

Making Road Safety a priority: eliminating high risk road sections on the TEN-T networks in Western Balkans

Facts and figures

Total road sections for improvement:
305.4 km

Fatalities recorded in these sections (2015/2016): **97**

Serious injuries recorded in these sections (2015/2016):
341

Quick Wins (I)

Detailed Studies to improve road design
EUR 0.88 M

Quick wins (II)

Investment need for Safety Improvements (on the identified sections)

Total Investment needs:
EUR 15.5 M

Expected benefits

Reduction of fatalities up to
50%

Safer infrastructure

Better road conditions for users

Reducing by half the number of road fatalities is the ambitious target that the Western Balkans have introduced in their National Strategies in line with the EU road safety policy. In 2017, the region had **1.445 fatalities** on road accidents (+**108 fatalities** compared to 2016) which represents **81 fatalities** per million inhabitants, much above the EU average which is **49**.

In April 2018, the Ministers of Transport of the Western Balkans endorsed a Road Safety Declaration which reasserted commitments and set ambitious targets to be developed at regional level in the area of road safety.

Thanks to the support of the Technical Assistance for the Western Balkans provided by the European Commission (CONNECTA), a three year Road Safety Inspection (RSI) regional plan was delivered and 580 km of roads were inspected on the Core and Comprehensive TEN-T Road Networks in Western Balkans. A first series of projects (design studies) is ready for immediate financing in view to respond to the objective to reduce the number of fatalities in the region.

Following the design phase, the implementation of these projects is planned to begin in the coming months and could potentially benefit from the support of the Western Balkan Investment Framework.

In addition to these first priority actions, a Technical Committee for Road Safety under the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community is being set up. The objective is to develop a comprehensive action plan for road safety by end of 2019. The role of the Permanent Secretariat will be to support and monitor the implementation this action plan, with a view to make roads in Western Balkans safer for all users and to meet the standards and the objectives of the EU in this key area.

