

# *Fit to Drive*

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

Welcome



Psychological and educational  
measures within the German demerit  
point system

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The motorized road traffic is regulated through clear rules and regulations, and could so actually run smoothly.

The rules are commonly known:  
So everybody should know how to behave!

⇒ ?



## **Characteristics mainly influence the behaviour in road traffic**

- **expectation** to have an undisturbed, individual and unlimited trip
- **road features**
- **features of the vehicle**
- **social mainstream**
  
- **Attitudes of the individual driver**



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### **Attitudes of the individual driver**

- **attitudes to the vehicle**
- **attitudes towards the other road users**
- **attitudes which are related to the own person**
- **attitudes to the choice of speed**
  
- **Subjective assessment**
- **individually tolerated risk level**



Within the **traffic law** (StVG) the basis for authorization of legal regulations is given, which refer, among others, to conduct law (traffic law). Also within the traffic law, we find the basis for authorization for the **finer index** (uniform federal case index - traffic infringements) and the **central traffic register**.

The **traffic regulations** (StVO) contain detailed rules on the conduct toward traffic



## Drivers' License on Trial (StVG §2a)

a grave offence / infringement or at least 2 lesser offences / infringement	order of participation in a (special) training seminar and extension of the trial term by two years
After participation in a (special) training seminar: a further grave offence / infringement or at least 2 lesser offences / infringements	warning and advise to participate in a traffic-psychological counselling § 71 (FeV) within two months
2 months after an above warning a further grave offence / infringement or at least 2 lesser offences / infringements	withdrawal of drivers' license (at least for 3 months)



## Demerit Point System (StVG §4)

8 – 13 points	<p>warning and <b>information</b> about a <b>voluntary</b> participation in a (special) training seminar by the drivers' license authority.</p> <p>At voluntary participation in a (special) training seminar with up to 8 demerits, 4 demerits are subtracted, with a score of between 9 and 13 demerits, 2 demerits are subtracted.</p>
14 – 17 points	<p>warning and <b>order</b> to participate in a (special) training seminar. No subtraction of demerits.</p> <p><b>Information</b> of <b>voluntary</b> participation in traffic-psychological counselling § 71 (FeV), 2 demerits subtracted after participation in traffic-psychological counselling.</p>
18 points	withdrawal of drivers' license (at least for 6 months)



The **training seminars** have the following **objectives**:  
(StVG §2b): "the participants... by participating in group discussions, have to develop a risk-aware attitude towards traffic and to behave safely and considerately."

For **training seminars** within the framework of the demerit point system applies (StVG §4 (8)):

„the participants are to realise and minimize the faults of their attitudes toward traffic and their safety conduct “.

The objectives set for the **traffic-psychological counselling** finally are (StVG §4 (9)): „the traffic-psychological counselling is make the license owner to recognize his faults of his attitude to traffic and his safety conducts and to develop the readiness to minimize these faults."



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The **methodology** and a further objective are specified within the drivers' license regulations (FeV):

### **For special training seminars:**

FeV § 36 (4)

„In the courses the reasons which have resulted in the order... have to be discussed and the possibilities to eliminate these have to be debated.

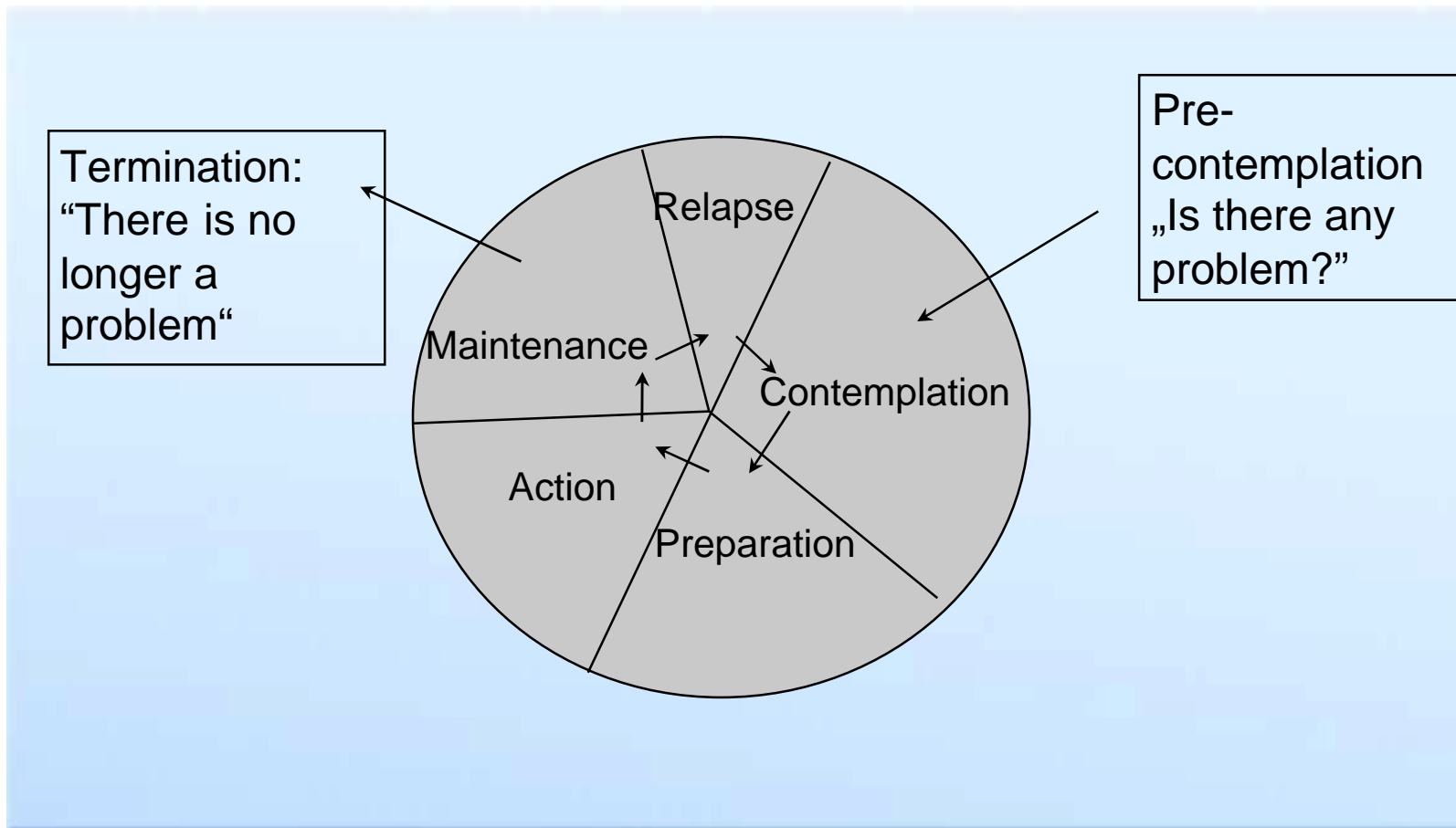
Gaps of knowledge of the participants on the effect of alcohol and other intoxicating means on the participants are to be closed and individual measures are to be developed and tried in order to especially change drinking habits and to dependably separate drinking from driving in the future.

By developing appropriate patterns of conduct, the participants are to be enabled to avoid a relapse and further traffic infringements under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating means. Additionally, the problematics of repeated infringements need to be focussed on."



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Prochaska, Norcross; DiClemente



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### Perspectives:

if we want to support traffic safety, we need to support the drivers which endanger it early on in order to avoid that wrong attitudes and conducts rigidify.

And novice drivers must know, next to the traffic rules, all the other influences on traffic behaviour described here. They need to learn to observe themselves and must be presented with strategies to change obstructive or dangerous attitudes



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**Thank you very much for your attention!**

