



TRB
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Standing Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Transportation
Lectern Session 1275: Impairment on Road Users Other Than Drivers

Impaired Cycling and Crash Involvement: A Survey Across OECD Countries on Data Availability and Legislation



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- **Bicycle kilometers** in urban and peri-urban contexts have recently **increased** due to:
 - availability of self-service systems,
 - widespread use of bicycles to make deliveries,
 - use of bicycle for sightseeing tours,
 - a change in mentality especially of young people who favor active modes and who are less and less motorized,
 - all major cities being in the process of studying or setting up extensive networks of cycle paths.



- A large part of this mileage is realized by **young** people (<30 years old) for leisure and night outings.
- Young people also consume **alcohol** and **drugs** at a much lower frequency.
- It is reasonable to assume that there are drinking problems and drugs that could make these cyclists more **vulnerable**.
- However, BACs **rarely target cyclists** and the legislation does not seem to be adapted to the particularities of the subject.



The problem

- Drivers who have consumed alcohol and other substances are **over-represented** in the statistics of involvement in serious and fatal accidents.
- Cycling is more **challenging** than driving because it involves more skills such as balance, physical activity and night vision.
- Cyclists are more **vulnerable** less visible to other drivers, more exposed to weather conditions and have less means of protection against shocks.
- The **effects** of blood alcohol levels are increasing for cyclists.



The Velivr' project

- *Velivr' - Cycling under the influence of alcohol and drugs: current state and risks*
- Project partners:
 - French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Planning and Networks (**IFSTTAR**)
 - National Technical University of Athens (**NTUA**)
- Project duration: September 2018 – April 2019
- Carried out for the Interministerial Delegate for Road Safety (Délégation à la Sécurité Routière – **DSR**) of the French Ministry of the Interior.



Project objectives

Velivr' is an exploratory study that will make a first **diagnosis** of the **situation** on cycling under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (**CUI**) in France and a benchmark on international **good practices**.

The objectives of the project include:

- ✓ identify the **problem** in a broader context,
- ✓ measure its **magnitude**,
- ✓ observe and analyze the **behavior** of the persons concerned,
- ✓ identify **factors** of **risk** behavior (age, socio-professional profile, possession or no car ...).



Two complementary methodological approaches:

- A **bibliographic** and **statistical** approach to exploit existing knowledge and databases, situate the problem of CUI in an international context and identify elements for the French territory.
- **Direct observation** through a survey of cyclists in Paris followed by statistical modeling of their responses.



Expected outcomes of the project

- Better understand the **decision-making mechanism** for CUI.
- Allow the formulation of proposals to implement **public, education and training** actions to tackle CUI.
- Indicate the magnitude of the CUI problem and serve as a decision aid for future **investments**.
- Identify future avenues for **research**, both to deepen the issue (e.g. through simulation studies) and to widen its scope (e.g. to other vehicle types such as segway and electric scooter and other cities).



Survey across OECD Countries

- Rules and data concerning CUI were recorded through a **survey** among IRTAD countries.
- A total of **13 IRTAD** members responded to the survey (Austria, Chile, Czech Rep., Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland).
- **Results** from the survey have been reported “**by topic**”, and for each topic of the questionnaire aggregated results are provided.



Survey questionnaire topics

- Minimum **age** for allowing cycling (accompanied or not)
- Obligatory **equipment** for cyclists and the bicycle
- **Areas / road types** where bicycles are allowed to travel
- **BAC limit** especially for cyclists
- **Fine** or other type of **penalty** especially for CUI
- Results of **police controls** on CUI
- Specific measures applied to **prevent** or to **reduce** the **consequences** of CUI
- **Study(ies)** or research on CUI
- CUI Related road safety **outcomes**
- Cycling **exposure** data
- CUI **performance indicators** data



Minimum age for cycling

Country	Minimum age (y.o.) cycling is allowed	Accompanied cycling foreseen
Austria	12 y.o. (10 y.o. with cycling license)	<12 y.o. (<10 y.o. with cycling license)
Chile	no	-
Czech Rep.	10 y.o.	<10 y.o.
Germany	no	no
Greece	no	no
Hungary	12 y.o. (only for main roads)	no
Luxembourg	10 y.o.	from 6 y.o. to 10 y.o.
Netherlands	no	no
Serbia	12 y.o. (public roads) 9 y.o. (pedestrian, slow traffic or "30" zone, school area, unclassified road)	-
Slovenia	8 y.o (with cycling card)	< 14 y.o. (without cycling card) < 6 y.o. (only on pedestrian zone)
Spain	no	-
Sweden	no	no
Switzerland	6 y.o. (main roads) no (other roads and for cycling seated)	< 6 y.o. (main roads)

- Several countries do **define** a **minimum age** for allowing cycling on the road.
- In most of these countries **accompanied** cycling is also **foreseen**.
- **Ten to twelve** y.o. is a common age range for allowing independent cycling.



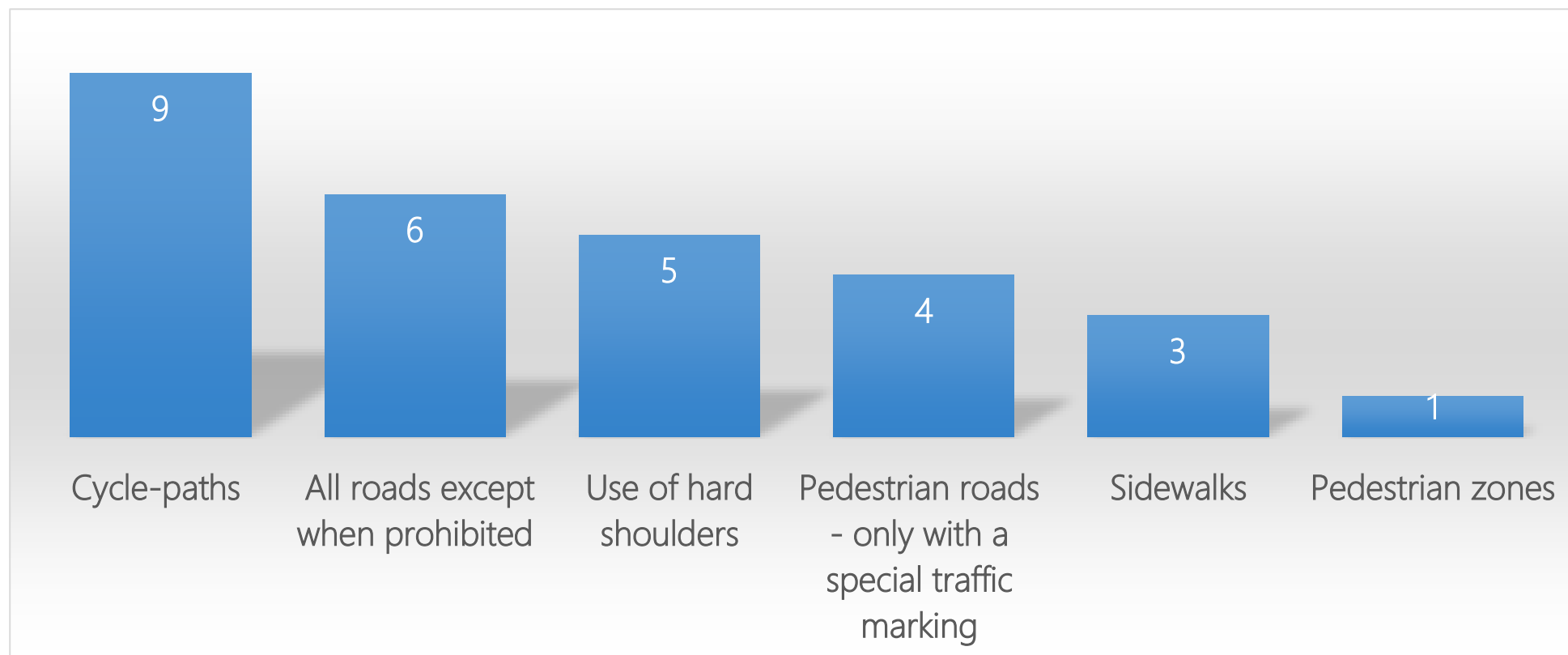
Obligatory cyclist / bicycle equipment

Country	Mandatory equipment for cyclists	Mandatory equipment for the bicycle
Austria	helmet up to 12 y.o.	2 independent brake systems, reflective elements on the front, rear, pedal and wheels, sound device
Chile	helmet, reflective vest, harness or shoulder strap	frontal light, rear red light, reflective elements, sound device
Czech Rep.	helmet up to 18 y.o.	brakes, lights
Germany	no	2 independent brake systems, lighting, spotlights, sound device
Greece	no	2 independent brake systems, white/yellow front light, red light, reflective backlight, side and pedal reflectors
Hungary	helmet and reflective vest under conditions	2 independent brake systems, lights, reflectors, sound device
Luxembourg	no	white/yellow front - red rear light, rear, pedal and wheel reflectors
Netherlands	no	lights (front/rear), wheel/tyre/fender, pedal and rear-reflection, sound device
Serbia	no	2 brakes, white front - red rear light, wheels reflectors, sound device
Slovenia	helmet up to 18 y.o.	front and rear brake, white front - red rear light, rear, wheels and pedal reflectors, sound device
Spain	helmet	lights, reflectors
Sweden	helmet up to 15 y.o.	brake, lights and reflectors only in darkness, sound device
Switzerland	no	2 brakes, lights, reflectors, tyres of approximately the same elasticity

- In half of the countries a **helmet** is mandatory but only up to a **certain age**.
- In all countries almost the **same** bicycle **equipment** is required.



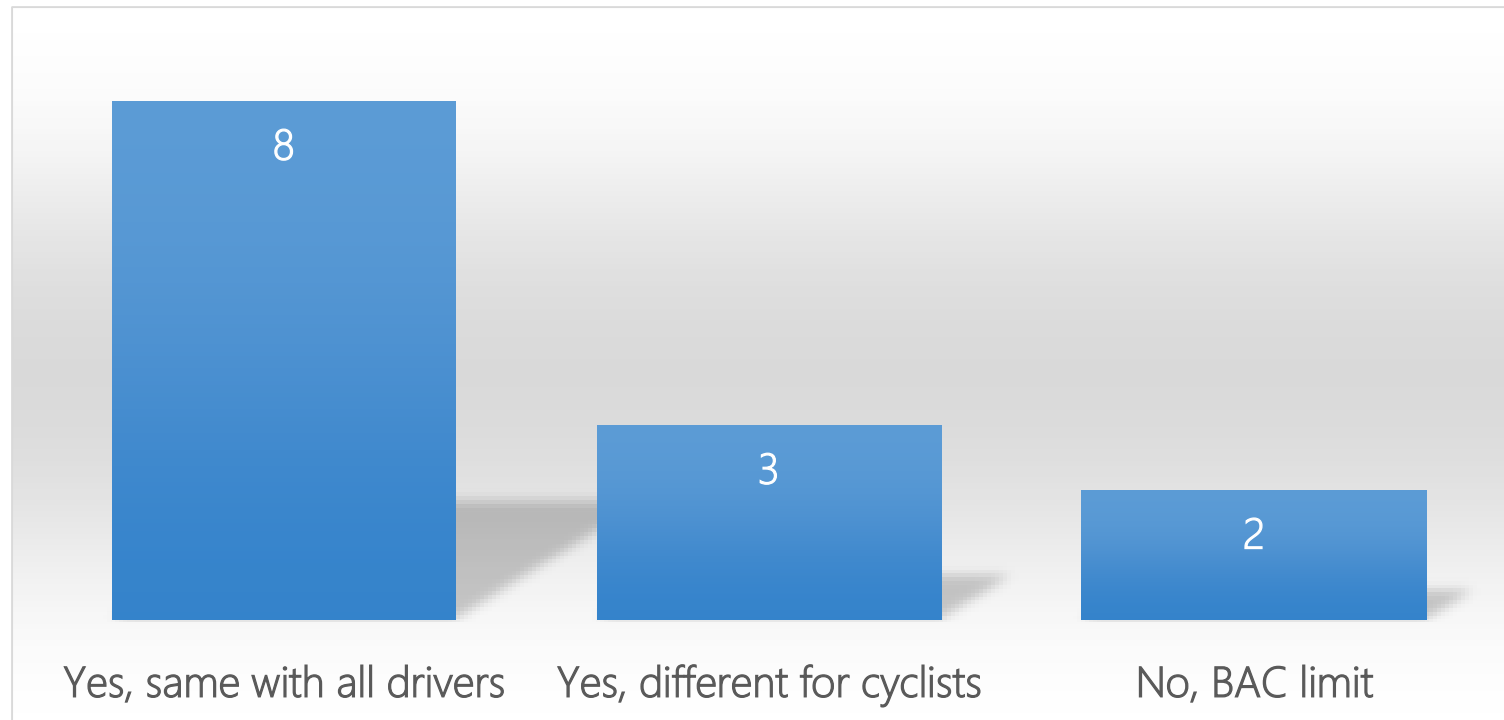
Areas/road types allowed for bicycles



- In most countries **there is provision** for the safe movement of bicycles on dedicated paths or at least on specific areas/roads.



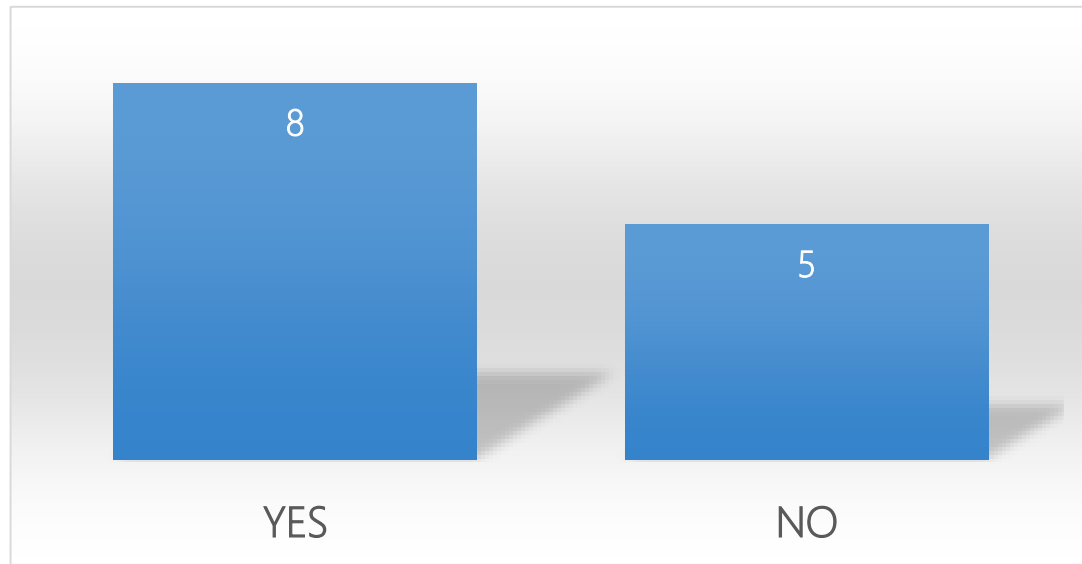
BAC limit for cyclists



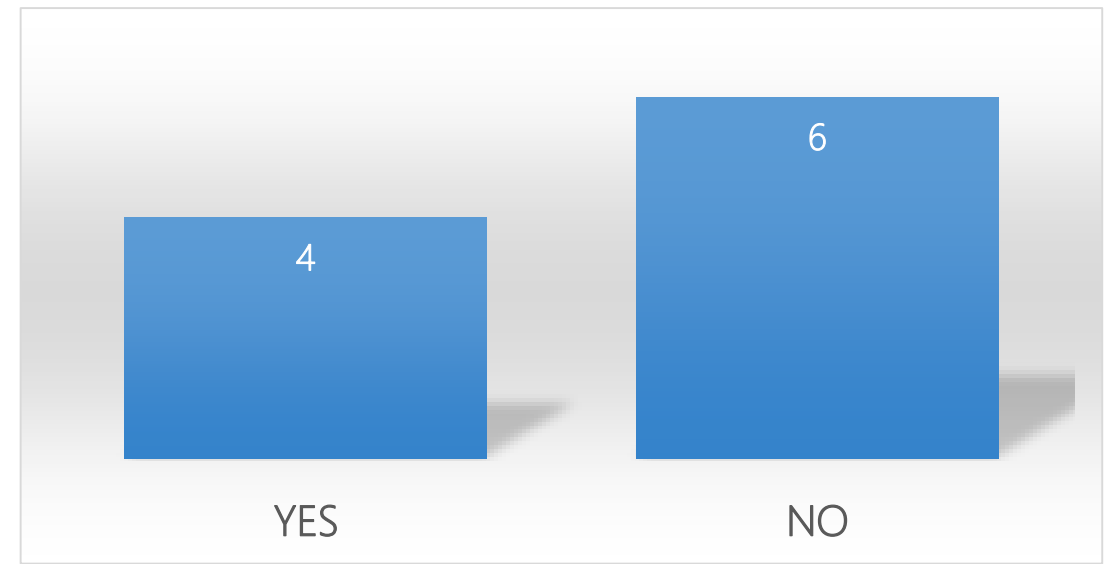
- Almost all responding countries have **defined** a **BAC limit** for cyclists.
- BAC limit for cyclists may be **higher** (Austria, Germany) or **lower** (Slovenia) than the standard limit for drivers.



Foreseen fine/penalty for CUI



Fine

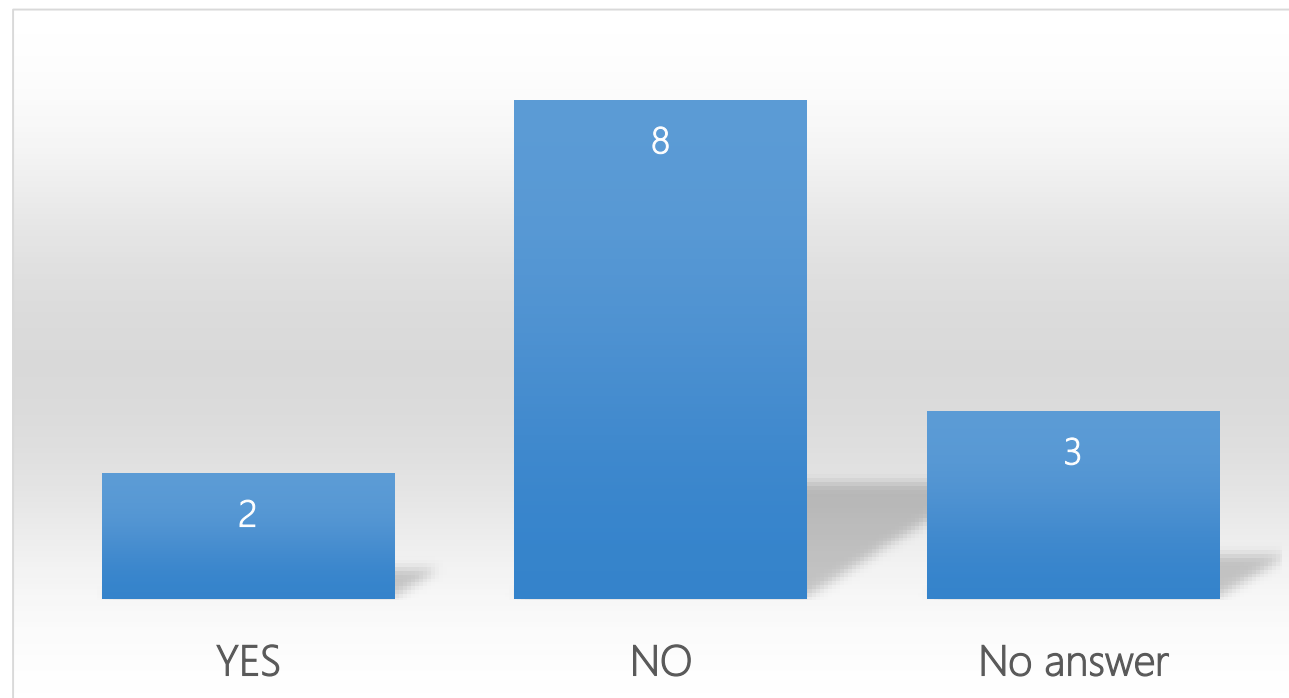


Other penalty

- **Fines** for CUI are applied in most countries but other types of penalties are scarce.
- Other types of applied penalties include: cycling **license revocation**, driver **improvement**, **medical / psychological assessment** and **penalty points**.



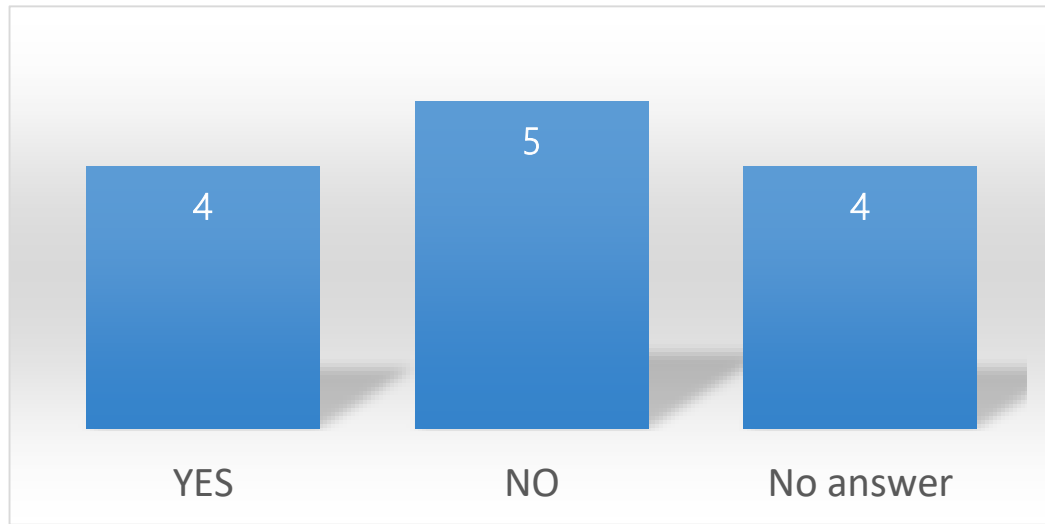
Available CUI police controls results



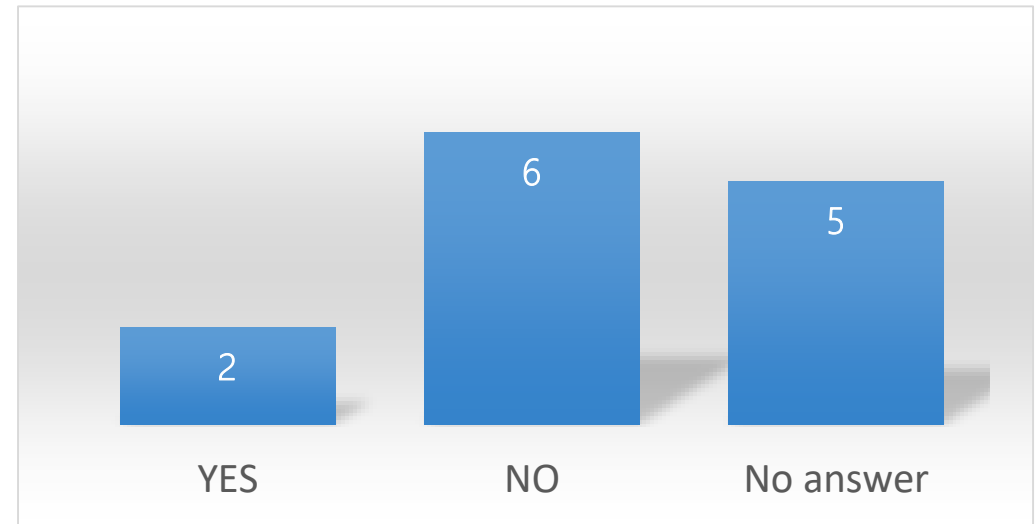
- In most countries data concerning the results obtained by police controls on CUI are either **not available** or **not distinguished** from other police control data.



Measures to prevent/reduce CUI consequences



Measures to prevent CUI



Measures to reduce CUI consequences

- Measures concerning CUI are implemented in **few** countries.
- Reported measures concerned **education** and **information** of all drivers but **not cyclists** in particular.
- The high number of no answers also indicates a **lack of activity** in the field.



Availability of CUI statistical data

Country	Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Exposure data	Performance Indicators
Austria	-	-	-	-	-
Chile	no	no	no	no	no
Czech Rep.	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Germany	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Greece	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Hungary	yes	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	yes	yes	yes	-	-
Netherlands	no	no	no	yes	no
Serbia	yes	yes	yes	-	-
Slovenia	yes	yes	yes	specific municipalities	-
Spain	no	no	no	no	no
Sweden	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	yes	yes	yes	yes	no

- Road safety outcomes concerning CUI are available in the majority of countries.
- Cycling exposure data (i.e. cycle-kms, person-kms) are limited.
- Cycling performance indicators data are almost totally missing.



- In many countries safe cycling attracts **growing attention** as indicated by the adoption of rules concerning various aspects of it (delimited cycle paths, bicycle equipment).
- The need for **cycling skills** is partially recognized as implied by the minimum age restrictions.
- However, the **vulnerability** of cyclists is not fully realised (i.e. lack of mandatory protective equipment and special BAC limit).
- The **CUI problem** is not appropriately addressed through insufficient enforcement and provision for measures to prevent it.



Conclusion

- Cycling under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is a **problem growing** in parallel with cycling itself.
- The **legislative treatment** of cycling issues can help tackle the problem of CUI and reduce its consequences.
- Analyses of the existing data on CUI related road safety **outcomes** and collection of cycling **exposure** data and **performance indicators** are necessary to better understand the problem of CUI and identify evidence-based solutions.



Indicative list of studies related to CUI

- Martínez Ruiz, V., Jiménez Mejías, E., Amezcua Prieto, C., Olmedo Requena, R., Pulido Manzanero, J., & Lardelli Claret, P. (2015). *Risk factors for provoking collisions between cyclists and pedestrians in Spain, 1993-2011*. Gaceta Sanitaria, 29, pp.10–15.
- Ariane von Below (2016). *Road safety of cyclists - Analysis of motives relevant for security, settings and behaviour patterns*. ISBN: 978-3-95606-234-6.
- *Analyse der Velounfälle 2005 bis 2014 - Personen- und infrastrukturbezogene Auswertungen* (Chapter 4.3)
- *Forschungspaket VESPA*, especially Massnahmen und Potenziale im Bereich Verkehrsteilnehmende (especially pp. 62, 88 ff.)
- <https://www.bfu.ch/de/bestellen/alles#k=2.092> (pp. 98ff)





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