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SOTERIA sets out a clear policy roadmap to protect vulnerable road users in European cities

As European cities face growing pressure to accommodate new forms of mobility while protecting their most vulnerable citizens, the SOTERIA Horizon Europe project has released **a comprehensive set of policy recommendations** designed to significantly improve road safety for Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs) — including pedestrians, cyclists, micromobility users, older people, children, and people with disabilities.

The recommendations reflect lessons learned from real-world Living Lab demonstrations, extensive stakeholder consultations, and alignment with EU and international road safety frameworks. Together, they offer a **practical and actionable policy roadmap** to help policymakers accelerate the deployment of innovative, inclusive, and effective safety solutions in urban environments — and to move closer **to the EU's Vision Zero** objective of eliminating road fatalities by 2050.

Why action is urgent

Despite advances in vehicle safety, **around 70% of road fatalities in the EU still involve VRUs** — people outside cars who are directly exposed to traffic risks. At the same time, European cities face rapid changes in mobility patterns, driven by the rise of micromobility, shared services, digitalisation, and demographic change.

“SOTERIA shows that improving VRU safety requires more than isolated measures,” said Jayant Sangwan, Senior Manager at Confederation of Organisations in Road Transport Enforcement (CORTE), *“It requires coherent policy action that combines technology, infrastructure, education, regulation, and enforcement — grounded in data and guided by the needs of road users.”*

Evidence from four Living Labs across Europe

The SOTERIA recommendations are firmly rooted in evidence from practice. Over the course of the project, solutions and approaches were designed, tested, and assessed across four Living Labs in

Oxfordshire (UK), Saxony (Germany), Madrid (Spain), and Chania/Igoumenitsa (Greece) — each addressing different urban contexts and VRU groups.

The findings were complemented by structured input from EU Sister Projects **PHOEBE** and **V4SAFETY**, road safety organisations, and expert groups such as the **European Commission’s Expert Group on Road Infrastructure Safety (EGRIS)**.

soteria four pillars for safer urban mobility



Policy recommendations shaped by practitioners

A cornerstone of the work led by CORTE was a two-stage stakeholder consultation process, involving national and local transport authorities, enforcement bodies, technology providers, VRU associations, and European level organisations. This process ensured that the final recommendations are not only ambitious, but also **realistic, implementable, and aligned with policy realities across Europe**.

Supporting policy implementation

The recommendations call on EU institutions, Member States, regions, and cities to work across governance levels and policy domains, invest in data and institutional capacity, and actively involve users and civil society in policy development. By translating research and experimentation into concrete, evidence-based guidance, SOTERIA supports policymakers in moving from ambition to implementation.

The full set of policy recommendations is presented in deliverable D5.7 | *Policy recommendations and outcomes of the SOTERIA acceleration workshop*, which will be made publicly available on the SOTERIA website and the Zenodo Community following approval by the European Commission.

For additional information contact us!

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