



## DRINK-DRIVING FACT FILE

May 2022



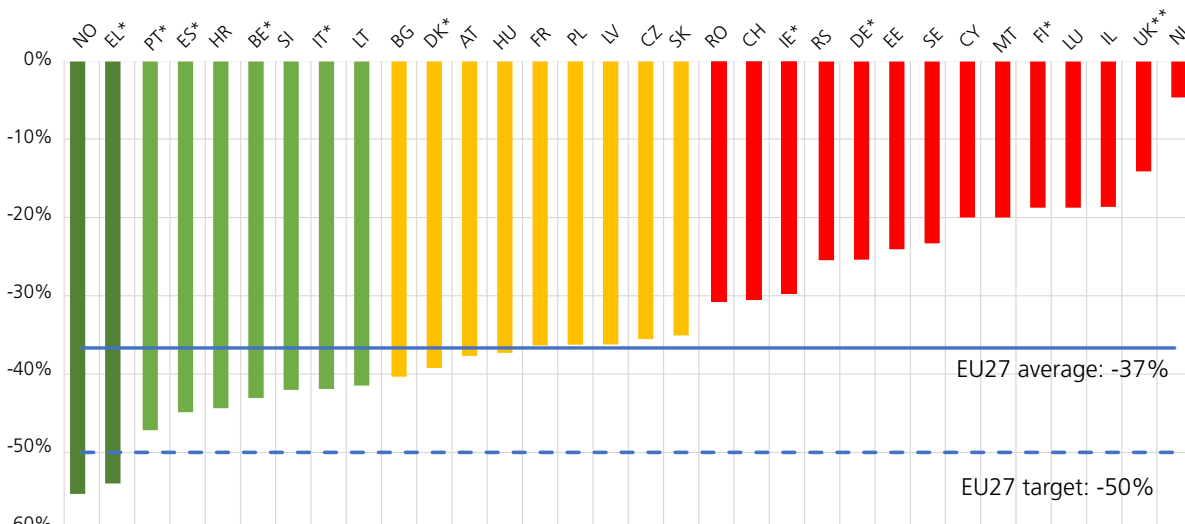
# BULGARIA



### INTRODUCTION

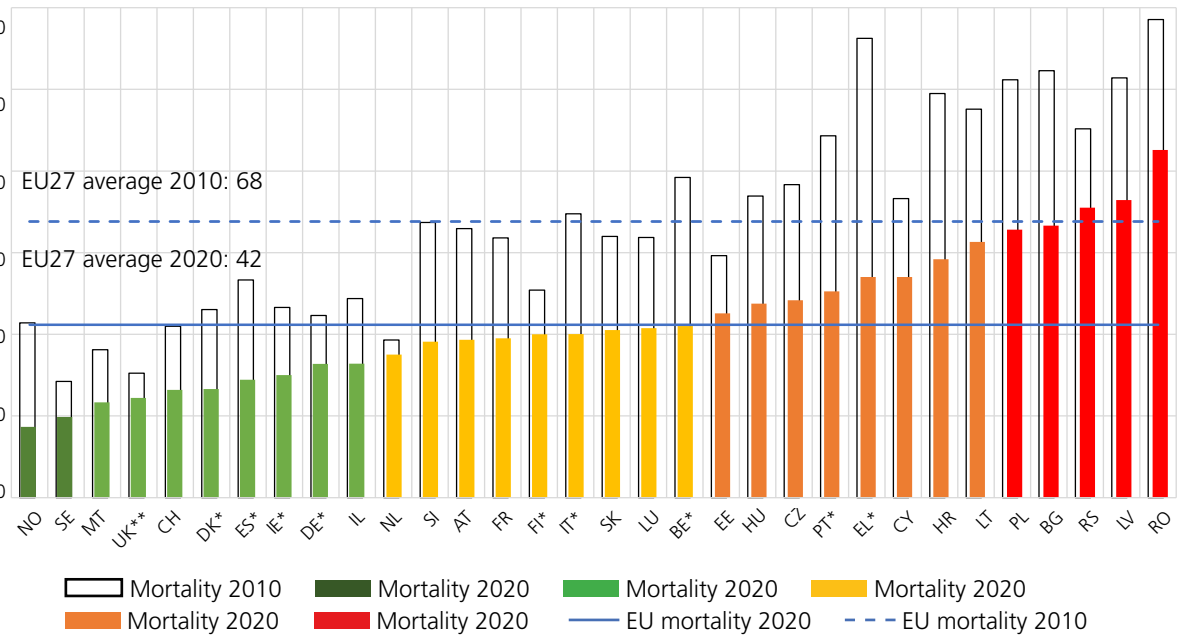
Between 2010 and 2020, Bulgaria cut road deaths by 40%, a slightly larger reduction than the EU average of 37%. In 2020, 463 people were killed in road traffic in Bulgaria compared to 776 in 2010. Bulgaria also showed the biggest reduction between 2019 and 2020 - with a 26% reduction in the number of road deaths – though, as in other EU countries, the Covid-19 pandemic was partly the cause of this very substantial decrease. With 66 deaths per million inhabitants, road mortality in Bulgaria remains one of the highest in the EU.

**Figure 1. Relative change in road deaths between 2010 and 2020.** \*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 2020 (with mortality in 2010 for comparison).**

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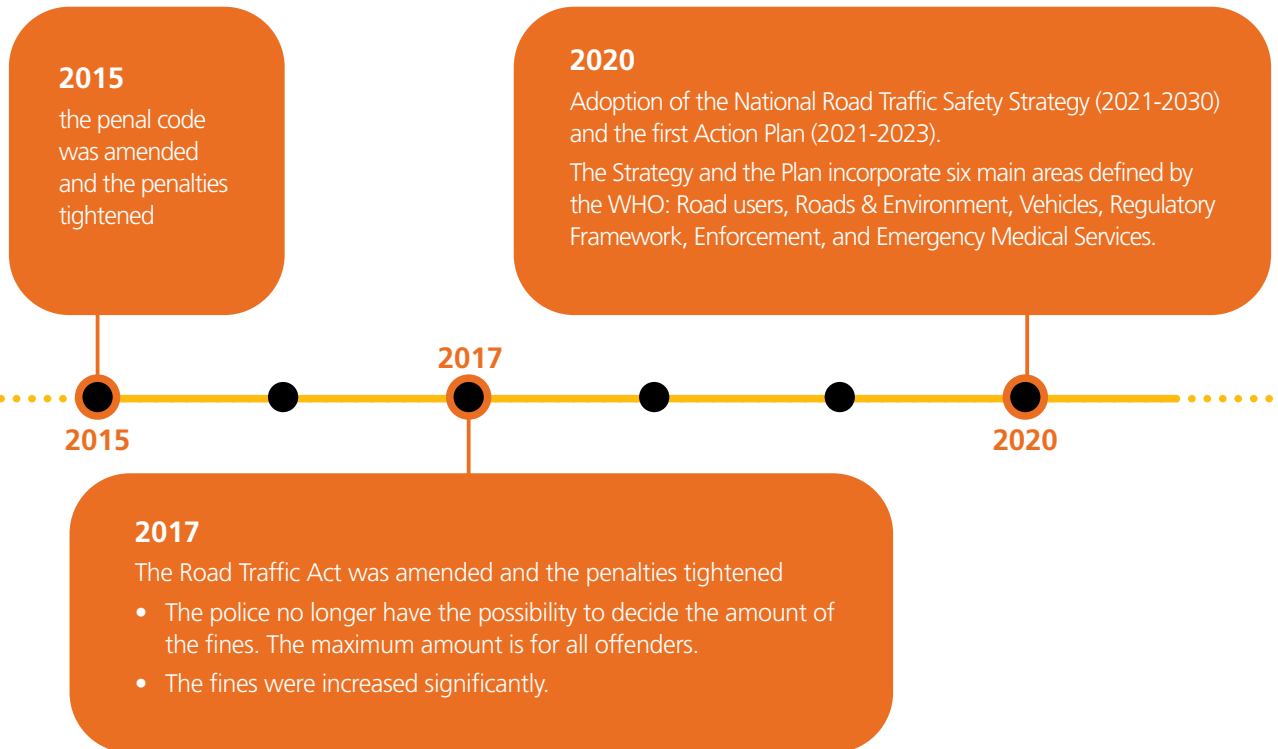
In Bulgaria, all active participants in a road collision are tested for alcohol.

In 2019, 52 people above the legal limit died in a road collision and 522 were injured whereas 27 died in 2020 and 523 were injured.



## NATIONAL POLICIES

Timeline of national measures to tackle drink-driving:



### Some of the strategic measures are listed below:

- Enforcement: improve the effectiveness of traffic police enforcement on a national level.
- Improve the scope of multi-agency control operations, which serve to enforce traffic law by detecting and preventing a wide range of violations, including driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Campaigns: continue the ROADPOL campaigns, which will be further implemented as part of the European-wide partnership among all Member State traffic police departments, as well as enforcement campaigns, with a focus on drink-driving during long weekends and national holidays.

### Current measures:

- Procuring up-to-date breathalysers and teaching police officers to use them;
- Teaching traffic police officers to better recognise and profile drink-drivers;
- Campaigning against drink-driving and raising awareness of the dangers;
- Lectures from police officers in schools with a special focus on the risks of driving under the influence of alcohol;
- Reporting on certain road collisions to raise awareness, mentioning the BAC of the driver.



## BAC LIMITS AND SANCTIONS

The legal limit for  
standard  
drivers

is:

**0.5g/l**



The sanctions and penalties are stipulated in the Road Traffic Act and in the Penal Code.



BAC level (g/L)



Fines in €



Penalty  
points



Driving ban



Jail



Vehicle ban

0.5 – 0.8	250	10	6 months		6 to 12 months
0.81 – 1.2	500	10	12 months		
Repeat offender > 0.5 (2nd or 3rd offence)	500 - 1000	15	12 to 36 months		
> 1.2	100 - 500			1 to 3 years	
Repeat offender (4th offence) > 0.5	250 - 750			1 to 5 years	
Refusal to submit to an alcohol test	1 000	12	24 months		



## ENFORCEMENT

There are no available data on police checks. However, there is data for the two European-wide ROADPOL campaigns for drug and alcohol enforcement, which takes place twice a year. Bulgarian traffic police managed to check around 20,000 drivers during each week. The number of drivers found with a BAC above the legal limit is around 600 per year. The rate is higher when police do regular checks, as they only check impaired drivers.



## REHABILITATION AND ALCOHOL INTERLOCK PROGRAMMES

No alcohol Interlock programme is in place so far in Bulgaria.



## CAMPAIGNS

In 2020, the State Agency for Road Safety organised a campaign at Christmas time when people usually consume more alcohol, in partnership with the most well-known vlogger in Bulgaria, whose video reports cover automotive and road traffic safety topics. The video raises awareness of the effects of alcohol on human perceptions and the inherent risks of drink-driving. The video was viewed over 275,000 times on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4R2sGVuJDzs>



In the context of COVID, the State Agency for Road Safety conducted a joint national information campaign in summer 2021 in partnership with the major petrol station chains. The Agency designed information brochures with basic tips and messages to raise awareness about road safety. These brochures were distributed among customers of the petrol stations. One of the key topics was the prevention of driving under the influence of alcohol. During the summer, the traffic in Bulgaria is very dense (partly due to cross-border travel to and from Greece, Turkey and the Middle East). This campaign reached a wide range of drivers from Bulgaria and other countries.

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Another initiative by the State Agency for Road Safety was to develop an online digital leaflet, which focuses both on the dangers of drink-driving and the penalties.

[https://www.sars.gov.bg/news/brochures/#dfliip-df\\_7034/1/](https://www.sars.gov.bg/news/brochures/#dfliip-df_7034/1/)

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Part of the prevention campaign for road safety of the Union of Brewers in Bulgaria was focused on drink-driving, in cooperation with the Red Cross, Police, ministries, municipalities, activities were organised in more than 30 cities.

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Another campaign "Alcohol is a Bad Driver", launched by Kamenitza AD, is one of the biggest and well-known campaigns in Bulgaria, promoting responsible behaviour on the road, and raising awareness about drink-driving. Three videos were developed in partnership with the National Police and the Red Cross:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCES1JYB0Z9n7a51QPkRO\\_3A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCES1JYB0Z9n7a51QPkRO_3A)





## SOURCES

**National Road Safety Strategy:**

<https://bit.ly/33H0hD7>

**Action Plan:**

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

**Campaigns:**

<https://bit.ly/3G46Nk5>

<https://bit.ly/32tN7Zi>

**ETSC, 15th PIN Annual Report (2021):**

<https://bit.ly/3DD9mZD>

**ETSC, Progress in Reducing Drink-Driving and other Alcohol-Related Road Deaths in Europe (2019):**

<https://bit.ly/3BJJ0F4>



European Transport Safety Council

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