

Project SIMTEB

Simulator-Based Training for European Bus Drivers

Transfer and implementation of an innovative training concept for drivers and trainers in initial and continuing vocational training organisations of the public urban transport in Europe

The development of simulators for a variety of training situations has made remarkable technical advances in recent years. The project SIMTEB analyses, develops and transfers existing training programs for simulators to train bus drivers, even to ensure safety, environmental protection and economic benefits.

The use of simulators for the training of staff at complex man-machine interfaces is a widely recognised method to improve the safety and efficiency of the operation of technical systems. The use of simulators is currently limited to a small group of 6 to 8 training centres. As one of the major obstacles for the dissemination of resource-saving and additional training situations enabling simulators proved the lack of a training conception to meet the specific requirements of this technology. Closely connected with this problem are deficits in the further development of the predominantly experience-based qualifications of the staff in the training centres, with regard to the requirements of a competent coping simulator based training.

Aim of the of project SIMTEB is the cross-national transfer and operational implementation of an innovative training concept for drivers and trainers in initial and continuing vocational training organisations in the European public urban transport sector. SIMTEB intends to promote the sustainable use of simulators in the bus driving branch, based on a concept for the training of bus drivers and the development of trainer skills significantly. Through this SIMTEB will be able to realize an important contribution to safe and environmentally friendly driving, how it meets the intentions of the "EU Directive 2003-59/EG".

Coordinated by the sfs TU Dortmund SIMTEB combines knowledge and experience of operators of training simulators and experts dealing for many years with the simulator training and qualification processes in the transport sector with the competences of development engineers from simulator manufacturers in an interdisciplinary and European working team - combining essential competencies for a successful transfer of innovation to each other.

SIMTEB is analysing in a first step the current development of products for simulator training. In a second step, the concept of a training simulator of the involved Finnish operator will be transferred into a European framework. Additionally, guidelines to "train the trainer" for simulator-based training will be developed as well. The training concept and the guidance for the trainers will then (step 3) be tested, evaluated and optimised. Thereafter, a first implementation (step 4) of the European framework will take place in the involved simulator operators in Germany and Finland, the training concept will be adapted to their framework and the guide for the training of trainers will be implemented in their regular training schedule.

Further dissemination of the training concept and the guidelines for trainers will take place through information events and companies overarching occupational seminars (step 5). Through this an effective transfer of model applications in the participating and other European countries will be achieved (introduction of the SIMTEB products by project partners at national and international events).

An especially for the project established advisory board will ensure that the results of the project will be assessed by high-quality professional experts and disseminated to the relevant public. In addition, the recognition of project results in the partner countries and European bodies and organisations will be achieved. Finally, recommendations will be made for the development and dissemination of technical, organisational and social conditions for the introduction of driving simulators.

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