

PRESS RELEASE

Luxembourg, 1 October 2019

## The scientific approach to preventing accidents and saving human lives

*In 2018, more than 70,000 people (1 resident in 10) were admitted in the country's emergency services following an accident.*

*injuries in traffic but also in other areas such as households, sports, or workplaces cause great human suffering and immense costs due to medical care, rehabilitation, and material damage. Accidents and injuries must therefore be prevented. How this can be better achieved will be the subject of discussions from 3rd to 4th of October, when 180 scientists and other stakeholders from all over Europe and beyond will be attending the EU-Safety 2019 conference organized by the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH) and Eurosafe in Luxembourg.*

**Media representatives are cordially invited to the opening of the conference on 3rd October 2019, starting 9 a.m.**

Please register with [laura.star@lih.lu](mailto:laura.star@lih.lu). We will put you in touch with the interview partners during morning coffee break. The event will be opened by Etienne Schneider, Luxembourg's vice premier Minister and Minister of Health; John F. Ryan, Director of Health and Food Safety Directorate General Directorate C – Public Health and crisis management at European Commission, Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport; and Dr. Etienne Krug, Director of the WHO Department for Management of Non communicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention.

### **A broad spectrum of injury causes, for good reason**

If you do an online search for European accident statistics, the first page of hits will all relate to road accidents. *"And yet, there are many other areas in which accidents and injuries claim a lot of human lives or cause serious injuries,"* says Laetitia Huiart, Director of the Department of Population Health of the Luxembourg Institute of Health and one of the organizers of EU-Safety 2019. *"Systematically achieving further improvements in this respect is an important goal. The road ahead is still long, but Luxembourg is on the right track."*

How this can be accomplished will be discussed among public health professionals, researchers, product safety specialists, urban planners, and experts from many other professional fields at EU-Safety 2019.

An important topic of the conference is child safety: from toys bought online, to fire hazards, to safety on the way to school – the conference will highlight the successes already achieved in preventing injuries that children can suffer in their everyday environment. *"Injury surveillance and prevention are highly data-dependent processes. Information is CORE to any Injury surveillance action that should in addition try to retrieve information from a wide range of health data sources. Combining results from different sources at national and international level could allow identification of meaningful risk factors for frequent injuries and matching of those risks to proven effective preventive actions."* Dritan Bejko, epidemiologist at LIH says. *"We will therefore be discussing progress in injury surveillance and research, and deliberating on how we can tackle future challenges in this area scientifically."* In addition to child safety, other key topics at EU-Safety 2019 will be consumer safety and security, sport safety, safety for the elderly, and road traffic safety.

*"The conference aims to raise political awareness as to the impact of accidents and to mainstream injury prevention in a coherent manner within European and national policy agenda's and programmes. We welcome the initiative of the respective Luxembourg Ministries to work towards a more comprehensive approach in safety promotion and to stimulate researchers, health practitioners, educators, and local authorities to help combatting*

*the toll of accidents and injuries”* concludes Wim Rogmans, Founder of EuroSafe.

## Partners and funding

EU-Safety 2019 is organized by [Eurosafte](#), the European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in collaboration with the [Luxembourg Institute of Health](#) with the support of the [Luxembourg National Research Fund \(FNR\)](#), the [Ministry of Health](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), and the [European Commission](#).

## About Luxembourg Institute of Health: Research dedicated to life

The Luxembourg Institute of Health is a public research organisation at the forefront of biomedical sciences. With its strong expertise in population health, oncology, infection and immunity as well as storage and handling of biological samples, its research activities impact on people’s health. At the Luxembourg Institute of Health, devoted scientists investigate disease mechanisms to develop new diagnostics, innovative therapies and effective tools to implement personalised medicine. The institution is the first supplier of public health information in Luxembourg, a strong cooperation partner in local and international projects and an attractive training place for ambitious early-stage researchers.

## About Department of Population Health

The Department of Population Health (DOPH) focuses its research on main public health issues relevant for both Luxembourg population and the international community. The research carried out within the department aims to better understand, but also to modify, the main risk factors for chronic diseases, such as environmental or behavioural risk factors like diet or physical activity. The department develops innovative methods for measuring exposures and integrates e-health strategies to promote the health of the population and improve patient care. DOPH is also responsible for various registries to monitor diseases such as cancer or injuries and accidents. It contributes to conceive prevention strategies and to facilitate the organization of care in Luxembourg. DOPH is also strongly committed to the development of clinical research and is involved in personalized medicine projects in close collaboration with all national actors in research and health.

## Venue

Neumünster Abbey  
28, rue Münster  
L-2160 Luxembourg

## Event website

[EU-safety2019.lih.lu](http://EU-safety2019.lih.lu)

## Scientific contact

Dritan Bejko  
Epidemiologist  
Department of Population Health  
Luxembourg Institute of Health  
E-mail: [dritan.bejko@lih.lu](mailto:dritan.bejko@lih.lu)

## Press Relation

Laura Star  
Communication Officer

Luxembourg Institute of Health

Tel: +352 26 970 891

E-mail: [laura.star@lih.lu](mailto:laura.star@lih.lu)