

Fit to Drive

3rd International Traffic Expert Congress
Prague from June 19th - 20th 2008

Welcome



The Potential of a Penalty Points System in Sweden

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Background

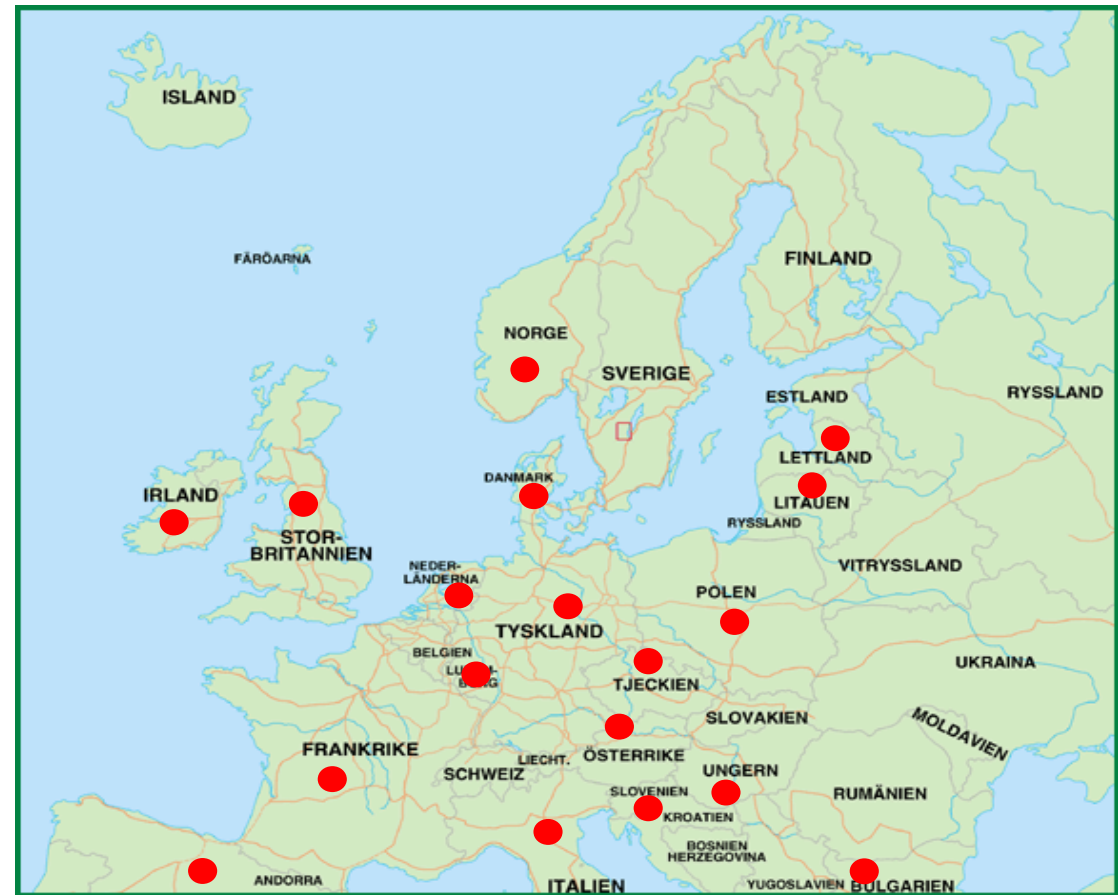
- Why discuss a Swedish Penalty Points System?
 - Criteria for withdrawal of a license would be more clear for drivers
 - Could give driver clear and fast feedback on the risk of loosing their license
 - Risk of loosing a license is perceived more serious than the risk of a fine



Background

Several countries in Europe have Penalty Points System

- Sweden could learn from these countries



Aim and Questions

- **Aim**
To present a pre-study of potential problems and possibilities with a future Swedish penalty points system
- **Questions in the study**
 1. Discussions in previous Swedish governmental official reports?
 2. Effects of penalty points systems in other countries?
 3. PP-systems in some European countries. Design and experiences?
 4. Important aspects of a system from a behavioural science perspective?

Method

- Overview of current state of knowledge
 - Swedish official reports
 - Scientific studies of the effect of PP-systems
- Study visits to European countries with PP-systems
 - Six countries (Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Spain, France)
 - Visits were guided by an agenda with certain questions
 - Documentation through minutes
- Analysis of a PP-system from a behavioural perspective
 - Theoretical analysis made by an external consultant

Results - Swedish Gov. official reports

- PP-system is discussed in a number of reports since the 70's
- No detailed proposal for a Swedish system has been made yet
- Many are general positive to a PP-system, but have reservations about certain details
- No legal obstacles to a Swedish PP-system are explicitly stated

Results - Effects of penalty points system

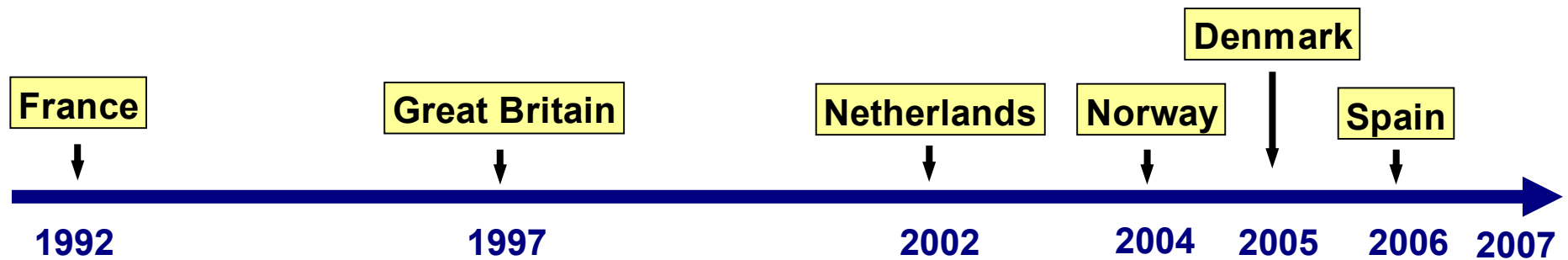
Our conclusions

- Limitations in study design often make it difficult to prove causality, but:
 - Indication on positive effects on road safety, at least initially
 - Effects often weakening after 6-12 months, but exceptions exists
 - Important to coordinate PP-system with increased enforcement



Results – Study visits

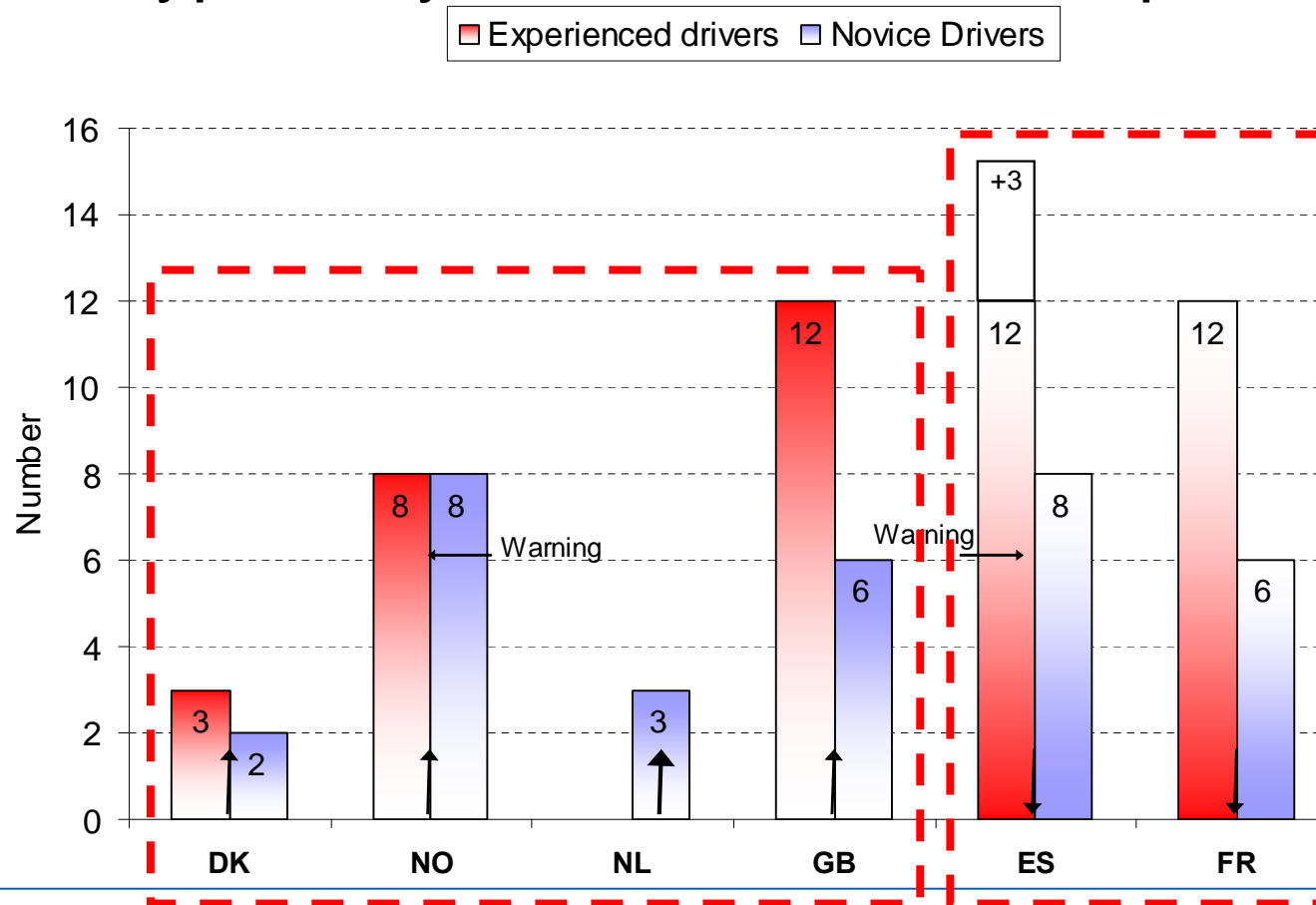
Countries and introduction of systems





Results – Study visits

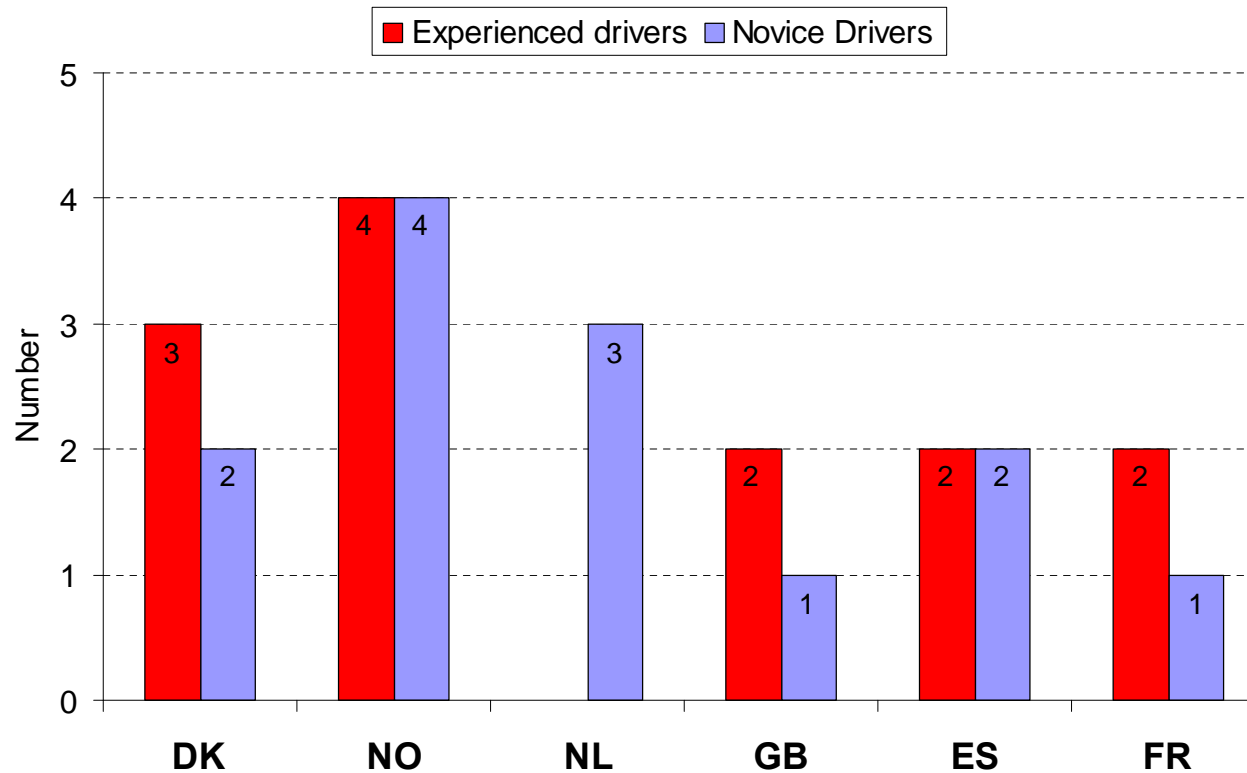
Type of system and number of points





Results – Study visits

Min. number of offences before loosing licence





Results – Study visits

Type of offences included

Type of offence	DK	NO	NL	GB	ES	FR
Speeding	X	X	X	X	X	X
Not using seat belt	X			X	X	X
Careless driving	X	X	X	X		
Ignoring red light	X	X		X		
Tailgating	X		X		X	
Hand held mobile				X	X	X
Drink-driving					X	X
Ignoring duty to give way		X				
Causing an traffic accident			X			
Other	X			X	X	X

Results – Study visits

Our conclusions

- Systems vary. All have strengths and weaknesses
- Often different rules for categories of drivers
- Most PP issued is linked to speeding
- Few countries use written warnings or compulsory rehab. courses
- Public acceptance of the systems is often good.
- Often a lack of comparative statistics regarding withdrawal of lic.
- No harmonisation of systems between countries

Results – Behavioural science analysis

Our conclusions

- Focus on intentional offences (violations)
- Focus on risky behaviour that could be effectively enforced
- Systems consequences should be clear, explicit and fast
- Statistics support separate rules for novice drivers
- Rehab. courses/education important to reach repeated offenders
- Reduction of repeated offenders may have a general calming eff.
- Enforcement and high perceived risk of detection important to get a general deterrent effect



Overall conclusions related to a future Swedish PP-system

- A Swedish PP-system should be analysed more deeply in a new Governmental official enquiry.
- A Swedish system should have a traffic safety potential if:
 - is coordinated with enforcement that give high perceived risk of detection
 - is seen as a complement to the regular withdrawal of the license
 - includes written warnings and rehabilitation courses
 - is simple, clear and give fast feedback to drivers
 - have wide public acceptance



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Thank you for your attention!



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