



DRINK-DRIVING FACT FILE

January 2023



ROMANIA



INTRODUCTION

The number of road deaths in Romania was reduced by just 12% between 2011 and 2021. This was the slowest progress reported in Europe over the last decade. With 92 road deaths per million population recorded in 2021, Romania has the highest road mortality rate among all EU Member States.

Figure 1. Relative change in road deaths between 2011 and 2021. *National provisional estimates used for 2020, as final figures for 2020 are not yet available at the time this report went to print.

**UK data for 2020 are the provisional total for Great Britain for the year ending June 2020 combined with the total for Northern Ireland for the calendar year 2020. The annual number of deaths in LU and MT are particularly small and, therefore, subject to substantial annual fluctuations. The annual numbers of deaths in CY and EE are also relatively small and may be subject to annual fluctuations.

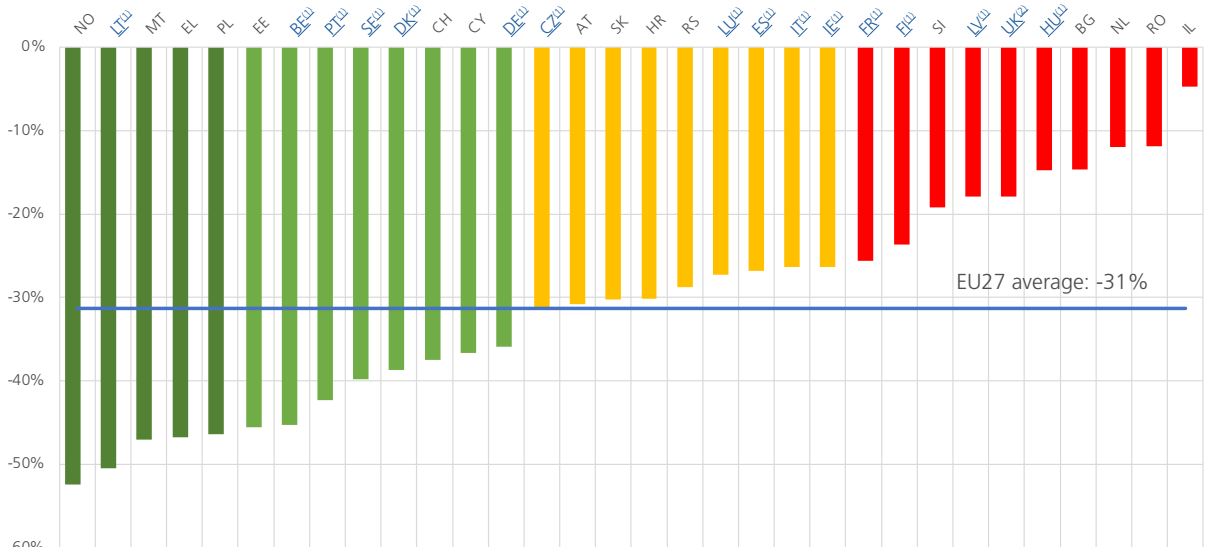
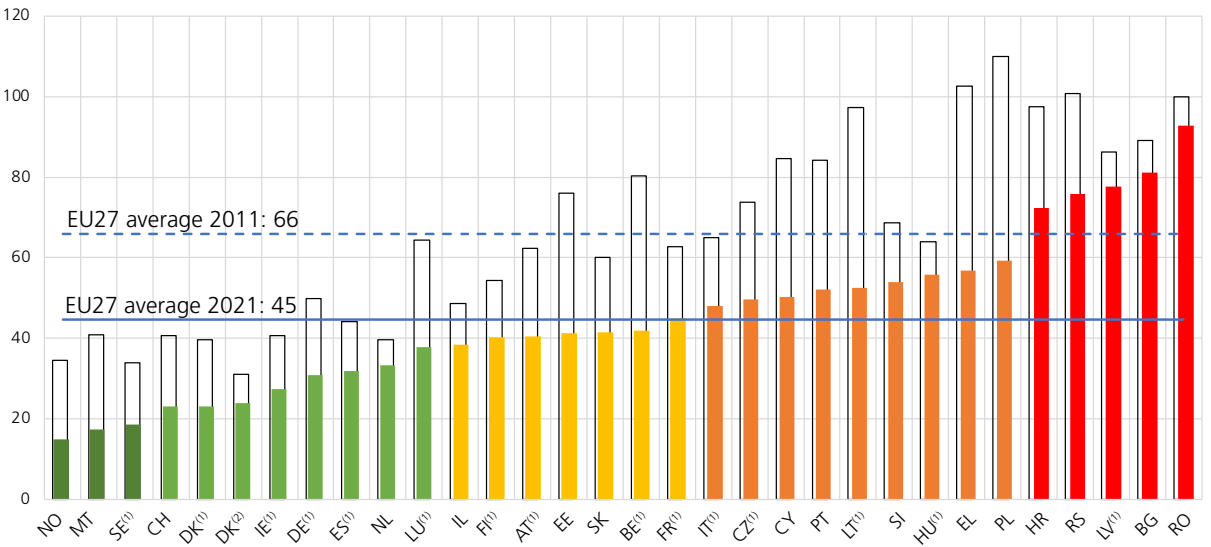


Figure 2. Mortality (road deaths per million inhabitants) in 2021 (with mortality in 2011 for comparison).

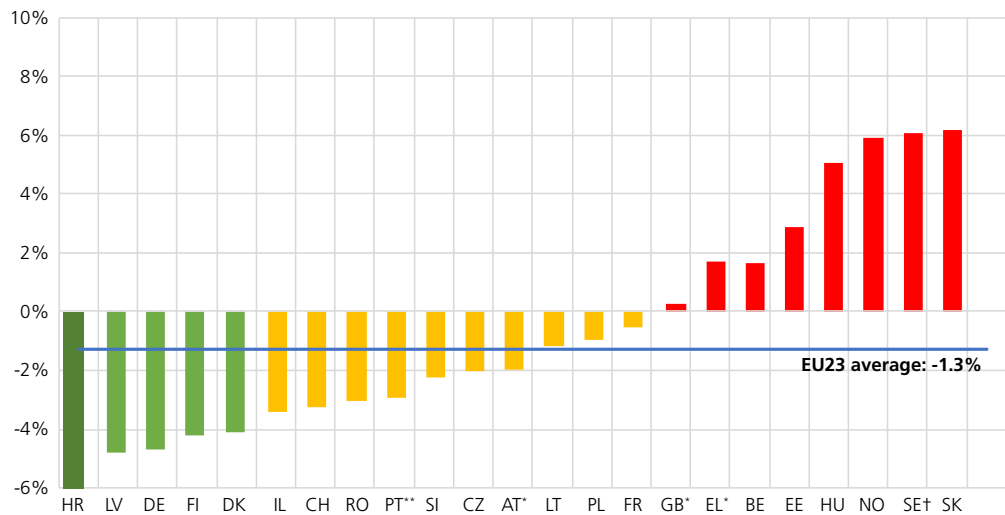
(1) National provisional estimates used for 2021, as final figures for 2021 were not available at the time this report went to print. The annual number of deaths in LU and MT are particularly small and, therefore, subject to substantial annual fluctuations. (2) UK 2021 estimate is based on GB provisional total for the year 2021 and the provisional data for Northern Ireland for the calendar year 2021, population data is an estimate for the year 2021.



As far as drink-driving is concerned, Romania recorded a slightly better performance. Road deaths related to alcohol decreased at a slightly faster rate than all other road deaths over the period 2010-2019, as shown in the table below. Road deaths related to alcohol decreased from 164 in 2011 to 114 in 2019. Years 2020 and 2021 saw a further decrease, with respectively 66 and 47 alcohol-related road deaths.

Figure 3. Difference between the average annual change in the number of road deaths attributed to alcohol and the corresponding change for other road deaths over the period 2010–2019

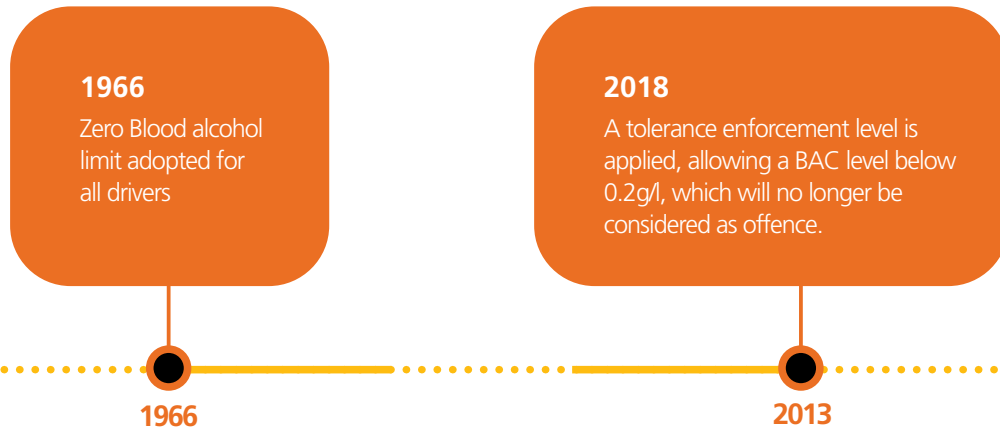
(1) PT: Number of road deaths attributed to alcohol are not available, so numbers of positive forensic post-mortem tests of drivers, passengers and pedestrians were used instead. (2) ES: data for Catalonia and the Basque Country are not available. (3) RS: data collection methodology changed in 2016. Serbia is working to improve alcohol-related fatal collision data collection according to the EU guidelines on the Common Accident and Injury Database (CaDas). EU 23: EU 27 Member States minus Ireland, Italy, Malta and the Netherlands due to insufficient data.





NATIONAL POLICIES

Timeline of national measures to tackle drink-driving:



ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY 2022 - 2030

Until 2015, Romania did not have a national road safety strategy. The first National Road Safety Strategy covered the period 2016-2020 and was accompanied by an Action Plan for the implementation of measures over the years 2017 and 2018. The strategy set a national target of halving Romania's 2010 road death rate by 2020.

A new strategy was published in May 2022. The action plan 2022-2030 includes the following measures to address drink-driving:

- The introduction of responsible driving programs, as well as counselling/psychological rehabilitation for drivers who violate the legal provisions regarding speed and driving under the influence of alcohol and post-crash counselling and re-education programmes;
- Continuous evaluation of key performance indicators (KPI); improvement of the data collection methodology; development of the data collection methodology for the KPI on drink-driving, based on the European Commission's definition of the "percentage of drivers driving within the legal limit of alcohol consumption";
- Development of a methodology for the calculation of the KPI "alcohol", within a working group.



BAC LIMITS AND SANCTIONS

The legal limit for **All drivers** is: **0.0g/l** —

The sanction applied for drink-driving depends on the amount of alcohol detected:

- A. Contravention** - sanctioned with a fine and the suspension of the driving license for a period of 90 days if the blood alcohol level is up to 0.8g/l;
- B. Crime / infraction** sanctioned with a criminal fine or prison and the cancellation of the driver's license if the blood alcohol level is 0.8g/l or above.

Values up to 0.8g/l represent a contravention and are sanctioned with 9-20 penalty points and a **fine from 1305 lei to 2900 lei (264 euros to 586 euros)** and the **suspension of the right to drive on public roads for 90 days**. In the case of a crash, the suspension is applied for 120 days.

If the value recorded by the breathalyser exceeds 0.8 g/l, blood samples will be collected in order to determine the exact blood alcohol level. Driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol whose value exceeds 0.8g/l is a crime and is punishable by imprisonment from 1 to 5 years or a fine.

If the person carries out public transport of people, transport of dangerous substances or products or is in the process of practical training of people to obtain a driving license or during the practical tests of the exam to obtain a driving license, the penalty is imprisonment from 2 to 7 years.

The driver's refusal to submit to the taking of biological samples is a crime and is punishable with 1 to 5 years imprisonment or a fine.



ENFORCEMENT

The possibility to be checked for drink-driving in Romania seems relatively limited. Data on roadside police checks are not available for recent years. In 2015, the latest year available, 72 per 1000 inhabitants were checked by the police. The proportion of drivers found above the legal limit was 1.8%.



REHABILITATION AND ALCOHOL INTERLOCK PROGRAMMES

No alcohol Interlock programme is in place. However, in the framework of the upcoming Road Safety Strategy, measures that include vehicle safety features and standards will be proposed and implemented by 2030.



CAMPAIGNS

The “Traffic Education - Modeling the human factor by making traffic participants responsible for increasing road safety” project is run by the Romanian Police and funded through ERDF (EU). Through the project, six national media information campaigns and over 130 “face-to-face” preventive-educational activities are organised. 45 mobile road education laboratories and an educational caravan have been purchased. The campaign started in July 2020 and will end in June 2023.

The target group of the campaigns, consisting of traffic participants, is approached in two distinct ways:

- National media campaigns on the most important road safety topics – including drink and drug driving;
- Interactive educational-preventive activities which are carried out face to face.

In 2021, the Romanian police, in partnership with the Association of Romanian Brewers and Petrom, launched the prevention campaign “0% ALCOHOL! 100% STEERING WHEEL!”. This aimed to make drivers, passengers and other road users aware of the negative consequences of driving a vehicle under the influence of alcoholic beverages and thereby reduce the number of road collisions. The project is part of a longstanding campaign started in 2008 aimed at raising awareness on the dangers of drink-driving.





SOURCES

Romanian Police Website:

<https://www.politiaromana.ro/ro/>

ETSC, 16th PIN Annual Report (2022):

<https://etsc.eu/16th-annual-road-safety-performance-index-pin-report/>

ETSC, HOW TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SAFER ROADS (2022):

<https://etsc.eu/how-traffic-law-enforcement-can-contribute-to-safer-roads-pin-flash-42/>

Campaigns:

<https://bit.ly/3GWCpvN>



European Transport Safety Council

ETSC would like to thank George Grigore and Florentin Bracea from the Romanian Traffic Police for contributing to this report.

The SMART project receives financial support from The Brewers of Europe.