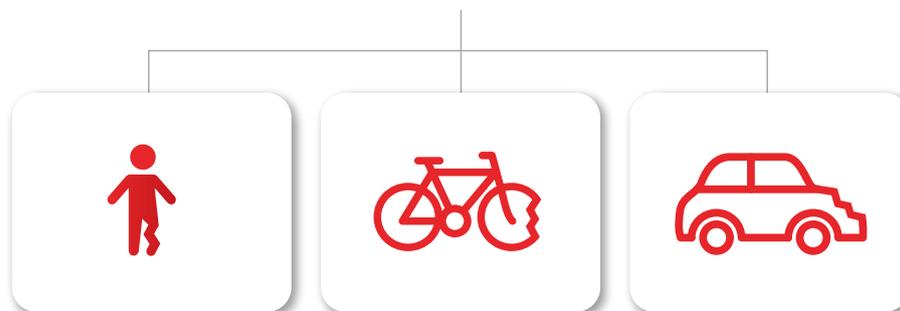# STAR:
Smart Traffic Accident Reporting

Innovative cooperation aimed at efficient accident
reporting for reliable accident analyses provides
new stimulus to traffic safety.

STAR
Smart Traffic Accident Reporting

All traffic accidents registered thanks to STAR

The police, the Dutch Association of Insurers and traffic solutions software firm VIA aim to properly register all traffic accidents. These organisations have been collaborating under the name STAR (Smart Traffic Accident Reporting) since 12-12-'12 to achieve this goal. Police information and reports to the insurers on those involved in a traffic accident are combined to obtain a more comprehensive impression of the situation. The police reports are registered on a new form, the so-called ReportCharacteristicsPlus form, and forwarded online. In the event of an accident, those involved are encouraged to report the accident online using the MobileDamageReporting [MobielSchadeMelden] app. Insurance requirements are simple to fulfil with MobileDamageReporting as is illustrating the accident situation. VIA has developed an app, VIA Signal, that creates up-to-date insight into traffic safety on the basis of the abovementioned reports.

Public and private institutions join forces

Traffic accident registration in the Netherlands suffers from major under-registration. A lack of good accident data threatens the successful Dutch approach to traffic safety. Policy monitoring, analyses and evaluations will be less possible even though new technologies can actually achieve improvements. The societal importance of improving accident registration in the short term is huge. The three initiators have organised widespread societal support by making relevant traffic safety partners stakeholders in STAR. These stakeholders make their own communications channels available and contribute to the roll out of and drawing the attention of their specific target groups and the general public to MobileDamageReporting.

Win-win is central to STAR

All the parties stand to win big if STAR becomes a success. The police stimulate cataloguing accident situations, including those of accidents they did not attend. This will enable them to introduce more effective traffic control at the relevant locations. Insurers view MobileDamageReporting as a customer-friendly, efficient replacement for the European damage claim form. Insurers have a huge interest in limiting injury and damage. Road managers will gain improved insight into infrastructure safety as well as very relevant information on accident causes. This makes preventative measures much more efficient to apply and substantiate. Interest groups such as the ANWB [Dutch automobile association], Fietsersbond [the cyclists union], TeamAlert [youth traffic safety organisation], Veilig Verkeer Nederland [traffic safety organisation] and Blijf Veilig Mobiel [elderly traffic safety union] all work for different target groups that would otherwise possibly remain underrepresented.

Accident situation data is also of great importance to research institutions such as the SWOV [Institute for Road Safety Research] and VeiligheidNL [safety NL] as it facilitates better traffic safety improvement proposals.

Reporting damage on the go

The MobileDamageReporting app was renewed by insurers as part of the STAR project. Various modifications have been made to be able to report accidents between all manner of traffic participants. Even self-caused accidents by vehicles that have no license plates such as cyclists can now be reported. It is also currently possible to report accidents that involved injuries. User-friendliness has remained central, as simple reporting increases use. For instance the app now uses GPS to determine location. The license plate allows the app to collect vehicle and insurance data automatically as entering the postcode and house number suffices to ascertain the address details of the people involved. A structured querying method devised by the insurers is used to describe the accident. The latter is then automatically categorised and translated into a manoeuvre diagram. An inspiring example of how various sectors use their know how to reinforce one another. The major challenge is to familiarise the general public with MobileDamageReporting. The involvement and commitment of renowned stakeholders is crucial in this respect. The stakeholders therefore do everything within their power to get everyone involved in an accident to always report it using MobileDamageReporting.
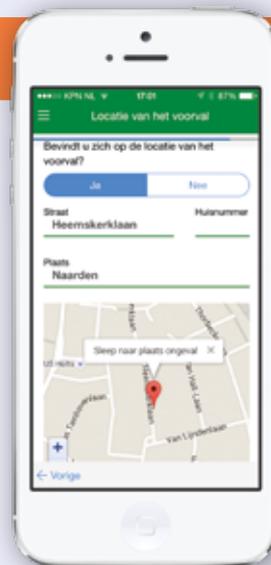
Successes so far

With the introduction of ReportCharacteristicsPlus form, the police took their first big step towards improving registrations. With over 80,000 registrations annually, this has provided much better insight into traffic situations. The registrations are stored centrally and can be viewed using VIA Signal. These reports are constantly updated.

The STAR data is made available annually, pro deo to Rijkswaterstaat [Ministry off Infrastructure and Environment] for its National Traffic Accident [BRON] database. This has already led to surprising conclusions and existing assumptions prove to not always be correct. This provides dilemmas and new challenges to policymakers. Close contact between the initiators of STAR and the various stakeholders is used to explore and detail the new opportunities on the basis of the insights obtained.

For further information please contact: www.star-traffic-accidents.eu

STAR is an initiative of:

POLITIE

VERBOND VAN VERZEKERAARS

VIA
Traffic Solutions Software