



The road towards improving road safety

International cooperation

The Moroccan organisation CNPAC and the Dutch organisations SWOV and RDW successfully cooperated in a project aimed at improving Moroccan road safety.

Project

EDuring a Moroccan trade mission to Netherlands in March 2013, the Moroccan delegation also visited SWOV, RDW and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. The delegation was introduced to the Dutch approach towards road safety which ultimately resulted in a formal request to the Dutch government to assist in building the road safety expertise in Morocco. This project, in which the Safe System Approach has a leading role, is shared between SWOV, RDW and CNPAC, the Moroccan National Committee for the Prevention of Road Traffic crashes. The project was financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of the Matra-South Programme, and was executed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

Problem statement

Morocco has a significant road safety problem: in 2010 it registered between 5000 and 6000 traffic fatalities. Annually, Morocco has 18 road deaths per 100 000 inhabitants and although this is below the average for the Eastern Mediterranean region as a whole, the number is almost five times higher than in Nether-

lands. Morocco recognizes the road safety problem and aims to redress the situation by preparing a multi-year road safety improvement plan aimed at reducing the number of road crash casualties. The current project provides building blocks and concrete advice for, among others, Moroccan research and development (R&D) activities in the field of road safety.

Inventory

To obtain a better understanding of the specific Moroccan needs and capacities, Dutch experts paid several working visits to Morocco. Also, to facilitate cooperation, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SWOV, CNPAC and DTRSR, Le Ministère de l'Équipement, du transport et de la Logistique - La Direction des Transports Routiers et de la Sécurité Routière (the Moroccan Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure). Aided by the Dutch Embassy and with intensive support from CNPAC and the Moroccan Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, the Dutch experts were introduced to a variety of Moroccan organisations in the field of road traffic and road safety, allowing the Moroccan traffic situation to be mapped.

Exchange

Representatives of Moroccan organisations paid a return visit to the Netherlands and they visited many Dutch organisations.

During the visit Moroccan delegates were introduced to the vision and approach of for example the The Hague police, The Dutch Driving Test Organization (CBR), Central Fine Collection Agency (CJIB), the Vehicle Technology and Information Centre (RDW), SWOV and the Ministry of Justice. The following was said by the delegation: “The Netherlands offered a very rich program; many road safety aspects were brought forward during this visit.” Also the quality of the programme was positively assessed: “From the organisational as well as the practical viewpoint, the schedule of the work visit was seriously and purposefully filled in” according to the Moroccan delegation.

The study visit also offered space for active mutual contact. The delegation: “there was a fruitful exchange of views and a thorough discussion of the experience gained, with the goal of making the differences and similarities in the field of road safety visible and learning from this.”

Information was also exchanged on a larger scale: in the Moroccan city of Skhirat an International Conference on Women and Road Safety was organized. On 8 March 2014, the Conference was officially opened by Princess Lalla Meryem. SWOV’s Marjan Hagenzieker was one of the key note speakers. She spoke about the development of road safety in Netherlands and that – although the risk has decreased considerably over the past 40 years – men still have a higher risk than women.

Final report

Would you like to know more about the progress of the project, the findings and recommendations? The report, prepared by SWOV and RDW, titled *Extending the road safety research and development capacity in Morocco* has recently been published and can be consulted on the SWOV Website.

