

# DRINK-DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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SMART Policies for tackling drink driving  
Athens, 21st of June 2018

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European Transport Safety Council





- ✓ A science based approach to road safety
- ✓ Secretariat in Brussels
- ✓ 60 member organisations from across Europe
- ✓ More than 200 experts contributing to ETSC's work
- ✓ The European Commission, Member Organisations, Member States and corporate sponsors are funding our work

# ETSC ACTIVITIES



Monitoring EU transport safety policy



Road Safety Performance Index (PIN)





**2014-2017  
bad years  
for road  
safety**

*“Two passenger planes crash,  
killing everyone on board...”*



**This is how many people die on EU roads every week**

# 25,300

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people died in road  
traffic in the EU in  
2017

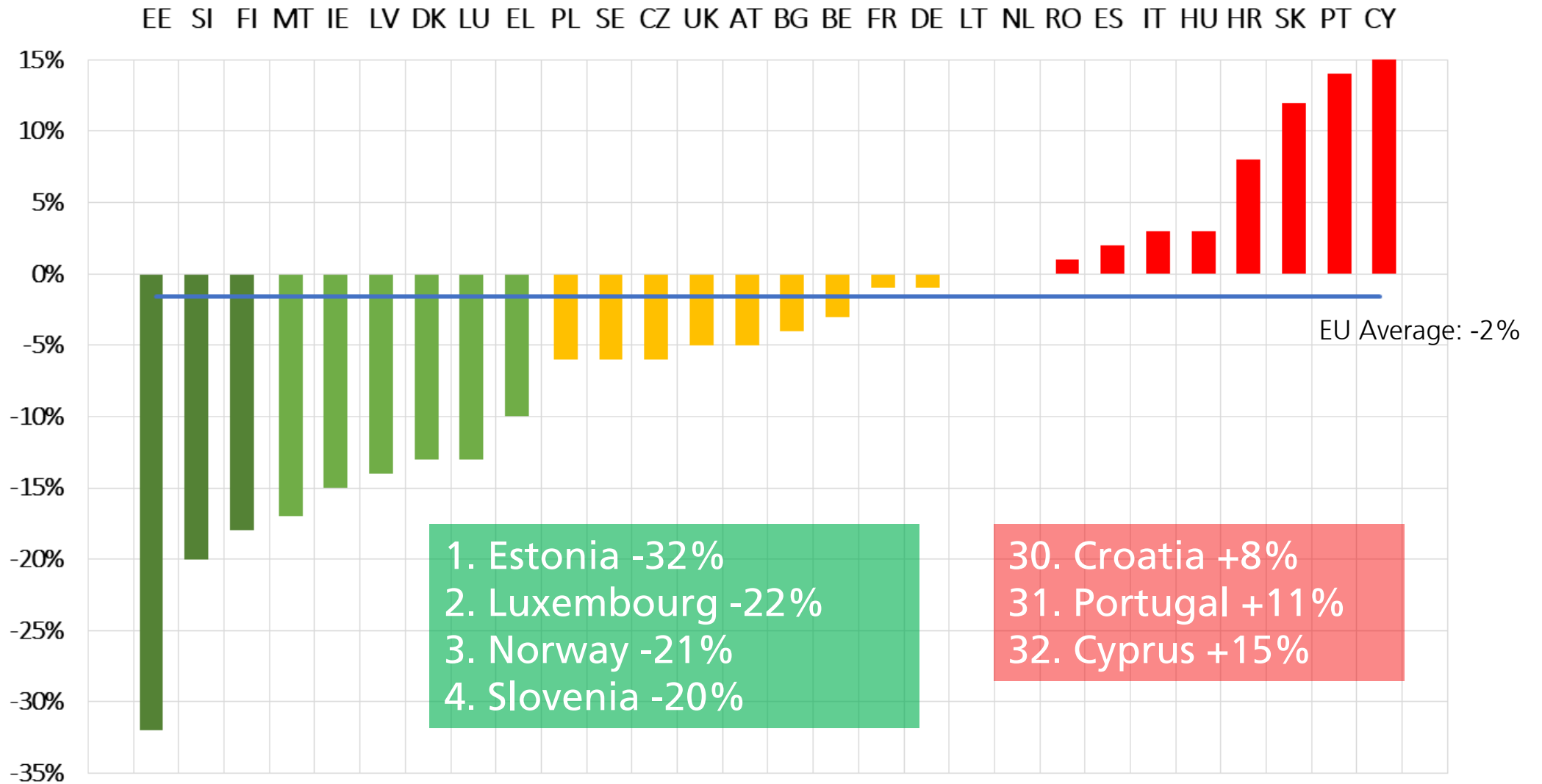
# 135,000

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seriously injured in road traffic in  
the EU in 2017 according to  
MAIS3+ definition

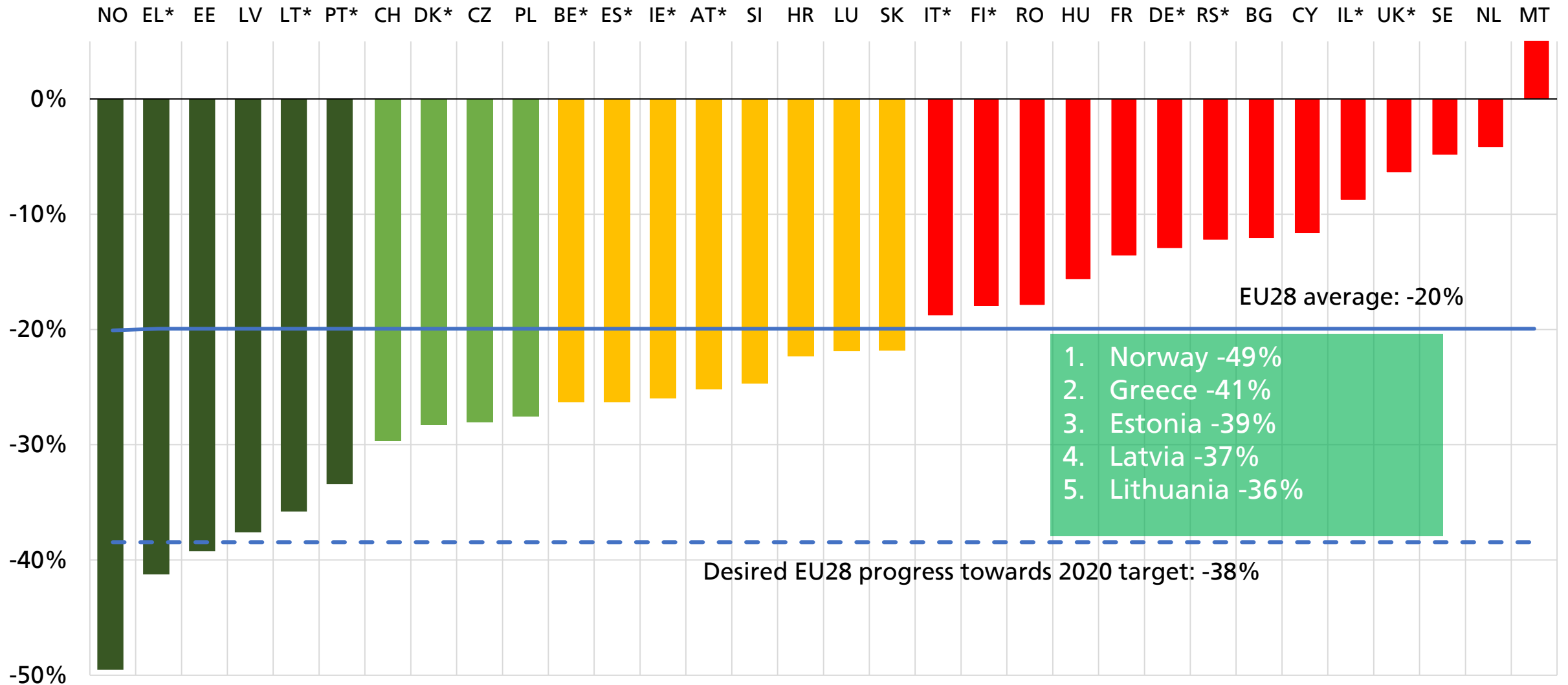
*\*MAIS3+ estimates by the European Commission*

# CHANGE IN ROAD DEATHS (%) 2016-2017





# RELATIVE CHANGE (%) IN ROAD DEATHS 2010-2017



# THE EU 2020 TARGET IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO BE MET

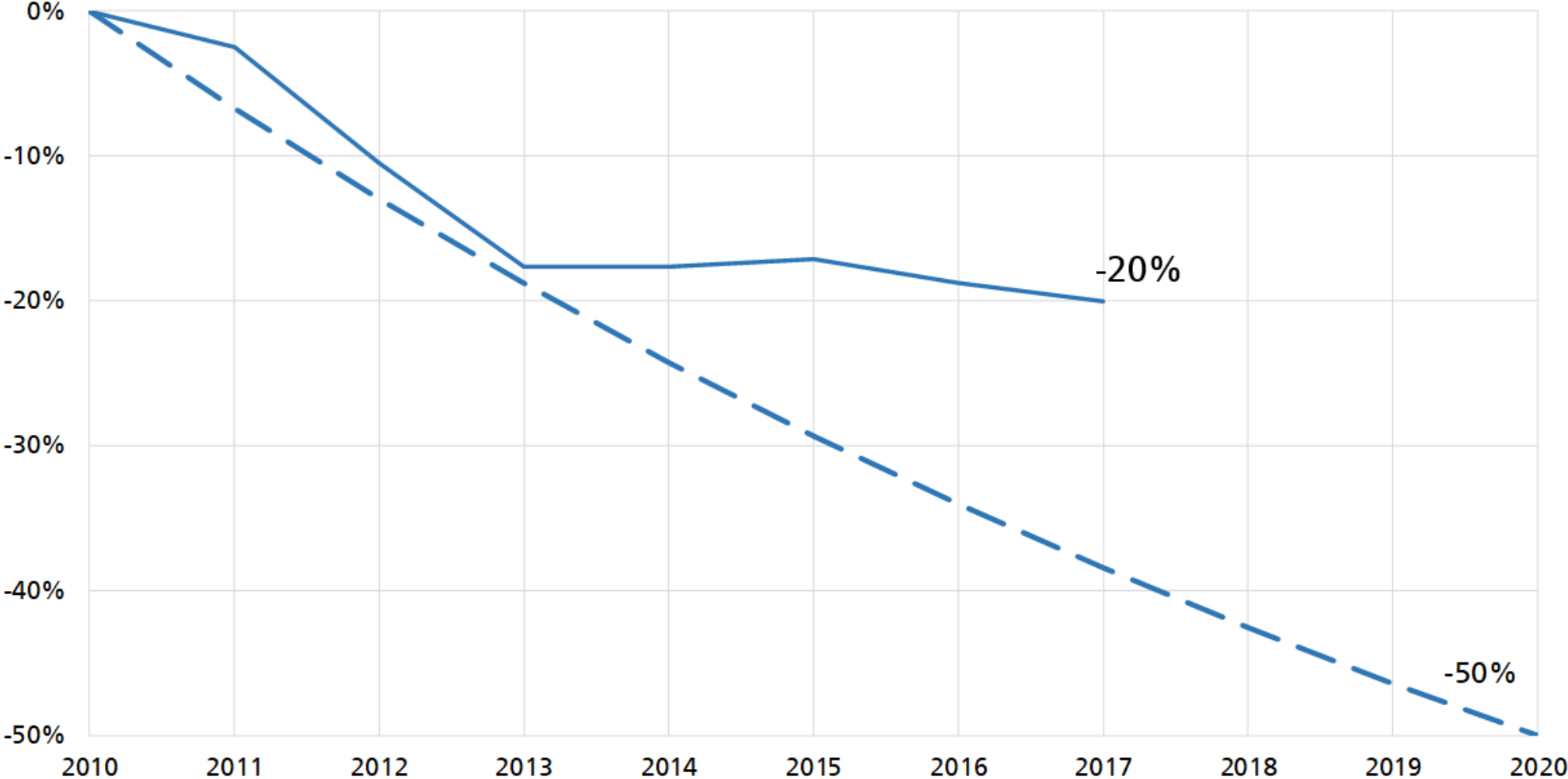
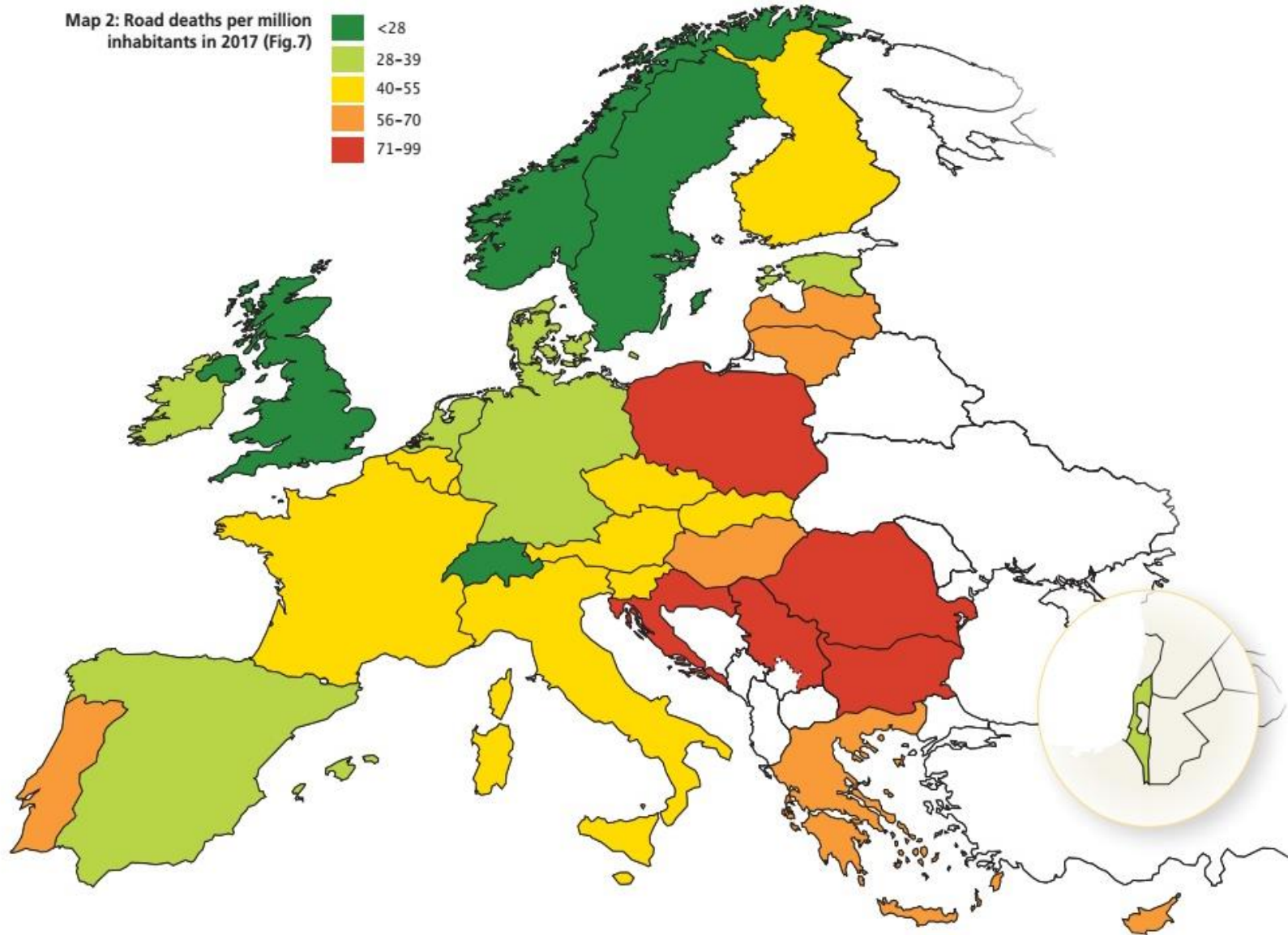
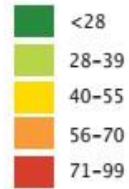


Figure: Reduction in the number of road deaths since 2010 (blue line) plotted against the EU target for 2020 (blue dotted line)

# DEATHS PER MILLION INHABITANTS IN 2017

Map 2: Road deaths per million inhabitants in 2017 (Fig.7)



# DRINK-DRIVING FROM MYTH TO SCIENCE

XVI ANNONCES      L'ILLUSTRATION      4 OCTOBRE 1930

" UNE BONNE RECOMMANDATION "



NE PRENEZ JAMAIS LA ROUTE AUSSITOT APRES  
UN BON REPAS SANS UN PETIT VERRE DE LA MARQUE  
MONDIALE

# COINTREAU

LIQUEUR

# DRINK-DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

While the dangers linked to drink driving are fairly well understood, the phenomenon is still widespread in the EU:

- Up to 1.5 - 2% of KM driven in the EU are driven with an illegal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC);
- According to the SARTRE survey, 31% of car drivers in Europe reported to have driven after consuming some amount of alcohol;
- Alcohol related crashes are the leading cause of death in the age group 16-25.



# 25%

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of all road deaths in the EU are  
alcohol-related

*Source: EC*

# 6400

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people died in drink-driving collisions  
in 2016

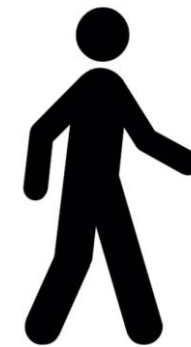
# DRINK-DRIVING DATA COLLECTION

- Different definitions
- Road users not tested systematically
- Legal constraints
- Police data does not give a full picture



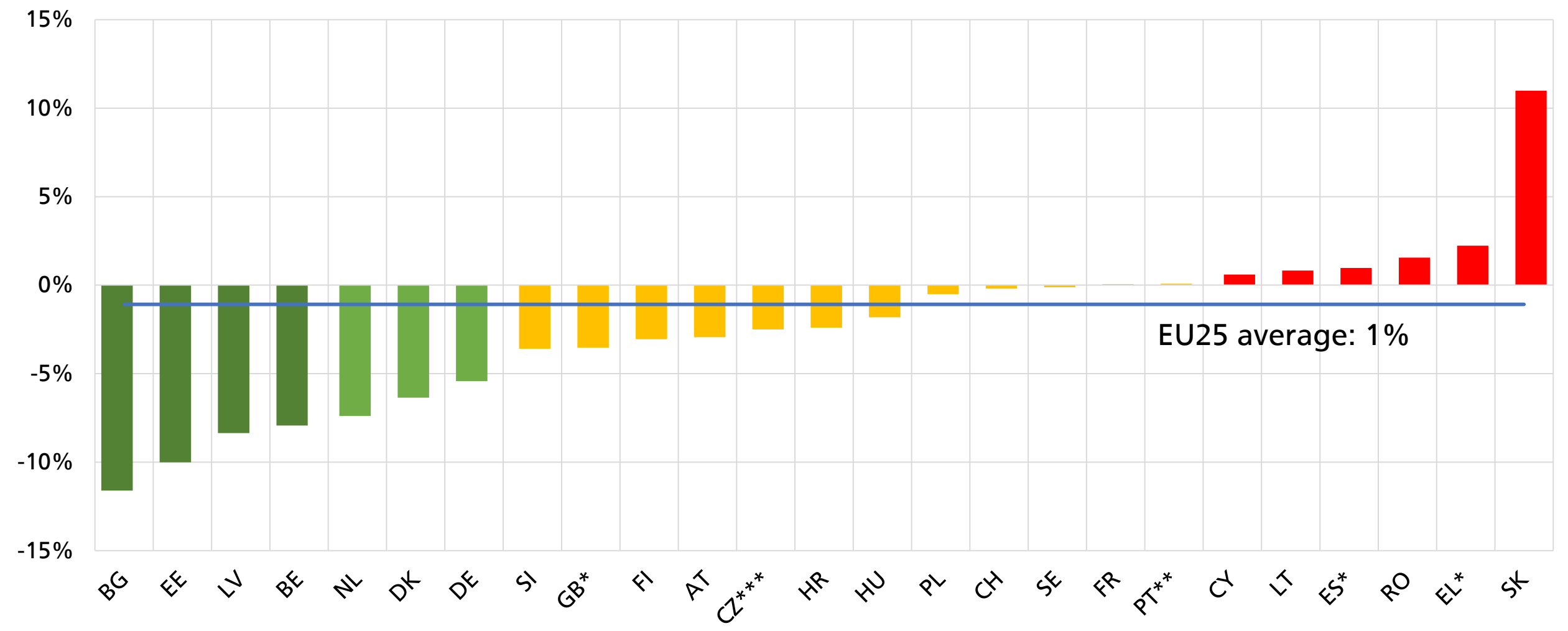
# DRINK-DRIVING DATA COLLECTION

Every driver, rider and walker involved in a fatal and serious collision should be tested systematically



# TACKLING DRINK-DRIVING IN 25 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 2006-2016

Difference between average annual percentage change in deaths recorded as alcohol-related and corresponding change in other road deaths



# COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST DRINK-DRIVING

- Legal blood alcohol limits
- Enforcement
- Sanctions



# COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST DRINK-DRIVING

Rehabilitation  
programs

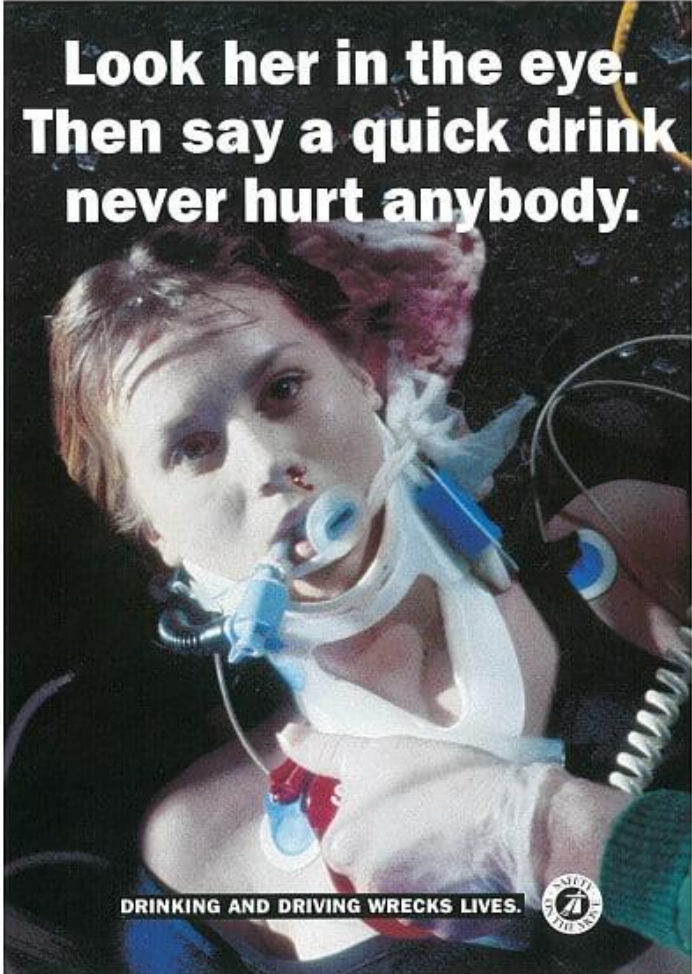
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Alcohol interlocks



# COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST DRINK-DRIVING

- Education and campaigns



**Look her in the eye.  
Then say a quick drink  
never hurt anybody.**

**DRINKING AND DRIVING WRECKS LIVES.**

**50** Fifty years of campaigning against drink driving

**THINK**

# BAC LIMITS ACROSS THE EU

- An increasing number of countries are lowering their BAC limits to be in line with EU recommendation 2001 on maximum BAC legal limit
- 22 EU countries apply lower BAC for novice drivers (0.0 – 0.2)
- 19 EU countries apply lower BAC for professional drivers (0.0 to 0.2 BAC)

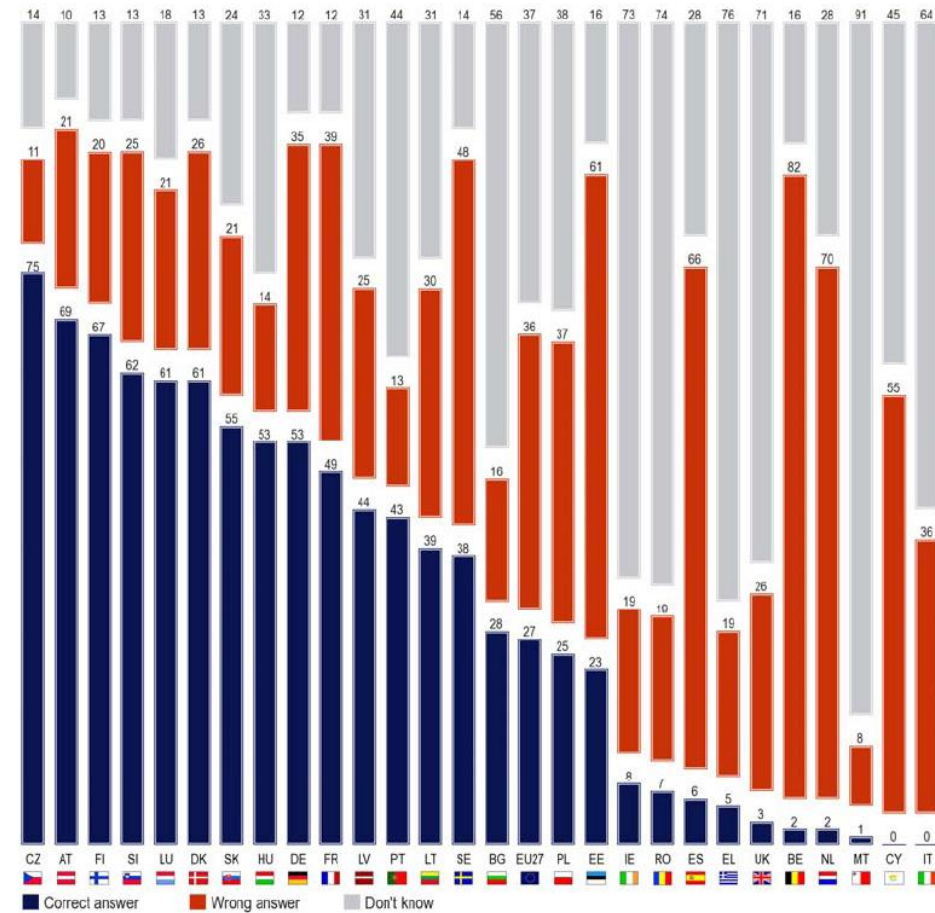
	Standard BAC	BAC Commercial drivers	BAC Novice Drivers
Czech Republic	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hungary	0.0	0.0	0.0
Romania	0.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	0.0	0.0	0.0
Estonia	0.2	0.2	0.2
Poland	0.2	0.2	0.2
Sweden	0.2	0.2	0.2
Lithuania	0.4	0.0	0.0
Croatia	0.5	0.0	0.0
Germany	0.5	0.0	0.0
Italy	0.5	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	0.5	0.0	0.0
Austria	0.5	0.1	0.1
Belgium	0.5	0.2	0.5
Cyprus	0.5	0.2	0.2
Greece	0.5	0.2	0.2
Ireland	0.5	0.2	0.2
Luxembourg	0.5	0.2	0.2
Portugal	0.5	0.2	0.2
Spain	0.5	0.3	0.3
Latvia	0.5	0.5 (0.2 bus/tram drivers)	0.2
France	0.5	0.5 (0.2 bus drivers)	0.2
Netherlands	0.5	0.5	0.2
Bulgaria	0.5	0.5	0.5
Denmark	0.5	0.5	0.5
Finland	0.5	0.5	0.5
Scotland	0.5	0.5	0.5
Malta	0.8	0.8	0.8
UK	0.8	0.8	0.8

# AWARENESS NEEDS TO BE REINFORCED

- On average only 27% of respondents knew the legal BAC limit
- 36% gave a wrong answer
- 37% did not know



*Eurobarometer, Oct. 2010*



# DRINK-DRIVING CHECKS/1000 INHABITANTS (2015)

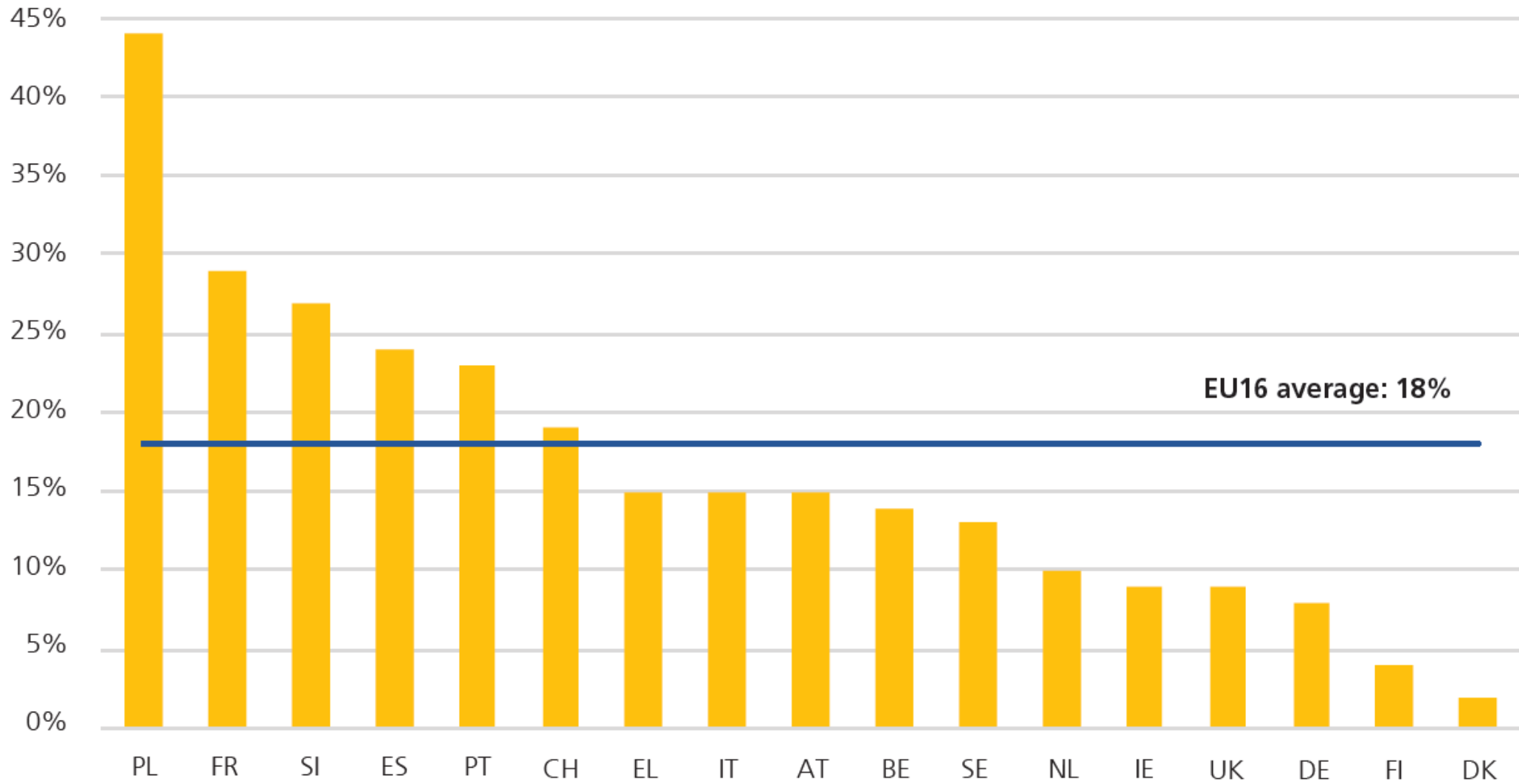
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>Poland</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>234</b>
Finland	279	286	149
<b>Austria</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>214</b>	209
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>184</b>
Greece	n/a	166	163
<b>France</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>164</b>	160
Hungary	135	124	121
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Eng/Wales</b>	n/a	11	12



Not available in  
 Belgium  
 Czech Rep.  
 Germany  
 Denmark  
 Croatia  
 Luxembourg  
 Latvia  
 Netherlands  
 Slovakia



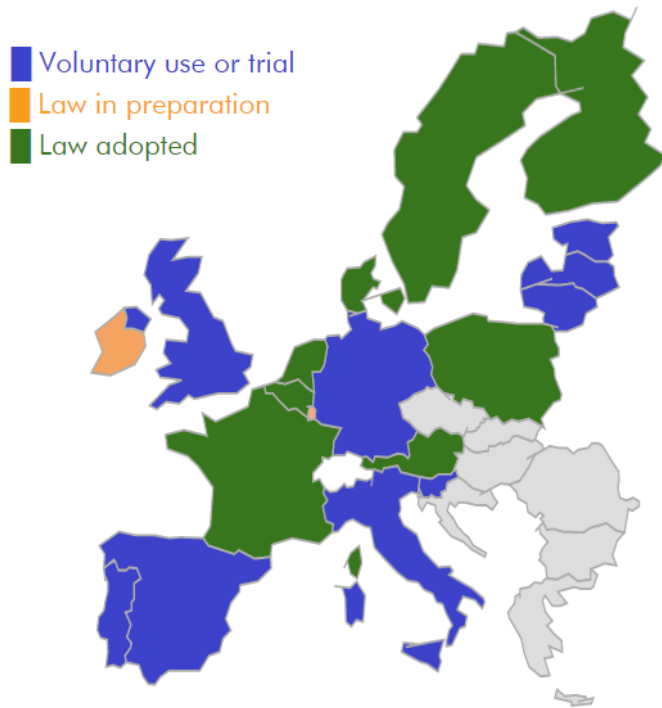
# ONLY 18% OF ROAD USERS THINK THEY ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE TESTED FOR DRINK-DRIVING ON A REGULAR JOURNEY



# ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS

## Alcohol Interlocks in the EU

December 2017

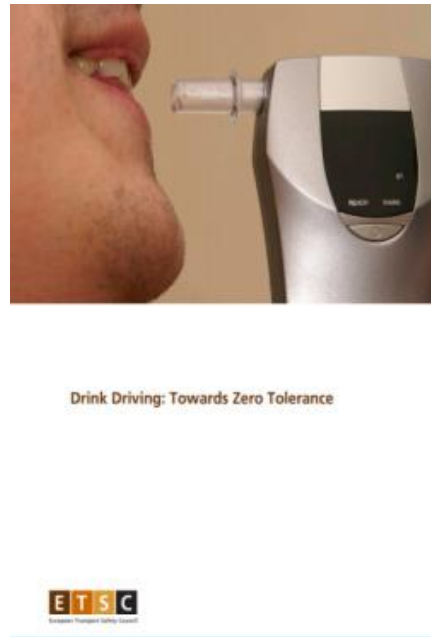


- Studies repeatedly shown alcohol interlocks combined with rehabilitation programmes cut reoffending rates
- Increasingly used across Europe for professional drivers and in rehabilitation programs for drink driving offenders

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Member States

- Zero tolerance
- Minimum targets for alcohol checks
- Systematic breath-testing in all Police checks
- Rehabilitation programmes for DUI offenders and higher penalties to address recidivism
- Campaigns raising awareness of drink-driving risk
- Alcohol interlocks to repeat offenders and professional drivers



## European Union

- Zero tolerance for commercial and novice drivers
- Adoption of standardized definitions of alcohol-related collisions
- Uniform standards for alcohol interlocks in Europe
- Legislate for a consistently high level of reliability of alcohol interlock devices
- Legislate their use for professional drivers

# FIND OUT MORE



European Transport Safety Council

[www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)

 @etsc\_eu

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Executive Director

## PROGRESS IN REDUCING DRINK DRIVING IN EUROPE

February 2018



## ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS AND DRINK DRIVING REHABILITATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Best practice and guidelines for Member States

