

**COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
GROWTH
(GROWTH) PROGRAMME**

TRAINER

System for driver **T**raini**n**g and **A**ssessment using **I**nteractive **E**valuation
tools and **R**eliable methodologies

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1. Executive Summary

The TRAINER project intends to augment novice drivers' skills by improving their training using novel methodologies and tools. Therefore, the TRAINER project will affect drivers' quality of life, health and safety, environment and resources and will contribute to technological progress providing high quality software tools. In order to facilitate rapid dissemination of project results, the TRAINER consortium developed a web site that contains all the necessary information about the project and the progress of the related work.

The present Deliverable document is an Annex to the fully operating web site that is submitted on this CD.

The first chapter of this document provides a short description of the web site design rationale. This design is a result of several discussions among consortium partners and related decisions, and aims to achieve the best possible dissemination of the project's results and also support internal collaboration.

The next chapter provides a brief description of the web site structure. It illustrates the main topics covered by the web site, and also presents the tools provided for collaboration between the partners.

Then the detailed contents of the web site are presented, along with information about the contents and the interactive features of each page.

The last chapter offers a brief description of the usability principles followed by overall design and layout of the web site.

2. Rationale

A TRAINER WWW site was developed at the second month of the project. The main objective of the site is to present and promote project results. It is a living place where the project achievements and outcomes become known and available to a broader audience all around the world. Statistical analysis of site visits shows that numerous users from all around the world have visited the electronic place of TRAINER in order to be informed about the latest progress of the project.

In addition to the above, the project site serves as an internal reference place where partners can share their work among them. Through an internal ftp site, which is accessible from the www site, partners can download and review the latest internal documents as well as progress reports.

This deliverable is an annex to the fully operative www site that is submitted on this CD.

3. Structure

The structure of the site is designed to accommodate both dimensions mentioned above (i.e., dissemination channel for the project results and internal working place). The structure of the www site is summarized in the following illustration:

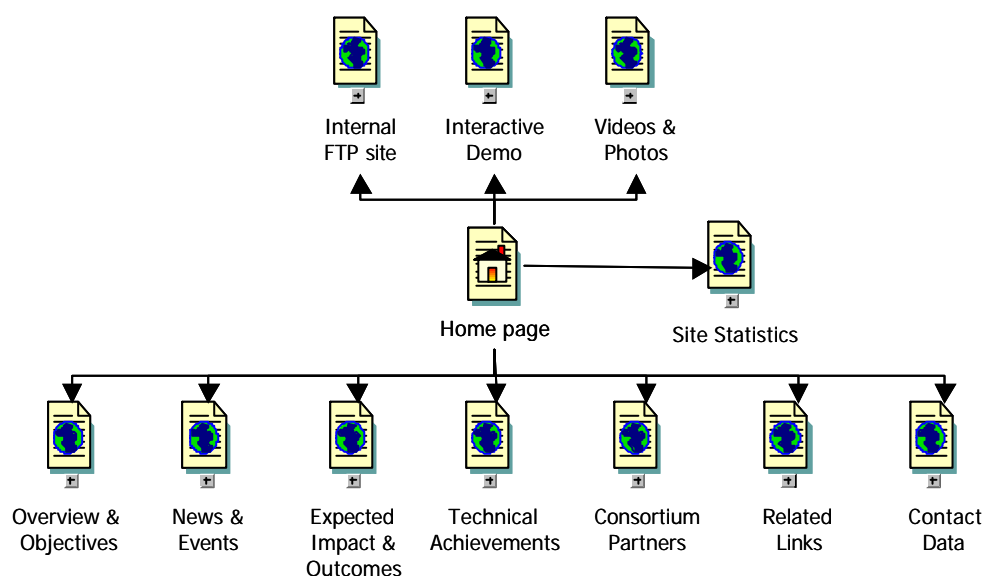


Figure 1: TRAINER www site structure

The TRAINER www site consists of three different groups of topics. The first group comprises general information about the project, such as news, contact details, etc. as well as theoretical background information and description of the undergoing work. The second group offers a visual presentation of the work completed in the context of the project and includes videos, photos and an interactive demo. Furthermore, it offers the possibility to the partners to work on-line through the ftp site. The third group provides a statistical analysis of the site visits, according to several factors, such as the number of 'hits' per page, per country, etc.

4. Content

The content of the site is continuously updated according to the project progress. Information about the technical progress, the project's latest results, new deliverables, and upcoming events offer to visitors useful knowledge about TRAINER-related issues.

A short analysis of the content of each web page is presented in the following paragraphs:

4.1 Home Page

The home page of the www site provides an overview of the site contents. It also serves as a high-level site map since it contains all the available collections of topics thematically separated.

4.2 Overview & Objectives

This page presents in brief the TRAINER project and summarizes the main project objectives. A visitor can be informed from this page about the implications of project TRAINER in the quality of life, the health and safety of European citizens, the quality of drivers' skills and training, the environment and preservation of resources, as well as the contribution of the project in the technological progress in training drivers techniques.

4.3 News & Events

Workshops, events and other interesting news related to the project are listed in this page. Visitors can access more details for every item presented by selecting a corresponding link, e.g. to learn more details about the first pan-European TRAINER workshop that was held in Brussels, (e.g. browse the agenda of the workshop and read the main topics of discussion).

4.4 Expected Impact & Outcomes

This page summarizes the expected impact and outcomes of the project. The European dimension of the project is also highlighted, while the contribution to the development of EU policies is denoted. A set of guidelines for driving assessment and training is expected to contribute to the standardization of driving training. Quality of life, environment protection, employment, and education are some of the added values offered by the project to the community and are analyzed in this section.

4.5 Technical Achievements

The technical achievements of the project are presented in this interactive page. Visitors can be informed about the preliminary results of the project, about the dissemination activities of the project in various conferences and can download the public deliverables of the project. Visitors can also participate in the assessment of project results providing their feedback and valuable information towards the wider acceptance of the project's final results.

4.6 Consortium Partners

A brief presentation of all the partners of the TRAINER project is available in this page offering contact information and a short description of each organization or company participating in the project.

4.7 Related Links

This page is used to provide links to other relevant European actions and projects, such as the VIRTUAL, GADGET and HANK projects.

4.8 Contact Data

The contact details of the project's representative are provided for those who wish to communicate or ask for further information about TRAINER.

4.9 Internal ftp site

This option is a link to the internal ftp site of the project and is only available to the project partners (user authentication is required to login). This option is a shortcut that facilitates the access to the ftp site for all the partners. It helps in sharing internal documents and confidential deliverables, using an Internet browser which is a widely-used and simple tool, instead of special-purpose ftp tool.

4.10 Interactive Demo

In this part of the site visitors can get a first impression about the project tools. An interactive demo of the multimedia tool (MMT) is provided, presenting the functionality and content of the tool. It includes examples of the scenarios integrated in the MMT and helps visitors familiarize to the training rationale of the TRAINER project. Alternative examples highlight the multimodality of the tool and also present the instructive techniques used by the project.

4.11 Videos and Photos

This page is dedicated to the presentation of snapshots from the Simulator tool. Images from different scenarios of the Simulator are shown, denoting the different driving conditions that a trainee has to tackle successfully, during his/her training with the tool. A small video is also available, that provides a 'live' demonstration of the Simulator's use.

4.12 Site Statistics

Site Statistics provide a statistical tool for the analysis and reporting of www site visits. The structure of the generate reports is simple and consists of several sections.

First a summary is presented, containing the total number of requests, visitors and visits along with some relevant statistical information (e.g. average time per visit). The sections of the report that follow, present details about the separate documents visited, the visits themselves, the page requests, the people who visited them. At the end of the report some definitions are clarified.

This part of the www site can be used both as a tool for identifying the most interesting parts of the site but also for analyzing the profile of the visitors. This information can be used for the enhancement and improvement of the www site.

5. Layout

Considerable effort was invested in the design of the site's layout. The design concept (a highway with road signs) was inspired from the main theme of the project. The following picture illustrates the home page of the www site, which acts as the 'front gate' to the project-related information.

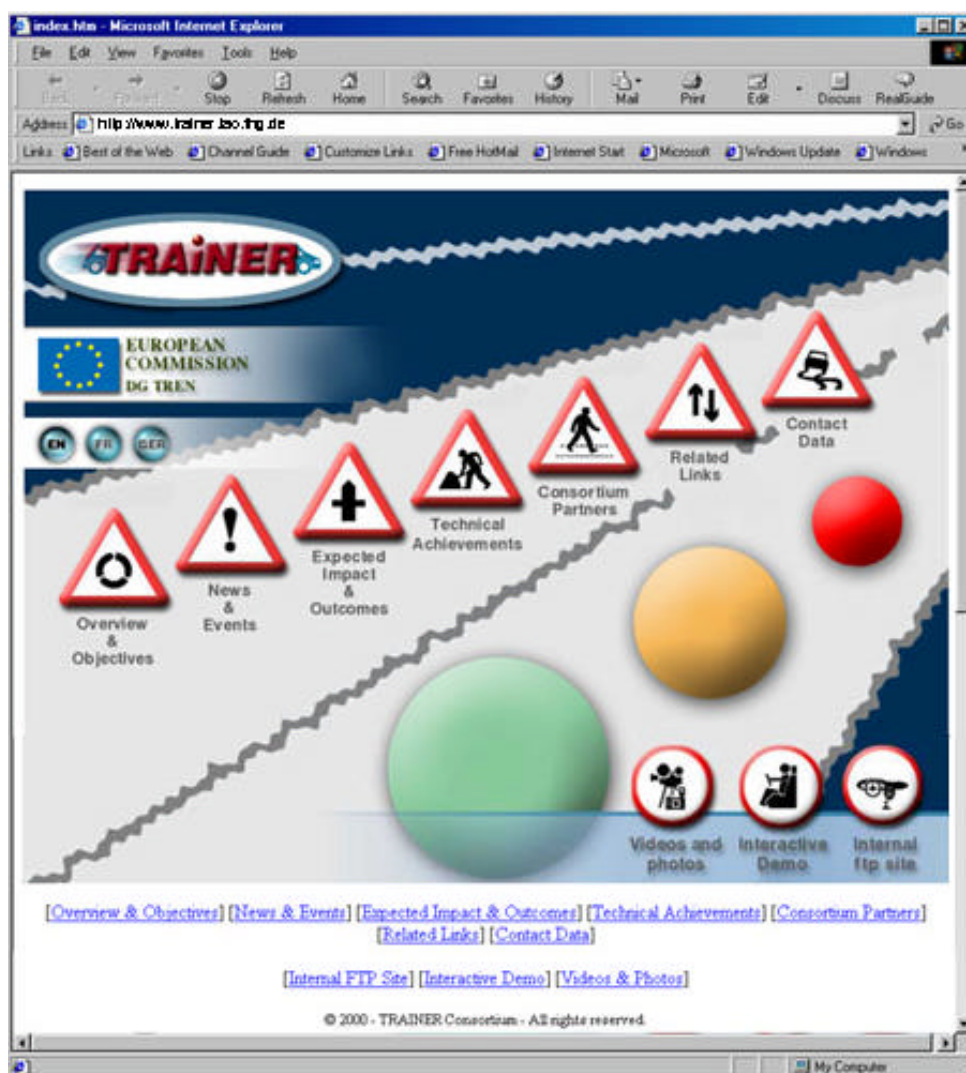


Figure 2: The home page of the TRAINER www site

In Figure 2 the differentiation of the aforementioned three separate information groups is visualized through the visual and spatial grouping of topics that belong in the same group.

The visitor can enter the www site by selecting any of the links available in this page. The design of the internal pages is different from the home page, but follow the same graphic and colour scheme. In order for the site to have a consistent and usable layout, internal pages have the same general layout. Figure 3 illustrates the design of an internal page of the TRAINER www site.

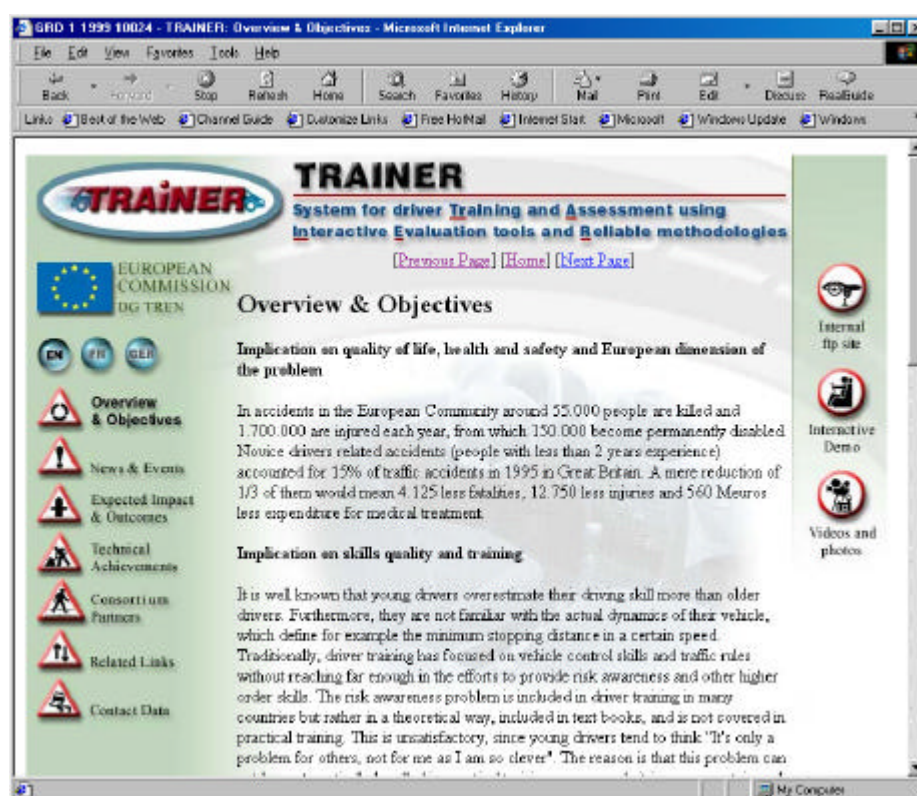


Figure 3: Overview & Objectives page of the TRAINER www site

Several features are included in the design of the TRAINER www site to improve its usability. These features include:

- ? High contrast background improves the readability of the text.
- ? Alternative text navigation links at the end of each page provide quick access to other pages, and provide compatibility with screen readers for facilitating the access of users with visual impairments.
- ? The sequential browsing facilities offer the capability of a guided tour.
- ? The inclusion navigation facilities to both the top and bottom of each page provide easier and more efficient access to all pages.

- ? Highlighting of the current page in the navigation toolbar provides feedback about the current context and better understanding of the information structure and organization.
- ? The highlighting of interactive objects when the mouse is over them helps in identifying interactive links and aids in the avoidance of erroneous actions due to wrong selections.
- ? The alternative text of images that also appears as a tooltip when the mouse is over them provides help by explaining the functionality of each object, but also a description of it even when it is not loaded, or displayed.
- ? The consistent design of all pages and the spatial and visual separation of different thematic collections enable quick learning and facilitates navigation.

The above features are illustrated below in Figure 4:



Figure 4: Design Features of TRAINER www site

6. Conclusions

In summary, the TRAINER www site is designed to serve the dissemination needs of the project, as well as to facilitate information location and retrieval by the site's visitors. An analysis of the www site statistics reveals that both goals were successfully accomplished, since numerous visitors from all over the world have spent considerable time getting informed about the TRAINER project and its achievements.