

Tradition and development of transport psychology in Slovakia

PhDr. Karol Kleinmann

Mgr. Karol Kleinmann

History

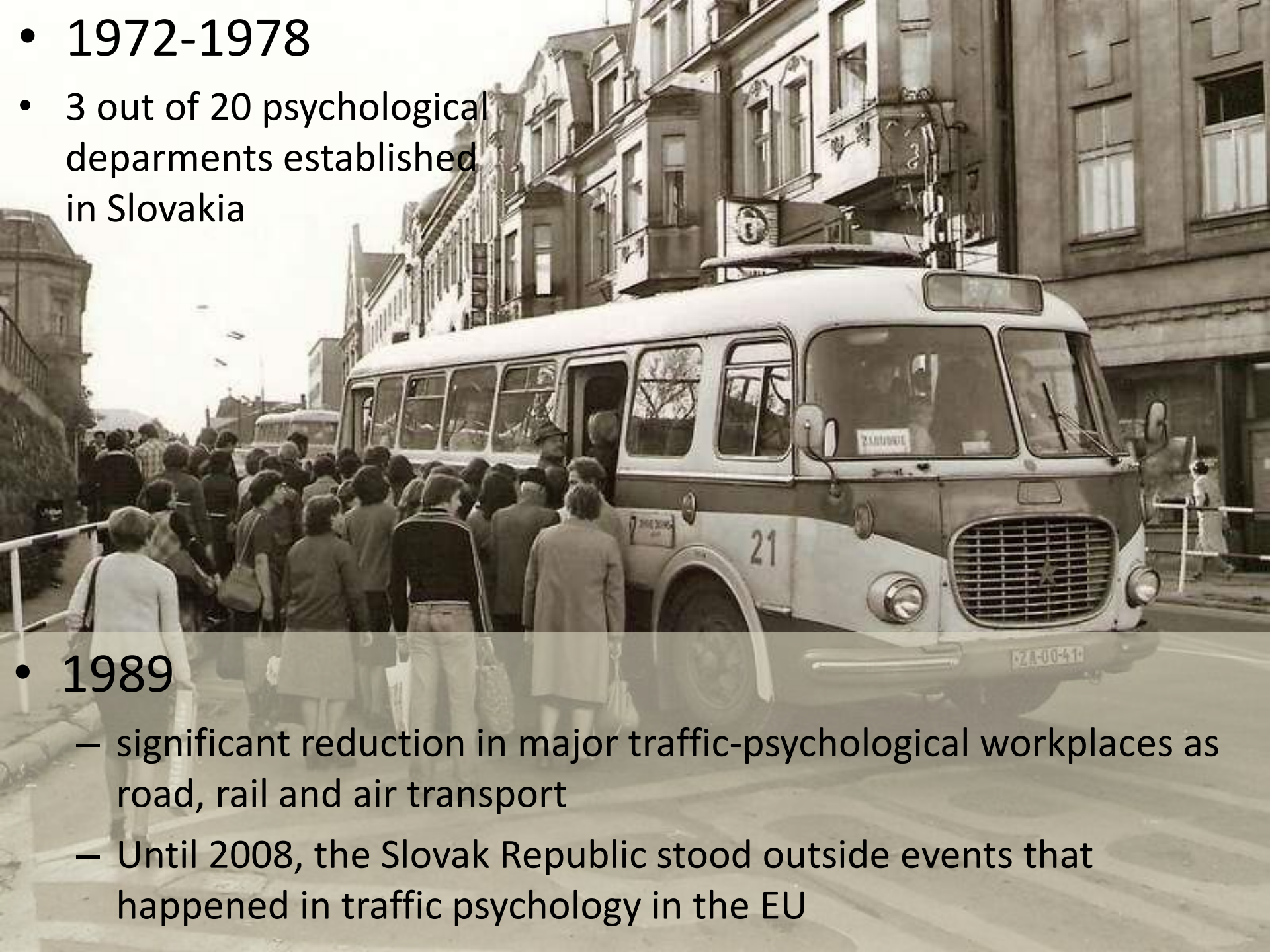
- Traffic psychology in Slovakia was associated with traffic psychology of the former Czechoslovak Republic (1925)
- 1918-1938 – candidates for railway work, trams in Prague, army
- 1945-1975 – road and urban



History

- 1945-1975 - Road and Urban psychologists, air and rail transport psychologists
 - analysis of work performance
 - personality issues
 - issues of identification symbols on traffic
 - pedestrians psychology as road users
 - environmental psychology
- In 1971
 - implementing TP in organization and management of road transport
 - Psychological tests and appropriate training of drivers

- 1972-1978
- 3 out of 20 psychological departments established in Slovakia



- 1989
 - significant reduction in major traffic-psychological workplaces as road, rail and air transport
 - Until 2008, the Slovak Republic stood outside events that happened in traffic psychology in the EU

EU-Call reducing accidents by 50% ...

- 2004 Accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union
- 2004 Establishment of the Road Safety Council of Government
- 2005 National Road safety Plan until 2010
- Act No. 8/2009 on Road Traffic and Ordinance of the Ministry of Interior No. 9/2009 and subsequent amendments

And things started to get moving

- In 2009, Act No. 8/2009 in road traffic and its subsequent amendments, define:
 - psychology as a scientific field which needs to be considered in transportation
 - traffic psychologists with specific competencies
 - psychological examinations
- It was (a delayed) response to the call of the European Commission in 2001 to reduce the number of fatal accidents by 50%

..and things started to get moving

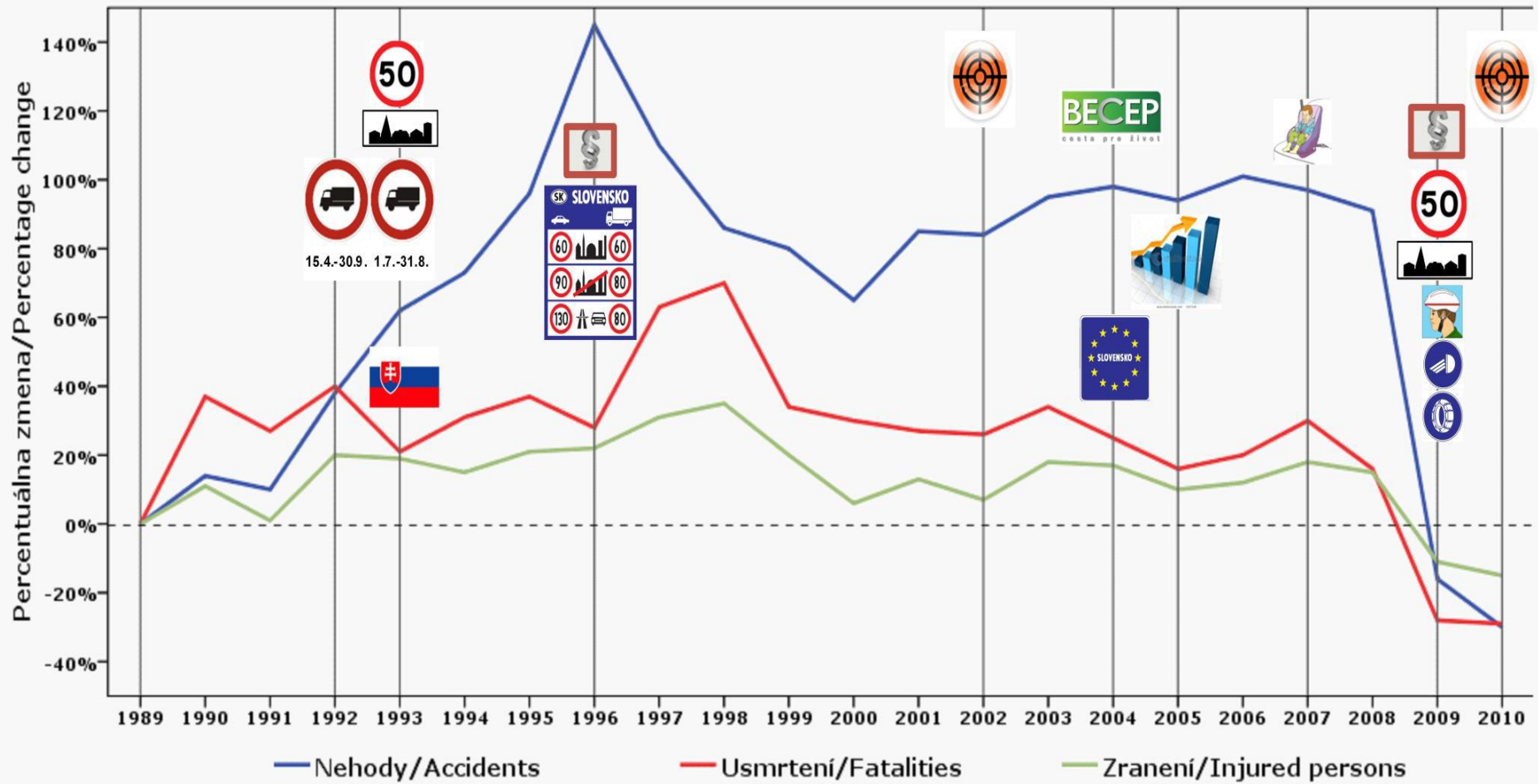
- 2009 Targeted measures traffic police in SR
- 2009 Psychological tests for drivers introduced
 - C drivers, D drivers
 - ADR
 - taxi drivers, post and delivery services
 - drivers with the right of way
 - drivers with 3 fines over 60€ within 12 months
 - when renewing withdrawn driver licence

..and things started to get moving

- 2010 More than 100 new psychologists received certification of traffic psychology at Slovak Health University
- The rest of them was allowed to perform their work according to their previous qualification from the 1970s
- 2012 Establishment of the Department of Psychology at Slovak Health University

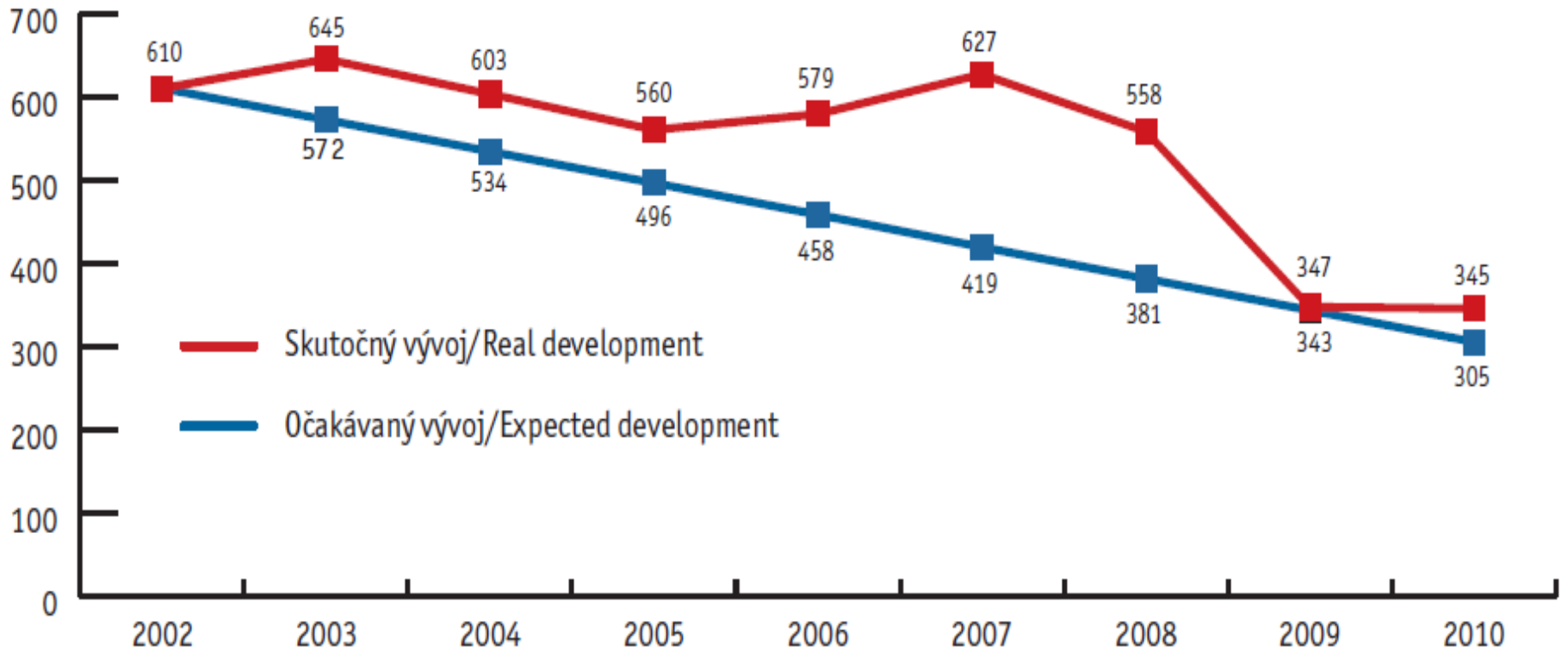


Percentage change

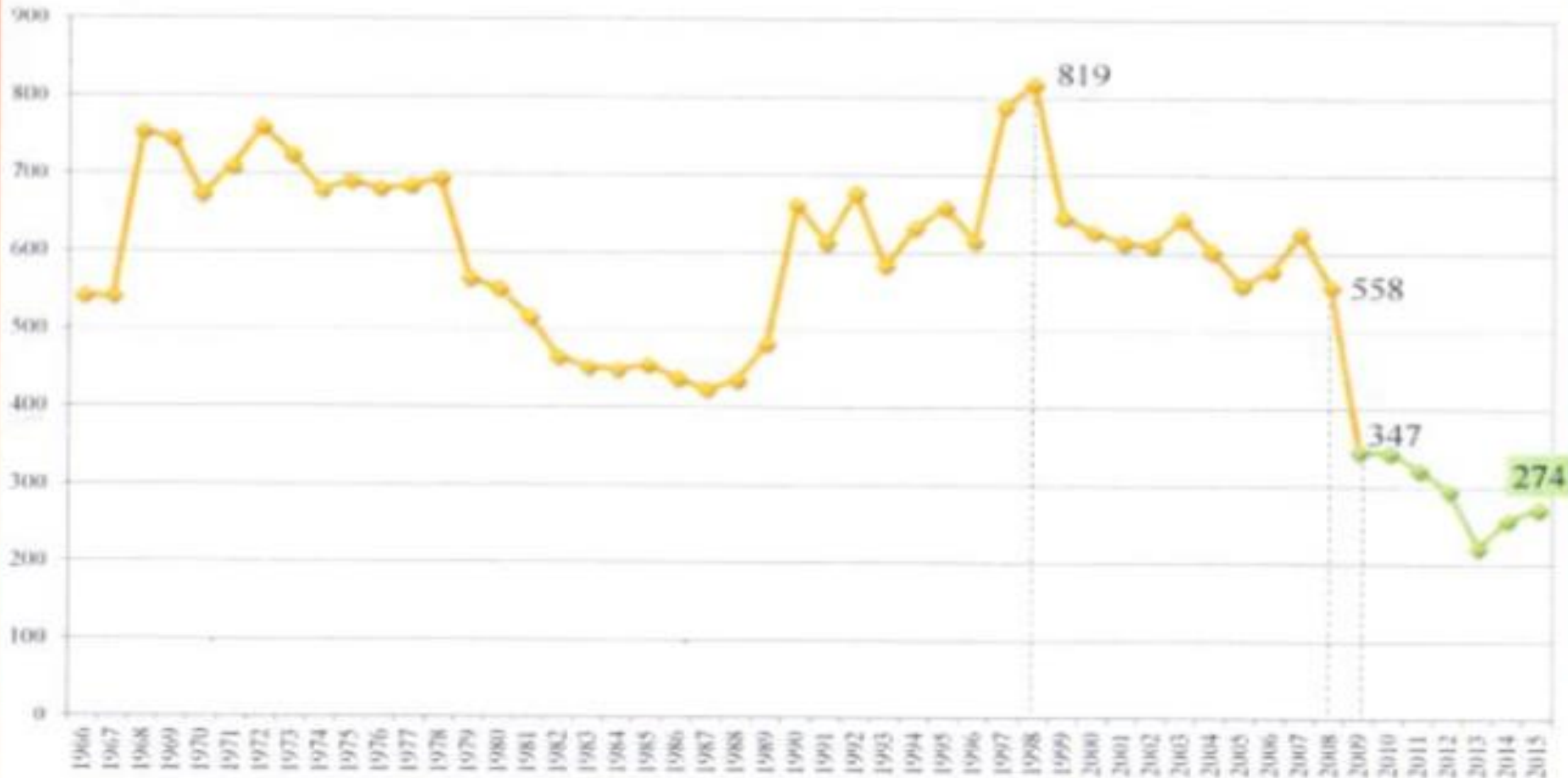


Year	Milestones	Year	Milestones
1992	Driving ban for trucks during holidays (15.4 - 30.9)	2004	Establishment of the Road Safety Council of Government
1993	Formation of the Slovak Republic	2005	National Road safety Plan until 2010
1993	Driving ban for truck on a motorway	2007	Mandatory use of child restraint systems
1993	Driving ban for trucks on a motorway: amendment (1.7-31.8)	2009	Act No. 8/2009 on road traffic
1993	Maximum speed limit in urban areas decreased to 50km/h	2009	Maximum speed limit in urban areas decreased to 50km/h
1996	Speed limit in urban areas increased to 60km/h	2009	Mandatory use of daytime running lights throughout the whole day
2002	Reference number for reduction of the number of killed	2009	Mandatory winter tires for trucks and buses
2004	Accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union	2010	Target year for reduction of number of fatalities by 50%

Target - 50%



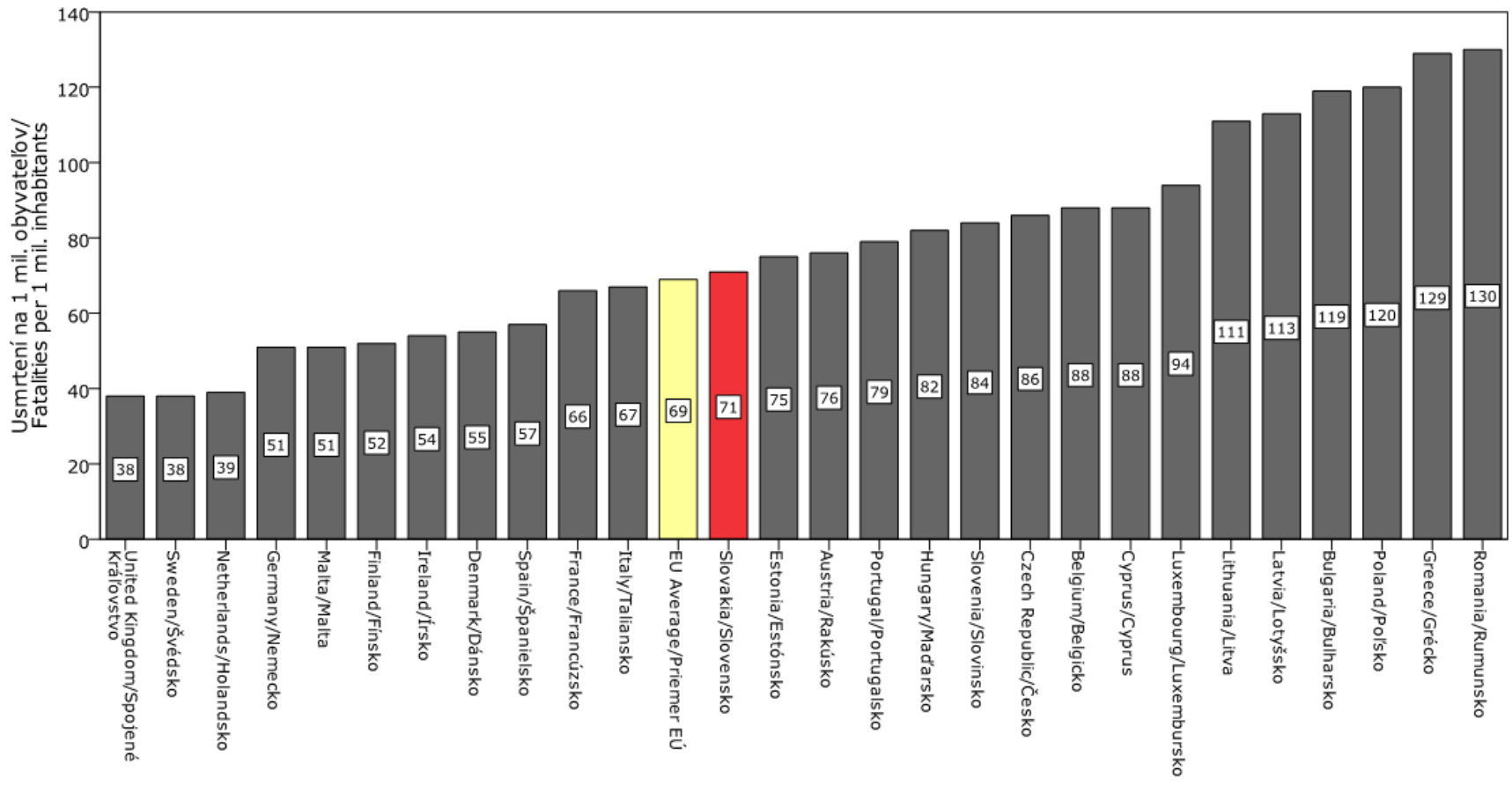
Development of deaths number in the years 1966-2015



The number of deaths in the years 2000-2010 and overview of reduction of dead persons in years 2010 - 2020 according to the aims of European union



Fatalities per 1 mil. inhabitants (2009)



Psychologists in Slovakia 2011

- There were 172 certified traffic psychologists
 - 152 out of them has a clinical specialization
- Only 18 departments of transport psychology has 2 or more psychologists
- Over 100 workplaces have been used as an ambulance room with only 1 traffic psychologist since then
- In order to improve the quality of service there is a tendency to associate psychologists to centers and increase the number of psychologists working in one facility

Psychological examinations of drivers

- Under the Act No.8/2009 on road traffic in
- 2009 - 150,000 psychological examinations for drivers was performed
- The law was imperfect because the unsuccessful applicants could undergo the test after three months again

5,25%

Standards for psychological examinations

- In § 30

"(1) Minimum requirements for psychological fitness"

- § 88 paragraph 4 of the Act are set out in Annex No. 10

"... traffic psychologist in assessing psychological fitness using standardized psychological tests and taking into consideration the previous entries in medical records. ."

The following psychological characteristics are designed for drivers being examined :

Attention

Intelligence

Resistance to
stress

Reaction time

Visual
perception

Personal
characteristics

Conditional psychological fitness

Mark	Condition
600.01	The restriction to drive only during the day (a time code indicated in the form 00:00 to 24:00)
600.02	Limiting driving range km from the card holder's place of residence or only inside city / region (a numeral code indicating the name or city / region)
600.03	Driving without passengers

Mark	Condition
600.04	Limited speed up to kmh-1 (a code to indicate the numeral)
600.07	No driving on the freeway and expressway
600.08	No driving on the I. class road
600.09	Transportation of dangerous goods is not allowed

*Used mostly for drivers over 65 years

Revised Law No. 8/2009

1. Changes in drivers training and examinations

- Important change is a possibility to obtain a driving license at the age of 17
 - but successful applicant must be accompanied by adult driver with 10 years experience until he/she will not be 18. (at least 3 months)
- Every driver older than 65 years have responsibility to submit to regular **medical examination** every two years
 - These drivers can be send for **psychological examination** if doctor is not sure about driver' s general health condition
- Owners of driving license C, C+E,D, D + E, has to undergo psychological examination every 5 years
 - older than 65 years have a responsibility to submit themselves to psychological examination every two years
- The owners of driving license older than 65 must show medical examination paper with the date of expiration in the case of police road check

Revised Law No. 8/2009

2. Changes in the case of alcohol and drugs

- If police inspection detects BAC of driver more than **0,476 mg/l** (1promile) this case will be classified as a crime. Penalty for this crime could be one year of the imprisonment.
- Records about alcohol or drugs usage are saved in the period of 10 years
- If the driver is suspicious of using alcohol or drugs, or refuse alcohol inspection, responsible body of Police dpt. receive a decision about health and mental examination.
- In all cases, if is this suspicion confirmed, it is always considered as a **criminal act**.
- If the owner of driving license break the rules of road traffic in the sense of alcohol or drugs **twice during five years**, the driving license will be **withdrawn** to this owner.
- If driver caused a **fatal accident under alcohol or drugs influence**, driving license will be withdraw for the **rest of the life**

Driver's rehabilitation

- Since 1.11. 2011 Decree of the Ministry of Interior no.361/2011 governs the procedure for driver's rehabilitation courses
- Driver rehabilitation is a professional training designed for people who committed the offense or crime of driving under the influence of alcohol, other addictive substances or drugs, or the people who are obliged by law.
- Driver rehabilitation course has to undergo EVERYONE with ANY level of BAC or presence any drug or addictive substance in blood
- Driver's rehabilitation course in Slovakia consists of 4 sessions (3 hours) + max.60 min of individual interview
- As a prerequisite for course **medical check up** must be done (psychiatrist), looking for addiction

Request based on experience : immediate effect

- Following the usual procedure sometimes takes up to 6 months after drink driving to attend rehabilitation course
- Solution: The legislature should determine that it must be done ASAP, no more than 10 days per procedure
- Still need to be improved better cooperation with psychiatrists (medical checkup) and police department and within psychologists themselves



Association of Transport Psychologist in Slovak Republic

- Found in January 2012
- The major aim of the association is to encourage cooperation between transport psychologists in Slovakia, co-operate with foreign partners, share information, knowledge, experience and expertise to organize lectures, seminars and conferences
- The highest goal is to unite all traffic psychologists, although it is a very challenging objective



www.adpsr.sk



National plan for increasing of road safety for the period 2011 – 2020 in Slovak Republic

- First works started in the end of 2009
- Cooperation with experts in working group and Transport research Institute
- Draft of NP 2011-2020 discussed within expert branch
- Change of status – Government Council for Road Safety canceled
- NP 2011-2020 reworked and prepared for entry for annotation
- National plan contains 9 main goals in 22 areas and more than 100 tasks for road safety improvement

Main goals for road safety in SR:

1. *Reduction of traffic accidents in consequence of speed limit violation or speed inadaptability in the case of difficult surrounding conditions*
2. *Reduction of traffic accidents in consequence of alcohol and drugs using*
3. *Reduction of traffic accidents within the group of vulnerable traffic participants*
4. *Safety enhancement through effective traffic education and trainings of applicants for driving license*
5. *Enhancement of safety level of road infrastructure*
6. *Enhancement of safety level through the intelligent transport systems and enhancement of car safety*
7. *Enhancement of safety in the area of freight traffic and bus transportation*
8. *Enhancement of post accident care*
9. *Road safety management*

Thank you for your attention

karol.kleinmann@gmail.com