



Ulf Lundström

Presentation made by Bernt Freiholtz

Evaluation of EU projects on road tunnel safety

The safety in European tunnels was questioned in late 1990s in the view of the catastrophic fires in several tunnels in the Alpine countries. The European community took action by deciding on a directive on minimum safety requirements, all in line with the White Paper on EU transport policy. And now, all the Nordic countries have implemented the requirements of this directive.

There was also a concern that the general knowledge on tunnel safety needed to be deepened. Thus, the European Union initiated a number of R&D projects in order to survey the problems and solutions. These projects started during the period 1996-2003 and were completed 2002-2007. The total cost for these research projects was around 40 M€ which indicates a huge difference when compared to our countries budgets for similar research topics and areas.

When the road tunnel experts from the Nordic road administrations together discussed on strategies how to pick out the relevant results and information from R&D reports amounting to approx. 11 000 pages the NordFOU arena soon was found to be an outstanding opportunity. Five Nordic countries financed the project that was performed during 2009-2010. Sweden was administrating the project.

The purpose of the project was to identify, describe and prioritise topics with a potential for formulating proposals on road tunnel safety for common Nordic guidelines, manuals or new research projects.

We consider the results very effective in terms of knowledge compilation and dissemination and in a very cost-effective way. Information and the full results:

<http://www.nordfou.org/projekter/tunnelsikkerhed.asp>

Following the success of this first NordFOU tunnel project now another project is running.

The aim with this second project is to harmonise the concepts and some technical solutions regarding the efficient evacuation of a road tunnel.