Driver training and testing - What is happening in Europe?

CIECA presentation at the AAMVA congress
Charlotte, 21 August 2012
Themes

1. CIECA introduction
2. General trends in driver training and testing in Europe
3. The European Directives (EU Law)
4. The European Road Safety Action Programme
5. CIECA strategy
An international platform organisation

- 56 members in 36 countries – Mostly in the EU
- Core members design and deliver theoretical and practical driving tests
- Some also regulate driver training, driver Certificate for Professional Competence
- Managed by a Board elected by a General Assembly
- Secretariat and offices in Brussels, Belgium
- Financed by annual membership fee
- AAMVA and CIECA are mutual Associated Members
- United Nations Consultative Status
CIECA – Working methods

- Data collection and analysis.
- Workshops, seminars, congresses, driving test audits.
- Permanent expert groups; topical ad hoc groups.
- Peer-to-peer learning and exchange of good practice information.
- Cooperation with other experts.

- To develop technical and scientific knowledge about driver education and assessment.
- To develop shared solutions to the safe use of motor vehicles
- To share a common understanding among our member organizations
CIECA – Close to EU developments

- Provide support for CIECA members to comply with EU directives concerning driver testing.
- Involvement in European research projects
The European Union

- Combined population: 490 million
- 7% of world population
- 27 Member states
- Member States voluntarily hand over national sovereignty in many areas to carry out common policies and governance
- Driver testing regulated
- Driver training not yet regulated
General trends training and testing

Understanding that a driving test alone is not enough to support safe driving of novice drivers:

- Lengthening the learning process
- Deepening the learning process
Lengthening the learning process

- Earlier minimum age for learning to drive: Sweden (16), Norway (16), but test still from 18 onwards
- Introduction of post test probationary periods for novice drivers now introduced in 13/25 EU member states: stricter measures in case of violation of traffic regulations, heavier demerit points system, speed limitations or lower maximum alcohol limits
- (Obligatory) 2nd phase training in place in Finland, Luxembourg, Estonia, Austria, and Switzerland:
  - Group discussion
  - On-road feedback drives
  - Track training
  - …..Spread over first few months of solo driving
Deepening the learning process

- Creating a ‘whole driver education package’: Training + testing + curriculum objectives = whole driver education package (Nordic countries)
- Obligatory modules in initial training: Sweden, Norway (“what cannot be tested should be trained”)
- Norway: new driver training curriculum / more training for instructors and examiners
- Driver training in steps: Norway, Netherlands, Denmark
- More structured accompanied driving: obligatory induction seminar for parents in Sweden, target mileage…
- Higher levels of driver behaviour in 2nd phase training
Career of a driver (in Europe…)

Driving Licence Test

Traffic Education  DL Education  Accompanied Driving  Life Long Learning
EU Action

EU legislation:
- Driving Licence Directives
- Professional Drivers Directive
- Safety management of roads and tunnels
- Roadworthiness inspections, etc

Non-legislative actions:
- Data collection and dissemination: CARE, ERSO
- Co-funding of projects and studies
- Exchange of best practices, EU Road Safety Charter

- Considerable differences remained between one country to another with regard to the test

- Annexes regulate:
  - 1) Codes on the driving licence (e.g. restrictions)
  - 2) the content of the driving test
  - 3) Physical and medical fitness to drive
EU Directives (2)


- Single European Driving Licence
- Driving licence (administrative) validity limited to 10 years
- Requirements for driving examiners (inc. ongoing training)
- Graduated access to 2-wheelers
EU Directives (3)


- Initial qualification and periodic training of drivers for the carriage of goods or passengers
- A step to enhance the comparability and mutual recognition of the qualification of professional drivers in Europe was set
  - Member States have much room for interpretation.
  - Question remains whether Directive will have an impact on drivers’ actual abilities ⇔ Regulation?

Note: A Directive is binding as to the result to be achieved by each Member State but it leaves the choice of forms and methods to the national authorities. A Regulation is general and directly applicable in all Member States and it is binding in its entirety.
Ex-post assessment of the 3rd Road Safety Action Programme (2001-2010)

- An ambitious goal: 50% reduction of the number of road fatalities by 2010
- 62 concrete measures concerning vehicle/infrastructure safety and human behaviour
Fatalities – evolution 1990-2010

Evolution 1990 - 2010
EU fatalities

Source: - CARE (EU road accidents database) - National data
Evolution 2001-2009 per Member State

Source: CARE (EU road accidents database)

(number of deaths per million population)
3 Principles:

- A common European road safety area
- An integrated approach with other policies (health, environment, employment, etc.)
- Shared responsibility (EU, national, local...)

A common and measurable target:

- to continue with the current 50% reduction target
- building upon national road safety strategies
- and a regular monitoring of progress made
1. Improve education and training of road users
2. Increase enforcement of road rules
3. Safer road infrastructure
4. Safer vehicles
5. Promote the use of modern technology to increase safety
6. Improve emergency and post-injury services
7. Protect vulnerable road users
CIECA - close to EU developments

So far

- CIECA helped inform and deliver various EU Directives
- Significant involvement in EU research projects since 2000
- Contribute to preparatory work for EU Road Safety Policy Orientations 2011-2020 (Consultation Paper, Report, two preparation workshops)

CIECA - close to EU developments

Strategy was designed

– that is consistent with the next EU Road Safety Action Plan 2012-2020.
– so CIECA becomes a forward-thinking organisation especially in the fields of driver/rider education as well as assessment
General Assembly in May 2011 in Malta approved a foundation for new Strategy

- CIECA statutes adjusted to accommodate this broader role and allow a wider range of memberships
- a new Theory Test Advisory Group established.
- other groups – psychological, medical, trainers - envisaged
- ambition to be a forward-thinking organisation in the fields of driver/rider education as well as assessment
- CIECA wants to develop successful partnerships with academic associations, driver instructor associations, industry, ...etc.
CIECA – Strategy: New directions

- Five goals up to 2020
  - Goal 1: Programming
  - Goal 2: Membership development
  - Goal 3: Exchange and dissemination of information
  - Goal 4: Sustainability and organisational change
  - Goal 5: Partnerships

CIECA’s Relationship with AAMVA

- Membership within our respective organizations
- Mutual respect and understanding, allowing our two Organizations to work towards common goals
- Open communication
On our work programme (1) – Some issues

- Review experiences of independent driving findings
- Review experiences of eco driving findings
- Attention towards vulnerable road users during training and testing
- Support further developments in theory testing
  - Common standards on what is tested (GDE matrix / other competence frameworks)
  - Common standards to guide theory test item and format design issues
  - Evaluation of the evidence of results (e.g. Hazard Perception Testing)
On our work programme (2)

- Driving licencing process
  - Ageing and safety from a driver licensing and assessment perspective
  - Graduated access for new car drivers - Experience within North American systems
  - Diagnostics and re-education assessment for young driving offenders
Common problems – shared solutions

- Driver behaviour, a hard topic in road safety.
- The challenge of learning from each other – different topics, different jurisdictions
Please visit us at www.cieca.eu
Questions?

Contact Information

daniel.vandenberghe@cieca.eu