Road Safety is ‘People Business’ – Structogram on the road

By Sara Stocker

The Federal Statistical Office recorded over 18,000 road traffic accidents involving ‘personal injury’ were recorded by the Federal Statistical Office in 2018. The majority are attributable to behavioral errors. In their road safety training courses, two experts place a specific focus on interpersonal skills.

All road users contribute directly to road safety. Anyone who believes they are in control of the situation – or of the road – would do well to be set straight. The total number of road traffic accidents recorded in 2018 equates to around 50 incidents per day. Whether lorry drivers, car drivers, cyclists or pedestrians: ‘Every individual sets an example and plays a part in shaping how road traffic is conducted,’ proclaims the police in their prevention work.

Even young children learn appropriate behavior on pavements and roads as part of road safety education. From the time they start primary school, they receive a gradual program of theoretical and practical training, right up until they are ready to obtain their driving license. Neither the possession of a driving license nor years of practical experience.

The high number of accidents proves that neither of these is a guarantee of being roadworthy. Road safety and ongoing awareness-raising therefore concern all road users.

Every accident is one too many

One person who is actively involved in a wide range of road safety areas is Hasan Kalender. For over 30 years, he has been involved in the training and further education of prospective and existing road users, as a seminar leader, lecturer

Kalender is a trainer and examination expert. His program is varied and includes corporate seminars, events and road safety training sessions. As a licensed Structogram trainer, Kalender deliberately focuses on the ‘interpersonal skills’ tool. Using the Structogram training method, he helps participants gain a better understanding of themselves so that they become aware of their own strengths, weaknesses and limitations. These are all factors that influence behavior on the roads.

From ‘alpha animals’ to offenders

‘For me, the focus is on the individual,’ emphasizes the trainer. In his day-to-day training work, he deals with a wide variety of client groups. ‘Traffic experts, for example, tend to be more technically oriented,’ says the seminar leader, explaining: ‘As representatives of road traffic authorities, they conduct driving tests and vehicle inspections.’ There are also alpha animals in this sector, of whom he to at the start of the Structogram—



Road users of all categories contribute to safety through their behavior.

Having started out as a driving instructor providing driving training for road safety experts, Kalender has continually expanded his field of activity. The success of his method proves him right: to date, over 1,000 driving instructors and 400 road safety experts have attended the Structogram seminars. His clients include, amongst others, the Association of Road Traffic Authorities (asa), driving instructors and companies from a wide range of sectors. They all turn to the expert with the aim of using his program to ensure greater safety on the roads.

He occasionally senses resistance during seminars when he focuses on social skills. This makes the sense of achievement all the greater when, at the end of the day, the trainer receives consistently positive feedback. A critical participant once approached him and said: ‘That was the most exciting seminar I’ve ever attended!’ The aspiring transport expert was impressed by the simplicity of Structogram and its practical applicability. He admitted, somewhat surprised, that he could now understand himself and others better and

act accordingly, he admitted, somewhat surprised.

Hasan Kalender also welcomes 'repeat offenders' when it comes to breaches of road traffic regulations. Particularly with those who are attending this 'further training' against their will, the aim is to heighten their sense of responsibility. In this context, the trainer reveals his recipe for success: treating people with respect and as partners is the guiding principle of his work; he fundamentally regards trust as the key to success.

An understanding of human nature is the be-all and end-all

For Stefan Honegger, co-founder and managing director of the driving school in Wetzikon, 'developing a realistic self-assessment of one's driving ability' is the primary aim of his work. Originally a lorry driver himself, Stefan Honegger is now responsible for the training and further education of motorized road users. He passes on his knowledge mainly at his own vocational school for driving instructors, teaching skills and abilities that promote road safety.

It is probably no coincidence that Honegger also relies on Structogram in his training courses. He applies the method to foster greater self-awareness and insight into others in the modules Communication and the learning environment. However, the findings from the analysis would also be a recurring theme in other subjects, as the trainer adds.

"Prospective driving instructors benefit enormously from Structogram in their day-to-day practical work." The managing director sees particular value in customer consultancy; after all, prospective driving instructors must first offer and sell their driving lessons before they can begin teaching learners to drive.

"With the insight into human nature that this provides, learner drivers can be trained in a much more targeted way, which has a major impact on their learning success and motivation," Honegger is also convinced. A win-win situation, then, for driving instructors and learners.

The headteacher sees even more potential in the training system. He plans to incorporate Structogram into conflict management and communication skills training in future. One of his further training objectives for improving road safety is: 'To instill the willingness and ability to behave considerately and cooperatively both on and off the road'. This is therefore a way of behaving that all road users must equally take to heart – in keeping with the principle that 'you never stop learning', it is never too late to do so.

Interpersonal skills can be learnt

The Structogram, as the visualized result of the biostructure analysis, reveals the fundamental structure of one's own personality (biostructure). From this, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and limitations are identified. The aim is to develop in harmony with nature and to be authentic.

In the next step, participants learn to recognize other people's biostructures. They become more attuned to their behavior, are better able to understand the other person's individuality, respond appropriately and avoid conflicts.

The biostructure analysis is a non-judgemental method for identifying genetically determined personality patterns.



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