



# ENFORCING ALCOHOL LAW

PRACTICE OF LATVIAN STATE POLICE

3rd European Conference on Alcohol Law Enforcement: Easy taking promotes easy drinking  
21 & 22 May 2014, Tallinn, Estonia

# ROLE OF POLICE ENFORCING ALCOHOL LAW IN LATVIA



# AVAILABILITY OF ALCOHOL TO YOUTH



## Statistics

- 88% of 15-16 years old pupils in Riga have tried alcohol,
- 57% of them have been drunk at least once,
- 17% of boys have tried alcohol for the very first time at age 11.



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## Statistics

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## Legislation

### Age limits:

- It is forbidden to sell alcohol to minors (under age 18);
- Youths in age from 18 to 25 are obligated to show their ID when obtaining alcohol;
- Retail shops should not sell alcohol if ID is not shown.

### Liability:

- **Minor obtaining alcohol** (first time - warning or fine 35 Eur; repeated during 1 year – fine 35 – 70 Eur)
- **Shops selling alcohol to minors** (first time – seller 280-350 Eur, legal person 700-1400 Eur; repeated during 1 year – seller 350-700 Eur, legal person 2900-7100 Eur)



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## Legislation

- It is forbidden to sell alcohol to minors (under age 18)
- Youngsters in age from 18 to 25 are obligated to show their ID when obtaining alcohol
- Retail shops should not sell alcohol if ID is not shown
- Responsibility of minor for obtaining alcohol (first time - warning or fine 35 Eur; repeated during 1 year – fine 35 – 70 Eur)
- Responsibility of shops selling alcohol to minors (first time – pārdevējs 280-350 Eur, juridiska persona 700-1400 Eur; repeated during 1 year – pārdevējs 350-700 Eur, juridiska persona 2900-7100 Eur)

## Police practice

- Mystery shoppers (minors above age 15).
- Preventive activities

### Shops selling alcohol to minors (2013) – number of cases

For the first time	252
Repeated during 1 year	11

- State revenue service can cancel the special permit (licence) of merchant.



# CONTROL OF RETAIL SHOPS SELLING ALCOHOL



## Legislation

- It is forbidden to sell alcohol from 22:00 to 8:00 (except retail places where alcohol is served and consumed at the same place);
- Separate designated area for alcohol or each client should be served individually;
- No other products should be sell in designated alcohol areas (except cigarettes or goods related to alcohol (such as bottle opener etc.);
- CCTV.



# FIGHT WITH ILLEGAL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES



## Statistics

- **37%** of citizens in age from 18 to 55 have obtained illegal alcohol.
- **Target group** – men, low income, low education level.
- Most homicides and domestic violence cases are linked to **alcohol consumption**.



# FIGHT WITH ILLEGAL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES



## Statistics

- 37% of citizens in age from 18 to 55 have obtained illegal alcohol
- Target group – men, low income, low education level
- Most homicides and domestic violence cases are related to alcohol consumption

## Legislation

Liability of person producing, storing or transporting illegal alcoholic beverages:

- Natural person 350-700 Eur, confiscating illegal alcohol and vehicle used for its transportation (or without vehicle confiscation);
- Legal person 1400-14000 Eur, confiscating illegal alcohol and vehicle used for its transportation (or without vehicle confiscation);
- If substantial harm has been caused – criminal liability.

Liability of person selling illegal alcoholic beverages

- criminal liability.

Liability of the owner of premises where illegal alcohol is produced, stored or sold:

- Police informs owner of the premises about illegal activity;
- If illegal activity is identified repeated during 1 year;
- Natural person 280-700 Eur,;
- Legal person 1400-710 Eur.

Liability of customer obtaining illegal alcohol beverages

- 140 Eur, confiscating illegal alcohol beverages.





# FIGHT WITH ILLEGAL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES



## Police practice:

### 1. Control measures

Actions in 2013	
Preventive inspection	4193

### 2. Involvement of community

- IACD map (illegal alcohol, cigarettes & drugs). Web based service

Places identified	Results Administrative violation	Results Criminal liability
2216	1459	256

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- Sale of illegal alcoholic beverages - criminal liability.



# FIGHT WITH ILLEGAL ALCOHOL BEVERAGES



## Data from the courts

Criminal law – Section 221.1

Sale of Illegal Alcoholic Beverages

A form of punishment (2005-2013)	%
Community service	48
Temporary deprivation of liberty	39
Fine	6
Deprivation of liberty	5
Other	2

### Statistics

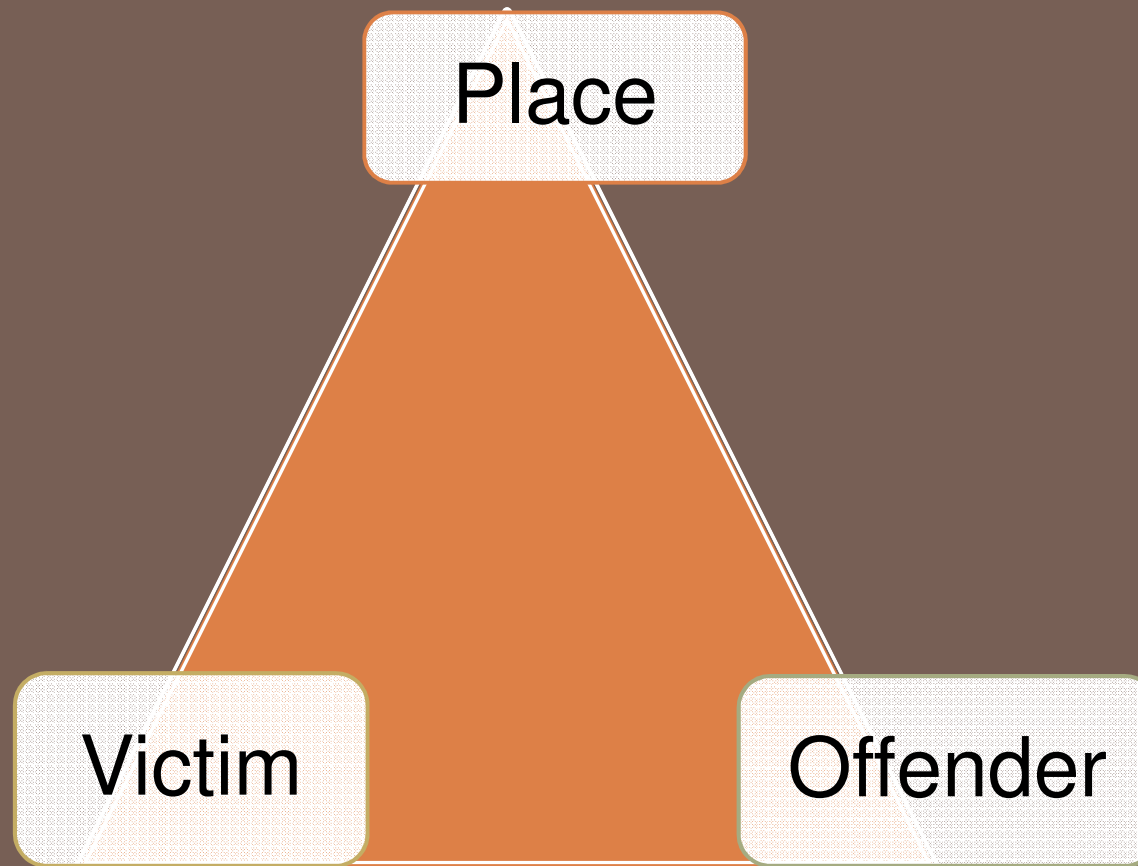
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Shops, places where  
alcohol is sold

Place

Victim

Persons  
obtaining  
alcohol

Offender

Persons selling  
alcohol



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**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!**



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