

Roads to Respect 2010, Students Progress Report



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1-Definition of the High risk site

My high risk site is a pedestrian crossing near the primary school. It is located in a small village Krzczonow about 40 km from Cracow to the south. I'd like to mention that my first high risk site was in Cracow but after the camp I decided to change it. I chose it after conversation with the police. One policeman mentioned about this site and the three accidents in last two years in which died one child and two was injured.



The width of the road is $2 \times 3,25$ so it's 6,50 m. On the left there is a pavement 2,20 m wide. On the right is a small bus stop with a lay-by made of gravel.

Traffic volumes on Tuesday 8th March:

Time	Cars	Trucks	Pedestrian
6.00-7.00	201	4	3
7.00-8.00	207	6	22
8.00-9.00	196	5	12
9.00-10.00	184	7	6

After the fatal accident the mayor of Krzczonow decided to employ a person who stops the vehicles and helps children to cross the road.



MAIN PROBLEMS:

- Speeding (especially trucks)
The crossing is on the straight part of the road. The surface is new so it is in good quality and has no potholes. It makes that drivers drive too fast. Before the crossing there are signs with speed limit 40 km/h but small amount of drivers drive with this speed.
- Bad visibility of signs. Signs are in bad quality and they are not good placed.
For example the informational sign Pedestrian Crossing should be in the middle of the road.



Signs before the crossing are made in old technology and drivers have problems with perception it in the dark.



- Poor perception of the crossing
There is no horizontal marking (no zebra crossing on the surface)



2- Project proposal to treat the selected high risk site

Main project proposals:

- Paint a zebra crossing – it should be red and white to show drivers that is a dangerous site
- Improve the visibility of the sign Pedestrian Crossing by placing it with green reflective background
- Improve the visibility of the sign above the crossing by placing it in the middle of the road
- Change signs, with speed limits and “children” before crossing, for a new generation signs
- Build a part of pavement on the right near the school and installation barriers on the right and on the left to provide pedestrian to the crossing

Costs:

	Amount	Price (€)	Total Price(€)
painting zebra crossing with red background	1	175	175
special sign with the reflective background	2	100	200
sign speed limit	2	40	80
sign "children"	2	40	80
barrier	15	80	1200
pavement 10 m		5000	5000
		Σ	6735



Benefits

- Improve the safety of pedestrian crossing the road
- Improve visibility of the crossing

3- Campaign to get the high risk site treated

My first high risk site, which I presented in R2R camp was localized in Cracow. It looks as dangerous place but after getting data I saw that there is small amount of collisions and none of accidents. I also thought that the future campaign in big city will be very difficult. So I decided to change it. I used my friends and friends of my parents to get some informations about high risk sites, which they know about. After that I had got about 3 places. I chose the one in Krzczonów near the school. In my preparatory work I received support from my professor - I showed him some photos of sites and he accepted my choice. He also gave me a piece of advice how to treat this site.

I started my campaign in November 2010. It was my first visit in Krzczonow. I started with the conversation with women which help children to cross the road (in Poland it's kind of job - person stands near the school with a special sign in hand and when children want to cross the road he stops the car and pedestrian can cross the road). She told me about high speed of cars and dangerous of her job and children from school. After long conversation she was really sad because she thought that my future work and my campaign makes that she will lose her job.

Then I visited a mayor of Krzczonow I told him about R2R project and about the future campaign. He told that his dream is to put there traffic lights. Generally I think that I have got his support in my work. He also gave me a telephone number to the boss of Road Administration - in the area of Krzczonow village.

After that I visited police station in Myslenice – there is a station which is responsible for the Krzczonów village. I talked with the policeman and I took some police data. He told me about accidents at the pedestrian crossing. But there was a big problem with data. In Poland there is no good system which put accident in the true place of it. I mean that as place of accident there is the number of the whole road or sometimes a number of the nearest building.

Next step was telephone to the boss of road administration. I told him about R2R project. He knows the problem with my site, and he promised me help. But generally I think that he won't change anything because of money. I also mentioned about the most important thing - lack of zebra crossing, after that he promised me it in few months – I was really surprised.

After that I prepared some layouts of high risk site and I showed it to the boss of road administration. He was a little bit sceptic about my proposal and changes in that place.

In April there was my visit in Krzczonów in school. There was a meeting with a vice head teacher and teachers. I talked with them about the situation on the crossing. Mrs vice-head teacher told me that she is very happy that I want to do something for the safety of children. She thinks that very important is the work of the person who helps children to cross the road. I can agree with her because as she said "if children see her they know that they are safe on the road". Teachers told me that every half year school children have meeting with a policeman about safety on road. To sum it I have support of them but as I said they want the person who helps on the crossing and they afraid if in the future, in the crossing there will something change, this person will lose her job.

In May I visited new mayor of Krzczonow. It was my first visit after the elections so I decide get his support. New mayor didn't agree with me that now there is a problem, with the crossing and the safety of children. He told me that it is enough to employ the person who helps kids to cross the road. He pays for it.

After that I went to the boss of the road administration. He told that he remembered about me and problem of crossing but now there will be holidays and kids won't go to the school. He agreed with my proposal of improve the visibility of signs but as he said maybe after holidays road administration install new signs. Why not now? Because they have a lots of work with repairing broken roads after the strong rains and they haven't got free money.

4-Achievements of the project

- After my conversation with the boss of the road administration in December there is a small success: the zebra crossing was painted . It improved the visibility of the crossing.



- Meeting with the first mayor of Krzczonow shows that he wants to do something for safety but the decision belongs to the boss of the road administration. The owner of the road is also road administration and they pay for everything
- I also saw and heard from the teachers that amount of police patrols near the school increased. They often measure the speed of cars.
- Teachers more talk with children about safety on the road.
- I am sure that after my campaign the mayor is sure that employing of the person who helps children was very important for safety. After that that there wasn't any roads accidents with the pedestrian.