



FOD MOBILITEIT EN VERVOER
SPF MOBILITÉ ET TRANSPORTS

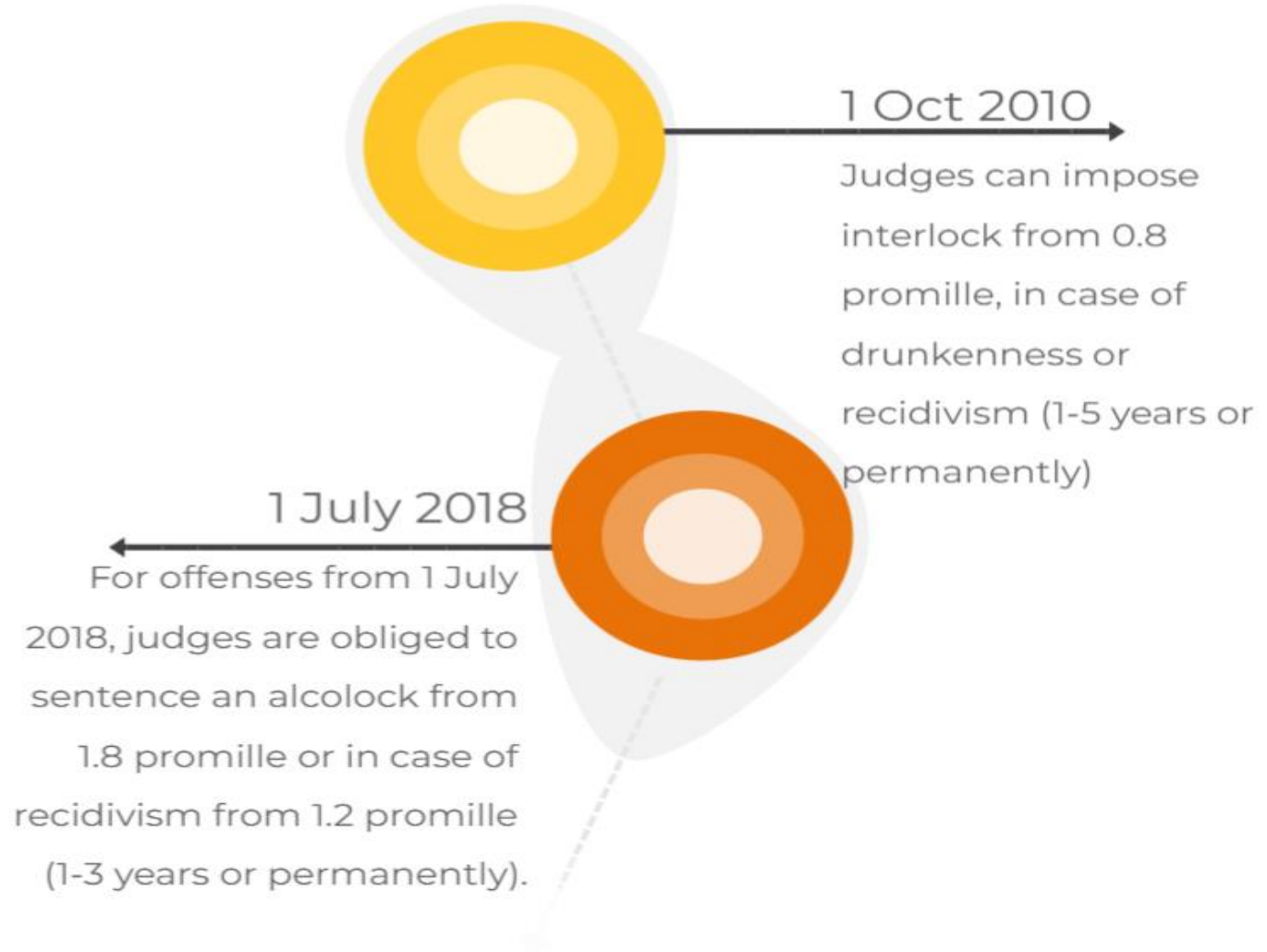


Alcohol Interlock monitoring program in Belgium

Safe & Sober Seminar ETSC – Dublin, 19 January 2024



Belgian legislative history



Law of 12/07/2009 and loyal decrees of 26/11/2010

Law 6/03/2018



Targeted offenders

Judge MAY impose

- intoxication ≥ 0.8 pm
- drunkenness
- slight recidivism

AI for heavy drink- drivers

Judge MUST impose

- **severe intoxication (≥ 1.8 pm)**
unless properly motivated
 - **≥ 1.2 pm for repeat offenders**
no exception possible
- = 1 – 3 years/ for life

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

Out of scope:

- driving ban due to physical or mental incapacity (e.g. alcohol addiction)
- driving ban for life



Number of AI for offenders

History:

2009-10: 1st legislation

2013: 1st device installed

2014: 7 offenders convicted

until 2017: only 66 persons in AI monitoring program

2018: 2nd 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



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)



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



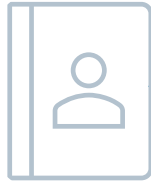
Introductory meeting within 14 days to explain the
program (device, costs, driving licence, follow-up,
data downloads, ...)



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



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

	9.	10.	11.	12.
13. AM	01.12.81	----	----	----
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)	
D1	----	----	----	----
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	----	----	----	----
E	07.04.10	----	----	----

12. T.04.01.18

1. Nomen 2. Nomen 3. Data et hora de expirării 4. Data de eliberare
5. Valoarea calculată prin procedurile de calcul 6. Valoarea de permis
10. Valoarea actuală 11. Valoarea inițială 12. Permisul de conducere



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**



9. Closing meeting



10. Removal of the device



Some extra conditions to fulfill during monitoring program

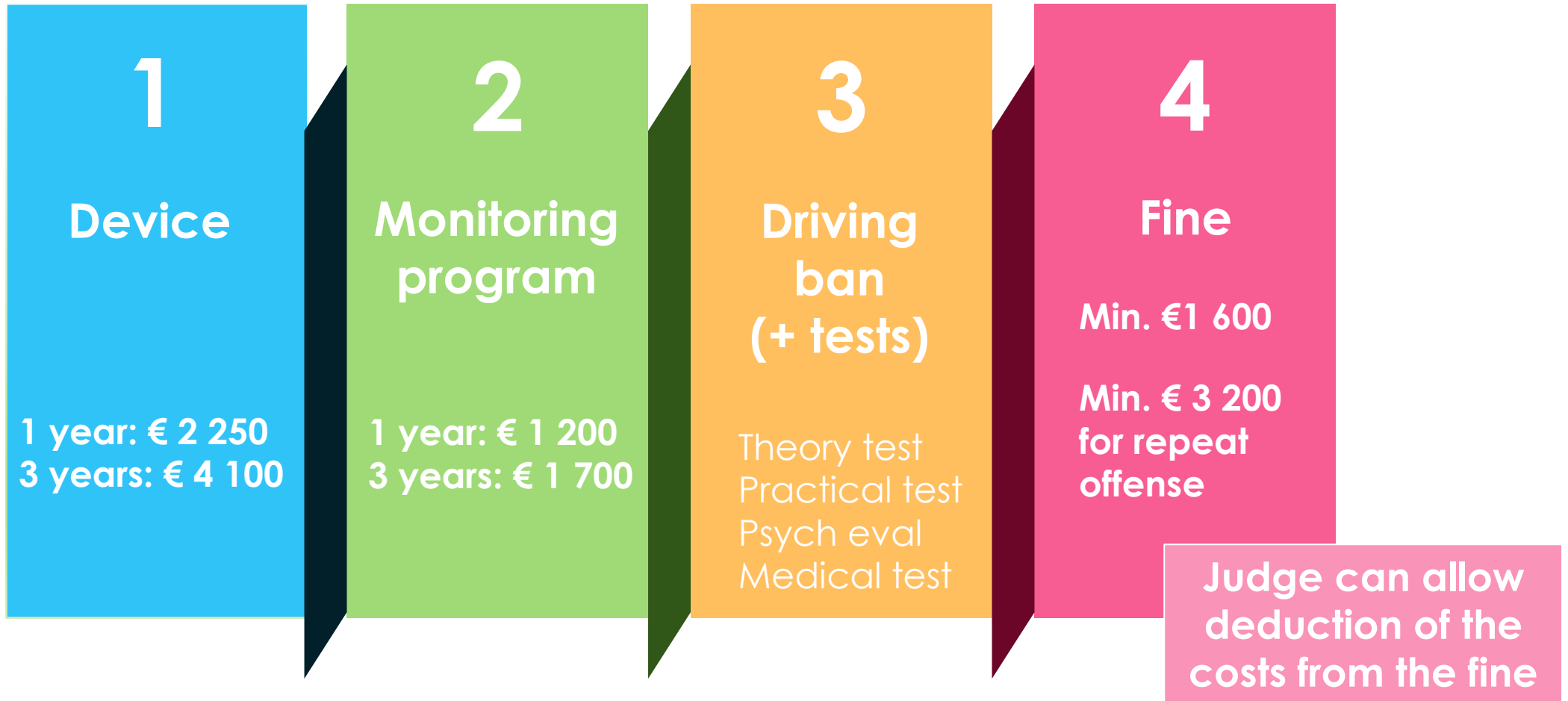
- pay costs in time
- duly participating in the program
- not drink drive anymore (≥ 0.2 BAC)
- not too often try to start under influence
- not disconnect or circumvent the system (abnormal results)

→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%)
- Open market for monitoring centres, service centres and model-approved devices





Our good strategies

Convince and push judges

AI monitoring program

Annual verification by an accredited body (independency)

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

Territorial coverage of service centres (2: 34) and monitoring centres (3: 73)

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 ($BAC \geq 1,8$ pm)

- Frequent retesting while driving:

- to be completed within 15 minutes
- roadside parking is not absolutely necessary

- Combination driving ban (+ tests) + AI = complex (in the same court decision or in a subsequent decision) - proper arrangements with public prosecutor



Alcohol interlocks: win – win



Safe roads

⚠️ 2022: in BE highest number of crashes with injuries involving drink drivers since 2016 (4224 in total = 12 a day) - after covid period

Monitoring program helps for lasting behaviour change

- Chance on recidivism is lowered with 75% during AI period
- Some studies also show behaviour change afterwards - *if monitored*

Possibility to keep on driving (social & professional life)



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Thank you for your attention!



all for zero

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