

### Preventing drink driving in Poland

Konrad Romik – Secretary of the National Road Safety Council, Republic of Poland

SMART policies for tackling drink driving in Bulgaria, Sofia, 4 July 2019

# 2 categories of drink driving in Polish law

#### State of after using alcohol

Blood alcohol concentration between 0,2 and 0,5 (or between 0,1 to 0,25 mg level of alcohol per 1 dm3 exhaled air).

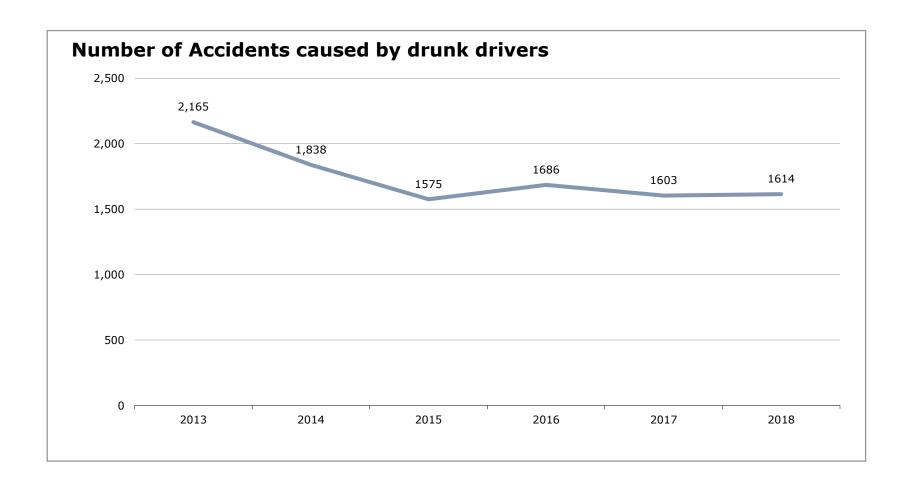
OFFENCE resulting in arrest or penalty payment up to 5 000 PLN and temporary stopping of the driving license from 6 month up to 3 years.

#### State of intoxication

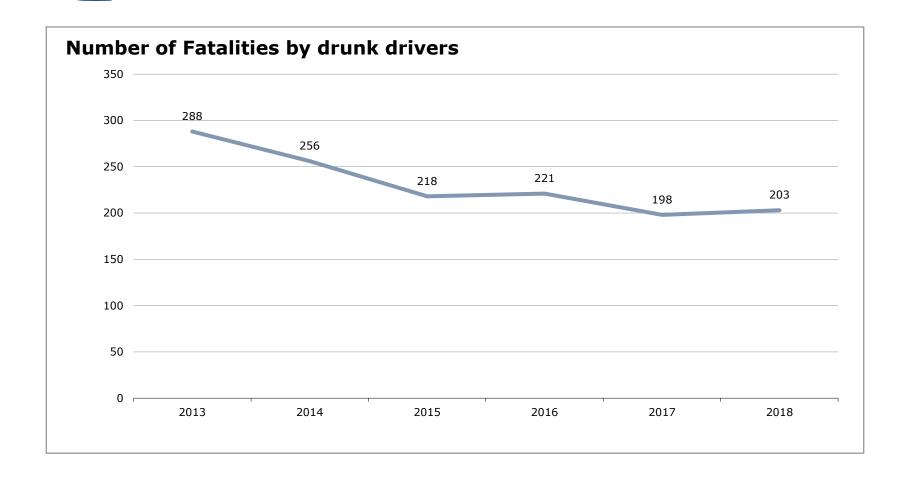
Blood alcohol concentration above 0,5 (or above 0,25 mg level of alcohol per 1dm3 exhaled air)

CRIME resulting in penalty payment or arrest up to 2 years An obligatory ban on driving from 1 year to 10 years. Lifetime ban if killed or injured in an accident

### **Accident statistics 2013-2018**



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# The most tragic accident in last years caused by alcohol - 6 people (4 adult and 2 children) killed Kamień Pomorski, January 2014



# Corrective actions taken by the government after accident in Kamień Pomorski

Legislative activities
(introduction of alcolocks, stricter penalties)

Educational activities
(social educational campaign)

Research and analysis

## Corrective actions taken by the government

Corrective legislative activities taken in 2017

The new regulations were introduced to allow more effective punishment of drivers under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants.

The provisions that entered into force on 1 June 2017 introduced changes to the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Conduct for Offenses and the Road Traffic Law. The regulations are aimed at extremely irresponsible drivers who cause death and destruction on Polish roads and their victims are often children.

# Corrective actions taken by the government

#### More restrictive penalties

- Drunk or drug-induced driver who causes of a fatal or serious injury accident goes to jail for at least 2 years. Penalty can not be suspended.
- Law enforcement agencies and courts have sufficient time to effectively measure the perpetrators of road traffic offenses. They will expire in the cases in which the proceedings were instituted, only three years after the act was committed.
- Whoever drives a car, even if he or she was taken with an administrative license, will be subjected not only to a two-year prison sentence, as it is now. It will be mandatory for a court to ban driving a vehicle for up to 15 years.
- Who break a courtly driving ban will be sentenced to up to 5 years of imprisonment. It will be mandatory for a court to ban driving a vehicle for up to 15 years.

# Corrective actions taken by the government

- A driver who deliberately forces the police to pursue and attempt to escape will not stop despite the light and sound signals of the pursuing police car, will commit a crime threatened with imprisonment up to 5 years in prison. The court will oblige him to drive for a period of between one and 15 years.
- When judging traffic offenses, the courts will be obliged to notify the accused for previous traffic offenses and whether the driver's license has been retained in the past. Information is provided on the subject (mandates, penalty points, etc.) from central driver records.
- In the Road Traffic Law, there will be detailed regulations governing the subject of drivers (or other persons suspected of being able to drive a vehicle) routine testing to determine the alcohol content of a substance, or the presence of a drug similar to alcohol, eg. drugs.

# Social educational campaign "Alcohol and keys - excluded



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### Research and analysis on Drink Driving

Resarch and analysis by Motor Transport Institute – special research and development unit supervised by the Minister of Infrastructure

Reports and analysis on Drink Driving available on:

https://www.its.waw.pl/

http://www.obserwatoriumbrd.pl/pl/analizy\_brd/problemy\_brd/alkohol1/

# **Drink driving – comparative statistics 2019 and 2018 – from January to May**

Nietrzeźwi sprawcy wypadków drogowych												
Sprawcy	Wypadki				Zabici				Ranni			
	2018	2019	+/-	%	2018	2019	+/-	%	2018	2019	+/-	%
Kierujący	619	530	-89	-14,4	89	58	-31	-34,8	744	702	-42	-5,6
Piesi	195	135	-60	-30,8	24	18	-6	-25,0	171	117	-54	-31,6

Drunk drivers caused **530 accidents** (ie. 89 -14,4% less), **58 people killed** (ie. 31 - 34,8% less), **702 people injured** (ie. 42 - 5,6% less)

In relation to the overall number of accidents caused by drivers, number of drunk drivers is 5.7%

### **Drink Driving – What's next?**

### **Challenges for the future:**

• "Vision zero" in the new Strategy - Road Safety Programme 2021 – 2030 – it means:

### Zero tolerance for drink drivers!

- 0,00 BAC for young drivers!?
- Upgraded Enforcement...new Technology introduction
- Autonomous vehicles....solution for drunk drivers?!



Thank you for your attention!

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