Feedback, analysis and future developments of the Belgian rehabilitation programme for offenders and recidivists

21.3.2016, Safe and Sober – Athens, Greece
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Law July 2009 + Royal Decrees November 2010 on the installation of the device, the rehabilitation programme and technical requirements

From upon 1/10/2010, judges *can* apply alcohol interlocks for 1-5y/ definitely to:
- first offenders $\geq 0.8$ BAC
- drunk drivers
- repeat offenders

Not for alcohol addicts: compulsory withdrawal for medical reasons
Mandatory program + installation alcolock

- Code 112
  (> European code 69)

- < 0.2  BAC  (<> normal BAC limit 0.5)

- Mandatory rehabilitation programme

- Downloads of data
Sanction

- Driving without alcohol interlock
  - Non respect of the rehabilitation programme (eg circumventing)
    - Driving with BAC > 0.2

Prison 1m-5y + withdrawal 1-5y/ definitely
Alcohol interlocks - Timeline

Oct 2010: legislation into force
Nov 2011: homologation of device (Dräger Interlock XT)
Aug 2012: recognition of service center

Aug 2012
35 people in rehab programme
March 2016
Situation March 2016

In a period of 3,5y only 35 people follow(ed) the rehab programme

Why not MORE?
## Problems and challenges

### High price > € 3400/ y

| Device and downloads | • € 2200/ y (lease – monthly payment by instalments is possible)  
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<th>• € 2550/ y (purchase – to pay at once)</th>
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| Rehab programme      | • € 1210/ y  
|                      | • € 2178/ 5y |
| Fine + withdrawal    | • € 1200-12000 (recid: € 2400-30000)  
|                      | • Judge can subtract the costs of alcolock from the fine |

⇔ normal (min.) fine is cheaper
Problems and challenges

- Alcolock not in case of **addiction**: not always clear

- **Choice** for judge + offender: alcolock + fine (+withdrawal) or only fine (+withdrawal) ?

- Company cars (leasing) : quick change of cars + risk of dismissal

- **Professional drivers** : risk of being dismissed + other drivers who use the same truck
Next steps for Belgium
(intention)

- **Compulsory for recidivists**
  - Except in case of alcohol addiction: withdrawal
  - Except if the judge motivates extensively why not - strong alternative e.g. withdrawal twice as long

- **Preventif**: alcolocks in school transport or transport of persons (cf. France)
5 recommendations to Greek authorities

1. Foresee enough **TIME** to implement (legislation, stakeholders, programme, homologation,...)

2. To not demotivate: don’t make the programme too long (2-3 y max)

GOOD LUCK 😊
3. A REHAB PROGRAMME is essential

4. Make alcohol interlocks ATTRACTIVE (vs. other sanctions), eg in a preventive way

5. Try to lower the COST (assurances)

GOOD LUCK ☺
Thank you for your attention!

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