

## Special Edition: International Women's Day 2020

### RADAR: Making Road Safety Women's Business

For me, women and men should have the same opportunities and it is important for inclusion not only for women, but for the whole of society to be engaged in a debate for us to collectively shape an improved system for road safety and a new understanding of road safety. Diversity and inclusion are about knowing that we can change things – each one of us in one way or another. This collaborative way of working should be promoted to set a good example to the people around us and our children.

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[www.interreg-danube.eu/RADAR](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/RADAR)

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#### Why did you choose to work in road safety sector?

I have chosen to work in this field because it is linked to the greatest value - human life. My profession provides me with a sense of purpose and clear goals especially for us in Bulgaria, where we are facing some of the highest road fatalities in Europe. For me, what I love most is when our collective work makes a difference in practice. Road users are all our relatives, friends, children, parents, our people. What is more important than saving human lives?! The work of the road infrastructure designer is inextricably linked to ensuring the road safety of the infrastructure itself. I have chosen to work in the field of road safety because I have been working as a road designer for over 20 years and I am deeply passionate about creating safer environments. Starting with the Radar project with the completion of various questionnaires, we have collectively established areas for improvement in terms of road safety in Bulgaria. We have found that lack of databases and access to them, exchange of information between institutions and measures taken at national level could be enhanced. I am proud that, during the implementation of the project since 2019, the situation has changed radically in Bulgaria. There is already a State Agency responsible and coordinating all the actions under the Road Safety, which sets out a new road safety strategy 2021-2030 and a corresponding Action Plan. These strategies set out measures, responsibilities and controls. I am pleased that we are learning from successful platforms and case studies from other countries, but it is clear that changes will take time to implement.

**In your opinion, why is it important that more women take up road safety challenges in the near future?**

For me, women and men should have the same opportunities and it is important for inclusion not only for women, but for the whole of society to be engaged in a debate for us to collectively shape an improved system for road safety and anew understanding of road safety. Diversity and inclusion are about knowing that we can change things – each one of us in one way or another. This collaborative way of working should be promoted to set a good example to the people around us and our children.

**What is your impact as a woman in projects such as RADAR?**

My impact in the project is as an engineer. I am a keen advocate of empowering women to develop themselves as science, engineering and road design leaders because of our professional expertise, integrity, and passion for making the world a better place. I am proud to say the Radar project has created an inclusive and diverse environment focused on expertise and experience rather than personal traits. My perception of project participants is that everyone is treated equally because of their expertise in the field and I believe everyone involved in the project thinks this way.

**Can you describe in maximum five words about what RADAR is doing or has done for you?**

Safety, collaboration, cross-cutting, learning & development.