



TREND TO REDUCE ROAD TRANSPORT INCIDENTS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

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ABSTRACT

It is known that along with the increase in the number of motor vehicles in the world, the number of traffic accidents and the number of victims as a result of them is also increasing. According to the World Health Organization, a drastic reduction in the number of deaths caused by traffic accidents cannot be achieved by holding drivers accountable alone. In this process, it is important that pedestrians, who are other road users, know and follow the rules of the road, as well as the safety systems of the vehicles and the safe design of the roads.

The article presents the best experience and achievements in reducing the number of traffic accidents and the level of death caused by them in the developed countries of the world, including the countries of the European Union.

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Introduction

Currently, road transport is considered an important component of modern infrastructure, and its sustainable development is important for the rapid growth and integration of the country's economy, and for improving the well-being of the population. Today, meeting the needs of the population for cars remains one of the urgent problems in the whole world.

Of course, in addition to the positive effects of automobileization on the economy and social development of countries, there are also negative consequences, the main of which is the increase in traffic accidents and the number of people who are injured and killed as a result of them. Therefore, the number of motor vehicles continues to grow worldwide, and the problems related to ensuring the safety of road users also increase [1].

According to the World Health Organization, 1.3 million people die in road traffic accidents every year. This means an average of 3700 people per day, and 24 people per second. It is the leading cause of death in the world population of all ages and is the leading cause of death for people under the age of 29. Also, 20 million to 50 million people suffer various injuries as a result of traffic accidents [2].

The saddest thing is that more than 50% of those killed in traffic accidents are pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. In low- and middle-income countries, the mortality rate for this group of people is up to 70%.

Measures aimed at reducing these negative consequences of traffic accidents remain one of the urgent problems of today.

Currently, the countries of the world are sharing and implementing best practices and effective solutions in this regard. Most foreign countries are making concerted efforts to reduce road deaths.

Various activities are being held within the framework of the second decade (2021-2030) on road safety announced by the United Nations General Assembly. It has a global goal to reduce road traffic deaths by at least 50% by 2020 and to zero by 2050 [3].

European countries have indeed succeeded in reducing road traffic deaths. But recently, a significant decrease in positive dynamics has been noted in the European Union, and an increase has been observed in some countries (for example, Germany). At the same time, the situation in individual EU member states is very different: in Poland, Lithuania, Denmark, the rate of accidents decreased significantly during the year, but in Ireland, Spain, France, Italy and Sweden, this indicator increased or remained at the same level. A recent World Health Organization annual report noted that previous progress in reducing road deaths has been slowing since 2015 [4].

The main "contributors" to the increase in the number of traffic accidents in the

EU in 2023 were France, Germany and Italy, which have the most developed road network and the largest number of cars.

It is known that the World Road Safety Report is an important publication designed to regularly report to the UN General Assembly on global progress in the field of road safety. The 2023 report in this area is the fifth of its kind, detailing the extent of road traffic accidents worldwide and progress in developing laws, strategies and actions to reduce them.

According to the World Health Organization, it is not enough to make drivers responsible for reducing road deaths to zero. In this process, it is important that pedestrians know and follow the rules of the road, as well as the safety systems of the vehicles and the safe design of the roads.

The acceleration of the processes of urbanization and globalization of the economy, the increase in the number of megacities leads to the development of population mobility and logistics processes. The solution to these problems will be provided by the increase in the population's need for cars and the increase in the number of commercial transport fleets. This, in turn, leads to an increase in the number of traffic accidents, aggravation of their consequences, and a decrease in the safety of the transport system in general.

Nevertheless, the successful experience of many Western countries in recent years cannot be ignored. Because these achieved results allow to reduce death in traffic accidents. One of the positive and popular experiences achieved in the European Union is the Vision Zero ("Zero Death") program in Sweden. The concept of this program was enshrined in law in 1997 due to the high rate of road deaths in the country for many years. The main idea behind Concept Zero is that road designers take the primary responsibility for road safety. They must take into account the human factor at the construction stage, minimize the possibility of accidents with engineering solutions that may occur due to human error [5].

In addition to the Swedish experience, in order to create an efficient and safe traffic management system on the roads, it is necessary to have a tool that allows you to identify the most important factors using modern data, analyze various scenarios of the development of events, make relevant decisions and then evaluate their effectiveness.

A management strategy based on such a systematic approach is effective in terms of ensuring road safety, as it allows predicting and preventing many accidents, as well as reducing the severity of their consequences, due to the combination of technical and organizational measures [6].

Identification and analysis of factors that have a significant impact on the probability and severity of the consequences of road traffic accidents, as well as

influencing them by determining the general forms and causes of accidents, predicting the probability of their occurrence and evaluating their possible consequences, and thereby significantly increasing the level of traffic safety allows.

Of course, one of the measures related to reducing the number of traffic accidents is not only the improvement of road infrastructure and the construction of road elements, but also the introduction of knowledge and skills that guarantee the practical control of the vehicle during movement. I can achieve this by introducing such knowledge and skills into the system of driver training, by widely using such best practices used in developed countries of the world. [7].

One of the characteristics of driver training in EU member states, particularly in Germany, is that the mandatory driving of vehicles at night and on expressways leads to the rapid development of practical skills. In addition, they will acquire the necessary practical skills by driving a car in areas where traffic accidents are most frequent.

In addition, candidates are allowed to use a temporary license valid for a period of two years to confirm the acquired skills in safe driving without serious violations of traffic rules.

In foreign countries such as Australia, Canada, USA, New Zealand and UK, it is done through an efficient tiered system of issuing driver's licenses to the candidates in order to increase the reliability of the drivers. That is, at the end of such a step-by-step training system of drivers, depending on the qualifications of the candidates, initial, limited and fully valid driver's licenses are issued. It is noted that such driver training technologies used abroad have reduced the number of accidents by 30-35 percent.

It is possible to prevent the growth of traffic accidents by studying and analyzing the best practices of the developed world, i.e. foreign countries with a high degree of motorization, on learning and mastering traffic rules during the training of vehicle drivers.

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