

Causes of damage in the sector of transport in Albania

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Abstract

Road accidents represent a major problem around the globe. Besides the invaluable human tragedy for each disaster, accidents cause huge economic losses. While some of the costs are obvious, others can be distinguished with more difficulty. For example, medical treatment for a victim may continue for several years and in the worst cases even lifelong. Also, accidents and injuries will deprive the economy of resources and manpower. For disasters and serious injuries this will last for the entire life expectancy of the victims. Road accidents cost include the loss of economic resources. People cherish their lives and well-being more than pure economic losses.

In principle, they have a value on disaster risk reduction that can be expressed as a “value of life”. Calculating the cost of accidents in monetary terms and the corresponding value of preventing accidents is necessary for various purposes like:

- to illustrate the importance of social and economic burden on society caused by road accidents;
- to calculate the potential monetary benefits of various security measures.

The first need lies in the overall level of resource planning to ensure that road safety gets the same importance as other investments. For this purpose, it is necessary to make sufficient calculations. To make such calculations, it is necessary to know the actual number of accidents/disasters of various kinds and corresponding unit costs.

The second need is to ensure the best possible use of every investment in order to select appropriate activities. Benefits from road improvements, security schemes and projects are usually defined in terms of saving travel time, vehicle operating costs and reducing environmental impact. Such assessments would be incomplete if these effects are not considered. Benefits are usually expressed in monetary terms to enable direct comparison with the costs of their implementation. For this purpose, they require an accurate calculation of the costs of accidents. For economic evaluations, it is necessary to know the estimated reductions in the number of accidents/disasters of various kinds and monetary value.

Keywords: damage, injury, cost, human value, administrative costs.

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