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WEBINAR

Safe school surroundings:

“Safe routes to schools”

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Slide title

Background & Objectives

- **Quality of life** of all citizens depends on the level of traffic safety (children – the weakest participants!);
- **Upgrade of existing activities** for safer school surroundings in Ljubljana;
- Target: all schools in the city – **49 elementary schools and 4 special educational institutions** = 20,241 elementary pupils (2,355 1st grade pupils)

The main objectives of the measure:

- elimination of dead and severely injured children on the way to school and home – “zero” objective;
- to ensure the safety of pupils with:
 - “Safe routes to school” web portal + plans/maps introduced and updated (printed and displayed in school facilities);
 - constant traffic safety warden service; and
 - on-field measures for reduction of vehicle speeds in the vicinity of schools.

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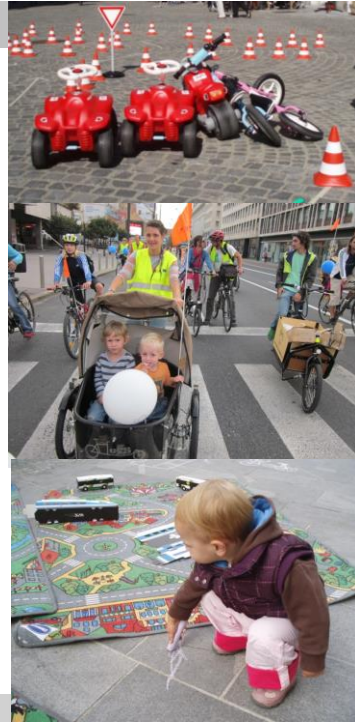


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Challenges

Key questions:

- What's the status quo?
- Do we have access to data on school safety?
- How to reach the “zero objective”?
- How to enhance communication among key stakeholders?
- How to motivate volunteers and other stakeholders?
- Can we assure that all schools will continuously update the Safe routes to schools web portal?
- Do we have enough personnel to perform all tasks?
- What about the national legislation?
- How to raise traffic culture in general?



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Implementation

- **Survey** on safe routes to schools and travel behaviour of school children ($n = 1812$; mentors/teachers of traffic education, school children, parents);
- Annual actions for safer school surroundings strengthened through an **outreach campaign**;
- **Interactive web portal Safe routes to schools** established and constantly upgraded: <http://solstvo.gis.ljubljana.si> ;
- 10 stationary **radars** installed + **street signalisation** + “Children on the street” and “Speed limit” **traffic signs** + **speed bumps** on 160 locations throughout Ljubljana;
- 8 **trainings and workshops** for key stakeholders + numerous meetings;
- **Other communication**, informational and promotional activities (events and printed material) undertaken.



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Results

- **Good co-operation** between the City of Ljubljana, schools, parents, city police, the city Council for Prevention and Education in Road Traffic and NGOs.
- **Good participation** at public events related to the topic.
- **Acceptance** of the safety measures has **increased** from 9,4% to 23,4%.
- A significant **decrease in the average speed** is observed (0,4–9,9 km/h or 1–20%).
- The target levels were not reached; however, the sample considered is statistically very low to allow for identifying trends.

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Conclusion

- **Next steps** – the described activities will continue:
 - updating maps and web portal of safe routes;
 - co-operation between stakeholders;
 - measures to achieve a higher number of volunteers involved in the constant traffic service;
 - new and improved infrastructure;
 - “mentors” in high schools and kindergartens (?);
 - outreach campaigns, citizen engagement.
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Stakeholder/citizen engagement** should be a priority, a “backbone”, done a.s.a.p.!
 - **Motivated measure leader** is a must!
 - **Devoted politicians** + city administration
 - **Face to face** discussions/campaigns are very important; succesful in small groups.
 - **Datasets** should be checked in order to assure their availability for the future needs.

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Thank you

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