

DRINK DRIVE IN OLSZTYN CITY, POLAND



Date started: 2008 **Date finished:** On-going

Partners: Office for Preventing Alcohol Related Harm coordinating, Olsztyn City, GRSP Poland and partners



GRSP in Poland is on the streets in the city of Olsztyn working alongside police in a year-long project against drinking and driving in and around the city of Olsztyn, where rates of drunk driving are higher than the national average. The project includes a wide range of actions, including traffic stops, road-side breath tests and surveys and public education.

The Polish national road safety programme, GAMBIT, recognises alcohol impaired driving to be one of the main contributing factors to road

crashes in Poland. A preliminary analysis based on road-side surveys and hospital data in Olsztyn city 2008 done by GRSP suggested that the project should focus on men between 18-24 years of age.

Summary project sheet.

Objectives and scope

In order to have a good understanding of the drink-drive situation and to measure the effectiveness of the project an initial situation assessment took place in first part of 2008. The assessment included collecting crash data, road-side breath test and BAC-levels from hospital data. From the analysis, it was decided that the objectives of the pilot project in Olsztyn city would be to:

- Eliminate road crashes in the City caused by drivers who have consumed alcohol by (latest) 2020
- Focus immediate activities on the highest risk group, young men between 18 – 24 years of age
- Increase the pro-active involvement of community stakeholders to prevent drink-drive crashes in Olsztyn

Apart from implementing the project, secondary objectives are to obtain necessary national and local support for the pilot project, to gain community support, increase the capacity amongst local stakeholders to conduct similar surveys, and extend the project to other cities after the completion of the enforcement and information campaign.

Activities

The information collected in the situation assessments was used to guide decisions about the project strategy and timing of delivery, both in terms of enforcement and information components. The activities launched in mid-October 2008 included:

- public information and education campaign
- community programmes
- increased and targeted enforcement of drinking and driving laws

The targeted enforcement is planned to start a week after the information campaign and last for a period of approx 2-3 months. It has been suggested by the NRSC that the European recommendations on enforcement should be used.

Conclusion and main lessons learnt

The project is currently being implemented. From October 2008 to October 2009, the behavior will be monitored using random breath test and driver surveys. The evaluation will also include another phase of hospital surveys and will take place once or a few times after the completion of the enforcement and information campaign.