



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE  
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

# EU ROAD SAFETY EXCHANGE



Safe & Sober Talk Warsaw – 23 January 2025

Alcohol Interlock legislation in Belgium

.be



# BE situation DUI alcohol

2023 :

- 4050 injury crashes involving a driver under influence of alcohol  
= 11 per day,  
average BAC = 1.7 ‰
- 40 % of road crashes during weekend nights are linked to alcohol or drugs
- Nearly 50 000 drivers caught

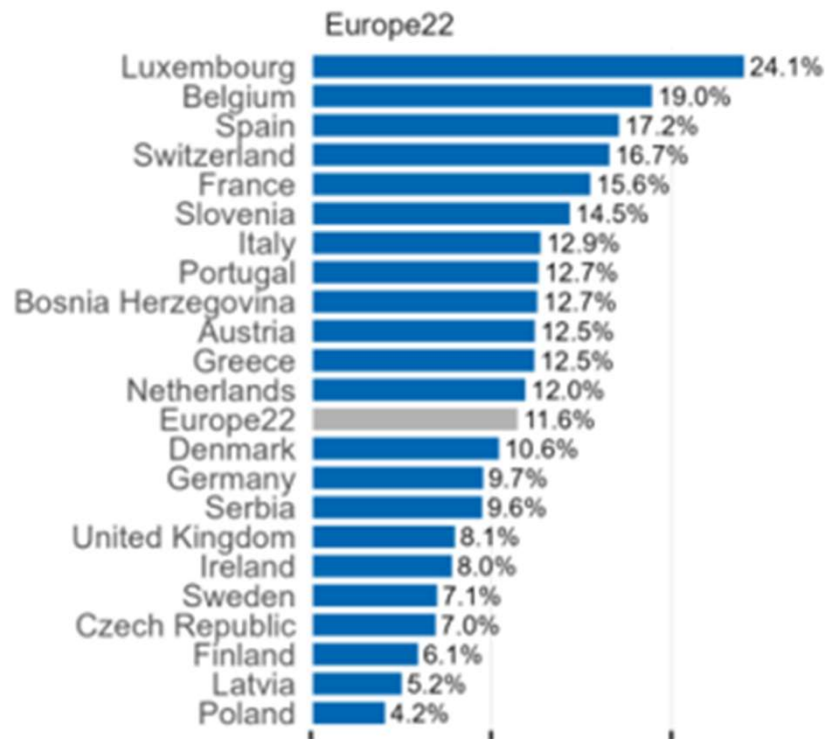


- ❑ 5 months 'BOB'-campaign (drinking vs. driving): summer & winter, police checks & sensibilization
  - Summer 'BOB' campaign 2024: 2,03% of all people checked were positive
- ❑ BAC limit: 0.5 ‰, only professional drivers 0.2 ‰
  - Proposal for legislation pending in parliament: lower limit to 0.2 ‰; zero tolerance)



# ESRA3 Thematic report Nr. 10 (E-Survey of Road users' Attitudes): Meesmann, U., Pires, C., Wardenier, N. (2024). Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication. Vias institute.

## SELF-DECLARED BEHAVIOUR AS A CAR DRIVER Drive when you may have been over the legal limit for drinking and driving



## BEHAVIOUR BELIEVES & ATTITUDES For short trips, one can risk driving under the influence of alcohol.

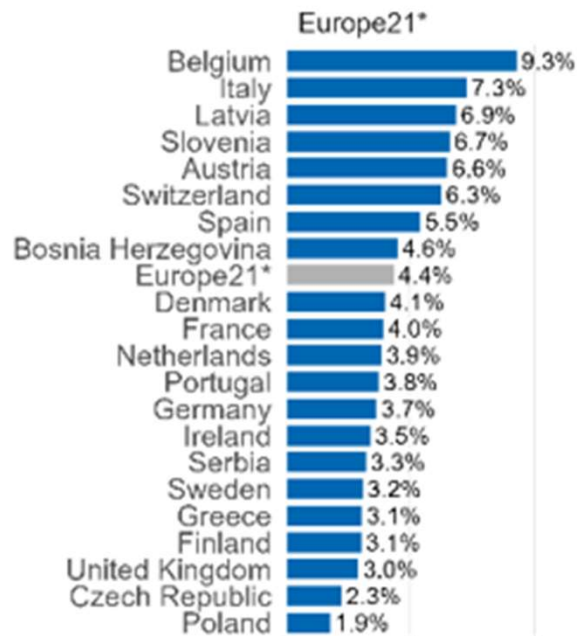




# ESRA3 Thematic report (E-Survey of Road users' Attitudes)

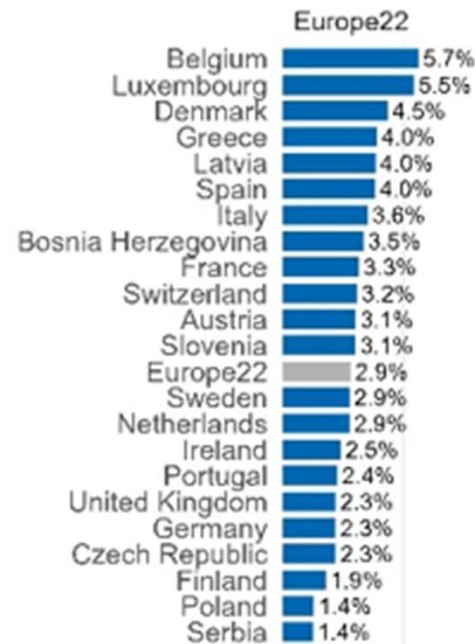
## PERCEIVED BEHAVIOUR CONTROL

I have the ability to drive when I am a little drunk after a party.



## PERCEIVED BEHAVIOUR CONTROL

I am able to drive after drinking a large amount of alcohol (e.g., a bottle of wine).



## SUPPORT OF POLICY MEASURE

Installing an alcohol 'interlock' for drivers who have been caught drunk driving on more than one occasion

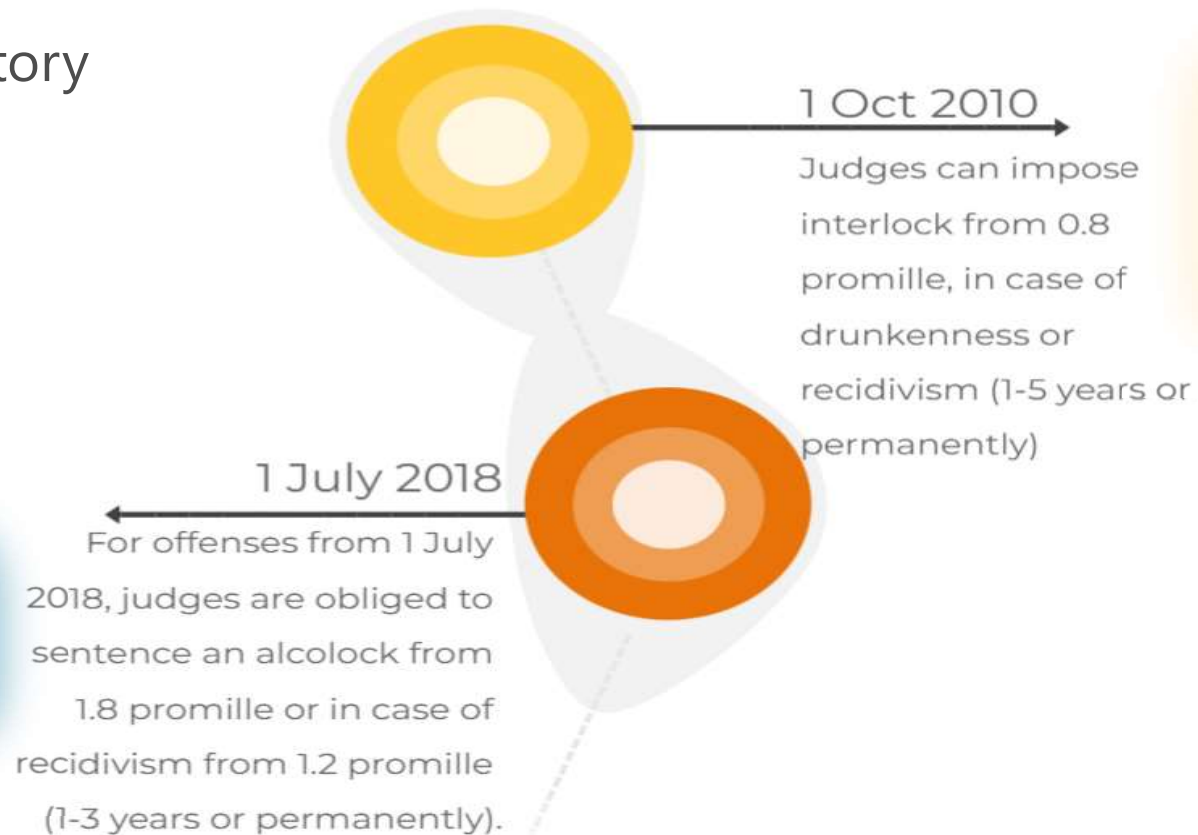






# Alcohol Interlock legislation in BE

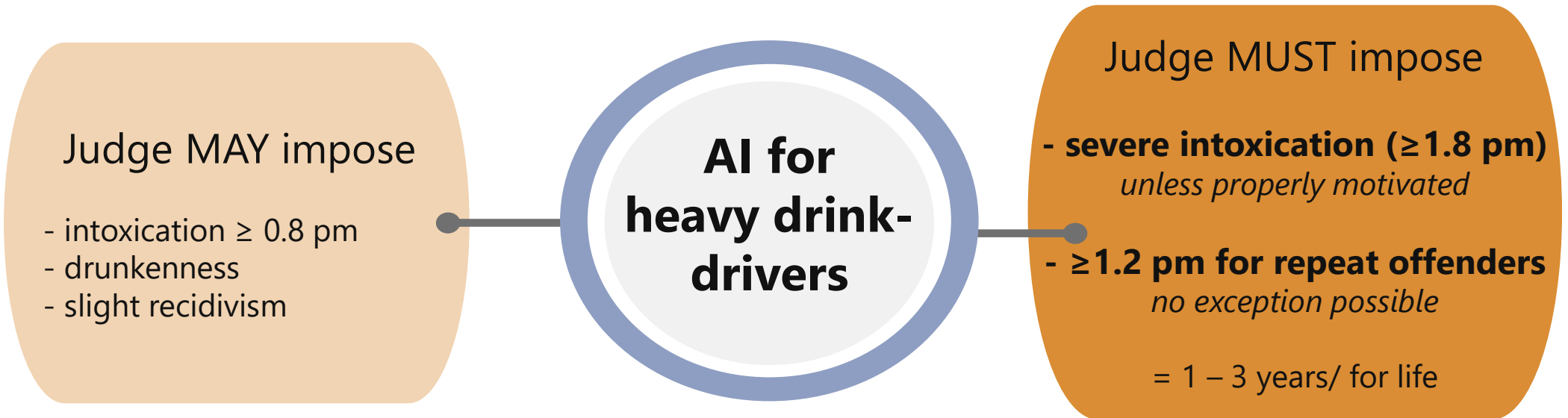
## BE legislative history



**Law 6/03/2018**



## Targeted offenders



The judge can exempt certain **vehicle categories** (e.g. bus/truck) from AI, except the category of offense

Out of scope: alcohol addiction (driving ban); driving ban for life



# Number of AI for offenders

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## 2009-10: 1<sup>st</sup> legislation

2013: 1<sup>st</sup> device installed

2014: 7 offenders convicted

*until 2017: only 66 persons in AI monitoring program*

## 2018: 2<sup>nd</sup> legislation

2019: 165 installations (>2900 convictions)

2020: 600 installations (>3800 convictions)

2021: 860 installations

2022: 960 installations

*until end 2022: > 2600 ongoing programs*

2023: > 1000 installations

2024: **1282 installations** (2518 running programs)



# Notification of the judgment by public prosecutor to convicted person: choice to make

## 1. No AI

No more driving  
during same period



## 2. Alcohol Interlock





## Monitoring program: a roadmap (1/3)

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**Notification** of the judgment by  
public prosecutor



Person **contacts accredited monitoring centre**  
Training and guidance by psychologists  
≥ 3 years' professional experience  
Trained on risks and consequences of drink-driving, breath alcohol  
*No medical follow-up*



**Introductory meeting** within 14 days to explain the  
program (device, costs, driving licence, follow-up,  
data downloads, ...)



## Monitoring program: a roadmap (2/3)



**Training** on how to use the device, consequences of circumventing the system, risks and consequences of drink-driving, breath alcohol - within 30 days

	9.	10.	11.	12.
13. AM	01.12.81	----	----	----
14. A1	01.12.81	----	----	----
A2	01.12.81	----	----	----
A	01.12.81	----	----	----
B	01.12.81	15.04.18	69	
C1	23.03.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	
C	23.03.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	
D	----	----	----	----
BE	01.12.81	15.04.18	69	
C1E	24.04.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	
CE	24.04.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	
D1E	----	----	----	----
DE	----	----	----	----
GE	07.04.10	----	----	----

**Driving licence** needs a code **69** - within 30 days



**Installation of the device** in accredited service centre  
- within 30 days



4 – 8 months later: **3h training** to share experiences, intentions and strategies to keep driving and drinking separate



## Monitoring program: a roadmap (3/3)



Periodic **downloads** of registration unit by service centre every 2 months (after 1 year every 6 months).  
Data stored on a secured place and only readable by monitoring centre



Every time an evaluation of these data by monitoring centre.  
Whenever necessary and at least twice a year:  
**individual guidance interview**



**Closing meeting**



**Removal of the device**



## Conditions to fulfill during monitoring program

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- pay costs in time
- duly participate in the program
- not drink drive anymore ( $\leq 0.2$  BAC)
- not too often try to start under influence
- not disconnect or circumvent the system (abnormal results)



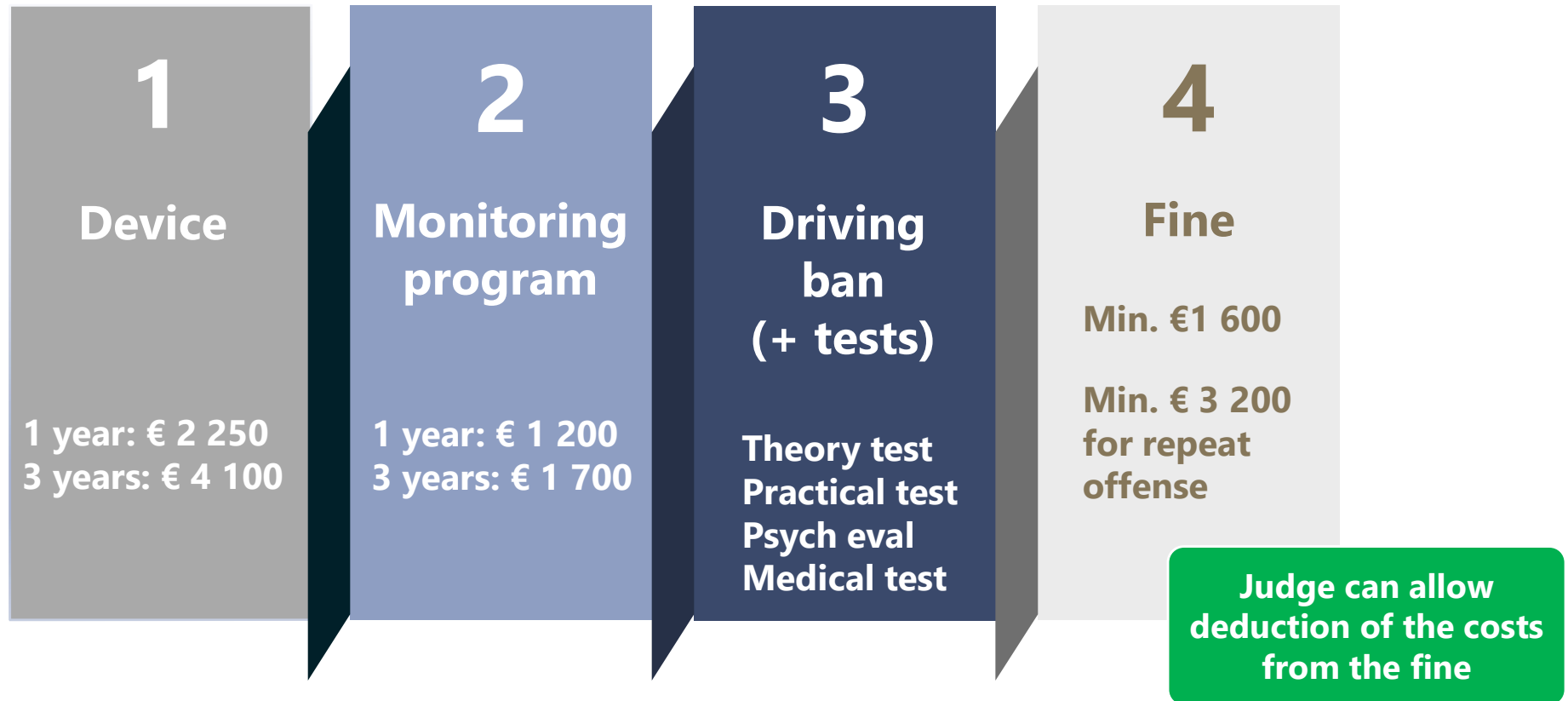
if not: program comes to early end & monitoring centre notifies public prosecutor in detail



public prosecutor can summon before court (judge: imprisonment, driving ban, fine)



## Consequences of conviction







## Costs



**1 year: € 3500**

**3 years: € 6000**

- 65 – 70% device and downloads
- 30 – 35% monitoring program

## How to lower the huge costs?

- Judges can allow deduction of the costs from the fine
- Monitoring program: pay by instalments
- Device to rent (30%)/ purchase (70%)
- Second hand market
- Open market for monitoring centres, service centres and model-approved devices





## Our good strategies

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**Convince and push judges**

**Monitoring program**

**Annual verification of device by an accredited body (independency)**

**Several AI manufacturers: lower prices, different accents like allow rental**

**Territorial coverage of service centres (2: 33) and monitoring centres (4: 74)**

**A program of 5 years is too long; 1-3 years can cause positive behavioral changes**

**Keep device after the AI period - helps keeping up good habits (without program)**

**Threshold at 0.2 pm (zero tolerance)**

## Our issues



- Time gap between offence and sanction: 12 to 18 months

- Alcohol dependency or not (driving ban for incapacity versus AI)?  
No standard medical check

- Judges often opt out if they can

- Retests while driving to counter circumvention (retest is to be completed within 15')

- Combination driving ban (+ tests) + AI = complex  
Subsequent decisions may need proper arrangements with public prosecutor



## Alcohol interlocks: win – win

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### Safe roads

Monitoring program helps for lasting behaviour change

- During AI period: chance on drink driving - 75%
- After AI period: some studies show behaviour change *if monitored*

### Possibility to keep on driving (social & professional life)

[Video ETSC: "It has changed my life..." - How alcohol interlocks can save lives and change lives - YouTube](#)



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Thank you for your attention!



all for zero

[anneliese.heeren@mobiliteit.fgov.be](mailto:anneliese.heeren@mobiliteit.fgov.be)  
FPS Mobility and Transport

     | [www.mobiliteit.belgium.be](http://www.mobiliteit.belgium.be)

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