The Value of a Statistical Life in Road Safety: From Method to Policy

Monday, 21 September 2026 | 17:00 – 18:15 Tbilisi time | Online (Zoom)

09:00 Washington DC · 14:00 London · 15:00 Brussels · 16:00 Kyiv / Chișinău · 17:00 Tbilisi / Yerevan

Meeting Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/GLMXD3sqTQC-JTBVv2hLJQ

TIME (TBILISI)	SESSION	SPEAKER
17:00 – 17:05	**Welcome and opening remarks** Framing the session: why the value of a statistical life matters for road safety policy in the Eastern Partnership region	**Tamar Sulukhia** Head, EaP RSO; Director, ISET Policy Institute
17:05 – 17:25	**Part 1 — The value of a statistical life in the context of road safety: a new value transfer approach** Why new guidance was needed; the unit value transfer method and the evidence base of 32 countries; the resulting transfer functions for low- and middle-income and high-income countries; comparison with the iRAP and OECD approaches. Followed by recent World Bank crash costing work and the GRSF Road Crash Cost Analysis Tool.	**Said Dahdah** Program Manager, Trust Funds for Safe and Sustainable Transport Unit, WBG Transport and Logistics Department
17:25 – 17:40	**Part 2 — Eastern Partnership Road Safety in Data 2025: VSL in the context of road safety for EaP countries** Applying the value transfer approach to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; regional results and their use as an input to cost-benefit analysis and investment prioritisation.	**Mariam Lobjanidze** Data Team Lead, EaP RSO; Lead Economist, ISET Policy Institute
17:40 – 17:50	**Discussant remarks** Opening reflections as lead author of the transfer approach: the evidence base behind the LMIC function, income elasticity and the treatment of uncertainty, the outstanding gap on non-fatal injuries, and what value transfer can and cannot tell policymakers.	**Wim Wijnen** W2Economics, Utrecht
17:50 – 18:10	**Part 3 — Roundtable discussion** Open exchange among the speakers and all participants, focused on what these estimates mean in practice for government decision-making. Country representatives and observatory colleagues are invited to bring their own experience of applying – or seeking to apply – economic valuation in national road safety policy.	**All speakers and participants** Facilitated by Emma MacLennan Deputy Head, EaP RSO; Director General, EASST
18:10 – 18:15	**Closing remarks and next steps**	**Tamar Sulukhia** Head, EaP RSO; Director, ISET and ISET Policy Institute

Guiding questions: what this means for policymakers

- Where are we now? From your experience, are economic values for preventing deaths and serious injuries currently used in road safety or transport decision-making in your country? Are you aware of any examples of how they are used?
- Where could VSL be useful? Making the case for investment or prioritising different road safety measures?
- Who would need to be involved? Which ministries or agencies would need to be involved in your country?
- What might make this difficult? Awareness and understanding of the approach, acceptance by decision-makers, data or technical capacity, or existing government processes?
- What would help countries take this forward? What support would be most helpful – practical guidance, examples from other countries, discussions with relevant ministries, or training?

Background reading

Wijnen, W., Dahdah, S. & Pkhikidze, N. (2025). The value of a statistical life in the context of road safety: a new value transfer approach. Traffic Injury Prevention. DOI: 10.1080/15389588.2025.2476607

EaP RSO Data Team (2025). Eastern Partnership Road Safety in Data 2025: The Value of Statistical Life in the Context of Road Safety for Eastern Partnership Countries. Eastern Partnership Road Safety Observatory.

The Eastern Partnership Road Safety Observatory is funded by the European Union and its Technical Secretariat is led by ISET Policy Institute and EASST. | info@eaprso.org | www.eaprso.org