

## **Effective Local Stakeholder Partnerships to Improve Road Safety**

*Friday, 15 May 11.30-13.00*

*Youth Palace, Meeting Room 1*

Improving road safety represents a major challenge in the Caucasus region, where alarming casualty rates suggest the need for better awareness raising and capacity building of local stakeholders. What is the role of local stakeholder partnerships in road safety? How could effective partnerships and cross-border sharing of best practices be implemented in the region?

The roundtable discussion will look into main challenges to road safety in the Caucasus region and explore how these could be best tackled through effective local multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The panel will be open to all participants of the Annual Meeting & Business Forum.

### Moderator

- Dmitry Sambuk, Director for Development and Education, EASST

### Speakers

- Mr. Irakli Leqvinadze, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi
- Gela Kvashilava, Chairman, Partnership for Road Safety (PFRS, Georgia)
- Poghos Shahinyan, Executive Director, National Road Safety Council NGO (NRSC, Armenia)
- Vusal Rajabli, President, HAYAT NGO (Azerbaijan)
- Dariusz Prasek, Director Project Appraisal, Environment and Sustainability Department, EBRD

### Background information

In Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, high levels of road casualties are national challenges. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 2013 Global Status Report on Road Safety, in Armenia the fatality rate per 100,000 people was 18.1, in Georgia 15.7 and in Azerbaijan 13.1, compared to averages of 7.2 in Italy and Slovenia, 6.4 in France and 3.7 in the UK.

Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia have made a formal commitment to support the UN Decade of Action on Road Safety 2011-2020, with an aim of reducing road casualties by 50%. While significant progress has been made in improving the legislative base (e.g. seat belt regulation) and some road infrastructure, all three countries face major problems in dealing with road casualties that continue to be a critical health challenge.

Global best practice underlines the need for local stakeholder partnerships as the most effective way to reduce casualty rates. These partnerships require multi-agency collaboration, including local authorities, police, the media, education providers and – most importantly – local communities. These are the key stakeholder groups for effective action on road safety.

The subject of road safety also has a strong cross-border element: involving sharing information on offenders, vehicle safety checking at borders, information about legal requirements for road users (e.g., local seat belt laws), need for unification of the road signage and marking, inclusion of

compulsory road safety audits into road construction process at all levels and many other issues where dialogue between authorities and concerted action would be beneficial.

Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport (EASST) is an independent UK-registered charity working in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia to facilitate cross-border projects on sustainable transport and road safety. EASST works through local partner organisations to make their efforts more effective by sharing know-how and resources. EASST cooperates in regional and cross-border projects, leveraging support and expertise from around the world to save lives and prevent injuries on the roads. More here: [www.easst.co.uk](http://www.easst.co.uk)

The Georgian Partnership for Road Safety is a non-profit organisation that promotes road safety through education and advocacy. It was established in 2006 with support from the FIA Foundation, British Council, and national organisations concerned with the growing number of road deaths in Georgia. The goal of the Partnership is to reduce crashes and deaths on Georgia's roads and to support development of the national road safety strategy. More info: <http://www.safedrive.ge/>

National Road Safety Council Armenia (NRSC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation established in 2005. The NRSC's mission is to help modify road user behaviour and improve quality of life by preventing road deaths and serious injuries. Acting on a non-partisan platform, National Road Safety Council Armenia support and initiate activities that have a direct impact on reducing road traffic collisions. <http://www.roadsafety.am/>

HAYAT International Humanitarian NGO was established in 1993 with an initial focus of responding to the influx of the thousands of refugees and IDPs resulting from the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The NGO has accumulated vast experience in community development, mobilization and public awareness campaigns, leading large scale projects in cooperation with international organizations such as UNHCR, Save the Children, Mercy Corps International and others. As EASST's key partner in Azerbaijan, HAYAT NGO works to reduce road fatalities and injuries in Azerbaijan. [www.hayat.az](http://www.hayat.az)

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