



EFA is partnering with the EU Horizon 2020 project, SAFE-UP, which is proactively defining and analysing safety-critical scenarios in future mixed automated traffic environments by integrating traffic accident data with simulations to assess future conflicts between automated vehicles, conventional vehicles and vulnerable road users. Dr. Marilee Nugent describes the contribution that driving schools can offer.

1. Marilee can you describe the project? Who are the partners?

The SAFE-UP project will identify future safety-critical scenarios to develop new safety systems technology to protect car occupants and vulnerable road users (VRUs). The project will develop 4 demonstrators which will integrate active and passive safety systems. As part of its holistic approach, SAFE-UP will produce targeted education, training and awareness schemes for fostering the safe integration of automated driving functions. These efforts will be aimed at such needs as new traffic participation behaviors, correct use of safety technology, adoption of connected functions for VRUs, and hazard perception in future safety-critical scenarios.

The SAFE-UP consortium brings together leading researchers, manufacturers and industry suppliers in automotive, connected and automation technology, as well as experts in road user safety and training. For more information on the project and partners I invite you to visit our website.

2. What are the goals you want to achieve?

SAFE-UP objectives aim to contribute to the safe integration of automated vehicles into the traffic mix. It is believed that increasing the automation of certain driving functions of vehicles will reduce the effects of driver error and save lives. However, as these technologies gradually mature and penetrate the market, they will not be infallible. The changes could bring new risks and hazards or require new behaviors and skills from drivers and other traffic participants. We especially aim to protect the most vulnerable on the road – pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and scooterists. New sensors systems for automated vehicles that work in bad weather and automated emergency avoidance functions will be developed. Also, we will work to enhance the communication between vehicles, infrastructure and VRUs, to detect and communicate Safety critical scenarios to drivers and to the VRUs via smart devices. As new automated vehicles will allow for different seating positions, safety of car occupants will also be addressed through new smart restraint systems for enhanced passive protection in the event of crashes. Altogether, SAFE-UP's innovative solutions are aimed to reduce incidents for total reductions of up to by 5244 (33%) road fatalities and 173,273 (69%) serious injuries by 2030 (predictions based on 2016 European Road Safety Observatory figures).

3. How can driving schools help you get the results you want to achieve?

We want to ensure SAFE-UP's outcomes have the maximum impact in preventing and mitigating future fatal crashes and serious injuries, moving forward towards the EU's 2050 Vision Zero goals. To do this our Training & Knowledge Translation Unit of SAFE-UP is developing partnerships with agents in road safety for tailoring and delivering new safety knowledge to those who need it – educators, instructors and all road users - into forms that are accessible, relevant and implementable. Driving schools can help us to address gaps in current training content regarding AV traffic and hazard perception, for example, or provide ideas on educational needs of specific driver types who may be more at risk, such as older and young adults. Current licensees will need to update skills and training material must adapted to achieve this. All drivers, experienced and new, will need to understand the new hazards facing vulnerable road users, and what we can all do to keep each other safe on the road. What will be the most effective approaches? What will be the safety priorities? How can you help us reach the public? By bringing researchers, education providers and community together, we can co-create strategies to ensure a future of safer mobility.

4. Where can you get more information in order to become an active part of the project?

We invite you to become a member of our Network of Safety Partners for collaboration, dissemination and engagement activities. You can visit our website for more information, sign up for the newsletter, visit our upcoming knowledge hub for updates, or email us directly at contact@safe-up.eu.



www.safe-up.eu

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