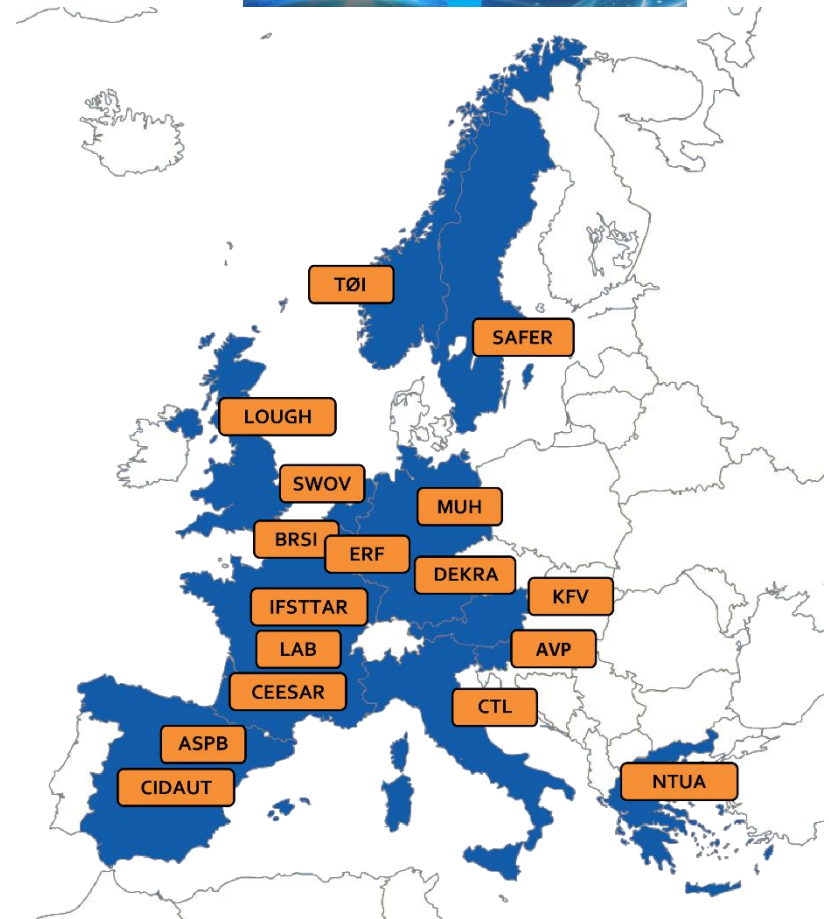
Funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 research framework programme

Coordinator: Pete Thomas, Loughborough University

Start: May 2015

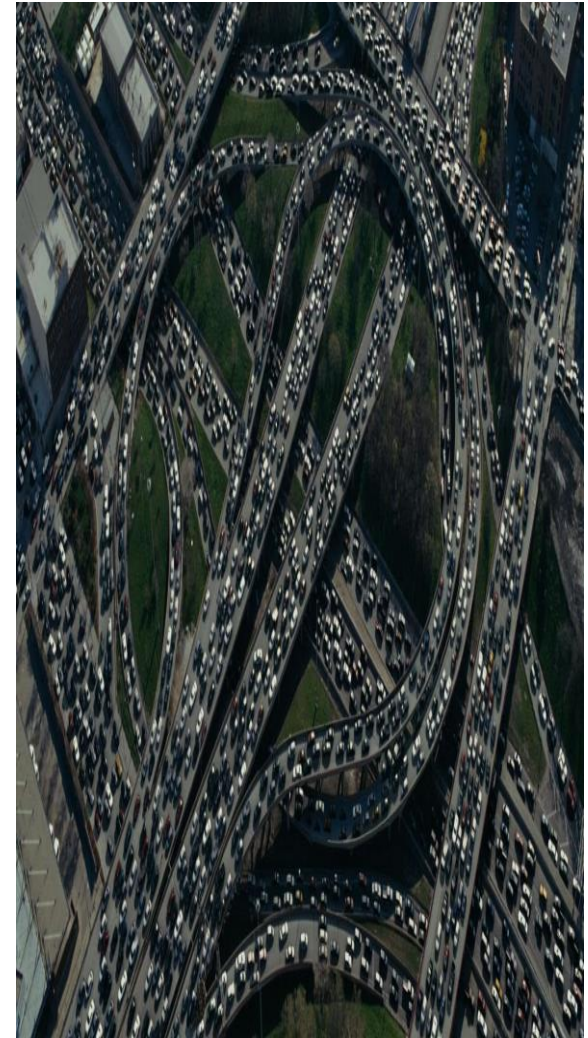
Finish: April 2018

17 partners from 12 EU countries



SafetyCube concept and vision

- — ○
- Problem
 - *Evidence based road safety policies are becoming more usual and there is much better availability of national data and state of the art knowledge*
 - *Effective road safety policies need good information about accident risk factors and about measures*
- SafetyCube will meet this need by generating new **knowledge about accident risk factors and the effectiveness of measures** relevant to Europe, to be integrated in a European Road Safety Decision Support System (DSS)



SafetyCube DSS Objectives



*The SafetyCube DSS objective is to provide the European and Global road safety community **a user friendly, web-based, interactive Decision Support Tool** to properly substantiate their road safety decisions for the actions, measures, programmes, policies and strategies to be implemented at local, regional, national, European and international level.*

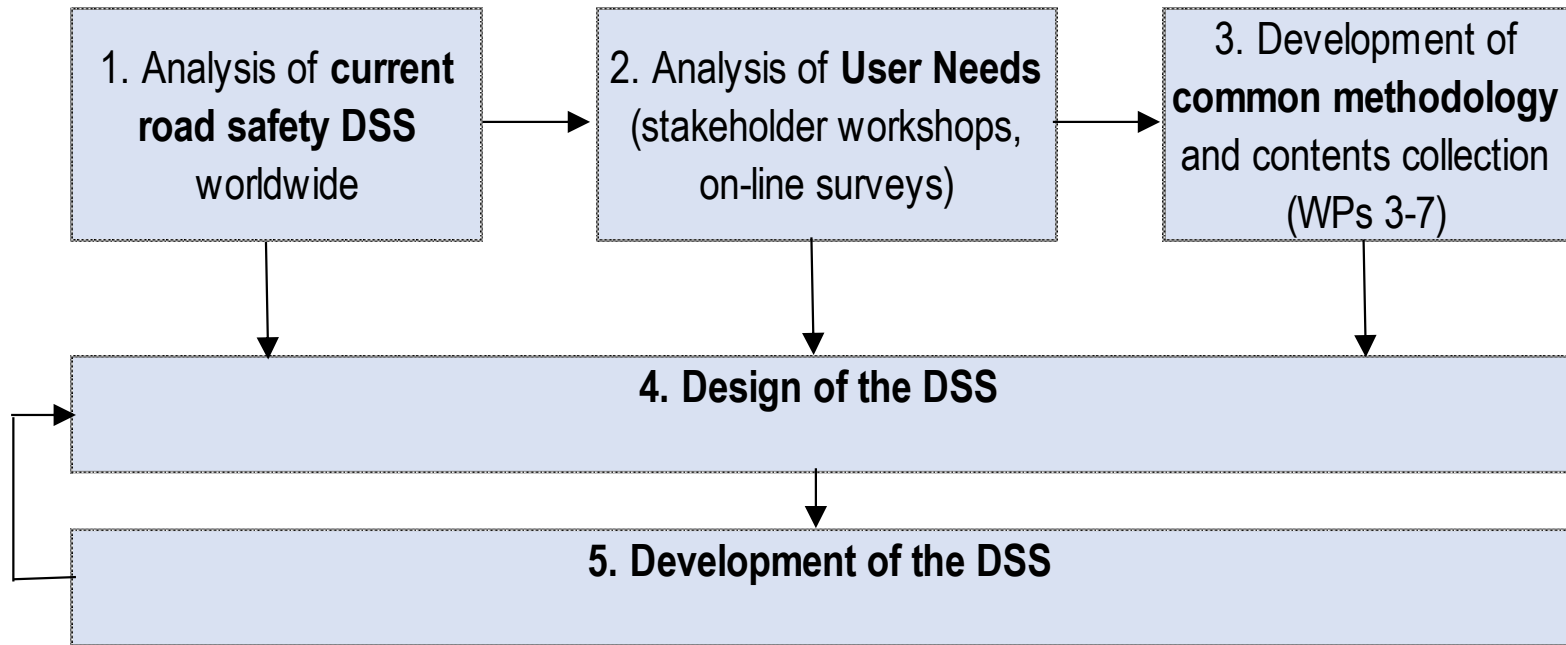
The main contents of the SafetyCube DSS concern:

- road accident risk factors and problems
- road safety measures
- best estimate of casualty reduction effectiveness
- cost-benefit evaluation
- all related analytic background

Special focus is given to linking road safety problems with related countermeasures.



SafetyCube DSS Development Methodology



Testing, Pilot Operation, User Training and future continuous Maintenance will follow.

Current Road Safety DSS Worldwide



- Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse (www.cmfclearinghouse.org)
by NHTSA (USA) - **5.151 CMF** on infrastructure only - on going
- Road Safety Engineering Kit (www.engtoolkit.com.au)
by Austroads (Australia) - **67 treatments** on infrastructure only
- PRACT Repository (www.pract-repository.eu)
by CEDR (Europe) - **889 CMF and 273 APM** on infrastructure only – high quality
- iRAP toolkit (toolkit.irap.org/)
by iRAP - **58 treatments** (43 on infrastructure)
- Safety Performance Factors Clearinghouse (spfclearinghouse.org)
by Tatum Group LLC, Dr. Andrew Kwasniak (USA) - **few SPF** – subscribers only

SafetyCube DSS Users



- **Public Authorities**
local, regional, national, European and international
- **Industry**
Infrastructure, Vehicle, Insurance, Technology
- **Research Institutes**
- **Non Governmental Organisations**
- **Mass media**

The SafetyCube DSS is intended to have **a life well beyond the end of the SafetyCube** research project. Furthermore, it will be developed in a form that can readily be incorporated within the existing European Road Safety Observatory of the European Commission DG-MOVE.



SafetyCube DSS User Needs



- SafetyCube stakeholders' consultation Workshops
 - Brussels, Jun 2015
 - Ljubljana, Oct 2015
 - Brussels (WP5-Infrastructure), Feb 2016
 - Hague (WP7-Serious Injuries), May 2016
 - Brussels, Sep 2016
- SafetyCube on-line survey
- Consolidated Table of user needs



SafetyCube DSS Design Principles



- A **Modern** web-based tool
- High **Ergonomy** interface
- **Simple** structure
- Powerfull **Search** Engines
- Fully **Documented** information
- Easily **Updated**



SafetyCube DSS Website Design Principles

- A strong **web address**
e.g. www.safetycube-dss.eu
- **Consistent design** throughout all tools
(unique visual identity, colors, design, messages, etc.)
- Modern and **ergonomic** design
[multimedia (photos and videos) wherever possible]
- Allow for **updates**
 - *feedback from the users*
 - *feedback from visits traffic monitoring*
- Develop a robust **promotion policy**, during and after the project (newsletter, twitter, etc.)



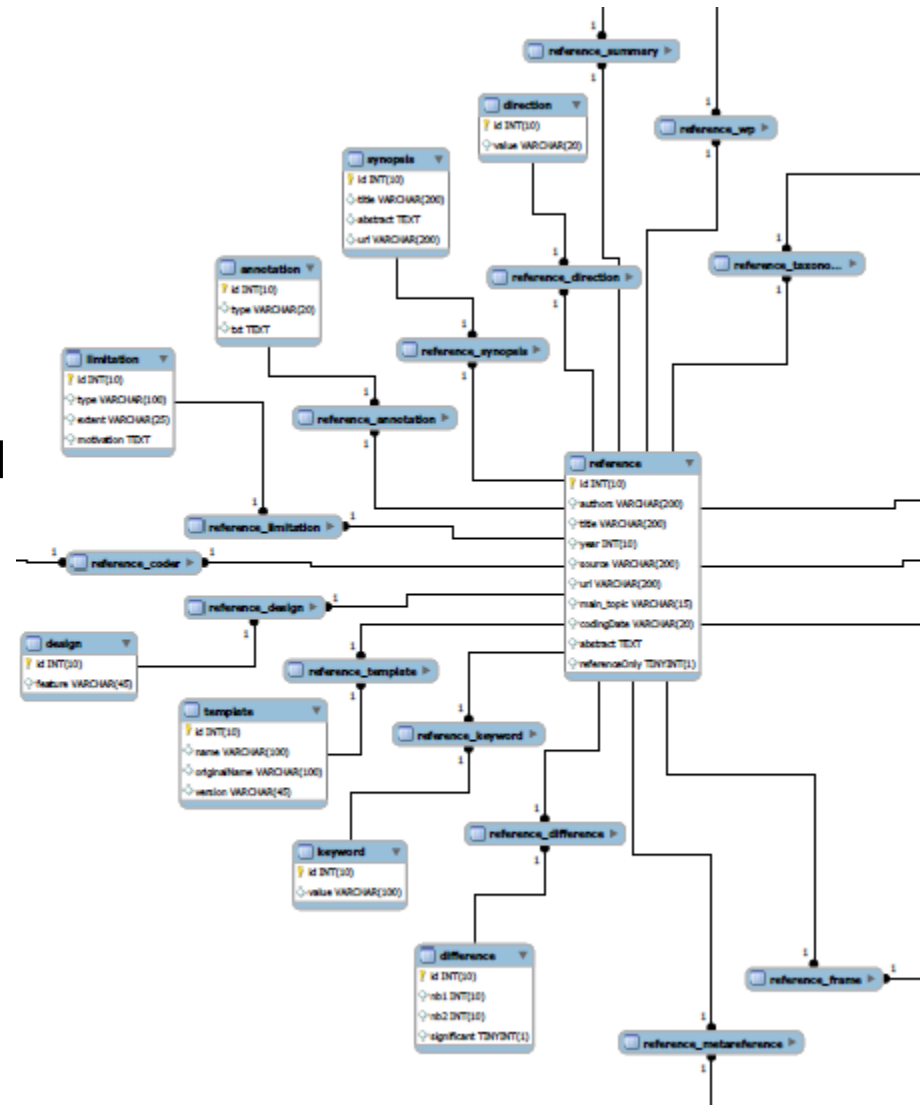
SafetyCube DSS Search Engine

- — ○
- Fully **linked** search
 - *search a road safety problem alone or through the measures*
 - *search a measure alone or through the road safety problems*
 - *search for risks and measures related to specific road user groups or crash types (accident scenaria)*
- Fully **detailed** search
 - *search by any parameter in each data table (road safety problems, measures)*
- Fully **flexible** search
 - *adjust and customize search according to results*
- Fully **documented** search
 - *access background information at any stage (links, etc.)*

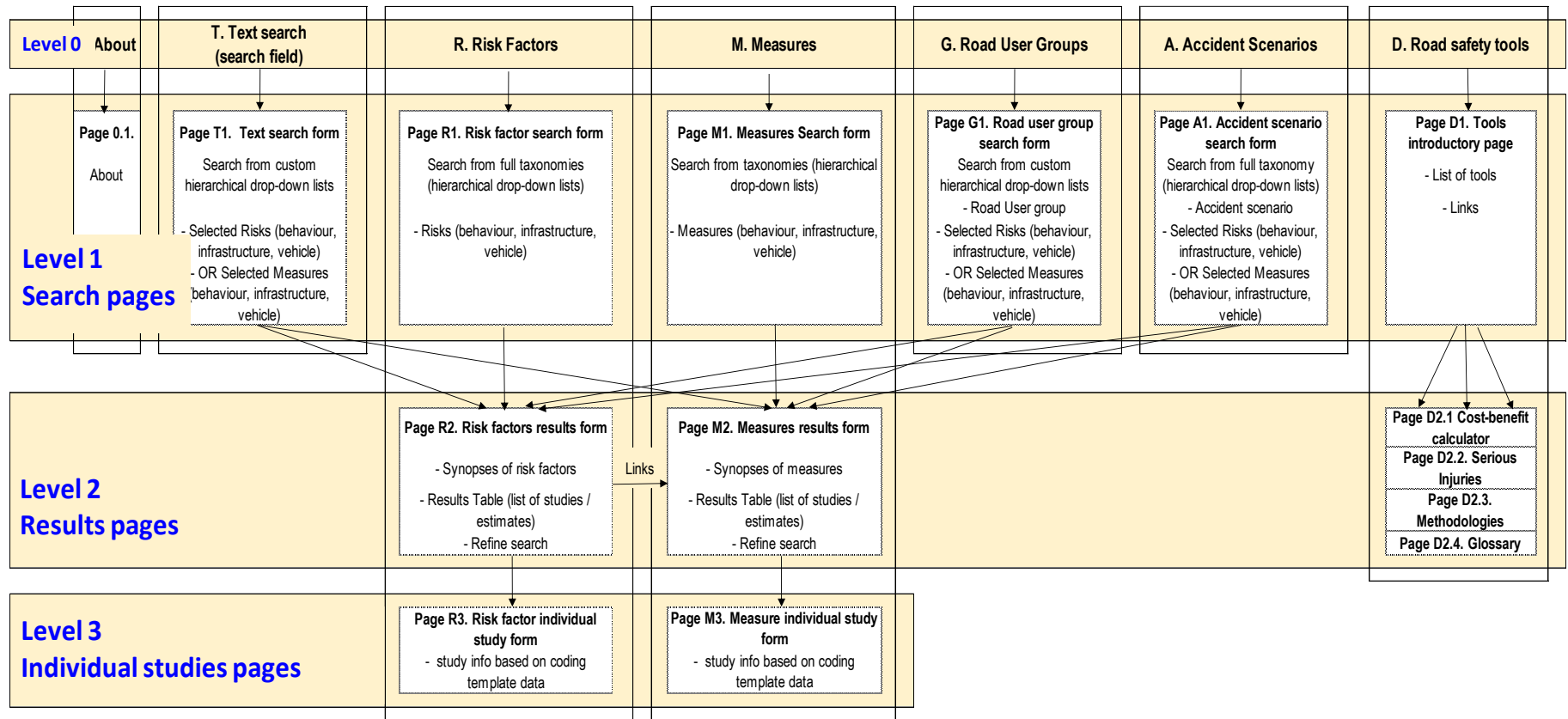


Relational Data Base

- The templates of **coded studies** will undergo a thorough checking and debugging process
- The templates are eventually stored in a **relational database**, which will serve as the back-end of the DSS
- Front-end DSS results will be retrieved through **queries** on the back-end database (DSS search engine).



SafetyCube DSS Structure



Home Page Main Menu (About - Search - Tools)

Three Levels of Search (Search - Results pages - Individual study pages)

Two Interlinked Search Streams (Risk Factors – Road Safety Measures)

SafetyCube DSS Homepage (Entry Points)

ABOUT SafetyCube

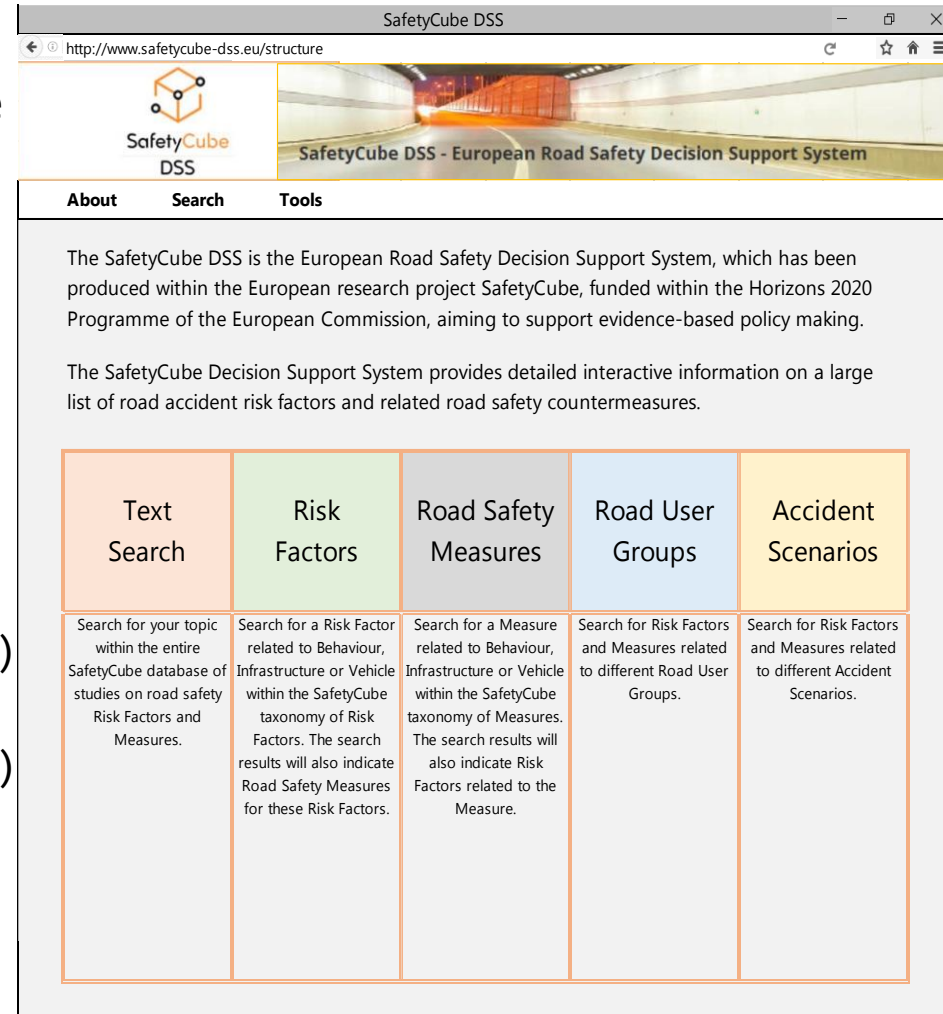
Basic Information about SafetyCube and the DSS

SEARCH

- **Text** search (key-words)
- **Risk Factors**
(Risk factors search engine)
- **Road Safety Measures**
(Measures search engine)
- **Road User Groups**
(Risk factors and Measures search engines)
- **Accident Scenarios**
(Risk factors and Measures search engines)

TOOLS

Background information, resources and methodology, including extensive glossary



The screenshot shows the homepage of the SafetyCube DSS. The browser address bar displays <http://www.safetycube-dss.eu/structure>. The page features a header with the SafetyCube DSS logo and a navigation bar with tabs for 'About', 'Search', and 'Tools'. Below the navigation bar, there is a paragraph describing the system as the European Road Safety Decision Support System, produced within the European research project SafetyCube. A table below provides detailed information on the search engines available.

Text Search	Risk Factors	Road Safety Measures	Road User Groups	Accident Scenarios
Search for your topic within the entire SafetyCube database of studies on road safety Risk Factors and Measures.	Search for a Risk Factor related to Behaviour, Infrastructure or Vehicle within the SafetyCube taxonomy of Risk Factors. The search results will also indicate Road Safety Measures for these Risk Factors.	Search for a Measure related to Behaviour, Infrastructure or Vehicle within the SafetyCube taxonomy of Measures. The search results will also indicate Risk Factors related to the Measure.	Search for Risk Factors and Measures related to different Road User Groups.	Search for Risk Factors and Measures related to different Accident Scenarios.

Risk Factors Search Parameters




Three categories of taxonomy fields

- Categories (3)
road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Topics (57)
e.g. roadside deficiencies, distraction inside vehicle, inappropriate speed
- Specific risk factors (175)
e.g. no clear-zone, mobile phone, too fast / too slow

SafetyCube DSS

http://www.safetycube-dss.eu/structure

 SafetyCube DSS - European Road Safety Decision Support System

About Search Tools

The SafetyCube European Road Safety Decision Support System (DSS) is one of the key objectives of the SafetyCube project to better support evidence-based policy making. The SafetyCube results will be assembled in the form of a **Decision Support System** that will present for each suggested road safety measure: details of the risk factor tackled, the measure itself, the best estimate of casualty reduction effectiveness, the cost-benefit evaluation and the analytic background. While the development and evaluation of the measures will be developed into a format and structure that will enable industry, policy-makers and other stakeholders to access the information in an efficient manner within the DSS.

Text Search	Risk Factors	Road Safety Measures	Road User Groups	Accident Scenarios
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Risk Factors		
Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle
Speed choice	Traffic flow	Prevalence of vehicle factors in crash data
Influenced driving - alcohol	Road functional class	Injury mechanism
Influenced driving - drugs	Road surface deficiencies (risk of ran-off road)	Crashworthiness
Risk taking	Poor visibility and lighting	Technical defects / Maintenance
Fatigue	Adverse weather	Protective equipment design
Distraction and inattention	Workzones	Visibility / conspicuity
Functional Impairment	Horizontal/vertical alignment deficiencies	
Insufficient skills	Superelevation / cross-slopes (risk of ran-off road)	
Insufficient knowledge	Lanes / ramps deficiencies	

Measures Search Parameters



Three categories of taxonomy fields

- Categories
road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Topics
e.g. formal tools to address road network deficiencies, speed regulation
- Specific measures
e.g. road safety audits, lower speed limits

The screenshot shows the SafetyCube DSS website. The header includes the logo and the title "SafetyCube DSS - European Road Safety Decision Support System". Below the header are three navigation tabs: "About", "Search", and "Tools". A paragraph of text describes the system's purpose. Below this is a row of five colored boxes representing different search categories: "Text Search", "Risk Factors", "Road Safety Measures", "Road User Groups", and "Accident Scenarios". At the bottom, a table titled "Measures" lists specific measures categorized by Behaviour, Infrastructure, and Vehicle.

Measures		
Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle
Awareness raising	Traffic flow	Frontal impact
Information	Formal tools to address road network deficiencies	Side impact
Law	Speed management	Rear impact
Enforcement	Road functional class	Rollover
Education	Road surface treatments	Injury mechanism
Training	Visibility / Lighting treatments	Maintenance - Visibility
Testing	Workzones	Technical defects
	Horizontal & vertical alignment treatments	Design - Visibility
	Superelevation / cross-slopes treatment	Special vehicle
	Lanes / ramps treatments	
	Median / barrier treatments	
	Shoulder & roadside treatments	
	Sidewalks treatments	
	Cycle lanes	
	Traffic signs treatments	
	Delineation and road markings	

Risk Factors results parameters

Search results

- Short summaries of syntheses (meta-analyses) available
- Table listing the available synopses, meta-analyses and other studies
- Table columns concern main study characteristics (design, outcome variable, effect type and size, country, year etc.)

Refine search

- Specific risk factor
- Search filters:
 - Road user types: All, car occupants, drivers, passengers, PTW riders, pedestrians, cyclists, HGV.
 - Road types: All, motorways, rural roads, urban roads
 - Region / Country: EU, EU countries (all names), US and Canada, Australia, Asia.
 - "Colour code": Risky, probably risky, unclear, probably not risky

Links to related measures

- Go to measures search page, where the list of related measures is displayed as a pre-filled search

The screenshot displays the SafetyCube DSS web application interface. The top navigation bar includes 'About', 'Search', and 'Tools'. The main content area is titled 'Risk Factors Search Results'. It provides detailed information for two selected risk factors: 'Work Zone duration' and 'Work Zone length'. Each factor includes a summary paragraph and a 'Related Road Safety Measures' section. A table at the bottom lists various studies related to these factors, with columns for Risk Factor, Source, Outcome variable, Effect estimator, Effect size, and Country.

Risk Factor	Source	Outcome variable	Effect estimator	Effect size	Country
Work zone duration	SafetyCube Synopsis	Accident frequency	Meta-analysis	Non significant	
Work zone length	SafetyCube Synopsis	Accident frequency	Meta-analysis	Significant	
Work zone duration	Khattak et al., 2002	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone duration	Ozturk et al., 2013	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone duration	Pal and Sinha, 1996	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone duration	Venugopal and Tarko, 2000	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone duration	Yang et al. 2015	Accident risk	Slope	Non significant	USA
Work zone length	Khattak et al., 2002	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Ozturk et al., 2013	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Ozturk et al., 2014	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Chen and Tarko, 2012	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Chen and Tarko, 2014	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Yang et al., 2013	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Venugopal and Tarko, 2000	Accident frequency	Slope	Significant	USA
Work zone length	Yang et al. 2015	Accident risk	Slope	Significant	USA

Individual study results



Title, author, source, abstract

- Link to URL for full-text download (depending on Institute permissions)

Study design info

- Country
- Research Method, Design, Sample N
- Control group, Risk Group
- Modifying Conditions

Study results:

- Table listing the effects reported in the study
- Table columns concern main study / effect characteristics (outcome variable, effect type, size and confidence intervals, statistical significance)

SafetyCube DSS

http://www.safetycube-dss.eu/structure

SafetyCube DSS - European Road Safety Decision Support System

About Search Tools

Effects of work zone presence on injury and non-injury crashes

Khattak et al., 2002, Accident Analysis and Prevention, 34 pp 19-29

Abstract

Work zones in the United States have approximately 700 traffic-related fatalities, 24 000 injury crashes, and 52 000 non-injury crashes every year. Due to future highway reconstruction needs, work zones are likely to increase in number, duration, and length. This study focuses on analyzing the effect of work zone duration mainly due to its policy-sensitivity. To do so, we created a unique dataset of California freeway work zones that included crash data (crash frequency and injury severity), road inventory data (average daily traffic (ADT) and urban/rural character), and work zone related data (duration, length, and location). Then, we investigated crash rates and crash frequencies in the pre-work zone and during-work zone periods. For the freeway work zones investigated in this study, the total crash rate in the during-work zone period was 21.5% higher (0.79 crashes per million vehicle kilometer (MVKM)) than the pre-work zone period (0.65 crashes per MVKM). Compared with the pre-work zone period, the increase in non-injury and injury crash rates in the during-work zone period was 23.8% and 17.3%, respectively. Next, crash frequencies were investigated using negative binomial models, which showed that frequencies increased with increasing work zone duration, length, and average daily traffic. The important finding is that after controlling for various factors, longer work zone duration significantly increases both injury and non-injury crash frequencies.



url: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.525.2933&rep=rep1&type=p>

Study design

Country: USA

Research methods: Negative Binomial Models

Design: Observational study, Cross-sectional

Sample: 2038 total accidents in 36 work zone sites in Indiana state, US, for the years 1992 a

Risk group: Work zone

Control group:

Modifying conditions: AADT

The following effects on Work Zones are reported in this study:

Risk factor	Unit	Outcome variable	Effect type	Effect size	Main outcome
Ln of workzone duration	Days	Injury and non-injury crashes	Slope	1.1149	Significant negative effect on road safety
Ln of workzone duration	Days	Non-injury crashes	Slope	1.2317	Significant negative effect on road safety
Ln of workzone duration	Days	Injury crashes	Slope	1.2549	Significant negative effect on road safety
Ln of workzone length	Km	Injury and non-injury crashes	Slope	0.6718	Significant negative effect on road safety
Ln of workzone length	Km	Non-injury crashes	Slope	0.6112	Significant negative effect on road safety
Ln of workzone length	Km	Injury crashes	Slope	0.7842	Significant negative effect on road safety

SafetyCube synopses

Syntheses on risk factors / measures

Summary (2 pages)

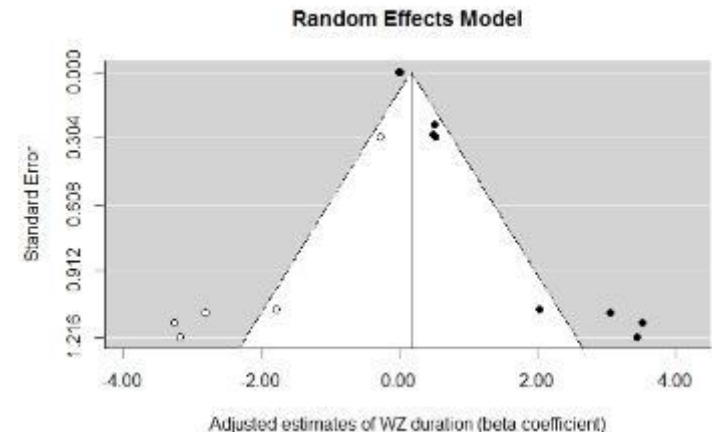
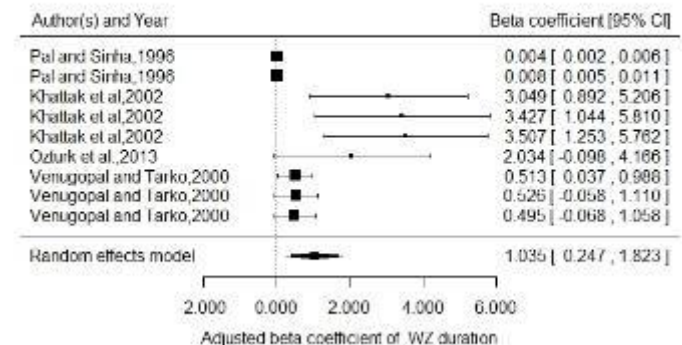
- Effect of risk factor / measure and ranking (colour code)
- Risk / safety effect mechanisms
- Risk / safety effects size, transferability of effects

Scientific overview (4-5 pages)

- Comprehensive comparative analysis of available studies design and results
- Analysis results
 - *Meta-analysis*
 - *Vote-count analysis*
 - *Qualitative analysis*

Supporting document (3-10 pages)

- Literature search strategy and study selection criteria
- Detailed analyses



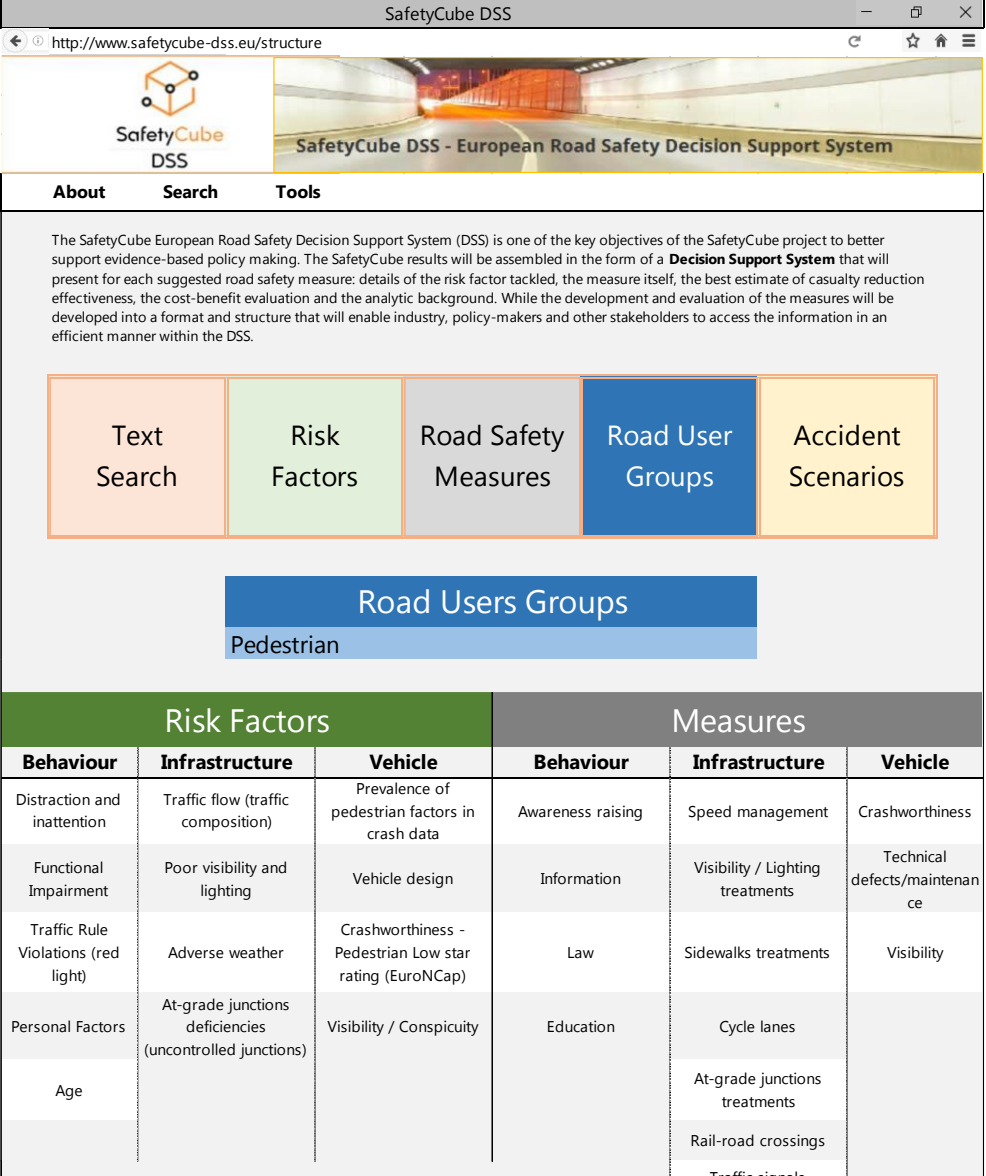
Road User Group Search Parameters

Road User Groups

- Pedestrian
- Bicycles
- Power Two Wheelers
- Passenger Cars
- Light Goods Vehicles
- Trucks / Bus

For each group, 3+3 categories of taxonomy fields

- Risks: road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Measures: road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Topic
- Specific risk factor / measure



The screenshot shows the SafetyCube DSS website. The header includes the logo and the title "SafetyCube DSS - European Road Safety Decision Support System". The main navigation bar has "About", "Search", and "Tools" links. Below the navigation bar, there is a description of the system and a grid of search options: Text Search, Risk Factors, Road Safety Measures, Road User Groups (highlighted in blue), and Accident Scenarios. Below this grid, a dropdown menu for "Road Users Groups" is shown with "Pedestrian" selected. At the bottom, there are two tables: "Risk Factors" and "Measures".

Risk Factors			Measures		
Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle	Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle
Distraction and inattention	Traffic flow (traffic composition)	Prevalence of pedestrian factors in crash data	Awareness raising	Speed management	Crashworthiness
Functional Impairment	Poor visibility and lighting	Vehicle design	Information	Visibility / Lighting treatments	Technical defects/maintenance
Traffic Rule Violations (red light)	Adverse weather	Crashworthiness - Pedestrian Low star rating (EuroNCap)	Law	Sidewalks treatments	Visibility
Personal Factors	At-grade junctions deficiencies (uncontrolled junctions)	Visibility / Conspicuity	Education	Cycle lanes	
Age				At-grade junctions treatments	
				Rail-road crossings	
				Traffic signals	

Accident Scenario Search Parameters

Accident scenarios

- Pedestrian accident
- Bicycle accident
- Single vehicle accident
- Head-on collisions
- Rear end collisions
- Junction accident – no turning
- Junction accident – turning
- Railway level crossing

For each scenario, 3+3 categories of taxonomy fields

- Related Risks: road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Related Measures: road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Topic
- Specific risk factor / measure

SafetyCube DSS

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SafetyCube DSS

SafetyCube DSS - European Road Safety Decision Support System

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Text Search Risk Factors Road Safety Measures Road User Groups Accident Scenarios

Accident Scenarios

Single vehicle accident

Risk Factors			Measures		
Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle	Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle
Speed choice	Road surface deficiencies (risk of ran-off road)	Injury mechanism			
Influenced driving - alcohol	Poor visibility and lighting	Crashworthiness			
Influenced driving - drugs	Adverse weather	Technical defects / Maintenance			
Fatigue	Horizontal/vertical alignment deficiencies				
Distraction and inattention	Superelevation / cross-slopes (risk of ran-off road)				
Personal Factors	Lanes / ramps deficiencies				
	Superelevation / cross-slopes (risk of ran-off road)				
	Poor road readability				

Text Search Parameters



Key-word search

- Auto-complete field among all key-words in the database

For each key-word, 3+3 categories of taxonomy fields

- Related Risks: road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Related Measures: road user, infrastructure, vehicle
- Topic
- Specific risk factor / measure



<input type="text" value="roundabouts"/>					
Risk Factors			Measures		
Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle	Behaviour	Infrastructure	Vehicle
not applicable	At-grade junctions deficiencies	not applicable	not applicable	At grade junction treatments (conversion to roundabout)	not applicable
	Junction readability - Traffic signs			Traffic signs treatments	
	Traffic control -			Road markings	

SafetyCube Tools pages



Links to SafetyCube tools

- Cost Benefit Calculator
- Serious Injuries
- SafetyCube Methodology
- SafetyCube Glossary
- ...

SafetyCube DSS

http://www.safetycube-dss.eu/structure

SafetyCube DSS

SafetyCube DSS - European Road Safety Decision Support System

About Search Tools

Road Safety Decision Support Tools

The following tools assist road safety decision making

Cost Benefit Calculator

The SafetyCube Cost Benefit Calculator allows you to perform Cost Benefit Analysis of a road safety measure, on the basis of its safety effects (number of crashes or casualties prevented), crash and casualties costs, implementation costs, implementation period etc.

Serious Injuries



The SafetyCube data and information on serious injuries include estimates of serious injuries in Europe, definitions of serious injuries etc.

SafetyCube Methodology

The SafetyCube Methodology for the analysis of risk factors and measures effects can be accessed through the SafetyCube reports, publications, and stakeholders' contributions.

SafetyCube DSS glossary

The glossary of the SafetyCube DSS includes all the definitions and meta-data of the DSS



SafetyCube DSS Development

Next steps



- Development of the **static DSS** (Wire Frames)
 - *Completed*
- SafetyCube DSS **Development phase**
 - *between September and December 2016*
 - *including all risk factors (~3.500 effects from 600 studies) and several measures*
- SafetyCube DSS **Pilot Operation**
 - *starting early 2017*
- SafetyCube DSS **Opening**
 - *Starting mid 2017*
- Continuous **Enhancement and Update**
 - *Starting on April 2018 (end of SafetyCube project)*



Example questions addressed

- how important is my road safety problem?
- who else is having similar problems?
- what solutions are usually proposed for my problem?
- how efficient are the solutions proposed?
- which is the most efficient solution?
- and if I have a combination of problems ...

... then use SafetyCube DSS to have the answers



SafetyCube DSS

Delivering a long waited powerful tool



- The SafetyCube DSS is a powerful Road Safety Decision Support Tool:
 - long waited,
 - full of scientific evidence,
 - user friendly, web-based and interactive
- SafetyCube DSS is the first integrated road safety support system **developed in Europe**
- SafetyCube DSS **offers for the first time** scientific evidence on:
 - risks and not only measures
 - risks and measures not only on infrastructure
 - a very large number of estimates of risks and measures effects
 - links between risks factors and measures
- SafetyCube DSS aims to be **a reference system** for road safety in Europe and worldwide, constantly improved and enhanced





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