



Media Information

By TEAM partner Technical University of Berlin

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Eight-minute detour to a 'higher' destination

More respectful interaction in street traffic is being tested in the TEAM project

Man – An egomaniac by nature? Nonsense, says Dr. Ilja Radusch, director of the project "Tomorrow's Elastic Adaptive Mobility" (TEAM). "In street traffic, there are always situations where, after brief eye contact, a pedestrian will be allowed to pass or another vehicle allowed to merge", says Radusch. "These brief moments already prove: Where communication takes place, so does cooperation." Qualitative studies, which were carried out at the beginning of the research project, have confirmed that: 75 per cent of all respondents in Berlin would accept a ten minute delay if this delay were for some kind of "higher purpose".

Researchers of TEAM developed an app that promotes such communication on the road. Depending on the app, users receive certain offers: Take an eight minute detour and avoid racing by the primary school today? The children would be happy about having less exhaust gas and noise. Or, how about not taking the fastest detour around a traffic jam – because so are all the other drivers, which then quickly forms another jam? "We don't force individuals to act considerately", says Radusch. "We communicate the advantages and disadvantages transparently". However, particularly prudent traffic participants collect bonus points on the app. If they are in a particular hurry, they can redeem them and will be given preferential treatment for a short period of time.

Radusch and his colleagues want to find out what application possibilities are well received by users in a test phase in five European cities, the Euro-EcoChallenge, by May. However, the biggest challenge, so far, has been programming an open platform that bundles all traffic data collected by offices and authorities throughout Europe. "Up until now, all towns and communities have been doing their own thing. Now, with our platform, there is a type of traffic centre that can be standardised and read out in real time based on the input of traffic information", Radusch explains. The future platform, on the other hand, should summarise all information and be freely accessible so that other developers can access it. Perhaps then, there will soon be a large number of apps, all geared to communicating in traffic - and make the roads of Europe a little more cooperative.

The TEAM project is coordinated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems (FOKUS). Over 25 partners from all over Europe are working jointly with the Daimler Center for Automotive Information Technology Innovations (DCAITI), an affiliated institute at the Technical University of Berlin, and the Combinatorial Optimization & Graph Algorithms group (COGA) of TU Berlin.

<https://www.collaborative-team.eu>

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