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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Subject: IRSA road safety programs introduced in new Masters Degree and PhD road safety studies at universities

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The IRSA – Association has taken the initiative to develop and organize harmonized Masters Degree and PhD studies on road safety at universities around the world. For that purpose IRSA created a university alliance with the participation of universities in Ecuador, South Africa, Ethiopia, Turkey, Romania, Spain and Sweden.

IRSA has signed collaboration agreements with the universities to develop and introduce such programs, including best practices and trainers. Besides good practices, EU Commission road safety policy, laws and requirements for the improvement of road safety are included in the studies. IRSA will focus primarily on the emergency and traffic police specialists, traffic education teachers and the higher and middle management of the police and the policy management of municipalities and ministries in developing countries.

A series of road safety and traffic enforcement courses for the (traffic police and municipality) management, middle management, operational traffic police officers and other emergency and road safety officers will be introduced after the summer.

The developed courses are:

1. crash investigation & reconstruction;
2. accurate crash data collection, the use of a uniform crash data collection paper model or software, the creation of appropriate statistics and the use of these statistics for road safety policy, improvement of the infrastructure and the development of strategic enforcement policy;
3. various traffic enforcement topics in accordance to EU requirements;

The courses will be given through classroom courses at the universities in the participating countries and by e-learning. The different courses will be carried out in such a way that most part of the studies can be done by e-learning in collaboration with the IRSA specialists/tutors. By using this model it is possible to approach a higher number of potential road safety students in developing countries. IRSA- Association and the universities are creating the Masters Degree and PhD studies on road safety in accordance with an agreed model. The first courses are ready to be introduced at the Universities of Cluj Romania. The universities of Istanbul, Turkey and San Francisco-Quito, Ecuador will follow in 2008. The universities of Valencia and Lund support this initiatives and will be involved in the exchange of programs, the hosting of students and participation in the various studies.

The contents of the new programs and exams will be certified by the universities and IRSA. IRSA wants to involve as many students of developing countries as possible to become new road safety specialist, traffic managers or researchers in road safety.