

THE IMPACT OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON COMMERCIAL/FREIGHT DRIVERS IN THE ARAB REGION

Improving Road Safety and Transport Efficiency in the Arab Region

Why carry out this research study?

Road transport is a key factor in helping economies thrive and reducing poverty. Unfortunately, despite its positive contribution to the development of the economies and societies, increased transport activities led to an increase of road traffic accidents. It is well-known that the human factor is the main cause of road traffic accidents. Numerous studies around the world have been conducted to analyse the causes of these accidents. However, fewer studies have specifically addressed accidents involving heavy vehicles, and only a handful have attempted to analyse the impact of training for professional drivers and their overall levels of qualification as factors which might mitigate the number and severity of accidents.

In the Arab region, some data on accident causation is available at the national level, but no comprehensive research project has ever attempted to analyse the impact of professional training on commercial road freight transport operations.

IRU therefore commissioned Jadarah Group to carry out research to address this gap in knowledge. The study aims to provide the public and private sectors with the comprehensive information that will help them establish the appropriate policies to address commercial road transport safety and efficiency.

Who is behind this research study?

An initiative of
IRU and AULT



In support
of the UN Decade of Action for
Road Safety



Four focus points

Identifying the economic
cost of lack of road safety

Highlighting the impact of
professional training

Identifying best practices/
weaknesses

Measuring gains in efficiency
and cost effectiveness

Main objectives

The main objectives of this research study are:

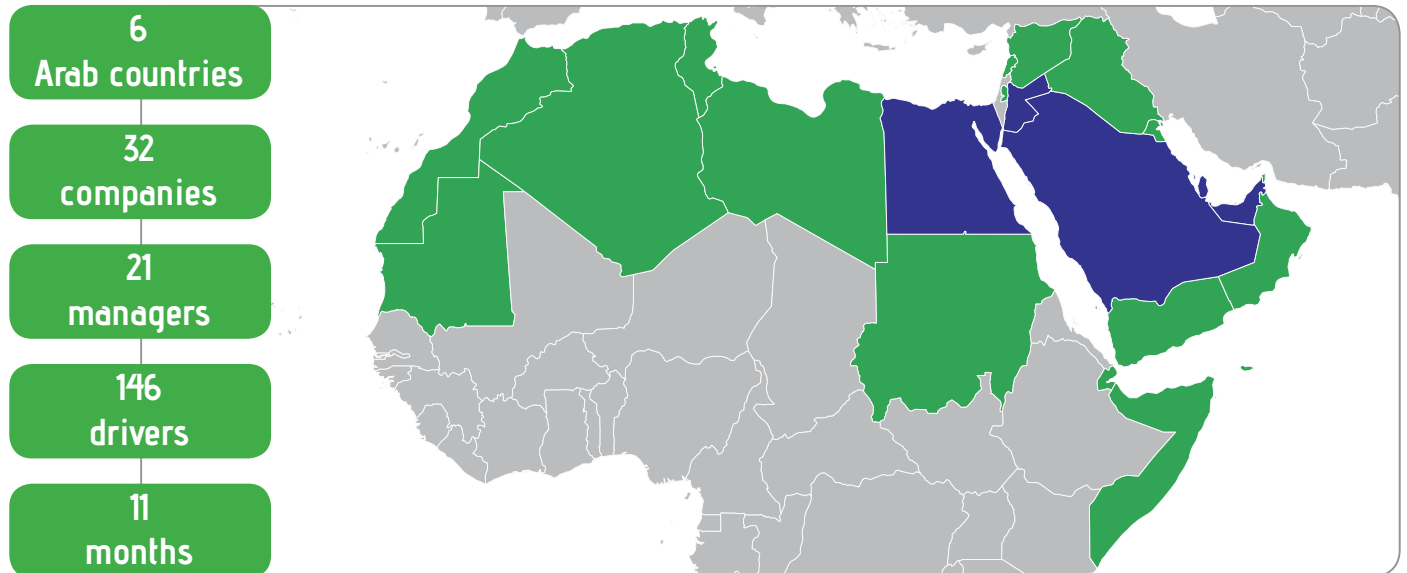
Highlight how professional training is possibly contributing to mitigate the number of accidents whilst also contributing to improved transport operation efficiency

Determine whether the introduction of professional training for commercial transport drivers significantly affects the number of accidents experienced by transport companies

Identify current best practices and areas of weakness which have direct impacts on overall commercial operational excellence

Assess the value of training for professional truck drivers in terms of overall efficiency gains and cost effectiveness

The Research Study in figures



Next steps

In order to improve commercial road freight transport operations in the Arab region, the present study makes the following recommendations:

- Make road safety a key priority by adopting appropriate legislation and ensuring strict enforcement of the regulations
- Introduce criteria for recruitment in the road transport profession, including minimum training qualification, with a particular focus on safe and efficient driving. The study's findings suggest that training on these issues is a necessity. It is also critical that such training (and related examinations) meets internationally recognised quality standards.
- Require a minimum level of education for commercial truck drivers, in order to make sure that they can properly complete paperwork and trip records, comply with traffic laws, and successfully undertake professional training programmes.
- Support and facilitate the establishment of institutions to train professional commercial drivers with the aim of establishing training programmes in which the goals of safe and efficient transport operations are prominent.
- Introduce road safety awareness programmes into the educational systems of schools and universities in order to promote a culture of road safety among all road users, including specific initiatives targeting the commercial transport industry.
- Make driving improvement courses mandatory for repeat violators of traffic laws and persons committing serious driving offences.
- Introduce professional qualification frameworks for commercial drivers, in a harmonised manner throughout the Arab region, for example, by adopting and recognising the international certificates issued by the IRU Academy.
- Commission in-depth country-specific studies to further analyse scenarios for the introduction of professional qualification frameworks and their impacts on road safety and transport efficiency.
- Establish high quality professional training programmes, backed by international industry standards, particularly in the field of road safety.
- Ensure that programme instructors have been trained to deliver the very best in-class training and are certified by an international body as qualified road transport training instructors.
- Improve companies' abilities to track key performance indicators in order to help them identify weaknesses, thus improving the efficiency of training and associated measures.
- Systematically ensure that transport companies' workforces, particularly their professional drivers, undertake appropriate training and re-training and obtain certificates to attest to their professional competence.

