

# MEDRIL

*MEDical testing for the DRiving Licence  
EU project 2003-2006*

## **Medical tests underway; forthcoming workshop to discuss practical driving test for borderline medical cases**

The CIECA-led MEDRIL project has 3 aims:

1. To propose a common medical form and test for testing fitness-to-drive within the European Union
2. To carry out 10,000 medical checks (in Spain, Finland, Netherlands and Luxembourg) on (mostly elderly) category B drivers. The results will indicate the prevalence of a range of medical problems across Europe.
3. To discuss possible designs for practical driving tests which aim to test the fitness-to-drive of drivers with borderline medical problems (where the doctor is unable to reach a clear decision on the driver's ability to drive safely).

The common medical form has already been developed, and is currently being used to carry out the ten thousand medical checks in the 4 participating countries. Spain has a highly developed chain of medical centres for drivers and as a result has already completed its quota of 4000 medical tests. The CIECA project office is now inputting the data to prepare it for analysis. In Finland, Netherlands and Luxembourg, progress has been much slower. In these countries, doctors are mostly independent general practitioners, so motivating them to carry out the MEDRIL tests, in addition to the normal tests in their country, is proving to be an arduous task. On a positive note, the tests do not have to be completed until the summer, so we hope there will be sufficient time for the quotas to be reached.

A parallel task for MEDRIL is to develop ideas for practical driving tests to check the fitness-to-drive of drivers with medical problems which may have an influence on their safe driving ability. Another EU project – AGILE – has already devoted serious thought and energy to this question, so the AGILE results are likely to form the basis of a MEDRIL workshop on May 20 (Brussels) to discuss this issue. Alternative approaches will, of course, be considered and it is hoped that the workshop will provide the opportunity to discuss a range of options and ideas.

For further information on the May 20 workshop, or on MEDRIL in general, please contact the project office. CIECA members may also be interested to note that the European Commission is organising a fitness-to-drive meeting in Brussels on April 27-28, in order to bring together a series of parallel projects focusing on this issue.