

# Alcohol policy developments in Slovenia

Vesna-Kerstin Petrič

Ministry of Health

Public Health Directorate

WHO National Counterparts  
Meeting, Madrid, 16 June 2010

# What is there?

## Regulation

Restricting alcohol consumption Act introducing age limit (18), regulation on physical availability - 2003

Ban on advertising related to young people or sport – 2003

Introduction of zero BAC for novice drivers - 2004

# What is there ?

## Structures/measures/stakeholders

- Council for alcohol policy – AP action plan
- Council for prevention and education in road traffic – National programme on road safety
- Brief interventions and counseling in primary health care (part of preventive check ups for man over 35 and women over 45)
- Healthy life style incorporated in curricula of primary and secondary schools
- Local action groups
- NGOs
- Industry

# What is missing?

- Political will
- National policy
- Data, information, research
- Publicity
- Discussion forums/ exchange of information and good practice
- Cooperation/coalition building (national, international, local)
- Funding
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Innovation
- Human resources

# BCP - Building capacity project

- internationalization - perception of us by others  
influencing perception of us by us
- involvement
- empowerment of individuals and institutions  
(PHI)
- better access to information and innovation
- political and media attention
- up - grading advocacy capacity
- up - grading research capacity

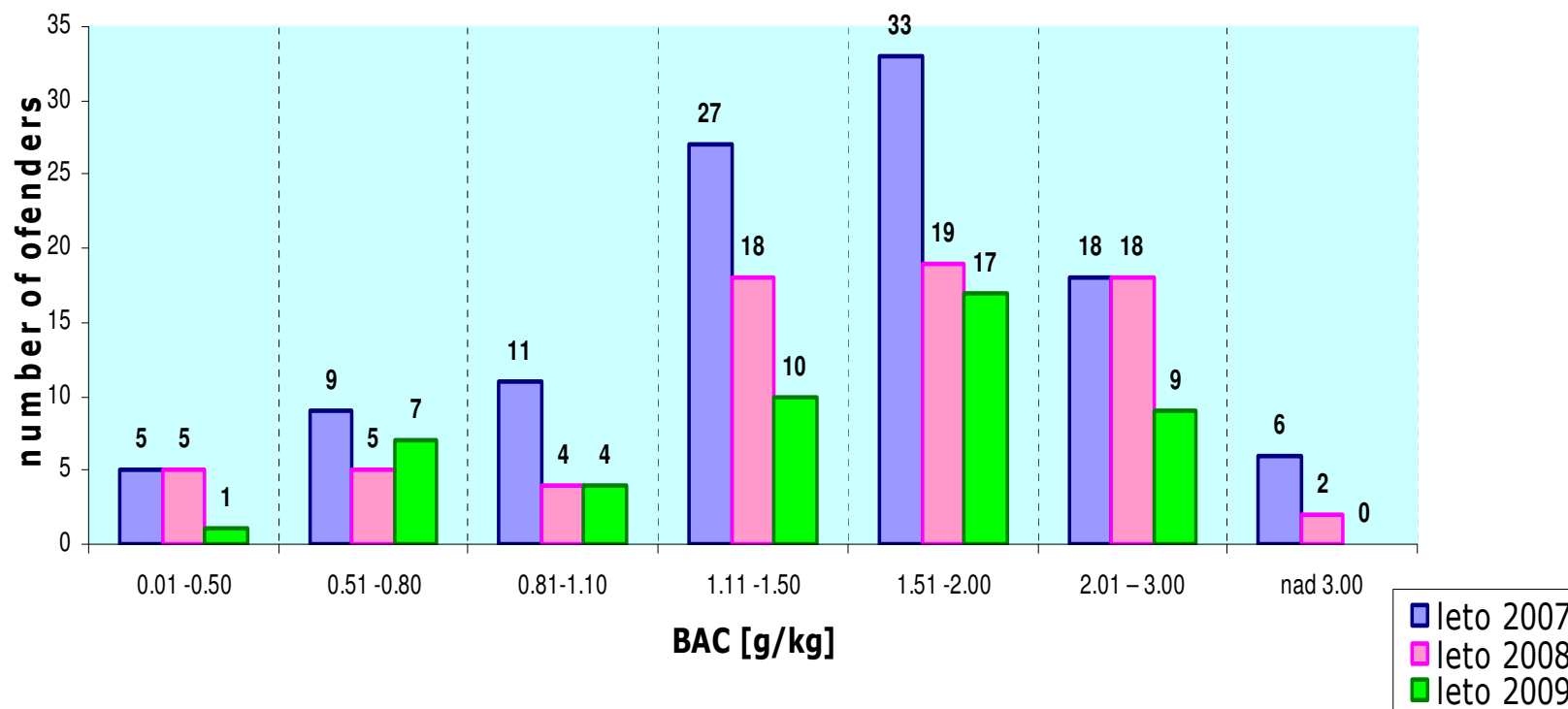
# Promoting and implementing effective health interventions through driving legislation

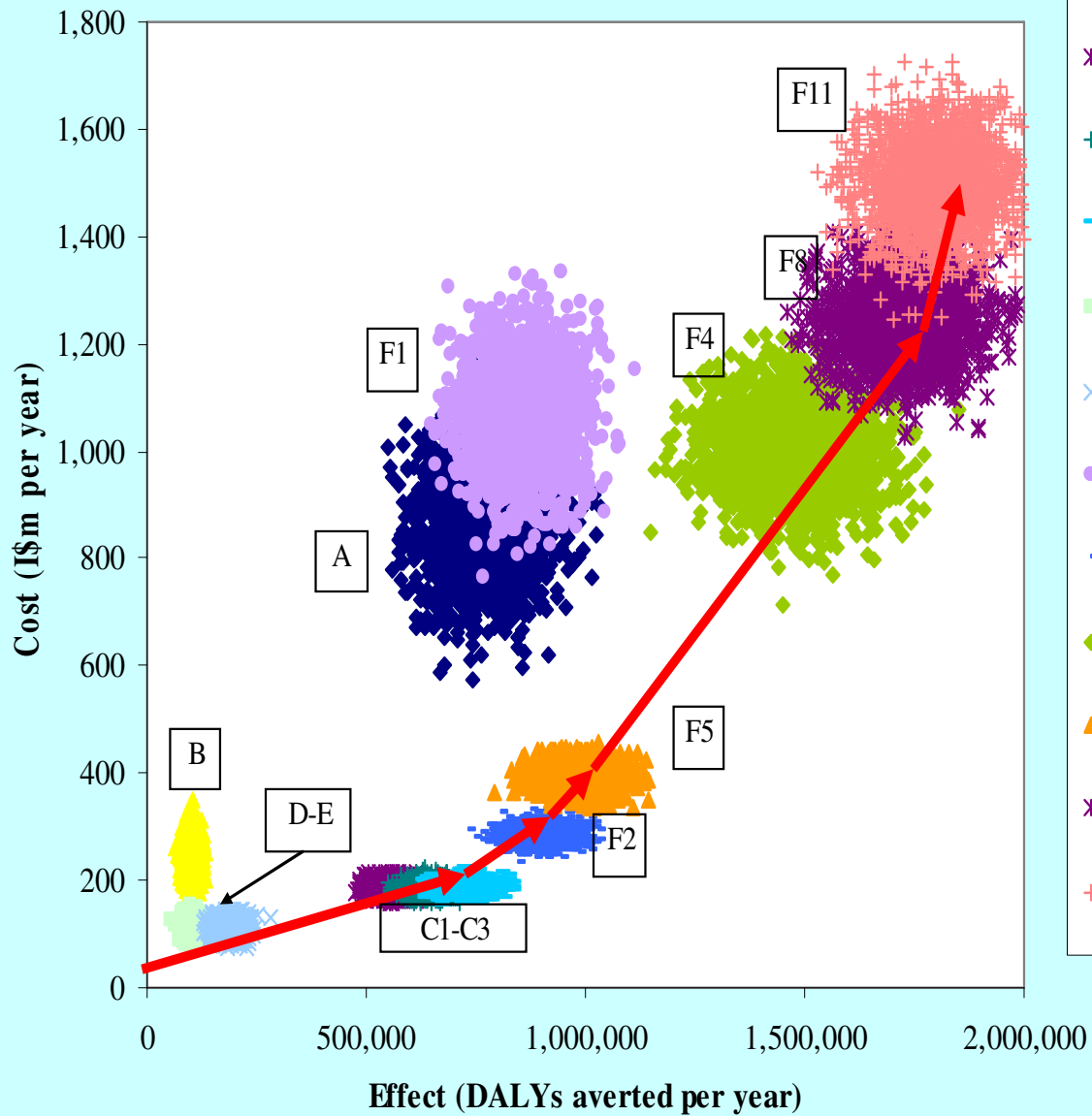
## Facts:

- 0.5 g/kg BAC for drivers and 0.0 for novice drivers!
- High mortality in road accidents, high alcohol involvement!
- Random testing recognized and used as effective measure! (SVN part of DRUID project)
- Brief intervention implemented! (SVN part of INEBRIA)

Leg. proposal: using BI in alcohol-positive traffic casualties (0.5 to 0.8 BAC), rehabilitation programmes for those above 0.8 BAC

## Number of offenders in accidents with fatal outcome in relation to alcohol blood levels





- ◆ A. Brief physician advice
- ▲ B. Random Breath Testing
- ✱ C1. Taxation (current)
- + C2. Taxation (current + 25%)
- C3. Taxation (current + 50%)
- D. Restricted access (sales)
- × E. Advertising ban
- F1. Brief advice + RBT
- F2. Tax (highest) + Ad Ban
- ◆ F4. Brief advice + Tax (highest)
- ▲ F5. Tax (highest) + Ad Ban + Restrict access
- ✱ F8. Brief advice + Tax (highest) + Ad Ban + Restrict Access
- + F11. Brief advice + Tax (highest) + Ad Ban + RBT + Restrict access

**Source: Chisholm et al  
2004**



# Expected outcomes

- less drinking and driving – less traffic accidents

But also

- better awareness on alcohol not being an ordinary commodity in general public
- getting information on effective measures to decision makers
- motivating doctors to use BI as an effective intervention

Challenge: how to best use evidence for different audiences in public debate and how to best evaluate the effects

# MoSA - Mobilizing society for action

Internet based forum:

- encouraging discussion and information exchange
- promoting innovation and good practice
- information source - latest news, events, descriptions of projects/actions, list of stakeholders, research results
- links to other national and international relevant alcohol policy sources
- opinion making

Initiative of MoH, product of PHI and University of Ljubljana, ownership by NGO!!!

[www.infomosa.si](http://www.infomosa.si)