

The impact of Covid-19 in driving schools around Europe

*Dr. Manuel Picardi
EFA General Secretary*

EFA represents

- 21 European Driving School Associations
- 8 Affiliated Members



EFA main objectives

- **Harmonization of Education and Examination of Future Drivers**
- **Harmonization of Education and Examination of Driving Instructors**
- **Minimum Standards for Driving Schools**
- **Represent the values of Driving Schools to the EU Institutions, Universities and Global NGO**



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Milan, 2020 Dec 9°

Dr. Manuel Picardi – EFA General Secretary

Driving Schools activity in EU during Covid-19

Extraordinary situation

Country	Total	Albania	Austria	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia	France	Great Britain	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Moldova	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Slovakia	Spain
Are driving schools still operating in your Country?	Yes: 4 No: 15	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are theory lessons suspended in driving schools?	Yes: 16 No: 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	/	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are E-learning opportunities available as an alternative to driving lessons?	Yes: 10 No: 9	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Are theory exams suspended?	Yes: 18 No: 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are practical exams suspended?	Yes: 19 No: 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Has the expiry date of temporary driving permits been extended?	Yes: 11 No: 6	Yes	/	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Has the expiry date of theory test pass certificates been extended?	Yes: 11 No: 7	Yes	/	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

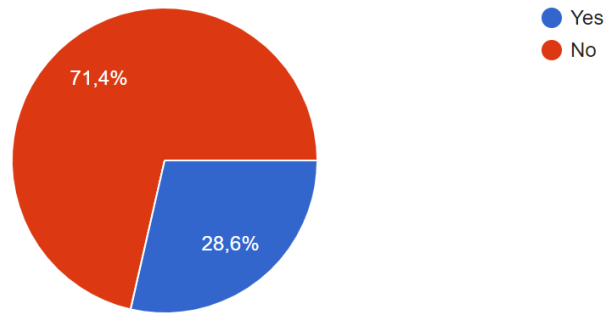
19 Countries replied

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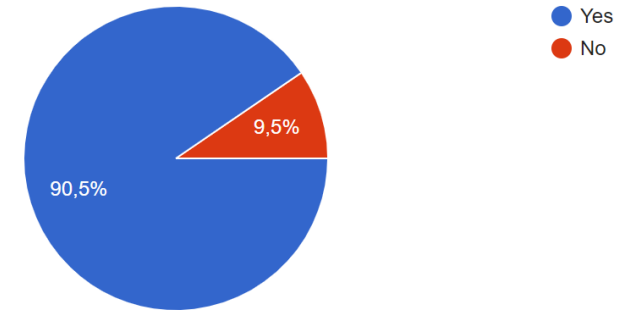
Driving Schools activity in EU during Covid-19

Extraordinary situation

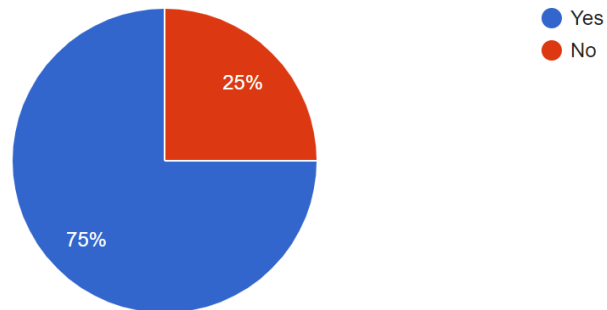
Are driving schools still operating in your Country?



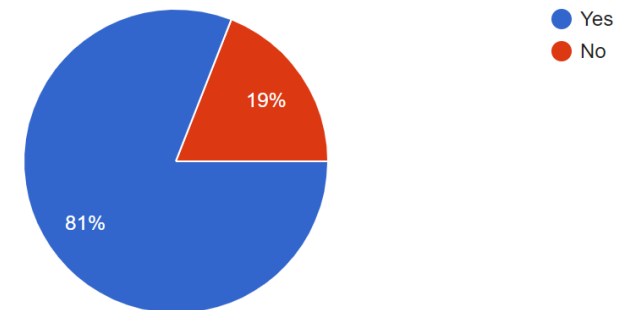
Are theory exams suspended?



Are theory lessons suspended in driving schools?



Are practical exams suspended?



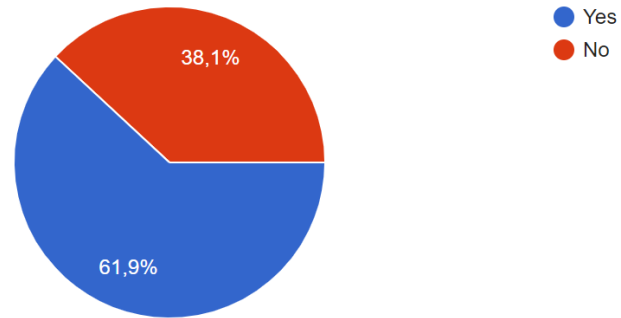
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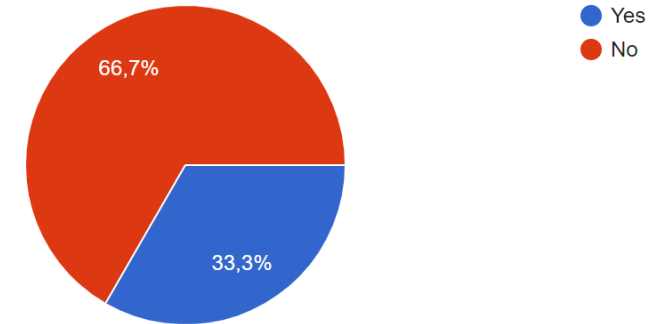
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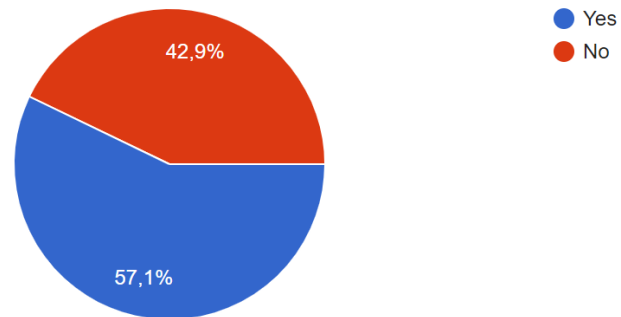
Has the expiry date of temporary driving permits been extended?



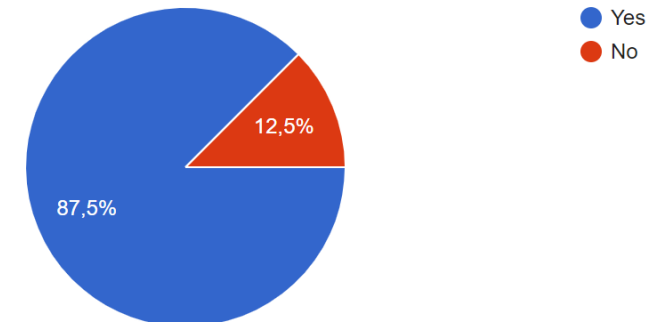
Is your government providing any financial support for your driving schools?



Has the expiry date of test certificates been extended?



If No are you expecting government support?



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Public financial support to Driving Schools during Covid-19 Extraordinary situation

Country	How long did lockdown last for driving schools in your country?	Has the Government supported financially driving schools during the lockdown?	Have driving schools risen in price due to Covid and by what %?
ES	Until 25 may or 8 June	No	No
NO	From 12. march to 11. may	Workers received 100% and the companies received 80% of fixed expenses	Yes and No
NE	48 days	90% employees Salaries in ratio of lost sales	Yes and No
BE	105	4000€/ company/office + unemployment 70% of salary	Not yet
EE	From March 12 to May 5	Employees salaries was 70%, but max 1000€	No
UK	5 months until 2nd December	The first 3 months at 80% then a further 3 months at 70%. Now as second lockdown has struck, another 3 months at 80% to be reviewed at 31st January	Around 5%
F	78 days	100% of wages - 1500 € per month during the first confinement up to 10,000€ during the second confinement	No
IS	12 weeks: 24.03.20 - 04.05.20 and 07.10.20 - 18.11.20	Driving instructors are self-employed on different salaries so they get different unemployment benefits.	No
MD	From 10 march to 18 may	No	10-15%
CZ	72 days	Spring: 80% of 100% of salaries costs; €20 per day per entrepreneur Autumn: 100% of salaries costs; for entrepreneur nothing if they apply for salaries. Otherwise €20 per day.	10%
IT	88 days	65% of employees' wage and 600€ for 2 months to Entrepreneurs	No
A	43 days until 6th December	Until 90 % employees, 80 % Fix costs, in Nov/Dec additional 80 % revenue of Nov/Dec 2019	Yes and No
PT	2 months (16 march to 18 may)	Employees in layoff had the salary reduced to 2/3. Government payed 70% of that amount. The deadline to pay some taxes was extended	No

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Licences extension of validity during Covid-19

Extraordinary situation



	T o t a l	A u s t r i a	B e l g i u m	B u l g a r i a	C r o a t i a	R e p u b l i c h	D e n m a r k	E s t o n i a	F i n l a n d	F r a n c e	G e r m a n y	B r i t a i n	G r e e c e	H u n g a r	I c e l a n d	I r e l a n d	I t a l y	L u x e m b o u r g	M o l d o v a	N e t h e r l a n d s	N o r w a y	P o r t u g a l	S p a i n	S w e d e n	S w i t z e r l a n d	
1. Impact on periodic training of professional drivers (Directive 2003/59/EC). In response to the growth in Covid-19 cases, does your country extend the validity of code 95?	Yes: 15 No: 9	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
2. In response to the growth in Covid 19 cases, is your country deciding to extend unilaterally the validity period of expiring licence?	Yes: 13 No: 11	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
3. Due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease Covid-19, does your country extend the validity of driving instructor's license or certification?	Yes: 12 No: 12	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
4. Impact on periodic technical inspection of motor vehicles. Due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease Covid-19, does your country extend the validity of expiring technical inspection certificates?	Yes: 16 No: 8	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

24 Countries replied

505 Views
on LinkedIn!

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**505 Views
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Licences extension of validity during Covid-19

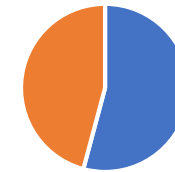
Extraordinary situation

1. Impact on **periodic training of professional drivers** (Directive 2003/59/EC). In response to the growth in Covid-19 cases, does your country extend the validity of code 95?



■ Yes ■ Not

2. In response to the growth in Covid 19 cases, is your country deciding to extend unilaterally the **validity period of expiring licence**?



■ Yes ■ Not

3. Impact on periodic technical inspection of motor vehicles. Due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease Covid-19, does your country extend the validity of expiring **car technical inspection certificates**?



■ Yes ■ No

4. Due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease Covid-19, does your country extend the validity of **driving instructor's license or certification** (provided that periodic training and/or testing is required)?



■ Yes ■ No

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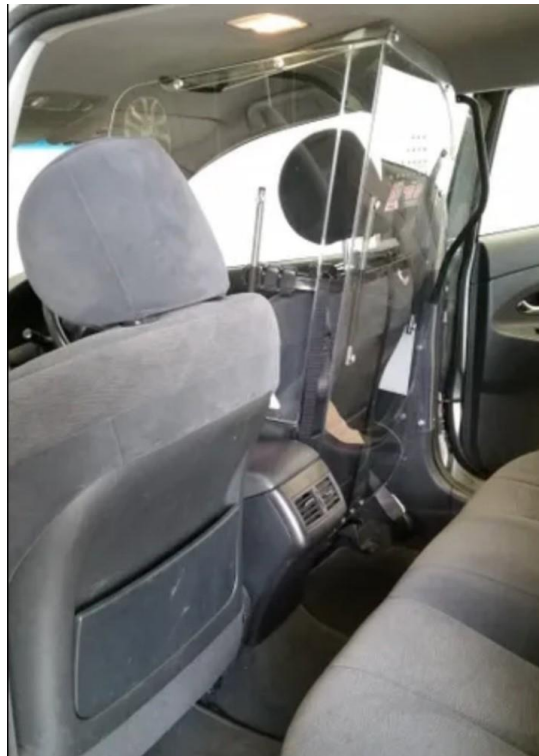
18 Countries replied*

	Theory Test		Practical Test	
	Before	After	Before	After
● AL	2	4	2	4
A	1	3	1	6
● BE	0	3	4	10
CZ	2	4	4	6
DK	3	6	3	6
● EE	1	2	6	8
FI	1	2	2	6
● F	0	0	9	26
DE	2	4	3	5
● HU	2	2	2	2
IS	1	3	1	3
● IT	9	15	12	17
MD	1	1.5	1	2
● NE	3	9	6	10
NO	0	2	8	8
PT	1	6	1	2
● UK	3	6	8	16

Did the Covid 19 lockdown
change the waiting times
for driving exams? (weeks)

*Spain has a local system to assign the exams

Procedures for urgent driving test during Covid-19 Extraordinary situation



Milan, 2020 Dec 9°

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Procedures for urgent driving test during Covid-19 Extraordinary situation

Procedures for urgent driving test 2020

Considering the current circumstances, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we feel the necessity to point out certain measures on issues that will practically enable the smooth operation of theoretical and practical exams before we get back to normality. In this respect we propose the following table with the measures that should be applied in order to protect the driving licence applicants, examiners and the driving instructors.

Potential needed measures in connection with COVID-19 can be roughly subdivided into three categories:

- distance measures: these include measures that make the person-to-person transmission unlikely simply by ensuring a distance between people;
- hygienic measures: these include measures that counteract a specific infection or spread of viruses through physical or disinfectant prevention;
- Raising awareness of the problem and information measures: These include measures to raise awareness and understanding among subjects and examiners and to impart acceptance and the necessary knowledge about changed procedures.

The following overview provide a proposal of possible measures and the measures that are suitable on site should be selected and implemented as needed by those responsible for the respective technical test centre - based on the prevailing framework conditions.

It might be useful to differentiate for individual fields of action according to:

- before the test;
- during the test;
- after the test.

These considerations can be illustrated as depicted in Figure 1

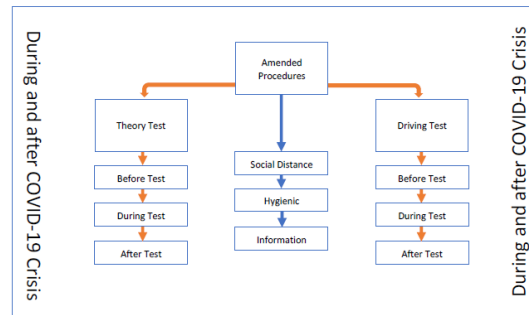


Figure 01: Amended Procedures during and after the COVID-19 Crisis

Specific measures in relation to the theoretical test

	Social distance	Hygienic	Information
Before test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintain a minimum distance of approx. 1.5 m (markings on floors in the waiting area and in the exam room) -The applicants should not be accompanied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of disinfection dispensers in the entrance area -Use of disposable headphones for the audio exam (if required) -Adherence to the current recommendations of the authorities is a prerequisite for the conduct of the exam for all participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Put up notices/placards on special behaviours/processes clearly visible (e.g. keep your distance, no handshakes; hygiene rules etc.) -Information to driving school that applicants should only be presented symptom-free
During test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintain a minimum distance of approx. 1.5 m for all -Feedback to the applicants not at the examiner's PC instead sending to the applicant's PC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No handshakes -Protective measures for the examiner should be taken when checking the ID and verification documents -Obligation of wearing masks and disposable gloves for all candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Notice on instructions to follow to leave the exam room safely
After test (communication of the result)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintain a minimum distance of approx. 1.5 m (markings on floors in the waiting area and in the exam room) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Disinfection of the operating devices or surfaces (keyboard, mouse, display) after each test -For the necessary air ventilation of the exam room and any necessary cleaning or disinfection measures, appropriate time periods are planned between the theory tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Check that the behaviour warnings have not been damaged and are readable by future users

Specific measures in relation to the practical test

	Social distance	Hygienic	Information
Before test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Driving schools are requested to inform / instruct the applicants accordingly -The applicants should not be accompanied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Only sites where the availability / use of suitable sanitary facilities is ensured can be selected as exam starting point -Provision of disinfectants for examiner (to use after leaving the vehicle) -Adherence to the current recommendations of the authorities is a prerequisite for the conduct of the exam for all participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inform driving schools that candidates and instructors must be symptom-free and all occupants must have mandatory protective masks (plus a spare) -Self-declaration of not having been in contact with infected people at least in the 15 days preceding driving exam
During test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep a minimum distance of approx. 1.5 m outside the examination vehicle -Check of needed requirements and candidates identity, technical preparation for driving, instruction and feedback on the practical exam have to be done outside the vehicle -When assessing two-wheeler exams, the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No handshakes -Protective measures for the examiner should be taken when checking the ID and verification documents -Obligation of wearing masks and disposable gloves for all vehicle occupants -Adequate ventilation in the exam vehicle must be guaranteed, if the exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Verbal information on special behaviours / processes (e.g. no handshakes; keep distance, hygiene rules, etc.)
After test (communicate result)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -cleaning or disinfection measures must be ensured by the driving school/applicant 	

675 Views
on LinkedIn!

The mass media are debating on the difficulty of the situation



Corona: This is how the driving schools are doing

So far, the driving school industry has come through the pandemic relatively well. This is evident from the figures, which Moving has been collecting regularly since March.

TEXT: SYLKE BUB

TRAINING AND FURTHER WEB CONFERENCE

Meeting of experts via web conference

Many driving instructors took the opportunity to be updated on current topics of the profession in the 1st Moving Web Conference.

TEXT: SYLKE BUB

Corona still has us firmly in its grip. The 8th German Driving Instructors' Congress has been postponed until next year and many other events could and cannot take place. Experts from the driving school industry have therefore met virtually at the 1st Moving Web Conference to inform driving instructors about current topics. Moving President Jörg-Michael Satz presented figures, data and facts about the profession. Thus, immediately after the announcement of the lockdown in March, the driving schools had actively sought measures to bridge the temporary closure. At that time, for example, three quarters of the employees had applied for short-time work and compensation.



The web conference also dealt with the topic of corona.

Has your driving school so far succeeded in somehow compensating for the restrictions caused by the reduced training capacity?



Electronic media: New possibilities and limits for theoretical driving training

In order to guide applicants for driving licenses optimally through the training, to prepare them for the driving test and to promote their skills, electronic media are increasingly being used as a supporting tool in driving training.

This development is welcomed in principle by driving instructor associations as well as by established driving schools and driving school publishers.

Under the burden of the Corona pandemic, there is an increasing call for the introduction of opportunities for "online learning" - mostly under purely economic constraints and fears of individual driving schools and under pressure from individual providers of purely electronic teaching/learning materials who want to open up new markets. Occasionally, demands are also made that call into question the proven system of professional driving training, which has been deliberately implemented in Germany by the legislature, and consider the mere transfer of training content to the Internet to be sufficient.

In the course of these developments, and especially against the background of the already ongoing research project of the Federal Highway Research Institute (BAST) "Approaches to Optimizing Driving School Education Germany", the following aspects should definitely be considered

- First of all, a clear definition of the now diverse and fuzzy terms used (e-learning, synchronous and asynchronous learning, blended learning, online learning, and others) must be provided to ensure that all parties involved agree on a coordinated and uniform basis.
- Electronic media can contribute to increasing the validity of training content and examination requirements in beginner driver training and thus also lead to an increase in the learning target validity in driving school training and the content validity of driver's license examinations.
- The benefits of electronic media for novice driver preparation can only be assessed in a specific application context. The possible uses of electronic media are extremely diverse and range from tablet- or smartphone-supported applications for learning exam questions to elaborate computer-based learning programs, complex driving simulations and virtual-reality-based learning environments. However, an assessment of the usefulness of certain forms of implementation is only possible if the use of electronic media is based on a pedagogical-didactic concept that can be referred

What have we learned from this situation?



- As for schools, the experience of **full online training is not positive**, if not managed individually (but this leads to a significant increase in costs). It must to be considered that most of the pupils in Europe already attend driving schools **just to pass tests** and not to learn road safety;
- Not from the results, but from a learning point of view, **e-learning platforms worsen the situation**;
- The countries where the exams are carried out by **private bodies or by several bodies** have generally responded better to the difficulties;

What have we learned from this situation?



- The current system for obtaining the **driving licence requires a structural revision**. Often the delays accumulated in carrying out the exams are due to situations preceding the Covid confinements. In many countries, **examiners are retiring** and have not been replaced with an adequate number of replacements;
- The **situation will worsen** when candidates will also have to be examined on the correct **use of ADAS**;
- The concept of **examination system** foreseen in the Directive 2006/126 EC **is outdated**, it needs a full revision.

What does EFA suggest to exit from this situation?



	EUROPEAN CAT "B" LICENCE	
	TO BE DONE IN DRIVING SCHOOL	SUGGESTED TO BE DONE IN DRIVING SCHOOL
	<i>(Depending by Country if testing the topic)</i>	<i>(To be tested)</i>
THEORY	Norms of Behavior	Rules and Road Signs
	Road Safety	Marking
	Hazard Perception	Car Maintenance
	Liability & Responsibility	Hazard Perception Test
	Speed/Alcohol&Drugs/Distraction	Norms of Behavior
	Insurance Behavior	Insurance
	First Aid	Crash is not an accident
	Road Crash Consequences	
PRACTICAL	By Night	Parking and Vehicle Manouvring
	Rural Roads	Urban Roads
	High Speed Roads	Rural Roads
	Bad Weather Conditions	High Speed Roads
	Safe use of ADAS	Safe use of ADAS
	Eco-Driving	
	Urban Area and E-mobility	

EFA TRAINING MATRIX

- Reducing exams waiting times
- Creating Awareness Drivers
- Separating Knowledge from Skills (blended learning)
- Reducing exam duration times (part of the evaluation will be done by driving schools)



Thank you for your attention



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