

Saving lives with the SafeFITS model

Safety drives all aspects of road transport

The SafeFITS model is a tool which supports governments of developed and developing countries in the establishment of transport policies aimed at improving road safety.

Safer roads safer people

Road traffic deaths number over 1.2 million annually, with another 50 million seriously injured. Lower income countries are particularly affected. Road accidents are the leading cause of death for people aged between 15 and 44.

Road safety is a global issue and one of our greatest development challenges this century. There is global consensus to reduce accidents, with the UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety and Agenda for Sustainable Development aiming to halve deaths and injuries by 2020.



Target 3.6
By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Target 11.2
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all

What is SafeFITS?

In 2015, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe began development of road safety model "Safe Future Inland Transport Systems (SafeFITS)", to support knowledge based transport policy decisions related to road casualty reduction.

The primary objective is to assist governments and policy makers in tailoring road safety policies in order to achieve more tangible results, in both developed and developing countries. SafeFITS comprises a database with global data on indicators from all layers of the road safety management system and a set of statistical models fitted onto that database, with resulting outputs.



Through the development of SafeFITS model, IRU and UNECE continue cooperation for better road traffic safety.

Developing SafeFITS in four phases

1. Literature review: exploration and analysis of existing knowledge on road safety modelling and causalities.
2. The SafeFITS conceptual framework: preparing a draft model framework and description of road safety causalities to be used for developing road safety policy scenarios.
3. Development and validation of SafeFITS model: draft SafeFITS model created, web-application/user interface tested.
4. Finalisation of SafeFITS model and peer review: pilot project, further calibration of model parameters, product ready for public/external use.

Looking to the future

The SafeFITS model will be piloted in the UNDA funded “Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition”. Based on the test results, the model parameters will be fine-tuned and SafeFITS will be ready for external use.

The SafeFITS model

The SafeFITS model comprises three modules and will allow three types of analysis:

- Intervention analysis: allows the user to examine the effects of single intervention (road safety measure) at national or regional level.
- Forecasting analysis: allows the user to define own scenarios (i.e. combinations of road safety measures in a country) and obtain medium/long term road safety forecasts for each scenario.
- Benchmarking analysis: allows the user to benchmark a country against a group of countries (e.g. all countries, geographical regions, countries of similar economic or road safety performance etc.)

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