Feasibility analysis concerning the creation of a centre for diagnosing and training of senior’s driving ability

It is sufficiently known that the number of elderly people increases. In 2030 the proportional rise of the ageing population will be the highest. These elderly people rightly wish to participate in society and in order to pursue this high living standard, autonomy and mobility play an important role. Accident statistics show that elderly, from the age of 65, run an increasingly higher risk per driven kilometre to get involved in a traffic accident. The Jessa hospital often gets questions from worried family members or family doctors about whether or not the elderly person is still qualified to participate in traffic safely.

In order to give advice to families and family doctors, Jessa Hospital at the moment uses a self-evaluation followed by tests on attention and retention (cognitive parameters). Furthermore the hospital uses tests to assess quickness of reaction and vision and they use a driving simulator on a regular computer which however isn’t realistic compared to real life. There is a need for a scientifically founded and sound advice, which is not the case at the moment. The Jessa Hospital wishes to use the expertise and infrastructure of the Transportation Research Institute (IMOB) of Hasselt University. It is our ambition to make elderly people aware of their limitations during driving and, if possible, to give personalized advice and training to develop their driving skills in order for them to maintain their mobility as long as possible.

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