

NEWS RELEASE

Young Men Four Times More Likely to Die on EU Roads than Young Women

Embargoed, 29 November 2011

29 November 2011, Brussels – Young people are among the groups facing the highest risks of dying while on the road: 140,000 young people aged 15 to 30 have lost their lives on European roads since 2001; 9150 of them in 2010. This age group represents 20% of the population of the EU, but makes up 30% of the total number of road deaths. Mortality of young people – number of deaths divided by population – is 69% higher than the corresponding figure for people of all other ages. The latest Road Safety Performance Index (PIN)¹ Flash also reveals that young males are a particularly problematic group, making up 81% of the number of young people killed on EU roads.

Portugal, Latvia and Spain lead the pack in reducing the number of young people road deaths and they are followed by **Estonia, Slovenia and Luxembourg²**. Good progress was also made in **Sweden, The Netherlands and Switzerland**, who have become the safest countries in terms of young people killed per young inhabitants³. Young people in these countries benefitted not only from measures specific to young people but also from general road safety measures, enforcement efforts and improvements in infrastructure.

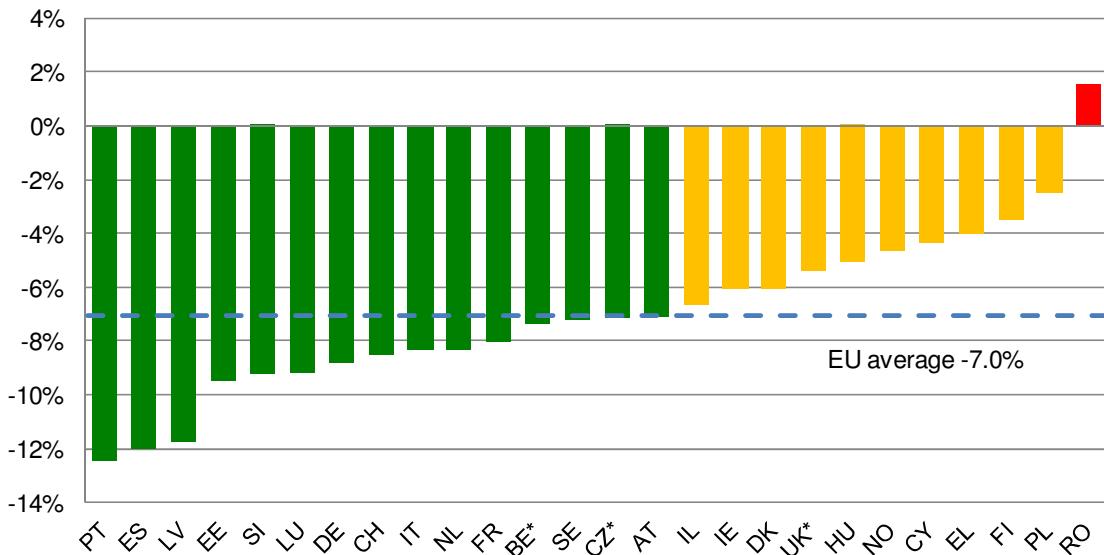
“Member States must make the fight against road deaths among young people a specific priority if they want to achieve the EU 2020 road safety target and their national targets,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC⁴ Executive Director upon the publication of the PIN Flash. General road safety policies will bear fruit in reducing road deaths among young people. Specific measures for novice drivers, such as tighter blood alcohol limits, stricter demerit point systems or provisions for accompanied driving while gaining experience, will reduce the high risks they face immediately after the licence for solo driving has been awarded. “And we urge Member States not to lower the minimum age for moped riding or solo car driving when transposing the EU Driving Licence Directive into national laws”, added Professor Richard Allsop, of University College London, Chair of the PIN Programme.

The full PIN Flash “Reducing road deaths among young people” and detailed figures for each country are available at www.etsc.eu/PIN-publications.php. For more information, please contact PIN Programme Manager Graziella Jost, graziella.jost@etsc.eu, or ETSC Communications Officer Mircea Steriu, mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, Tel: +32 (0)2 230.41.06.

Notes to Editors

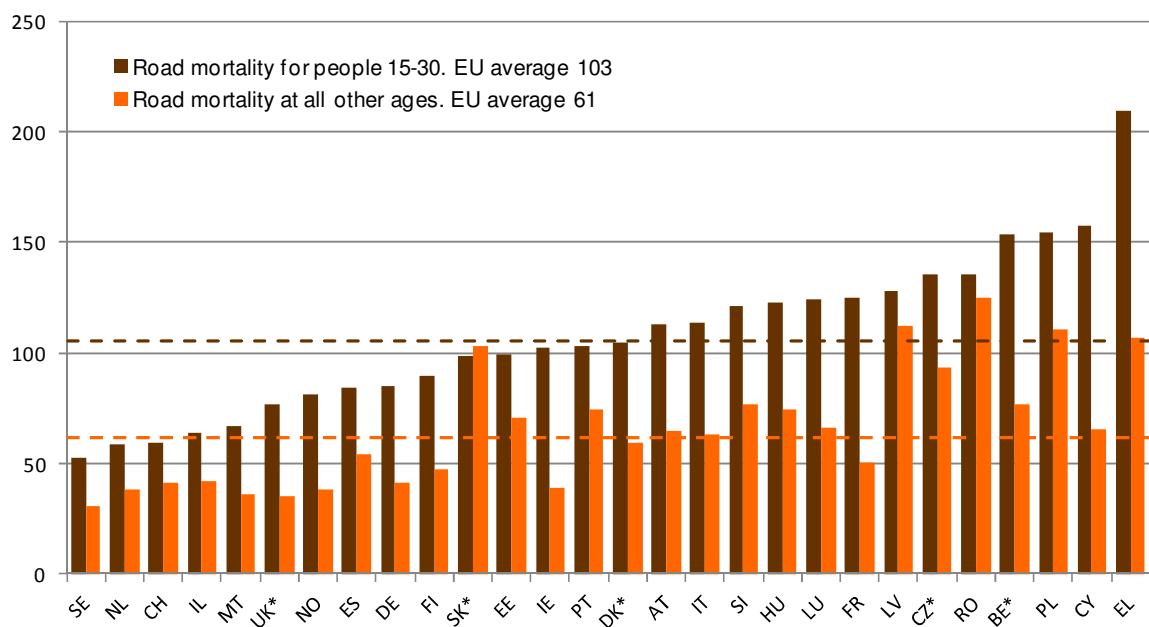
¹ The Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Programme was launched in June 2006 to compare country road safety performances. It currently includes the 27 countries of the EU, as well as Israel, Norway and Switzerland. www.etsc.eu/PIN

² Fig. 1a: Average annual percentage change between 2001 and 2010 in the number of young people aged 15-30 killed on the roads.



*2010 data not available, 2009 figure used for 2010 in calculating the annual average percentage change. Note: Limitations of data prevent the inclusion of Bulgaria, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia.

³ Fig. 6: Young people deaths per million young inhabitants (with road deaths per million inhabitants at all other ages for comparison).



Average values for years 2008, 2009 and 2010. * last three years available: 2007, 2008 and 2009

² ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu