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Working Party on Transport Statistics

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Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics

Road traffic accident statistics

Note by the secretariat

At its last session, the Working Party decided to follow the work on the definition of “seriously injured” within EU and cooperate on harmonizing it on the UNECE level.

The secretariat presents below the common definitions used in several member States as reported in a Commission Staff Working Document “On the implementation of objective 6 of the European Commission’s policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020 – First milestone towards an injury strategy”.

Annex IV

Current definitions of serious injury in the road accident database

The definition of serious injury as currently reported for inclusion in the Commission's road accident database differs between the EU Member States. There is not yet any confirmed compilation of the definitions used in all Member States' hospital records, but it is indicated that the most common definitions used in those records are the ICD-9 or ICD-10 and the AIS/MAIS¹.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Seriously Injured</i>
AT	>24 days health impairment
BE	> 24 hours in hospital
BG	As defined in penal code
CH	>= 24hours inability to perform normal activities or in hospital >=24hours
CY	Hospitalised
CZ	As decided by medical doctor or >=24h hospital
DE	>=24h in hospital
DK	According to national definition ²
EE	Not defined
ES	>=24 hours in hospital
FI	Not defined
FR	>=24 hours in hospital
GB	Hospitalised or according to national definition ³
GR	Police records; presumed >=24h in hospital

¹ At the present time and to the knowledge of DG MOVE, Austria, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands are using the MAIS definition of serious road traffic injury in hospital records on a national scale. Denmark and the UK use the MAIS definition in hospital records for some regions. Spain and Germany are currently working on the use of the MAIS definition for road traffic injuries. Other Member States may be in the same processes.

² Intracranial injury, skull fracture, face or eye injury; injury of trunk (chest and/or abdomen); injury of spine and/or pelvis; fracture/dislocation or severe sprain of shoulder, arm or hand; fracture/dislocation or severe sprain of hip, leg or foot; serious injuries in more than one main region, burn. The statistics only include injuries reported by the police.

³ An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an "in-patient", or any of the following injuries whether or not they are detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, burns (excluding friction burns), severe cuts, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and injuries causing death 30 or more days after the accident. An injured casualty is recorded as seriously or slightly injured by the police on the basis of information available within a short time of the accident. Hospitalisation procedures will vary regionally.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Seriously Injured</i>
HR	Definition unknown
HU	Injuries needing hospital care or >8 days to heal
IE	Hospitalised or according to national definition ⁴
IS	According to national definition ⁵
IT	Not defined
LU	>=24 hours in hospital
LV	>=24 hours in hospital
MT	Health department/Police definition
NI	Fractures/concussion/internal injury/severe cuts/lacerations/severe shock
NL	>=24 hours in hospital
NO	Life-threatening, permanent or major injuries
PL	According to national definition ⁶
PT	>=24 hours in hospital
RO	Hospitalised or according to national definition ⁷
SE	Injuries expected to result in hospitalisation
SI	>=24 hours in hospital
SK	Doctor's opinion + change of state between 1 and 30 days

Source: CARE Database

Source of the Annex: Commission Staff Working Document
On the implementation of objective 6 of the European Commission's policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020 – First milestone towards an injury strategy

⁴ An injury for which the person is detained in hospital as an 'in-patient', or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, severe cuts and lacerations, severe general shock requiring medical treatment.

⁵ Fractures, concussion, internal lesions, crushing, severe cuts and laceration, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and any other serious lesions entailing detention in hospital.

⁶ Serious disability, serious incurable illness or a long term illness actually endangering life, permanent mental illness, complete or a significant loss of ability to work or a permanent disfigurement of the body as well as injuries such as. Fractures, damage of the internal organs, serious cut or irregular wounds.

⁷ Injuries requiring hospitalisation or any of the following injuries whether or not they are detained in hospital: Organ injuries, permanent physical or psychological disability, body disfiguration, abortion, fractures, concussions, internal wounds, serious cuts or broken parts, or severe general shock which requires medical care and injuries causing death 30 or more days after the accident.