
New methods in driving instruction

Dr. Armin Kaltenegger / Road Safety Board (Austria)

In order to bring driving instruction closer to the higher levels of the GDE matrix, the Austrian Board for Road Safety is working on new foundations for the implementation of driving instruction components. Besides this upgrade of the fundamental content, the goals of the reform are the principle of lifelong learning and better integration of personal resources of the learners. Both the first phase of instruction (before driving licence acquisition) and the second phase of instruction (after driving licence acquisition) are incorporated into this and are connected more closely to each other.

The comprehensive project, which may already be exhibiting the first practical and demonstrable results, is based on four pillars:

- **Target group orientation:** The thematic content is communicated in a way that is tailored to the target group. Topics concerning the causes of accidents, driver error and deficiencies in the approach of the target group are prominent in the teaching materials. Practical determination replaces theoretical determination. A maximisation of individualisation of the teaching is achieved; this also appears to be essential with regard to the higher levels of the GDE matrix. Due to this individualisation, a maximisation of the personal contribution of the learner can be achieved; personal resources are activated that until now have been unused.

- **New methods complement or replace classic instruction methods:** e-learning increases the attractiveness, competitive ability and effectiveness of instruction components and at the same time contributes to the process of

individualisation of the instruction. This method opens up a completely new form of presentation, advantageously being independent of a particular time and space.

- **Peer approach:** The confrontation of the learners with notable experts, victims of accidents or drivers in accidents of the same age by using their "personal stories" makes learning more realistic and credible. Messages are no longer learnt, but develop directly in the personality of the learner. In practice, this application can occur using the real-life application of these people, but also using media-supported materials (videos and similar).

- **Sustainability:** The time following the acquisition of the driving licence must be considered from the outset. The foundation stone for a lifelong learning process has already been laid with the basic instruction. This sustainability is achieved using various methods and using differentiated communication channels, so, for example, "buddies" (experienced driving licence holders) accompany motorbike drivers on their first trips, an online platform depicts the linear course of the online learning, but responds individually to interests of driving licence holders in a modern digital world. Voluntary learning for driving experience follows learning for the test.

In the KFV (Austrian Road Safety Board) project, the first sessions of instruction have been completed using the above foundations, and these can be accessed and completed online. Similarly, the initial evaluations of the instruction have been carried out.

In the author's presentation, firstly the fundamental methods of the reform are addressed. Practical examples illustrate this presentation. New tools or programmes can already be presented in a practical way. Furthermore, the results of the initial evaluations are presented and information is provided concerning the state of implementation of the new ideas as a reality in Austrian instruction.

Author's CV:

Dr. Armin Kaltenecker studied law at the University of Vienna completing his Master's degree in 1996, afterwards proceeding with his Doctorate at the University of Salzburg. He was appointed as a Head of Legal Department at the Austrian Road Safety Board in 1999, where he was a head of the department Traffic & Mobility until 2008. He was an attorney candidate at a renowned international Viennese law firm until 2009 and attorney at a Viennese bank until 2010. From 2010 onwards, he has been working as a head of the department Legislation & Norms at the Austrian Road Safety Board (KFV). Dr. Armin Kaltenecker is a certified driver examiner for all categories. He has been involved in numerous ministerial committees and traffic safety advisory boards. He is the author of many textbooks, articles and columns (at national and international level).