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Traffic safety

Traffic safety research, IMOB is involved in traffic safety measures on the local, regional, national and international level. The research line of transport analysis concentrates on instruments and models that allow for analysis of traffic safety for strategic purposes, such as planning and policy support. The research line of risk and evaluation studies focuses on the relationship between infrastructure, environment and behaviour and their impact on traffic safety. Risk models also use these. They reveal the relationship between characteristics of the environment, risk perceptions, behaviour and the risk of accidents. We verify the effectiveness of preliminary and follow-up studies of the measures taken. With the driving simulator, we can conduct research in a controlled experimental environment to the effects of physical, mental and visual limitations and the effects of the environment on driving behaviour. The most important new development in 2009 is the further adaptation of the driving simulator with a system to measure brain activity. Furthermore, large-scale projects were continued, such as the construction of development scenarios and implementation paths on behalf of a new Mobility Plan for Flanders (IMOB).

Valoration

In 2009, IMOB was involved in ongoing research commissioned by provincial, Flemish, federal and European government agencies. Additionally, research funds were acquired and several research projects have led to cooperations with external partners. Examples of projects:

- Construction of development scenarios and implementation plans on behalf of a new Mobility Plan for Flanders (Flemish Government).

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of speed cameras in the field of traffic safety (Flemish Government).

Research of the effectiveness of enforcement within several police zones (Provinces of Limburg & Police zones Kempenland, West-Limburg, HaZoDi).

Traffic sign simulator (iNFRANEA & Connect): ultimate goal of this innovation project is to allow local and police authorities to create optimal costs proposals for the improvement of efficiency.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of speed cameras in the field of traffic safety (Flemish Government).

- Construction of development scenarios and implementation paths on behalf of a new Mobility Plan for Flanders (IWT-SBO).

- IWT-O&O project 'Construction of development scenarios and implementation paths on behalf of a new Mobility Plan for Flanders' and the recently acquired new IWT-O&O project 'Construction of development scenarios and implementation paths on behalf of a new Mobilitv Plan for Flanders' and the recently acquired new IWT-O&O project 'Construction of development scenarios and implementation paths on behalf of a new Mobility Plan for Flanders'.

- IWT-SBO project 'Organizing Rhizomic Development along a Regional pilot IWT-SBO project 'Organizing Rhizomic Development along a Regional pilot' and 'Construction of development scenarios and implementation paths on behalf of a new Mobility Plan for Flanders'

- The 4th International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems & Knowledge Engineering and Vlaams Congres Verkeersveiligheid.

- The short training programme ‘Traffic safety in Asia and Latin-America’ of the International Association of Accident Analysis (IAAA) and its colleagues of eight different countries, all of them professionally involved in traffic safety followed the previous sessions.

- In 2009, fifty projects were ongoing mainly commissioned by provincial, federal and European government agencies.

Scoping in transportation sciences

In July the first master in transportation sciences graduated at Hasselt University. This programme started 5 years ago as an answer to the growing need for transportation experts. The graduation of the first masters in transportation sciences was not only unique for Hasselt University and IMOB, but also for Flanders. Almost every student had already one or more jobs offers, even before graduation. Moreover, most masters thesis were financed with a price offered by AXA Belgium.

The study programme for the Master in Transportation Sciences aimed for the first time, in the academic year 2009/2010, the students to become active researchers. In the first half of the academic period 2009/2010, the programme already developed a trajectory, specifically aiming at national and international students who combined work and studies.

RESEARCH

Transportation

Within the domain of transportation, IMOB mainly focuses on research into intermodal freight traffic. The research line of transport analysis concentrates on instruments and models that allow for analysis of traffic safety for strategic purposes, such as planning and policy support. The research line of risk and evaluation studies focuses on the relationship between infrastructure, environment and behaviour and their impact on traffic safety. Risk models also use these. They reveal the relationship between characteristics of the environment, risk perceptions, behaviour and the risk of accidents. We verify the effectiveness of preliminary and follow-up studies of the measures taken. With the driving simulator, we can conduct research in a controlled experimental environment to the effects of physical, mental and visual limitations and the effects of the environment on driving behaviour. The most important new development in 2009 is the further adaptation of the driving simulator with a system to measure brain activity.