PROmoting real Life Observations for Gaining Understanding of road user behaviour in Europe

PROLOGUE

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, August 2010

PROLOGUE: a feasibility study

PROLOGUE aims to assess the feasibility and usefulness of a large-scale European naturalistic driving (ND) study. It actively seeks the input of all potential stakeholders through, among other, a User Forum, newsletters and a series of national and international workshops. PROLOGUE is co-funded by DG Research in the 7th Framework Programme of European Commission. The project started in August 2009 and will be finished in July 2011.

Brief report on the PROLOGUE workshop in Brussels

In Brussels, on 18 February, PROLOGUE's first pan-European workshop took place. More than 50 people from 16 countries including the USA and Canada participated in various lively discussions. The workshop showed strong interest in ND from the research world. There was general agreement that research in the field of road safety is still relevant and that, at present, for too many relevant questions the necessary data is lacking. There was also strong interest from potential customers, such as the insurance industry. They expected researchers to apply and exploit ND in order to answer questions, which so far they have not been able to answer. The main message was that the "simple solutions" for road safety have now been widely exploited. For further progress more sophisticated measures are needed, in particular in the field of crash prevention. Just running a couple of queries in a crash database is not sufficient. We need a better understanding of what people are doing on the road and why, and what kind of behaviour puts them at risk. ND data could help to provide the answers. There was particular interest for powered two-wheelers. A considerable number of representatives from this group pointed out that they expected ND to be a suitable method to find out more about the causes of crashes.

Coming up soon: six regional workshops

In the period September-December 2010 the PROLOGUE project will organize six regional workshops in different parts of Europe. The regional workshops aim to explain and illustrate the potential of ND studies, and to identify relevant application areas for different stakeholders, not only in the area of road safety, but certainly also in the area of traffic management and eco-driving. The workshops will take place in Austria, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the UK and will be held in the national languages. If you want to receive an invitation and you're not yet a member of the User Forum, just apply for User Forum membership at www.prologue-eu.eu/user-forum/forum/user-forum/forum or mail to infoprologue@swov.nl.

Other ND and FOT news

The Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2)

The Fifth SHRP 2 Safety Symposium was held on 13 and 14 July in Washington, DC. Presentations included an update on the PROLOGUE activities from Divera Twisk, SWOV. The SHRP 2 Naturalistic Driving Study in the USA is scheduled to begin installation of the Data Acquisition Systems in the vehicles of volunteer participants at the first site, Buffalo, New York in September. Installations will begin at approximately one-week intervals at the

SHRP2 STRATEGIC HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM

remaining sites, Tampa Florida, central Pennsylvania, Durham North Carolina, central Indiana and Seattle Washington. Installation will continue for the rest of this year until a total of 1,950 vehicles have been instrumented. More information is available at www.trb.org/StrategicHighwayResearchProgram2SHRP2/Public/Blank2.aspx.

Canadian Naturalistic Driving study to start soon

A Canadian Naturalistic Driving Study (CNDS) will take place in collaboration with SHRP 2 during the period 2011-2013. The study will be conducted under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Deputy Ministers who approved the proposal for a Canadian Naturalistic Driving study in the Fall of 2009. Data will be collected at two Canadian sites using the same equipment and protocol as SHRP2. The first site is projected to be up and running in Spring 2011, with the second site following in 2012.

2 BE SAFE: an ND study about motorcycles

While the total number of road deaths is falling in European countries, the proportion of motorcycle rider fatalities and the number of motorcycles in use is increasing. The main objective of the 2 BE SAFE project is to examine behavioural and ergonomic factors contributing to powered-two-wheeler crashes. As part of 2 BE SAFE, powered-two-wheeler riders from the UK, France, Italy and Greece will be provided with instrumented motorcycles that will record their day-to-day riding behaviours. The instrumentation will record variables such as wheel speed, throttle position, 3-axis acceleration, brake pressure, geographical location and video data. Each participating partner will conduct the study over a period of six months, giving a cumulative total of 30 months of data collection, beginning in September 2010. 2 BE SAFE is co-funded by the EC's Directorate General for Research. INRETS is the scientific lead for the project which involves 27 partners from Europe, Israel and Australia. For more information see: www.2besafe.eu

Second international ND symposium in the USA

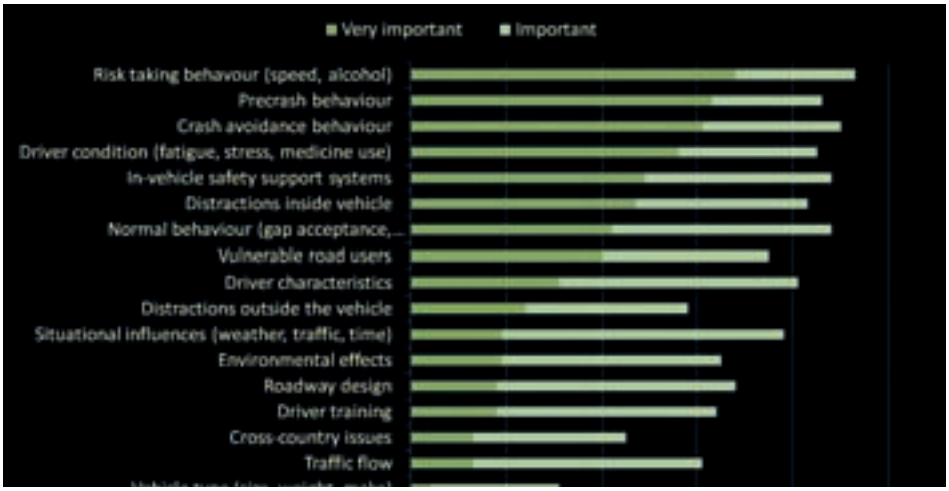
From 31 August until 1 September 2010, the second international symposium on Naturalistic Driving will take place in the USA, Blacksburg, Virginia. The symposium is organized by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute - VTTI. During the two-day workshop a wide range of topics will be discussed, including extraction and analysis of naturalistic driving data, data access & sharing issues, and data analysis reporting. The symposium will include an international review of naturalistic driving study research. For more information see www.cpe.vt.edu/ndmas.

FOT-Net 3rd International Workshop

Preceding the ITS World Congress, the 3rd international workshop of FOT-Net will take place on 25 October 2010 in Busan, Korea. FOT-Net has been established by the European Commission as a networking platform for people involved in Field Operational Tests. The workshop will address high priority issues relevant for FOT (and ND studies) such as data sharing, impact assessment and upscaling, definition of events and incidents, legal issues and stakeholders analysis. For more information see www.fot-net.eu/en/news__events.

Wide interest of users ND knowledge

From late 2009 to early 2010, an extensive questionnaire was distributed among the members of PROLOGUE's User Forum. The aim was to get an indication of the research topics that the future users of ND knowledge considered to be particularly relevant. Almost 75 people (53%) responded. The results showed that almost all respondents were interested in road safety topics. Many were also interested in eco-driving and envronmental effects of road traffic, and in traffic management-related topics. Within the area of road safety, risk taking behaviour, pre-rash behaviour, crash avoidance behaviour, and driver condition were considered the most important topics for naturalistic research. The results may be somewhat biased, since most respondents work in road safety research. However, there were only minor differences between respondents from different organisation types. The differences between countries were also minor. The report (D1.2) will be available mid October on www.prologue-eu.eu.



Five technical PROLOGUE reports

So far, a total of five technical PROLOGUE reports have been submitted to the EC. Mid October they are expected to be publicly available at www.prologue-eu.eu:

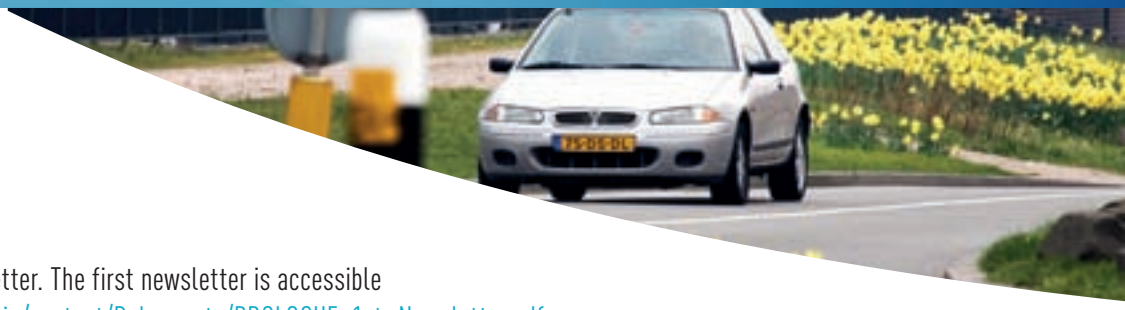
D1.1: Topics and applications of previous and current naturalistic driving studies;

D1.2: Areas of interest of potential users for naturalistic observation studies;

D1.3: A catalogue of applications and research topics for future naturalistic driving studies;

D2.1: Data collection, analysis methods and equipment for naturalistic studies and requirements for the different application areas;

D2.2: Methodological and organizational issues and requirements for ND studies.



Contact and imprint

This is the second PROLOGUE Newsletter. The first newsletter is accessible through www.prologue-eu.eu/fileadmin/content/Dokumente/PROLOGUE_1st_Newsletter.pdf.
The PROLOGUE Newsletter will be published twice a year during the course of the project.

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For more information about the PROLOGUE project, please have a look at www.prologue-eu.eu or mail to infoprologue@swov.nl.

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