# SMART WAYS OF TACKLING DRINKDRIVING IN THE EU























#### For more information

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## **FACTS** & **FIGURES**

#### **DRINK-DRIVING** AND ROAD SAFETY IN THE EU

The numbers of deaths attributed to drink-driving cannot currently be compared between countries, as there are large differences in the way in which countries define and record a 'road death attributed to drink-driving'.



It is estimated that **1.5 - 2**% of all kilometres travelled in the EU are driven with an illegal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)<sup>1</sup>

**ETSC** estimates that at least

**5120** DEATHS

would have been prevented in 2016 if all drivers had been SOBFR<sup>2</sup>





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> European Commission (2015), Alcohol, Directorate General for Transport, https://goo.gl/q1jCS8 <sup>2</sup> As indicated by the estimate that the risk of a fatal collision when driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.5g/l is 5 times that when sober. Allsop R (2015) Saving lives by lowering the legal drink-drive limit. https://goo.gl/JrQhTr

25% of all road deaths

in the EU are alcohol-related





reduction in road deaths attributed to alcohol between 2006 and 2016 in the EU25.
Other road deaths went down by 40% over the same period.<sup>3</sup>



#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### TO MEMBER STATES

Introduce obligatory testing for alcohol of all active road users in all collisions resulting in road deaths or serious injuries.

Adopt the SafetyNet recommended definition of a drink-driving death or serious injury: "any death or serious injury occurring as a result of a road accident in which any active participant was found with a blood alcohol level above the legal limit".4

#### TO EU INSTITUTIONS

Adopt the SafetyNet<sup>5</sup> recommended definition of a drink-driving death or serious injury and update the CaDas<sup>6</sup> guidelines accordingly.

Encourage Member States to test for alcohol all active road users involved in a collision resulting in road deaths or serious injuries.

AN OVERVIEW OF ROAD DEATH DATA

**COLLECTION IN THE EU** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> ETSC (2018), Progress in Reducing drink-driving in Europe, http://etsc.eu/2Assf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> SafetyNet Project (2008)https://goo.gl/uHX2aU

<sup>5</sup> Ibic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> CaDas, the Common Accident Data Set, consists of a minimum set of standardised data elements, to help comparable road accident data to be available in Europe. The CADaS can be implemented on a voluntary basis by any country that wishes to update their national road accident collection system. https://goo.gl/Roaa9M

# LOWER BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC) LIMITS

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The European Commission recommends **BAC LIMITS** are set at a maximum

0.5G/L



with a lower limit of

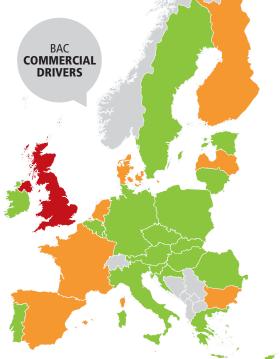
**0.2G/L** FOR NOVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS.

**Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia** have gone beyond the EC recommendation by introducing

**ZERO** TOLERANCE FOR ALL ROAD USERS.



State	Standard BAC	BAC commercial drivers	BAC novice drivers			
Austria	0,5	0,1	0,1			
Belgium	0,5	0,2	0,5			
Bulgaria	0,5	0,5	0,5 0 0,2			
Croatia	0,5	0				
Cyprus	0,5	0,2				
Czech Republic	0	0	0			
Denmark Estonia Finland	0,5	0,5	0,5			
	0,2	0,2	0,2			
	0,5	0,5	0,5			
France	0,5	0,5	0,2			
Germany	0,5	0	0			
Greece	0,5	0,2	0,2			
Hungary	0	0	0			
Ireland	0,5					
			-			



State	Standard BAC	BAC commercial drivers	BAC novice drivers
Italy	0,5	0	0
Latvia	0,5	0,5	0,2
Lithuania	0,4	0	0
Luxembourg	0,5	0,2	0,2
Malta	0,8	0,8	0,8
Netherlands	0,5	0,5	0,2
Poland	0,2	0,2	0,2
Portugal	0,5	0,2	0,2
Romania	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0
Slovenia	0,5	0	0
Spain	0,5	0,3	0,3
Sweden	0,2	0,2	0,2
United Kingdom*	0,8	0,8	0,8



<sup>\*</sup>Scotland 0,5 for all groups

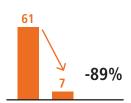


#### HIGHEST LEVELS OF DRINK-DRIVING ENFORCEMENT

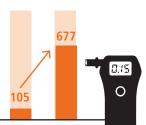
Currently, Estonia has the highest level of drink-driving enforcement in the EU.

#### A 0.2G/L BAC LIMIT FOR ALL DRIVERS

was introduced in 2000 and drink-driving compliance is regularly checked by the police.



#### Drink-driving deaths decreased from 61 in 2006 to 7 in 2016, an 89% decrease.



Roadside breath tests increased from 105 per 1000 inhabitants in 2010 to 677 per 1000 in 2015.

#### **ESTONIA**



"Fighting drink-driving is a clear priority for our traffic police. Opinion polls show that 99% of drivers think drink- and drug-driving is dangerous or rather dangerous. The longstanding support from our citizens and politicians for drink-driving prevention and enforcement activities helped to achieve such a high number of drink-driving checks. We aim to sustain current enforcement levels and improve the effectiveness of enforcement activities by identifying where and when the tests should be done to get the best safety effects..."

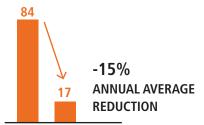
#### Erik Ernits,

Road Administration, Estonia<sup>7</sup>

#### A LOWER BAC LIMIT AND TOUGH SANCTIONS FOR DRINK-DRIVING OFFENDERS BROUGHT POSITIVE RESULTS

**2004:** Reduction of the limit for novice drivers

**2016:** Reduction of the limit for bus and tram drivers.



**Drink-driving deaths** decreased from 84 in 2006 to 17 in 2016, an 80% decrease





"Drink-drivers face tough sanctions: fines between 500 and 1500 EUR, the suspension of their driving license from 1 to 4 years and 8 penalty points valid for 5 years. To get one's driving license back, offenders have to pass a theoretical and driving test at the end of the disqualification period as well as a medical check which includes a drug test and a psychological test. Campaigns combined with roadside drink-driving police checks take place every year in June and around Christmas and New Year."

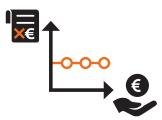
Aldis Lama,

Road Traffic Safety Directorate, Latvia<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> ETSC (2018), Progress in Reducing drink-driving in Europe, http://etsc.eu/2Assf

## **SANCTIONS**

#### **DIFFERENT TYPES OF SANCTION**



#### **FIXED FINES**

Most EU Member States have fixed fines for driving under the influence (DUI) offences that are not income-related.

**Benefit of fines:** higher benefit-to cost ratio than jail sentences and the money earned can be used to support further measures against drink-driving.<sup>9</sup>



#### INCOME-BASED FINES

Denmark, Finland and Sweden apply incomebased fines



## SUSPENSION OR WITHDRAWAL OF THE DRIVING LICENSE

Suspension or withdrawal of the driving license can be an effective deterrent, but the effectiveness of this sanction depends on the ability of the police to enforce the measure. Research shows that the optimum duration for license withdrawal is between two and 12 months. Effects can be enhanced when driving license sanctions are combined with treatment or rehabilitation measures.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Krismann, M., Schoech, H., Knoche, A., Hargutt, V. & Klipp, S. (2011). Evaluation of legal measures to combat DUI/DUID DRUID Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol and Medicines. Deliverable 1.4.1. www.druidproject.eu

<sup>10</sup> Schulze, H., et al, (2012), Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol and Medicines in Europe – findings from the DRUID project, https://goo.gl/o5Q8o7



#### A STRATEGY FOR MAKING DRINK-DRIVING SOCIALLY INACCEPTABLE

- Motivate family, friends and colleagues to intervene and prevent drink-driving
- Publicise risk of being caught by police
- Publicise sanctions and consequences
- Promote non-alcoholic alternatives



The sanctions for drink-driving have been increased several times since 2005.



Drivers with a **BAC above 0,5g/l** must pay for and follow a mandatory 12-hour course about alcohol and road safety before being able to regain their driving license.

#### **DENMARK**





Drink-drivers with a **BAC** above 1,2 and repeat offenders get long term withdrawal of the driving license (min. three years), and serve community service or go to prison.



Police can confiscate the vehicle driven if the BAC is above 1,2 two times within three years.

Revised legislation on alcohol interlocks was introduced in the sanction system in 2017. It is still too soon to say anything about the effect.

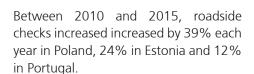
### **ENFORCEMENT**

#### LACK OF ENFORCEMENT IS OFTEN DUE TO:

- a lack of political will;
- limited financial and human resources:
- competing priorities at national level.



IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT LAWS ARE ENFORCED AND APPROPRIATE PENALTIES ADMINISTERED.<sup>11</sup>



But the figures are difficult to interpret since the data on roadside checks are not comparable between countries on aspects such as randomness, location and type of checks.<sup>12</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Save LIVES - A road safety technical package, page 31 Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO http://apps.who.int

13 Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> ETSC (2018), Progress in Reducing drink-driving in Europe, http://etsc.eu/2Assf

Fig.1 - Annual change (%) in the number of alcohol roadside breath checks over the period 2010-2015.13

\*Data from urban roads and from the Basque Country are not included. Data for Catalonia cover checks on all roads. \*\*Alcohol road side breath tests by national police and Carabinieri only, the number of tests done by local police operating in cities is not included.†Number of checks and population data for England and Wales only over the period 2011- 2014. EL, FR – 2010-2014 data, PT – 2010-2013 data, RO – 2013-2015, EE – 2012-201



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> ETSC (2018), Progress in Reducing drink-driving in Europe, http://etsc.eu/2Assf

Table 1 - Total number of roadside alcohol breath tests and proportion of those tested found above the legal limit. 14 \*Drink driving tests by national police and Carabinieri only. Checks done by the local police operating in cities are not available. \*\*Drink driving tests for England and Wales only, the figure for the number found to be above the legal limit includes those who refused to take the breath test.

	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011		2010	
	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)
EE	677	0.9%	572	1.0%	470	1.3%	356	1.8%	n/a		105	0.7%
PL	466	0.7%	405	0.9%	234	1.8%	194	2.3%	149	3.2%	88	4.9%
FI	279	1.0%	286	0.9%	149	1.5%	175	1.3%	220	1.0%	206	1.0%
AT	189	1.6%	214	1.8%	209	2.0%	195	2.4%	169	2.8%	123	3.7%
SI	156	3.6%	186	3.6%	184	3.7%	161	3.9%	188	4.5%	200	4.7%
EL	n/a		166	1.6%	163	1.7%	156	1.8%	158	2.0%	164	2.1%
FR	152	2.9%	164	2.9%	160	3.1%	168	3.2%	172	3.5%	168	3.4%
HU	135	1.5%	124	1.9%	121	1.9%	125	2.1%	118	2.9%	120	3.6%
CY	135	7.0%	138	6.7%	146	7.2%	176	7.4%	205	4.9%	213	5.3%
SE	130	1.0%	205	0.6%	234	0.6%	256	0.6%	259	0.7%	287	0.6%
RO	72	1.8%	73	1.6%	75	1.0%	n/a		n/a		n/a	
LT	48	1.8%	52	1.9%	55	2.2%	53	2.1%	83	2.0%	42	2.7%
PT		n.	/a		149	n/a	133	n/a	111	n/a	107	3.8%
IL										122	1.0%	
NO										367	0.2%	
	Countries where data are available for checks on part of the road network only											

IT*	25	2.5%	26	2.4%	29	2.6%	30	2.8%	31	3.1%	28	3.3%
GB**	n/a		11	11.0%	12	10.4%	12	11.1%	12	11.8%	13	11.5%

<sup>14</sup> ETSC, 2016, PIN Flash 31 How traffic law enforcement can contribute to safer roads, https://goo.gl/cpKsj2







#### AUTOMATIC SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS: THE ALCO GATES

A collaboration between the Swedish Abstaining Motorists' Association (MHF), the Swedish Transport Administration, the national police, customs, the coast guard, the Ports of Stockholm and ferry companies.

The automatic sobriety check is considered equivalent to a police breath test, and the folded traffic barriers are approved as equivalent to a police stop sign.

The control activities are carried out in full compliance with the law, and with a high level of accuracy.

In total, the control station and the traffic management centre communicate in 12 different languages.

A trial period was conducted in 2014, followed by an evaluation and final report submitted to the Swedish Transport Administration.

In September 2017, the Swedish government instructed the Swedish Transport Administration to introduce facilities for automatic sobriety checkpoints in all major ports. The implementation of similar controls is now being considered for other major transport terminals as well as in airports (for pilots and cabin crew).

# **ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

10% of all drink-driving offenders are involved in 2 / 3 of all alcoholinyolved crashes



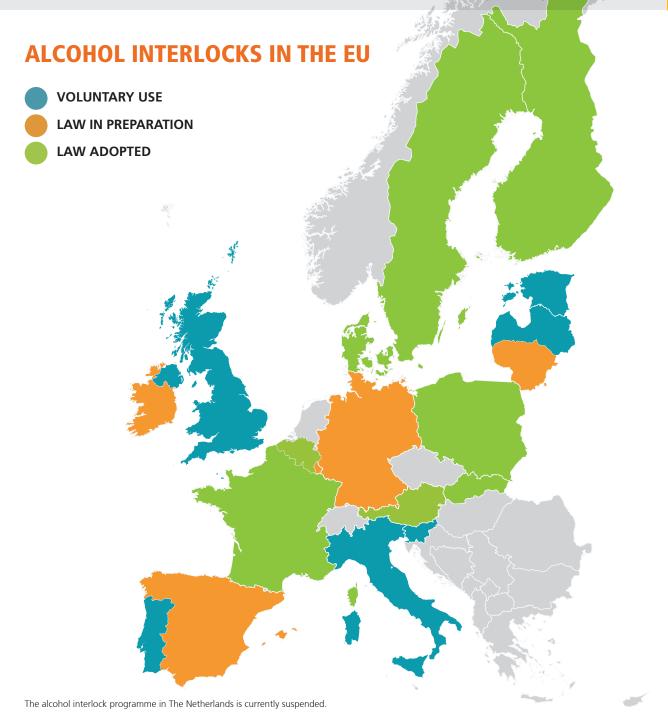
#### Alcohol interlocks are:

- An effective measure for hard-core drink-driving offenders
- An effective prevention tool



#### **LEGISLATION NEEDED**

To maximise the effect on road safety, alcohol interlock programmes for drink drivers offenders should be compulsory and placed under administrative law.



## EU VEHICLE SAFETY PROPOSALS TO REQUIRE STANDARDISED ALCOHOL INTERLOCK INTERFACE

All new vehicles sold in the EU will feature a standardised interface to enable the fitment of aftermarket alcohol interlock devices, according to new EU vehicle safety standards proposed in May 2018.

The move is welcome and long overdue but ETSC is also calling for alcohol interlocks to be required as standard on vans, lorries and buses

#### ETSC WELCOMES<sup>15</sup>



- Guidance to Member States on the use of alcohol interlocks is foreseen.
- Under the part on voluntary commitments the EC calls upon public authorities to require the fitment of alcohol interlocks in public procurement.







The European Commission has recommended since 2001 that professional drivers and novice drivers be subject to lower BAC limits.



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### TO MEMBER STATES

Develop use of alcohol interlocks as part of the rehabilitation programmes for first time high-level offenders and recidivists. Mandate the use of alcohol interlocks for repeat offenders and professional drivers.

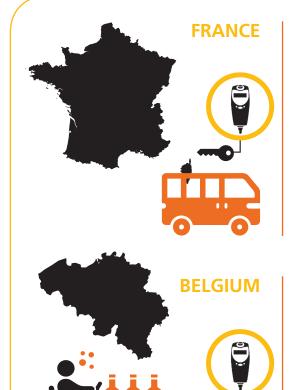
#### TO EU INSTITUTIONS

Ensure that retrofitting of vehicles with alcohol interlocks continues to be possible in the future. Legislate for a consistently high level of reliability of alcohol interlock devices

As a first step towards wider use of alcohol interlocks, legislate their use by professional drivers.

<sup>15</sup> https://etsc.eu/briefing-eu-strategic-action-plan-on-road-safety/





## ENHANCED PREVENTION FOR SAFER TRANSPORT. BUSES AND COACHES IN FRANCE ARE ALREADY REQUIRED TO BE FITTED WITH ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS BY LAW.

January 2010: Coaches assigned to public transport for children have been equipped with alcohol interlocks.

1 September 2015: Mandatory alcohol interlocks in all coaches. The equipment must be checked every year in an approved centre. The devices record the data and store it for 45 days.

## ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS NOW MANDATORY IN BELGIUM FOR HIGH-LEVEL AND REPEAT OFFENDERS.

Since July 1, 2018, repeat offenders convicted with an alcohol level of at least 1.2 ‰ and drivers convicted with an alcohol level of at least 1.8 ‰ are required to install an alcohol interlock in their car.<sup>16</sup>

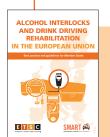
<sup>16</sup> https://www.vias.be/fr/newsroom/lethylotest-antidemarrage-diminue-dau-moins-75-le-risque-de-recidive/

# REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Studies have repeatedly shown that alcohol interlock programme combined with rehabilitation programmes cut reoffending rates both during and after the driver has been required to install the device in their vehicle.

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden and Poland provide driver rehabilitation programmes including alcohol interlocks for drink-driving offenders. These programmes are combined with counselling and close monitoring in most cases.<sup>17</sup>



For more information see the ETSC report on: Alcohol interlocks and drink driving rehabilitation in the European Union. Best practice and guidelines for Member States, available at <a href="https://etsc.eu/alcohol-interlocks-and-drink-driving-rehabilitation-in-the-eu-quidelines-for-member-states/">https://etsc.eu/alcohol-interlocks-and-drink-driving-rehabilitation-in-the-eu-quidelines-for-member-states/</a>









COSTS



**ENFORCEMENT** 



REHABILITATION



**LEGISLATION** 





TECHNICAL & PROCEDURAL ASPECTS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Meesmann, U. & Rossi, M. (2015), Drinking and driving: learning from good practices abroad, https://goo.gl/hQZ8b8





#### THE ALTERNATIVE PROBATION SYSTEM

In September 2017, Austria launched a voluntary rehabilitation programme for drink-driving offenders using alcohol interlocks, following successful trials run in 2012 and 2013.

Convicted drink-drivers can opt-in to the scheme to enable them to get back behind the wheel when they have completed half of their driving ban period (subject to a minimum of four months). The programme is the first to require participants to meet regularly with a mentor.

Finland has had a nationwide rehabilitation programme for drink-drivers, coupled with the use of alcohol interlocks fitted in offenders' vehicles since 2008. A 2013 evaluation found the effects on participants to be positive and that the programme has prevented 12,000 instances of driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Finnish alcohol interlock programme is a voluntary programme for all DUI offenders regardless of the blood alcohol concentration at their arrest. Offenders can choose to participate in the programme instead of getting a driving licence ban.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Alcohol interlocks and drink-driving rehabilitation in the European Union (2016), ETSC, https://etsc.eu/alcohol\_interlock\_guidelines

# ALCOHOL AND WORK-RELATED ROAD SAFETY

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The business case for addressing alcohol impaired driving in the workplace is strong. The vast majority of citizens with alcohol problems are employed full time. Employers can reap productivity gains and savings from reductions in alcohol-related vehicle crashes.<sup>19</sup>

Given the typical characteristics of drink-drivers, it can be argued that drivers of commercial vehicles tend to have a profile corresponding to a **typical drink-driver**. Many of them are relatively young, male, single, or divorced, with low self-esteem and coming from a low socio-economic grouping.



They drive as part of their professional job and risk much more than private car drivers if stopped while drink-driving. Apart from the immediate results of the crash they may also face a driving ban which could mean a loss of job especially if driving is the main part of their work.

Employers of commercial drivers have an important role to play in increasing the awareness of drivers about the risks of drink-driving.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Network of Employers for Traffic Safety NETS, http://trafficsafety.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Preventing Road Accidents and Injuries for the Safety of Employees (2010), ETSC, https://etsc.eu/Fitness\_to\_drive

#### **DENMARK**



#### CARLSBERG SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME

The company has set an internal target to equip all vehicles with alcohol interlocks globally (sales cars, company cars as well as new trucks). This is now a mandatory requirement in Carlsberg procurement policy.

Status of the programme: fully implemented across Western Europe and rolling out in other regions.<sup>21</sup>



#### **IRELAND**



#### **MATTHEWS COACH HIRE**

Matthews Coach Hire is a passenger transport company founded in 1995 in the north east of Ireland that has voluntarily installed alcohol interlocks across its fleet. Every Matthews coach and support vehicle carries one of the devices.

The alcohol interlocks were introduced in 2008 and are now used in 43 coaches by 85 staff, carrying thousands of passengers each week.



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### TO MEMBER STATES

- Mandate the use of alcohol interlocks for professional drivers
- Adopt a 0.2 BAC limit for commercial drivers
- Run drink-driving campaigns linked to workplace health promotion based on scientific research and linked to enforcement

#### **EMPLOYERS**

- Install alcohol interlocks in commercial vehicles
- Inform and educate employees about the risk of drink-driving and adopt a zero tolerance approach to alcohol in the workplace and whilst driving for work.
- Develop clear internal policies and procedures on drink-driving.
- Supervisors, line managers and drivers should be trained on the effects of alcohol on driving

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://carlsberg-group-sustainability-report-2017

## EDUCATION & CAMPAIGNS

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The effect of publicity campaigns can be increased when a study is conducted on how to address the target group, and when the public campaign is supported by other measures such as enforcement and education.

Publicity campaigns using mass media are intended to change attitudes and behaviour. This can be done either by raising awareness of the dangers of drink-driving, by raising the likelihood of being detected and punished for drink-driving, by informing drivers about the social norm, or by promoting strategies to avoid drink-driving.

However, road safety campaigns are able to influence behaviour best when used in conjunction with legislation and law enforcement.<sup>22</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences (2010), Improving the effectiveness of road safety campaigns: Current and new practices, Tamara Hoekstra, Fred Wegman, https://ac.els-cdn.com/Improving the effectiveness of road safety campaigns: Current and new practices.





#### THE BOB CAMPAIGN: EMOTIONAL / POSITIVE / SOLUTION-ORIENTED

The 'BOB' campaign is an annual campaign established in Belgium in 1995. One of the main principles is combining the prevention message with visible enforcement, with a section about awareness and another about police patrols and checks. The basic assumption is that an increased 'chance of arrest' results in a fall in the number of people driving under the influence of alcohol. The campaign was developed by the Belgian Road Safety Institute (now VIAS) in conjunction with the Belgian Brewers.

In its original meaning 'BOB' stood for 'the person who doesn't drink if he/she is driving'. He or she represents the designated driver who stays sober so that he/she can take the other passengers travelling in the vehicle home safely.<sup>23</sup>

Impact survey: around 35% of the respondents say they have been a BOB and around 2/3 of the people know someone who has acted as a BOB.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> VIAS (2017) BOB celebrates its 22nd birthday https://goo.gl/QYAzP6



# SLOVENIA

#### HEROES DRIVE IN PYJAMAS

#### Winners of the Excellence in Road Safety Awards 2018

The 'Heroes drive in pyjamas' campaign addresses young people, often exposed to the risk of driving while under the influence of alcohol or other psychoactive substances. By making heroes of parents who drive their children to/from parties, the campaign is making good use of the phenomenon of peer pressure, which is a very powerful influencer of behaviour amongst youngsters.<sup>24</sup>

At the same time, the campaign implements a holistic preventive approach to drink-driving with the help of the traffic police, the private sector and municipalities. **The project was recognised for addressing successfully an important societal problem: drink-driving amongst young people.** 



**HERO IN PYJAMAS** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> http://www.erscharter.eu/about-the-charter/awards-ceremony\_en

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