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A comparative study of the development of road safety in European countries

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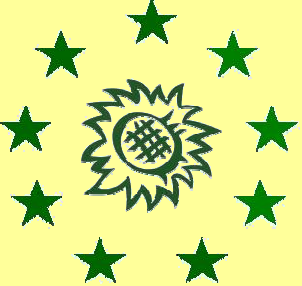


project co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General Transport & Energy



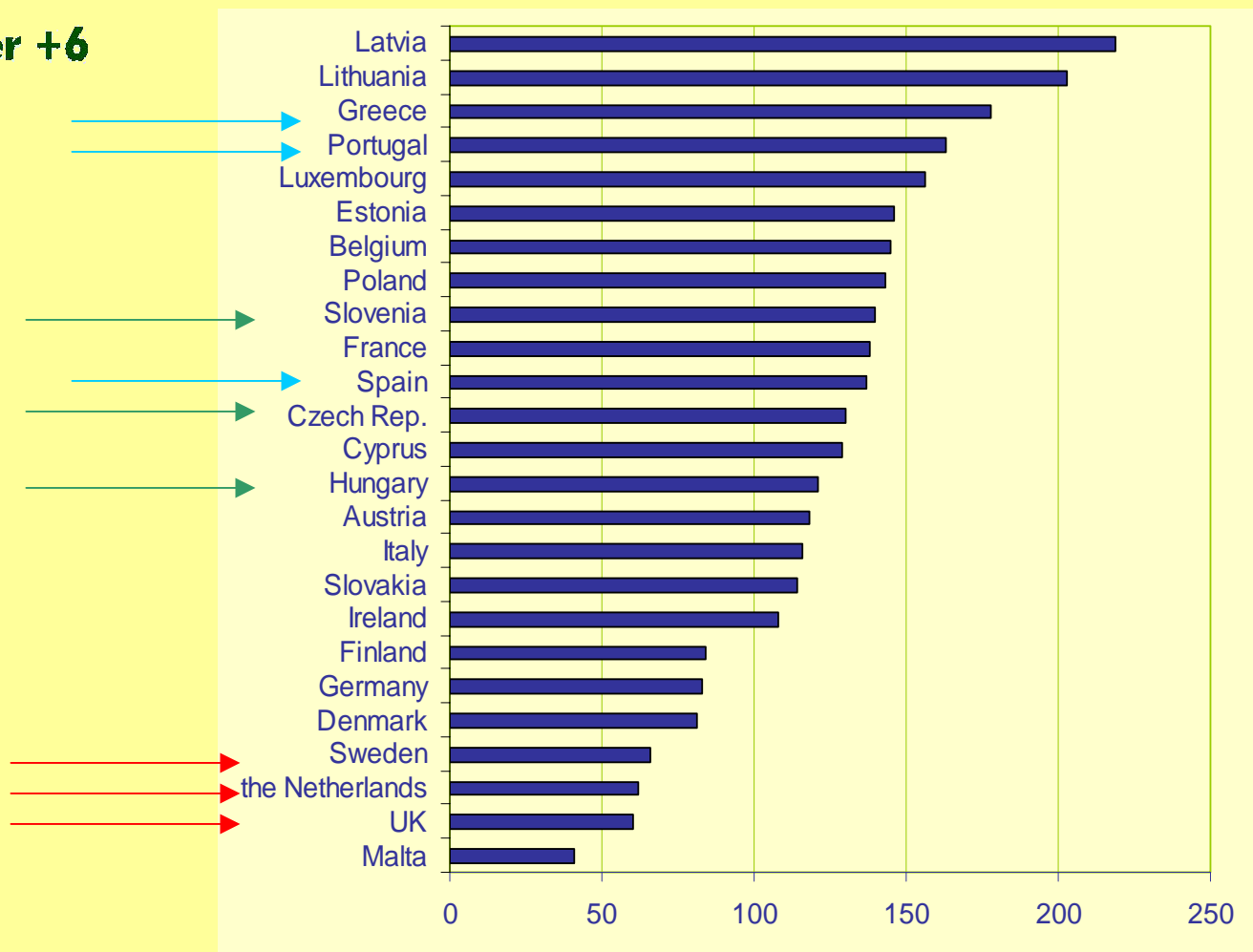
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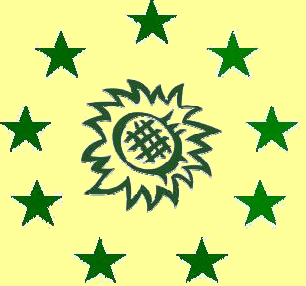
- Backgrounds
- Methodology
- Outline of the project



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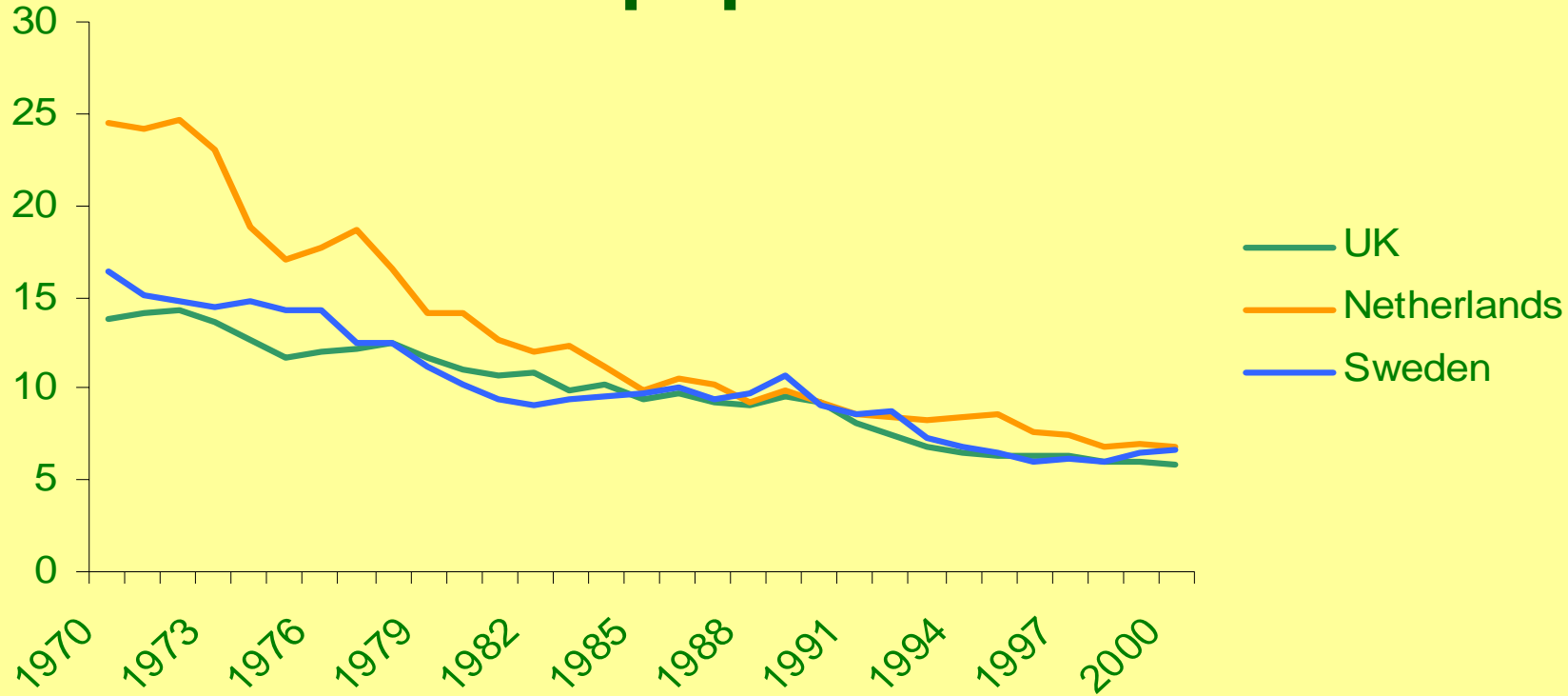
Fatalities/million population – IRTAD (2002)

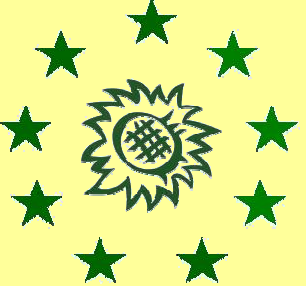




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Trends in fatality rate per 100,000 population



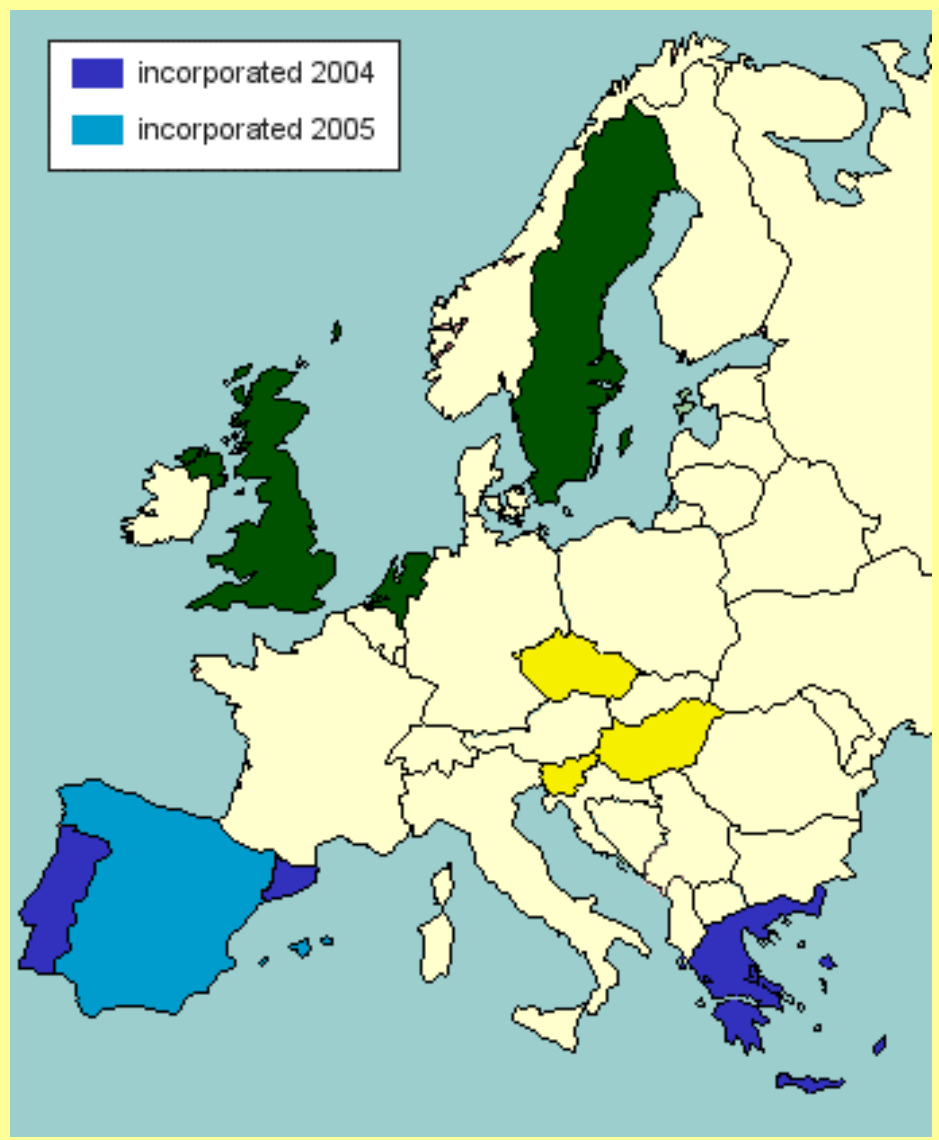


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Partners

- **SUN**
 - SWOV, Netherlands
 - TRL, United Kingdom
 - VTI, Sweden
- **Central**
 - CDV, Czech Republic
 - KTI, Hungary
 - Omega, Slovenia
- **South**
 - DSD, Spain/Catalonia
 - LNEC, Portugal
 - Trademco, Greece

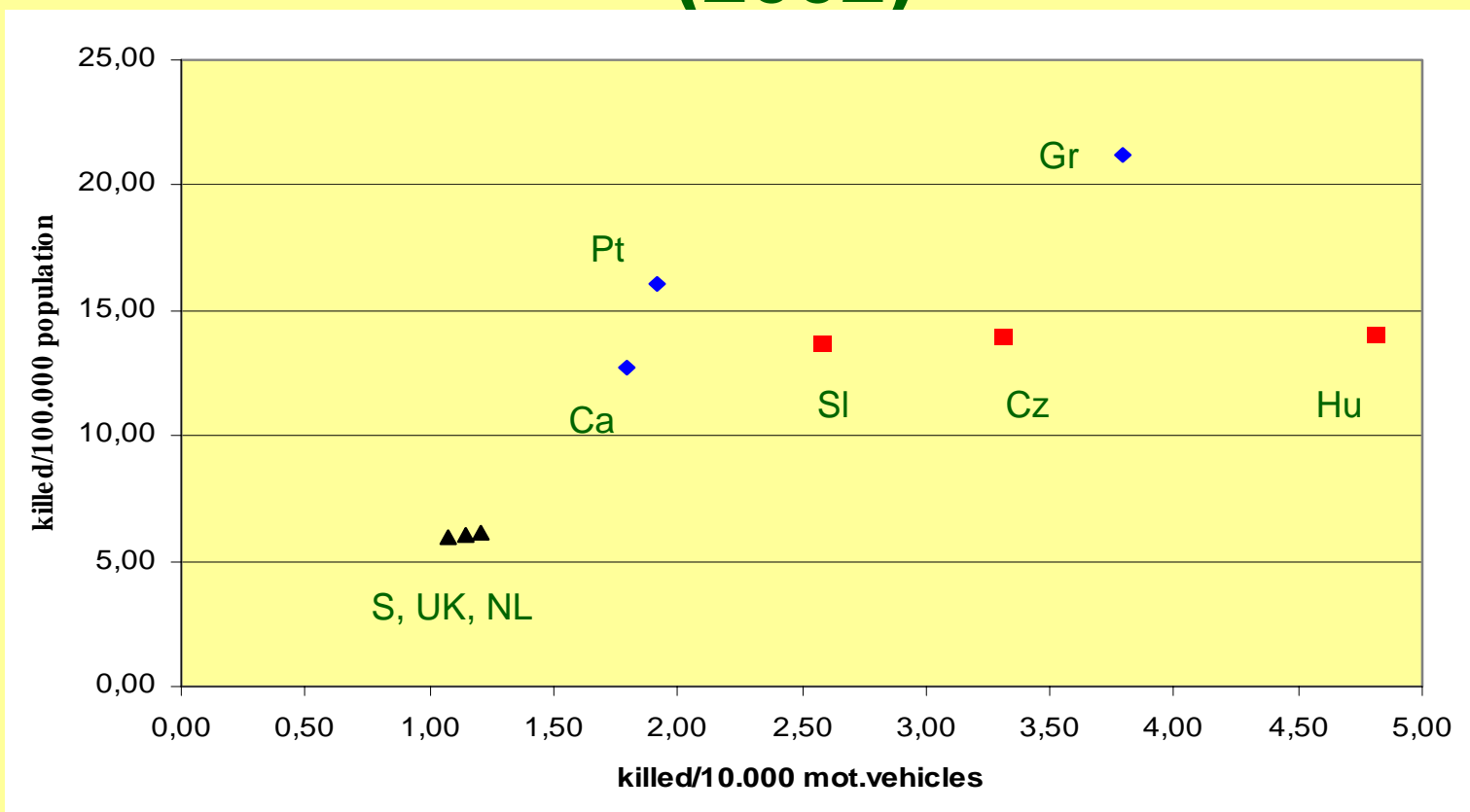
Backgrounds



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Personal safety – traffic safety (2002)





Objectives

- Insight in road safety risks and road safety policies, programmes and measures in the 9 individual countries.
- Identify key factors that explain past developments
- Learn about further improvements that may be expected of current and future road safety practices in each of the 9 countries.
- To benchmark road safety developments and road safety policies in order to get guidance for remedial actions in the 9 countries in the future
- To identify potential contributions that might be used in European Road Safety Action Plans
- To support road safety policies in other countries.



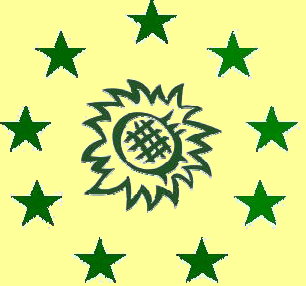
Basic questions

- How to compare countries?
- How to compare policies?
- How to understand road accident trends?



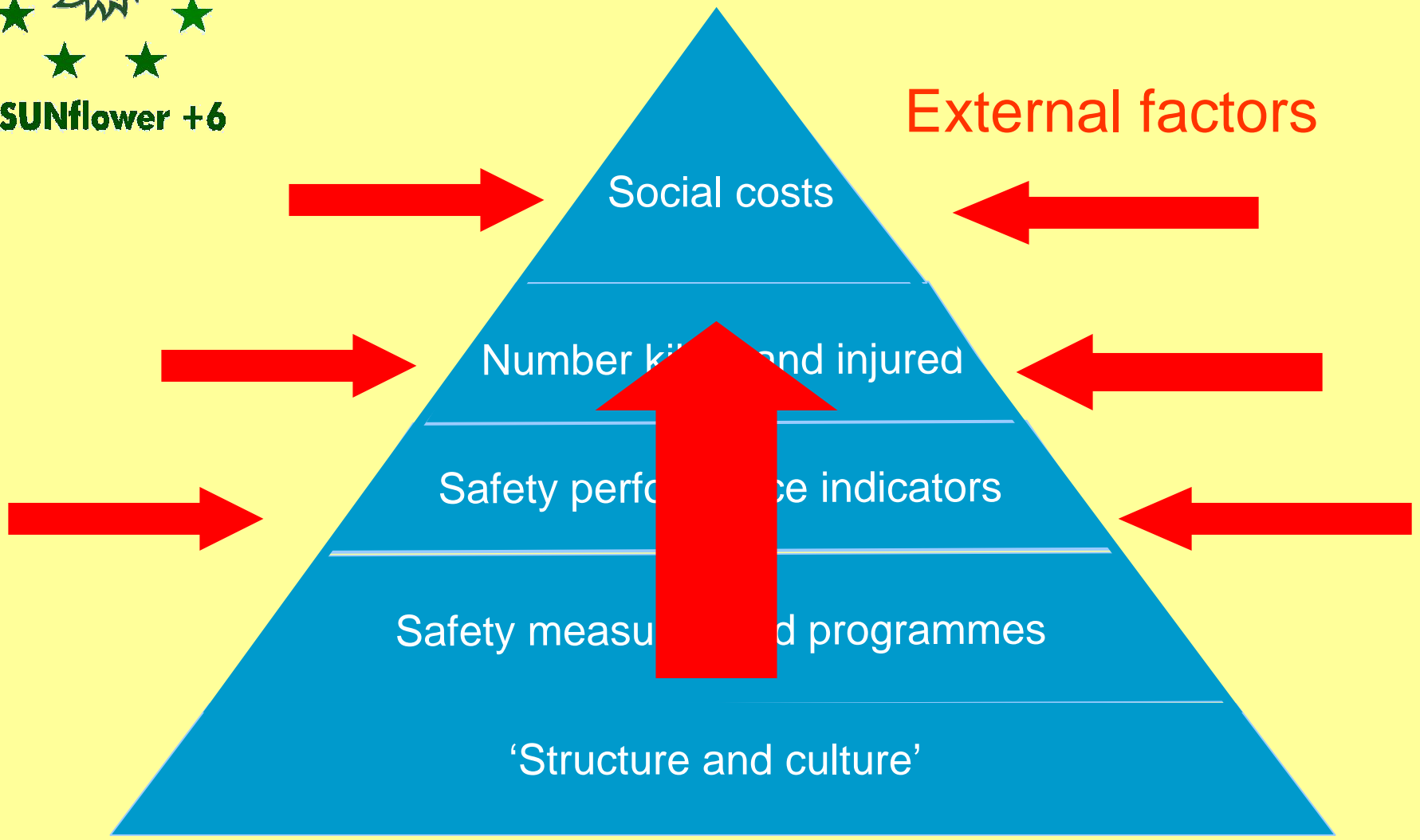
How to compare countries and policies?

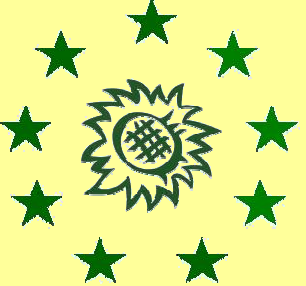
- Use high quality data (e.g. IRTAD)
- Define relevant benchmarks (characteristics at different hierarchical levels in road safety)
- Understand differences between benchmarks values
- Use a target hierarchy (derived from Road Safety Strategy 2010 from New Zealand)
- Target hierarchy is credible, transparent, consistent
- Target hierarchy to be used on a disaggregated level, make stakeholders accountable



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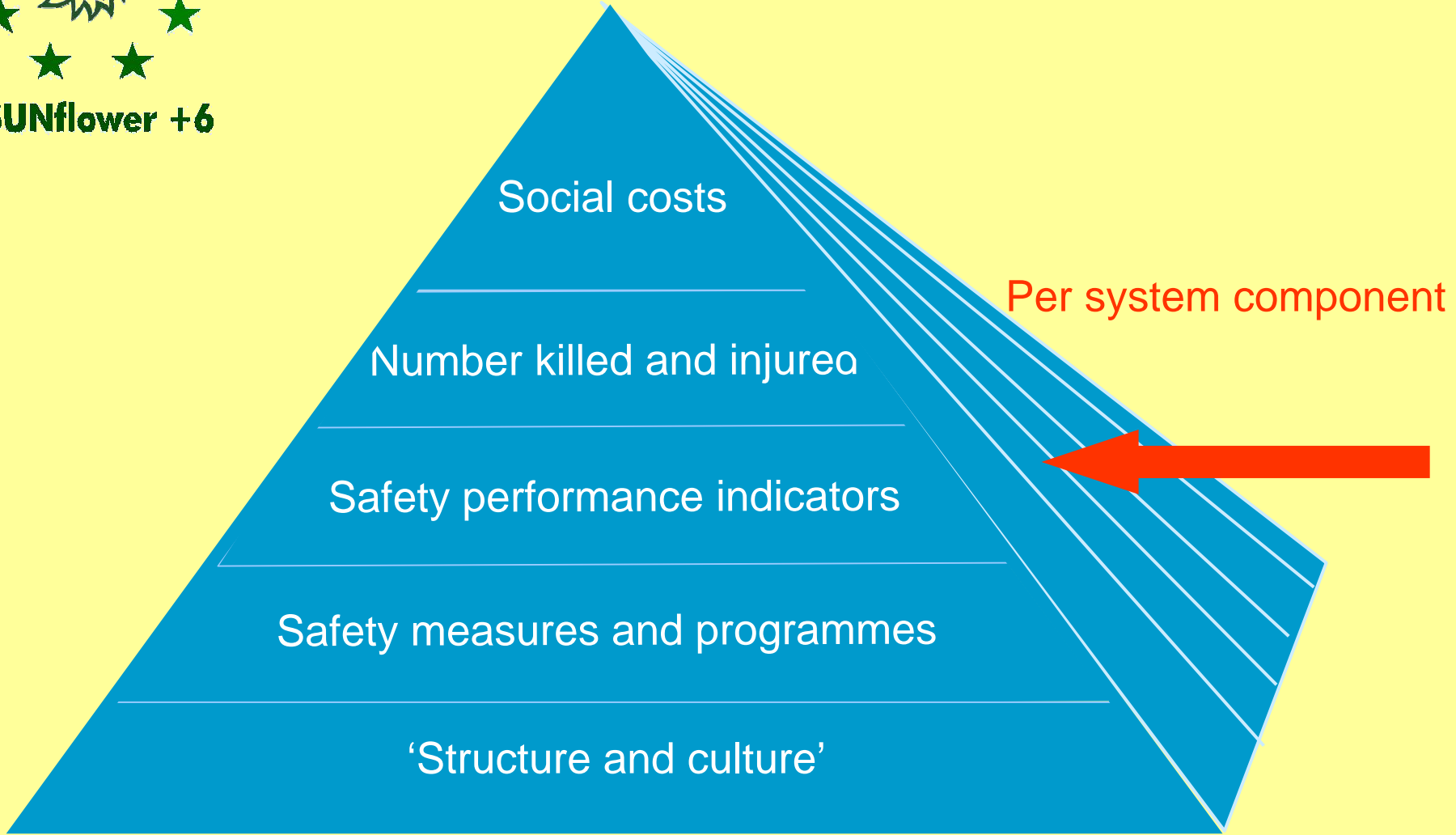
Methodology





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Methodology





How to understand road accident trends? (1)

Describing trends + explaining trends + assess impacts of road safety interventions

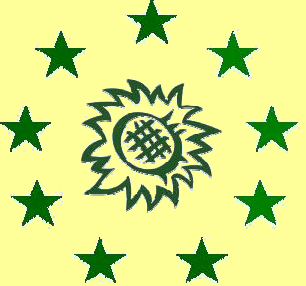
- Motorisation + traffic growth
- Adapting road infrastructure to traffic growth (road and traffic measures)
- Improving vehicles
- Road safety measures (legislation + enforcement, education)



How to understand road accident trends? (2)

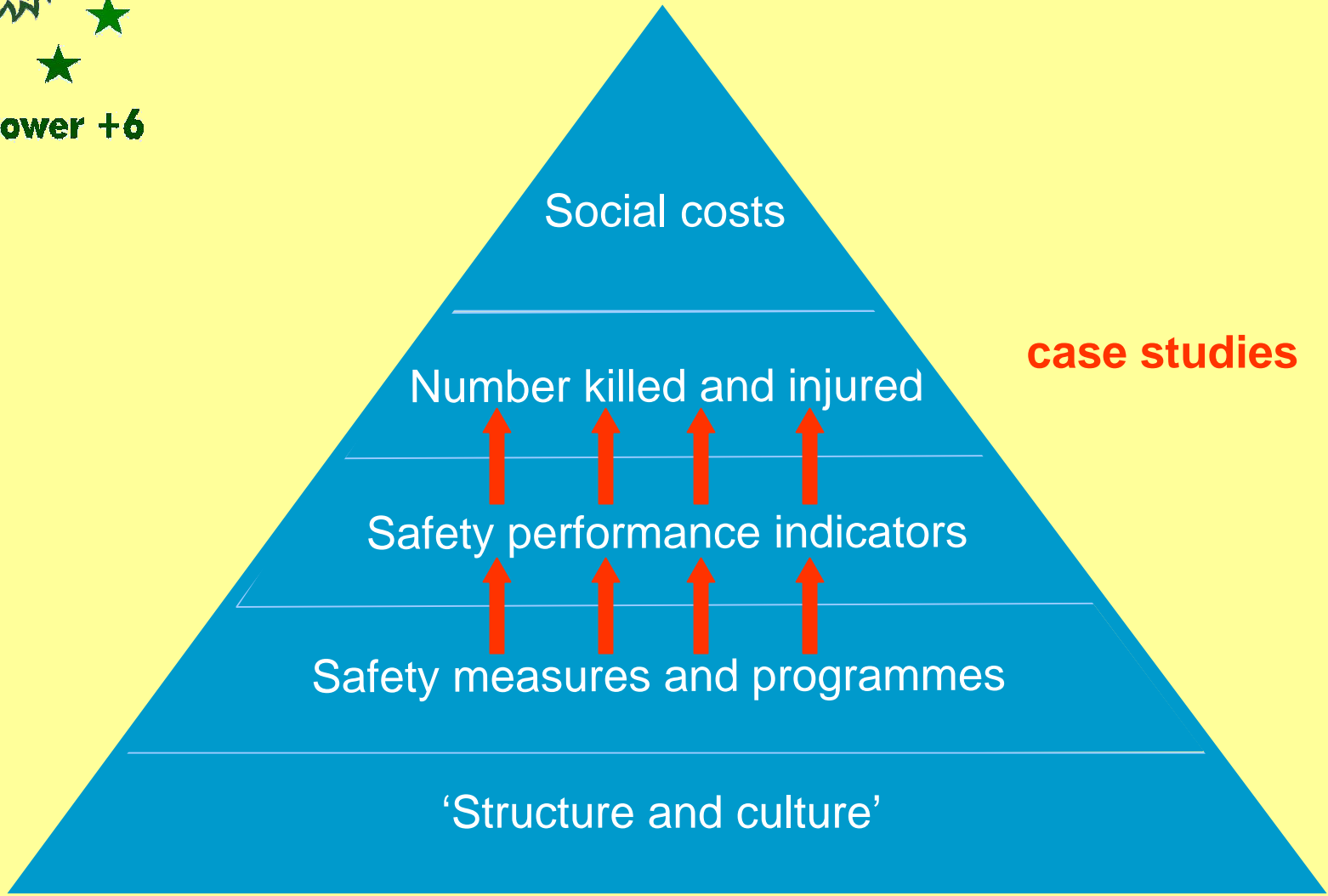
Take into account external factors

- Long term/structural developments (age pyramid, licensing, collective learning)
- Changes in societies (awareness, acceptance)
- Public health improvements
- Short term fluctuations (weather)
- Accident reporting
- etc.



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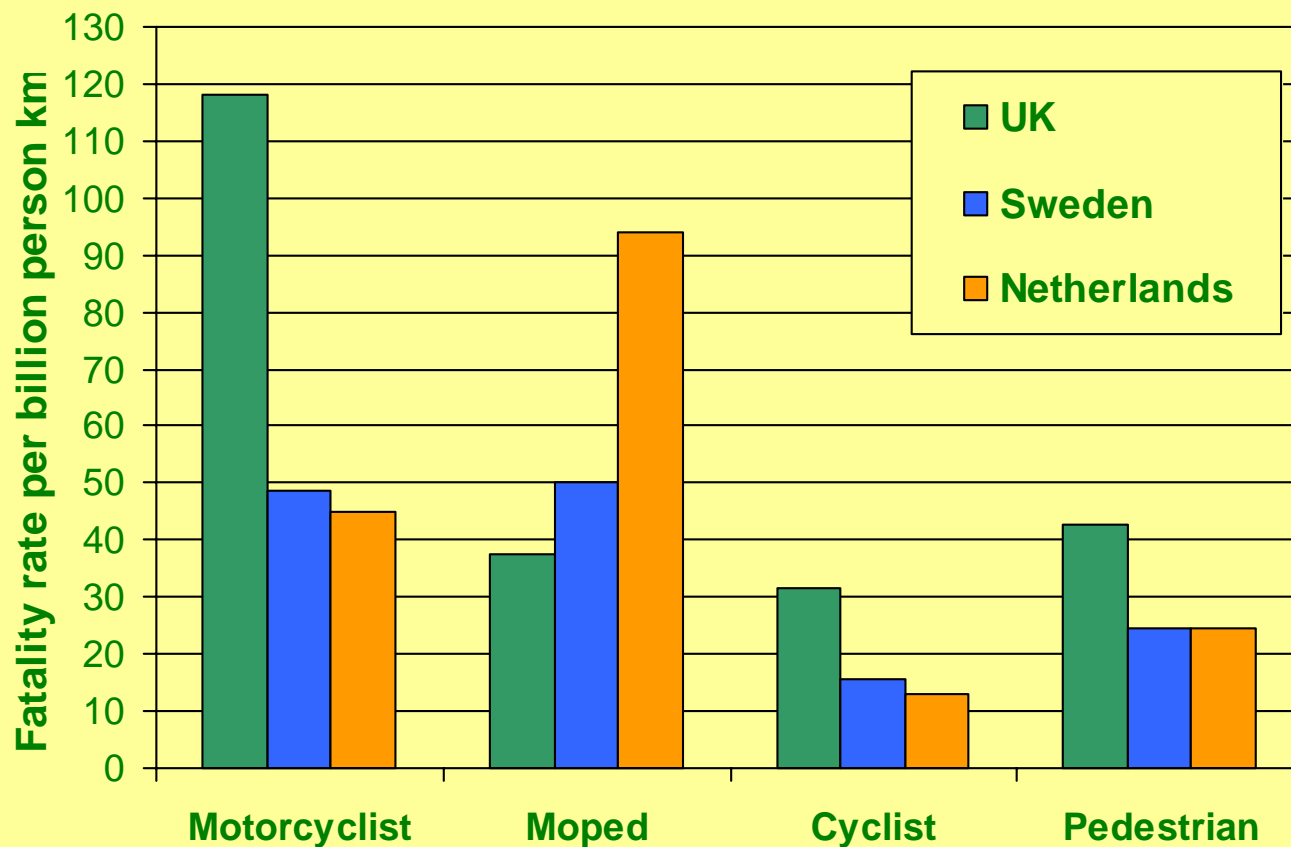
Methodology



case studies

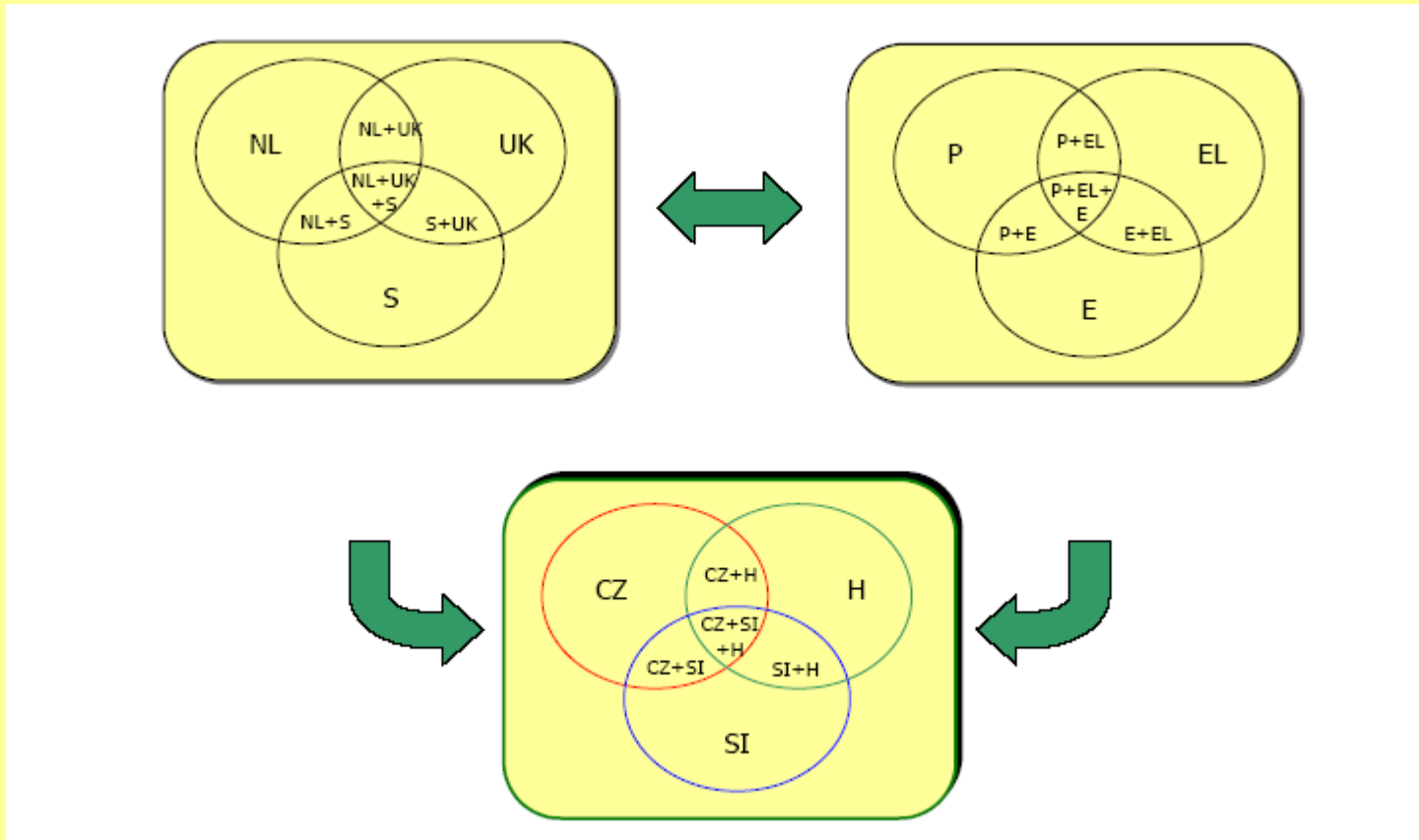


Comparative study: example





From SUNflower to SUNflower+6





From SUNflower to SUNflower+6

- Comparison of **S**weden, the **U**nited Kingdom and the **N**etherlands, that are among the countries in the world with the best safety records
- Macroscopic very similar, but many differences on more detailed level
- Comparing three countries is better than two –what added value by comparing 9 countries?
- Explanation of history trend based on case studies
- What added value by performing more case studies?



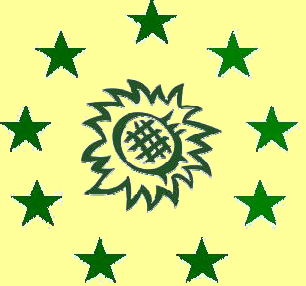
Project tasks

- Extended study on the road safety comparison of the SUN countries
- A similar comparison between the South countries/regions
- A similar comparison between the Central countries
- Development of a 'footprint methodology' for the safety performance of the 9 countries
- Final reporting



Comparative study: selection of case studies

	SUN	Central	South
Drinking & Driving	X	X	X
Seat belts	X	X	X
Low cost engineering	X	X	
Pedestrian	X	X	X
Cyclist	X	X	
Moped	X		X
Motorcycle	X		X
Young drivers	X	X	X
Heavy goods vehicles	X		
Speed management	X	X	X
Enforcement	X		
Implementation strategies	X		



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Soon available products: group reports

Outline



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Using past trends to inform future policies

- Past trends: how far can they be explained?
- What can we learn from recent trends?
- Do current targets and strategies reflect performance and likely future potential?



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Effects in SUNflower countries:1980-2000

	Saving in fatalities between 1980-2000 attributed to each source		
	Sweden	Britain	Netherlands
Vehicle safety, seat belts, drinking and driving	48%	54%	46%
Local road engineering	4%	10%	5%
Other vulnerable road users-related measures	38%	29%	31%
Other car occupant measures	10%	7%	18%
Total	100%	100%	100%



Types of conclusions

- Potential learning points
- Contribution to safety targets
- Feasibility of the methodology
- On country level and EU level



More information:

<http://sunflower.swov.nl>

Contact persons:

- Overall project: Fred Wegman (SWOV), Peter Morsink (SWOV)
- SUN extended study: David Lynam (TRL)
- Central comparative study: Jaroslav Heinrich (CDV)
- South comparative study: Simon Hayes (DSD)



**On behalf of the team: thank you
for your attention!**



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