



LITHUANIAN POLICE

To defend. To Protect. To Help.



**Third European Conference on Alcohol
Law Enforcement:
Easy taking promotes easy drinking**

21–22 May 2014, Tallinn



In Lithuania policy on alcohol could be defined as:

- zero tolerance policy in respect to the persons under the age of 18;
- strongly oriented to the reduction of supply and harm caused by alcohol;
- oriented to the demand reduction.



The main legal act –
Republic of Lithuania Law on Alcohol Control

- The purpose of this Law is to reduce the general consumption of alcohol, its availability, especially to minors, alcohol abuse, the damage caused by it to health and the economy and to establish the legal principles of granting economic entities the right to manufacture, sell, bring in, import and export the alcohol products, regulated in this Law.



MINORS and ALCOHOL

- *In Lithuania persons under the age of 18 are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages or from having them.*
- *Youngsters cannot use, buy or have alcohol.*
- *The adults cannot involve minors into drinking of alcohol, sell or buy for them or give them in other way alcoholic beverages.*



Prohibitions

- Catering enterprises or retail companies, which sell alcoholic beverages, were introduced a liability to secure that persons under 18 years of age would not drink alcoholic beverages in their premises.
- The salespersons of alcohol have the right, and when doubts arise that a person is younger than 18 years of age, they must require from the person purchasing alcoholic beverages to show a document indicating his/her age. If a person fails to show a relevant document, the sales persons must refuse to sell him/her alcohol.



The sale of alcohol in certain places is restricted:

- in health care, education establishments and areas thereof, also in the vicinity of these establishments;
- in the retail establishments in which the amount of goods intended for children and adolescents comprises 30 or more percent of the turnover of the retail goods;
- at mass events and fairs (except alcohol not reaching 6 %);
- from vending machines;



Restrictions

- during sports competitions (except beverages, where alcohol does not exceed 6 per cent);
- at retail establishments which are not totally isolated from living or other quarters not connected with the organization of sale or stocking of goods.

Taking into consideration the location of trade in alcohol beverages and the opinion of residents, societies, communities or representative thereof, public organizations or other institutions as stated in writing, proposals of police, municipal councils shall have the right to restrict the time during which it is allowed to sell alcohol, not to issue a license to engage in retail trade in alcohol.



Bans

- It is not allowed to sell alcohol from 10 p. m. to 8 a. m.
- Absolute ban (except the catering establishments) for selling alcohol is on the 1 of September each year. It is the day when the new school-year starts in Lithuania.
- Advertisement of all forms of alcohol is banned if it is directed at children and adolescents up to 18 years of age, features persons under 18 years of age in promotion campaigns.



Juvenile responsibility

State laws punish both the provider of the alcohol and the minor who has used or had it. For these activities legal responsibility is foreseen in the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

Minors who break the law can be fined, or according to the Law on Minimal and Average Care of the Child of the Republic of Lithuania can be obliged to attend children's day care center, or to participate in social education, rehabilitation, integration, prevention or other programs, also it could be specialist's work (counseling) with the child.



Administrative penalties for juveniles who has committed offences related to alcohol

- Minors from 16 to 18 years of age

Drunk appearance in the public places, consuming alcoholic beverages or having them shall be punished by a fine from 30 to 50 Litas. If during twelve months period a minor repeatedly has committed similar infringement - the fine increases from 50 to 100 Litas.

As an alternative to a fine measures of minimal child care can also be imposed.

For aforementioned offences which were committed by minors under 16 years of age their parents or guardians (caretakers) are punished.

Child's involvement into the habit of drinking shall be punished by community service, or penalty, or restriction of liberty, or deprivation of liberty up to two years (Criminal Code or the Republic of Lithuania).



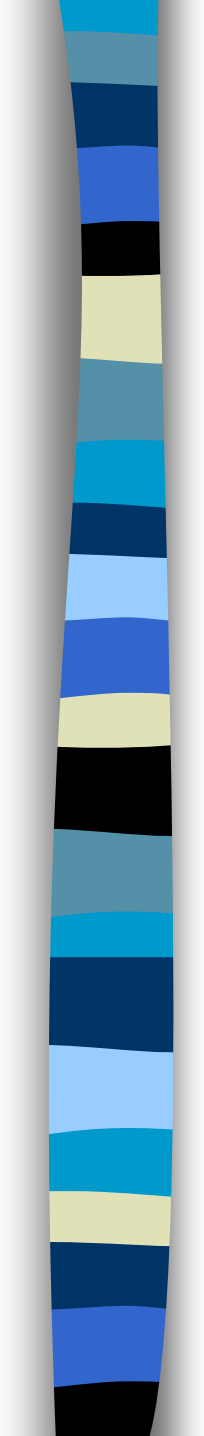
Other provisions

- The fact that a criminal act is committed by a person under the influence of alcohol can be treated as an aggravating circumstance.



PROBLEMS due to alcohol consumption

- Quite often crimes and offences are committed in public places under the influence of alcohol;
- Domestic violence, children's neglect;
- The majority of administrative law violations committed by minors are related with alcohol consumption;
- Criminal acts committed by persons under the influence of alcohol constitutes from 20 to 25 per cent of all criminal acts conducted;
- Illegal production, sale and consumption of home-brewed strong alcoholic beverages;
- Trafficking of alcohol from neighbour countries (smuggling).



In the State policy concerning Regulation of price, advertising and availability of alcohol in Lithuania are the measures that are treated as bringing the best results. And these are the measures that, according to the State, should be applied firstly aiming at reducing the alcohol consumption. Social initiatives and educational programs should be applied in complex with these restrictions, but seperately they are not effective enough and cannot replace the effect of these restrictions.



Thank you for your attention.

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