

Set targets for serious injuries reduction in Europe

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The scope of the problem

- In addition to the **35,000 people killed** in road collisions, **1,700,000 people are recorded as injured** in police reports each year in the EU, among them **300,000 seriously**.
- For every road death in the EU, at least **44** injuries are recorded, of which **8** are serious.
- But, not all serious injuries are recorded by the police. Example: in Sweden, for every road death, there are **23** survivors of road collisions treated in hospital, against just **8** seriously injured people recorded by the police.

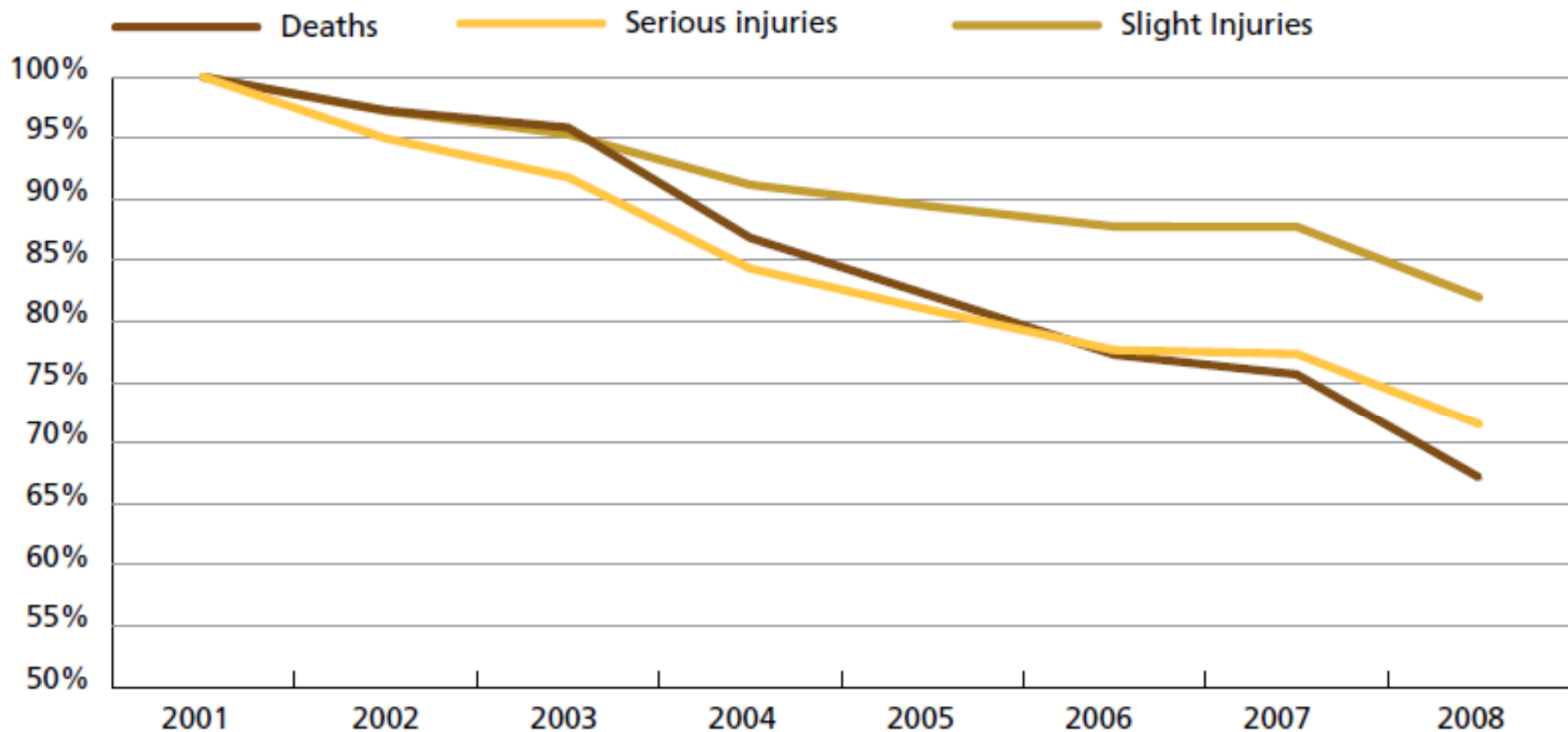
Underreporting of serious injuries

- EU comparisons are hampered because:
 - ❑ levels of injury reporting and
 - ❑ national definitions of a serious injury vary greatly among countries.
- Improving the quality of data about seriously injured survivors = key to designing more effective safety policies and to stimulate proper allocation of resources

Why *also* focus on seriously injured?

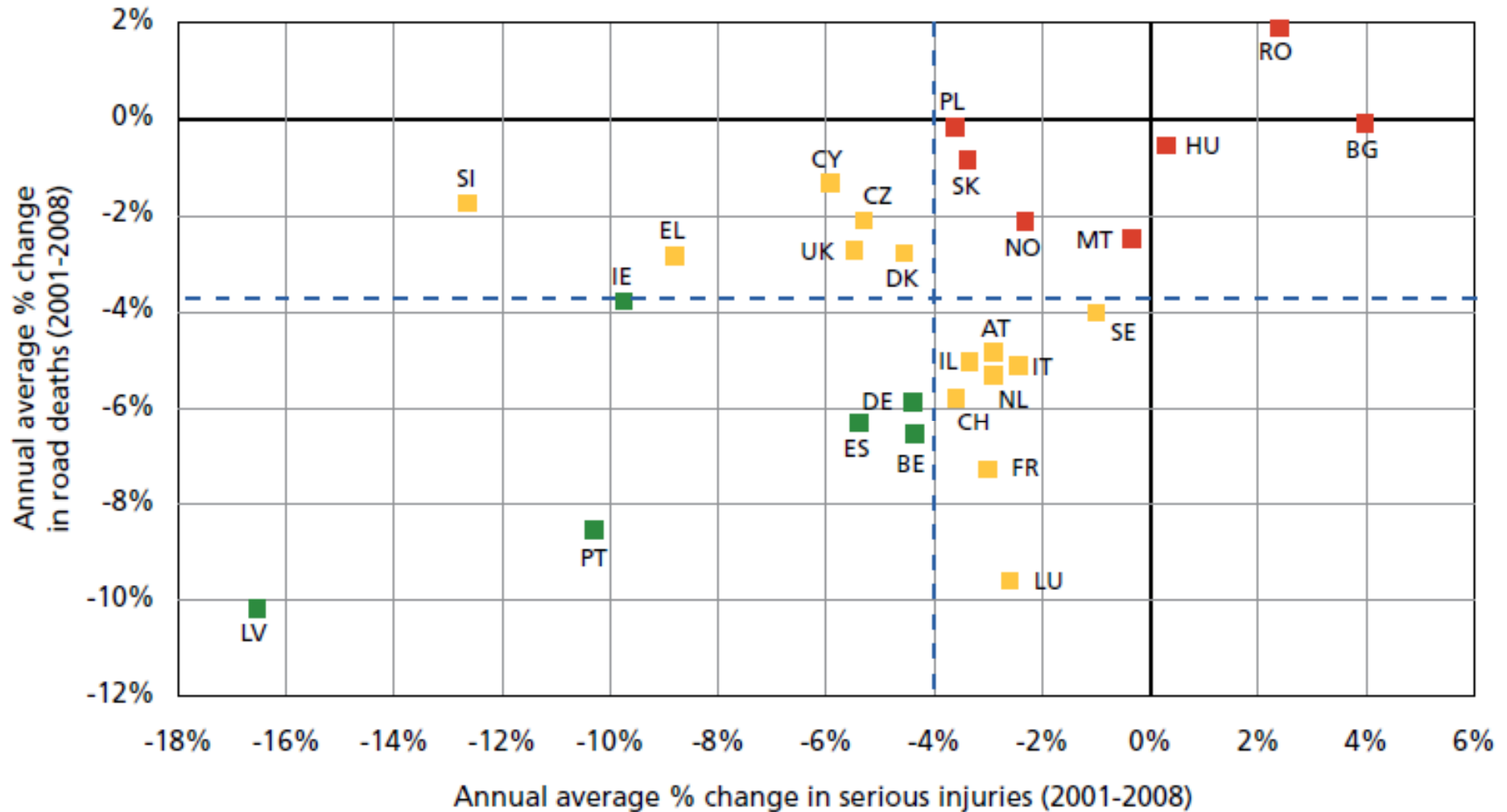
- Stress that traffic safety is a serious **health** problem within all countries => **new stakeholders** involved
- Give focus on **new areas for action**, for example:
 - Whiplash injuries need to be tackled – urban design becomes important as well as vehicle design to prevent injuries
 - Safe cycling becomes important (SE: more hospitalized cyclists than car-drivers/occupants)
- Point out that **speed** is also here an important area to tackle

Reduction in deaths and injuries



Relative reductions in deaths, serious and slight injuries in the 14 EU countries using a similar definition of SI over 2001 to 2008. (2001 = 100%)

Reductions in deaths and SI



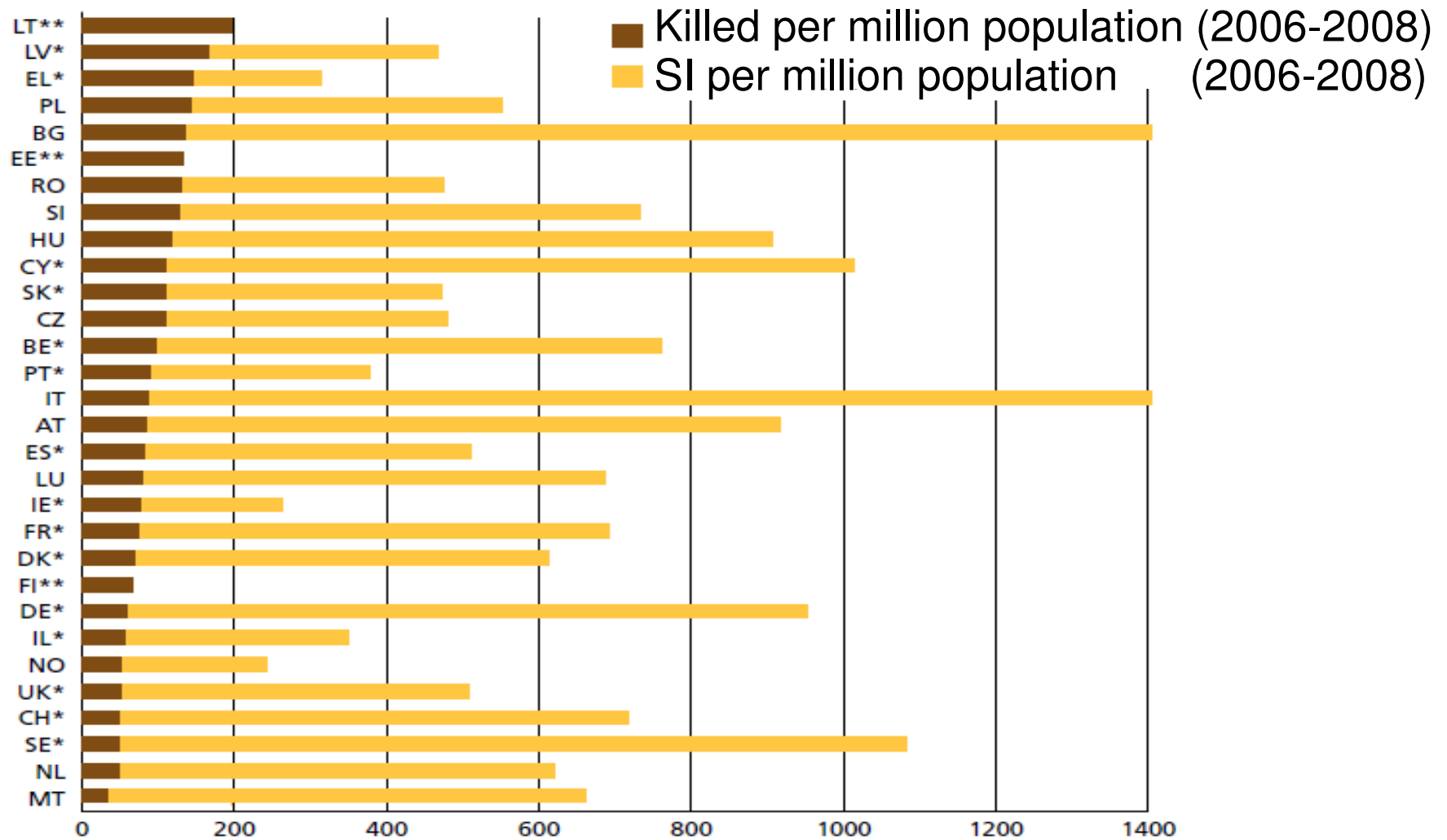
Good correlation between reduction in deaths and reduction in SI

Serious injuries per road deaths

Seriously injured people recorded in national statistics per road death (average of 2006-2008), for countries using similar definitions of SI.



KSI per million population



What Sweden has been doing

- 2003: creation of STRADA, the Swedish Traffic Accident Data Acquisition system
- STRADA = linking police and hospital records.
- Police-data: include information about when, how and where the accident took place and the traffic environment.
- Hospital-data: provide information about the diagnosis and the treatment the victims received.
- New national target 2009-2020: - 25% reduction + new definition linked to long-term health loss

What can a country do?

- Adopt **national reduction targets for deaths and seriously injured** (using your current definition of what is a serious injury).
- Adopt targets for reducing **speed** to reduce injury severity.
- Improve the **recording** of serious injuries by making use of both police and hospital records.
- Provide training to Police and emergency services on how to record a serious injury. This would make injury data more comparable between countries.

Recommendations to the EU

- **Adopt serious injuries targets for 2020** in the EU 4th Road Safety Action Programme.
- Work towards the adoption of an **EU common definition of a serious injury**.
- Develop and encourage Member States to monitor and collect serious injury data
- Adopt the ITS Directive and include **eCall** in vehicle type approval.



Thanks!

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