

A test evaluates drivers' hazard perception to improve safety behind the wheel

LOCATION: Granada

DURATION: 1'55"

SUMMARY: More experienced drivers have a higher hazard perception than novices, although with training, this inexperience can be rectified. Researchers at the University of Granada, with funding from the General Directorate of Traffic and the Campus of International Excellence at the university, have designed for the first time in Spain a hazard perception test for drivers, which is an essential test in other countries in order to obtain a driver's license.

VTR:

When we get behind the wheel, danger can arise anywhere and at any moment. A group of researchers in Granada with funding from the General Directorate of Traffic in Spain and the Campus of International Excellence at the university have put drivers in these dangerous situations to study their risk perception, through a test which in countries such as the United Kingdom, USA and Australia is obligatory in order to obtain a driving license.

Cándida Castro
Experimental Psychology
Department

"Here in Spain it still doesn't exist, although we are making the first attempts to validate the test here. We also think that it would be useful not only for obtaining a driving license, but also for renewing licenses."

Thanks to a database compiled with around 300 videos which reflect real-life situations, these researchers have worked in several stages with more than 200 people.

Andrés Augusto Gugliotto
Researcher at the University of
Granada

"The participant who did the test watched the video, which presented the situation, and it was cut right when the danger appeared, and then he was asked information about what he had seen in the video, what the danger was, where he saw it, and what he thought was going to happen."

Amongst the participants were learners, new drivers, and the more experienced, with the main conclusion being that the more experienced drivers had a higher perception to road dangers.

Andrés Augusto Gugliotto
Researcher at the University of
Granada

"If drivers already have a grounding and a knowledge of driving, it is noted that they are more capable of identifying dangerous situations, and not only this, but they also detect better where they occur; they identify them better."

The research also shows other results, such as that the instruction-based training commentary in these videos improves the hazard perception ability on the road.

Cándida Castro
Experimental Psychology
Department

"Some training programmes can help new drivers to make up for their lack of road safety knowledge and recognise the dangers."

The researchers have also relied on the collaboration of the Nottingham Trent University in the United Kingdom.

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