

Drivers' training on ITS use through psychological methods: Importance and application in practice

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We all know that next to a practical training (for example on a simulator) also a "theoretical" or let's better call it a psychological training is necessary to guarantee a comprehensive instruction in use of ITS. Maybe it might be a good idea to integrate in a simulator some situations where for example the risk behaviour of a driver, e.g. related to a new ITS-equipment - is tested in order to talk about it afterwards and sensitise the driver on this phenomenon. But even if it is not possible to do so ("play" situations in the simulator), it is necessary to talk with drivers about the existing psychological phenomena. And it is also important to keep in mind what user group the training should address. For example young drivers might have other personality traits and attitudes than "normal grown ups", or professionals. In Austria we do have a "Driver Improvement" training where we try to use group dynamics to make drivers aware of their problematic behaviour like speeding as soon as they have the possibility. A technically well equipped car might enhance speeding. This reasoning brings us up to the idea to adapt this training for the use of ITS and the behaviour that could become problematic due to the reasons above.