

Vision Zero and Safe System

Knowledge base

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In this study, we provide insights into how the concepts and frameworks of Norway's Vision Zero and the international Safe System approach align or differ from each other, based on a systematic literature review. We found significant overlap between the foundation of the Norwegian Vision Zero and the international Safe System approach. The key difference lies in Safe System's emphasis on the system owner's "ultimate" responsibility when road users fail to follow the rules due to "lack of knowledge, acceptance, or ability." The Safe System approach also elaborates more on practical and strategic road safety work by defining a set of six pillars (with corresponding operationalizations) that describe how road safety efforts should be organized. On the other hand, our literature review shows that the Safe System approach has a considerable potential for improvement, if it is going to work as a guide for practical and strategic road safety work, as it is not always sufficiently clear how the Safe System approach should be operationalized. We therefore provide examples of concrete criteria for Safe System implementation and possible effects of these. We propose that Safe System becomes the official Norwegian traffic safety policy, that efforts are made to concretize the Safe System pillars in a Norwegian context, and that the action plan for road traffic safety (and Norwegian traffic safety work in general) is evaluated and updated in line with the Safe System.