

# FOREWORD

**It is with great pleasure that I present the 2019 edition of the Annual Report of the International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD) which contains the most recent road safety data and up-to-date information for 41 countries.**

The large majority of IRTAD countries recorded a decrease in the number of road deaths in the year 2017, and provisional data for 2018 show further reduction for several countries. This is good news as following good results at the beginning of the decade, the number of road deaths plateaued or even increased in several countries after 2013. Several countries that achieved a relative strong reduction in the beginning of the decade seemed to struggle to further decrease the number of road casualties. However, further research is needed to understand why this happened, and which measures can now be taken to reverse a downward trend.

Improving road safety and the number of road casualties requires permanent and continuous actions based on the analysis of solid data. In some countries, the “easy” measures have now been implemented and to reduce further the number of road casualties, including serious injuries, it is necessary to exploit available data on the circumstances of crashes, the mechanisms leading to crashes and their severity, the road users involved, etc., as well as to undertake proactive risk assessment of the road network. It is also important to set

ambitious targets not only for the number of road deaths and serious injuries, but also for a set of performance indicators, which become indissociable to an effective road safety policy. This is the core of the IRTAD work, which is striving to improve our knowledge about road safety and to offer countries a unique forum to exchange on crash data methodologies and analysis. This report is the fruit of the rich collaborative work undertaken by all IRTAD members throughout the year. Our Group now includes 80 members representing 40 countries; and I would like to thank each member warmly for its engagement and contribution.

IRTAD also plays an important role in assisting low- and middle-income countries in improving their knowledge on road safety and enhancing their crash data system. The International Transport Forum and its IRTAD Group are key partners in the joint initiatives with the World Bank and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) to develop regional road safety observatories in Asia and Africa, inspired from the successful experience with OISEVI the Ibero American Road Safety Observatory, created in 2012. We hope that these initiatives will bring tangible results leading to a clearer picture on the road safety situation in these countries.

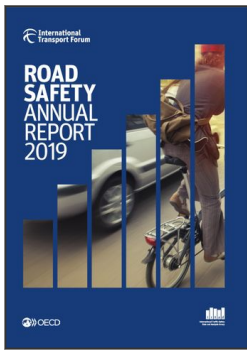
IRTAD has a number of new challenges ahead. In particular, the emergence of new forms of mobility raises new issues in terms of transport

planning and safety management. It also requires new thinking on how to account for new mobility in crash statistics and we will work in this issue in the coming year. It is also of importance to seize the opportunities of “big data” and understand how they can be exploited used to shed new light on mobility and safety issues.

The year 2020 will be a very important year for road safety, with the holding of the Third Ministerial Global Conference on Road Safety in Stockholm in February. It is expected that new road safety targets will be adopted in the framework of the Agenda 2030. Close monitoring of the evolution in the number of road casualties, but more importantly on the development of key performance indicators, will be essential to assist policy makers in implementing successful road safety strategies in the next decade.

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**Chair of the IRTAD Group**





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