



European Transport Safety Council  
NEWS RELEASE

## Students awarded for improving road safety locally

**31 January 2012 – “It is a real pleasure for us to show what motivated students can do to improve road safety. The projects implemented are the perfect proof that road safety can be increased also with low-cost measures when these measures are targeted at clearly identified sites,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC<sup>1</sup> Executive Director during the Award Ceremony for the Roads to Respect<sup>2</sup> and STARS<sup>3</sup> projects.**

The Roads to Respect project winners were Martina Martegani of the University of Milan, Italy, Mateusz Kurpiel of the University of Krakow, Poland, and Alessandra Bartolini of the University of Pisa, Italy. They successfully identified high risk road infrastructure sites in their communities and successfully proposed technical solutions to modify the infrastructure to increase road safety. The solution proposed by the winner was adopted by the local council in the revision of the building plan in Grosseto, near Pisa.

Four groups of two students each received the awards for the STARS awards for projects aimed at reducing speed at high risk sites in Europe. The jury selected the four winners, of the eleven local projects implemented in the framework of STARS, based on the effectiveness of the intervention, the overall cost-effectiveness of the project, but also the students’ ability to involve local partners and communicate the results to the community.

MEP Michael Cramer (Greens, DE) presented the third place ex-aequo award to the group of Octavio Jimenez and Oleksandr Savliev, who treated a site in the vicinity of a school in Munich, where they studied. MEP Olga Sehnalova (S&D, CZ) awarded the group of Aneta Šimáčková and Jan Skupnik, third place ex-aequo, who improved the visibility and driver awareness at a railway level crossing. The second place award was given to Audrey Traisnel and Arnaud Arsuffi who successfully reduced the driving speeds on the Pont des Catalanes in their hometown of Toulouse, France. The winners were Claudia Alonso Carrión and Alberto Martínez Rodríguez of Gijón, Spain, who successfully implemented their speed reduction project on the AS-19 road in the province of Asturias.

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<sup>1</sup> ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. [www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)

<sup>2</sup> Roads to Respect (R2R) is a programme aiming at treating high risk infrastructure sites in relatively short time and at relatively low cost through the work of committed engineering students from different parts of Europe. A one-week training was held in Brussels in October 2010 with 16

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students selected from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Poland and Serbia. During the Camp, R2R participants had the opportunity to meet road safety experts and gain further knowledge on safe road infrastructure and especially how to run a road safety communication campaign. After the Camp students were asked to run a 9-month campaign in their own countries with the aim of convincing local authorities to get their high risk site treated.

<sup>3</sup> STARS is three-year project which aims at mobilising transport research into speed management to demonstrate how excessive and inappropriate speed can be reduced through existing measures. The main objective of STARS is to run concrete actions that can reduce speed through the work of students. STARS relies on the work of committed young university students who are encouraged to run a local speed management action to reduce speeding through infrastructure projects or communication projects in road transport with the support of ETSC and its partners.