

# **HUMANIST: Networking in the European Union for a human-centred design of new driver support systems**

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## **Abstract**

Since March 2004, the European Commission is co-funding the Network of Excellence HUMANIST. The project is about human-centred design of new road transport telematics. The main objective of the network is to structure and organise this research field in order to integrate the activities of its members.

## **The HUMANIST approach**

Information and communication technologies provide the means for road telematics and advanced driver assistance systems. Applications of pre-trip and on-trip as well as nomadic assistance aim at the support of the driver's safety and mobility. However, every new secondary information source may distract from the primary driving task and increases driver workload, thereby possibly counteracting the potential benefits new support systems may have. In order to reduce the negative side-effects of driver support systems their design has to be centred on human factors. To strengthen and focus the competencies existing in Europe for transport systems and human factors research, the European Commission's Directorate General for the Information Society is co-funding the Network of Excellence HUMANIST (Human-centred design for information society technologies; applied to road transport). The activities concentrate on the development of ergonomic design criteria, the improvement of existing methodologies to assess the effects of new driver support systems, and the specification of the needs of different driver groups. The connection and co-operation between the partners is enhanced by a researcher exchange programme, access to the research infrastructure of other network members and the development of new media to exchange knowledge and data. Training programmes both for new researchers and professionals in the field of transportation human factors are currently in preparation and will be offered in later project stages.

The workplan for the Network of Excellence (NoE) is divided into two main areas of activities: integrating activities and activities to spread the excellence of the network. The integrating activities manage and consolidate the NoE. The activities to spread the expert knowledge and experience of the network include co-operations with other relevant initiatives like standardisation bodies and policy makers. The workplan

In D. de Waard, K.A. Brookhuis, R. van Egmond, and Th. Boersema (Eds.) (2005), *Human Factors in Design, Safety, and Management* (pp. 69 - 71). Maastricht, the Netherlands: Shaker Publishing.