Antwerp Port Improvements in Road Safety

Antwerp Port Authority was one of the entrants from 2014's PRAISE competition that won a runner up recognition

The Port Authority was established as an independent municipally owned company in 1997. It plays an important role in the day-to-day operation of the port of Antwerp, main port for Flanders and Belgium, the second gateway to Europe, the largest European chemical hub and the most important logistics port hub in the Hamburg-Le Havre range. There are a total of 1,650 employees who ensure that the port is able to function efficiently and can continue playing a leading role as an international seaport. The Port Authority manages and maintains the docks, bridges, locks, quays and land sites.

In 2010 the Antwerp Port Authority appointed a mobility coordinator within the Strategy and Analysis department. Their major assignment is to improve the sustainability of the work related traffic and increase as such also the work related road safety for not only

the employees of the Antwerp Port Authority, but for all 60,000 persons working in the Port of Antwerp.

In late 2012 it launched 'Safe commuting within the Port of Antwerp' action plan which aims to:

- Sharing of road safety related information amongst the participating parties and the port community at large.
- A map that shows cyclists the safest route to work and gives them helpful tips to make their trip as safe as possible.
- A hotline for infrastructural

problems. Individuals noticing for example a pothole in the road or any other dangerous situation can report this to the hotline that will take appropriate action.

- Information sessions for safety coordinators on programs to improve road safety within their companies, followed by an educational programme.
- A full-scale research programme on commuting safety
- An awareness campaign aimed at improving road safety by bike.

The Antwerp Port Authority also realizes that good infrastructure is crucial to road safety. Which is why the it is constantly looking at improving the roads, bridges and cycle paths in the port area. In 2007 for example, the Antwerp Port Authority renewed a 16 km long cycle path following the Scheldelaan, which is one of the major











The launch of our 'ongeHAVENd' awareness campaign last month The safe cycling map also gives helpful tips with the aim of making each trip as safe as possible



roads in the port, according to the latest standards for safe cycling paths. The project was budgeted for €1.5m and is very successful and frequently used. While in the period 2006-2008 30 per cent of all cycle collisions of employees took place on the Scheldelaan, in the period 2009-2011 (following the renovation) only 8 per cent of the collisions took place on the Scheldelaan. This shows that this substantial renovation contributed enormously to the improvement of the safety for cyclists on the Scheldelaan.

The safe cycling map shows the safest routes, including a 16 km cycle path following one of the major roads in the port



roads. Duty of care, health and safety compliance are legal necessities in all EU Member States, and are an essential consideration for employers. But, equally important, it most often makes sound business sense to draw up and implement a road safety action plan. Good fleet management is therefore becoming a pressing concern for employers. Yet, the know-how is often hard to find.

PRAISE

The European co-funded PRAISE projects steps in here. PRAISE (Preventing Road Accidents and Injuries for the Safety of Employees) and is run by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), a Brussels-based independent non-profit organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe.

PRAISE helps to advance the awareness of the need for workrelated road safety management and provide the know-how to employers who have to take on that challenge. The project also shows that work related road safety has benefits to other areas including health and safety, environment and legal responsibilities of employers. ETSC aims to inform and motivate by developing practical tools for employers to translate into practice. These include reports on topics such as speed management and the business case in investing in road safety. ETSC also presents employers stories with a series of case studies. It also runs a competition spurring employers to tackle safety. 🖒

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