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CITIZEN'S NETWORK
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HUMAN SECURITY

More than 1000 traffic accidents were caused by drunk drivers.

During 11 months of this year in Republic of Srpska 117 persons died in traffic accidents, and 1202 persons were severely injured.

Last year 356 persons were killed in traffic accidents in BiH.



Edin Saletovic (31) died; the doctors are fighting for another boy's life

Edin Saletovic (31), from Banovici, died in the heavy road accident that occurred on Thursday around 9 pm in the place called Odorovići in Zivinice municipality. Twenty-eight-year old D.H. for whom it is assumed that he drove the car "Opel Insignia", had serious life-threatening body injuries, and there were two more injured people from the same vehicle.

Read more at: <http://tuzla.danas.info/2013/09/06/smrtno-stradao-edin-saletovic-31-ljekari-se-bore-drugom-mladicu-za-zivot/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina Chronicle 5: Traffic Accidents

by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (hCa) Tuzla - Youth Resource Center Tuzla

October 2013

In the last year of 2012 in Bosnia and Herzegovina there was a total of 1.096.232 motor vehicles registered, as compared to the year of 2011. (1.026.254) shows an increase of 69.978 vehicles for 6,82%.¹

Although Bosnia is at the very bottom of all charts and tables of socio-economic development, gross national income and development, and at the top of poverty analysis, upward trend in purchasing a car in BiH continues. Each year citizens of BiH are buying and registering new vehicles. The purpose of a vehicle in this country it is not just a way of transport, but rather a symbol of a status and power.

The average BiH citizen will rather give up on buying new shoes, going to a vacation, at the concert, cinema or theater, just to buy a car, which is according to him something existential, economic and question of prestige. Inspired by their parents youth in BiH consider owning their own car a matter of prestige, power, and reputation between peers and also a girls. Birth of a new millionaires in the country, which is in transition for over a 20 years, is leading up to the fact that the global trends in the automotive industry simply must follow. Buying your son or a daughter a new four-wheeled friend in the form of the latest models and the strongest class like the Audi A6, BMW, Mercedes and Honda, Suzuki, Kawasaki, etc., will show your business partners, friends and family how wealthy, strong and powerful you are.

Unfortunately, very often in Bosnia and Herzegovina, those car models are shown not to be the best and safest, if we take into account the following factors: the condition and maintenance of roads in BiH, youth and (lack of) experience drivers, corrupt commissions for taking the driving test, corrupt or inefficient performance of traffic police, alcohol, drugs... Fast driving, youth and their inexperience, bad roads, alcohol and drug consumption on the one side, and fast cars and motorcycles on the other side are often leading to a almost daily tragedies on our roads with fatal consequences that are filling the columns of newspapers, Internet portals, as well as major news on national radio and TV stations.

Examples:

Following the regular media portals, newspapers, magazines in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we could not help but notice that a large number of traffic accidents in which the participants are young drivers. One of many in a series where two young lives lost occurred a few days ago (October 5th. 2013.)

Fuad Mujkić (20) and Hasib Mujezinovic (21), both from Šerići, Živinice municipality, died, while fifty-year-old Nijaz Beganovic, form Srebrenik, was injured in car accident which took place on Saturday around 10:30 pm on the road M-1.8 Tuzla-Orasje, in Tinja, village near Srebrenik.²

As we learn in the office of Tuzla Canton, this traffic accident is likely to have occurred because of misfits driving conditions on the road, when the driver of 'Volkswagen II' Fuad Mujkić, crossed into the opposite lane while trying to overtake the bus.

Witnesses are described the scene after the accidents as horrific. The red Volkswagen is almost completely destroyed. One of the young men was killed on the spot, while the other, according to eyewitnesses, gave signs of life for a few minutes after it was taken out of the car. Two young men, as they say those who knew them, were inseparable companions.

During the preparation of this chronicle another tragedy occurred:

Returning from the football game in Kaunas in Poland three BiH citizens died (October 16th. 2013)

Returning from the game in Kaunas in Poland three BiH citizens died. BiH Embassy in Warsaw has received official information about the accident in Poland that killed three citizens of BiH, returning from a soccer match Lithuania-BiH, said for FENA news agency Foreign Ministry spokesman Nebojsa Regoje. In this accident there was one more football fan injured, who was admitted to the hospital, but his injuries are not life-threatening. Regoje emphasizes



¹ <http://bihamk.ba/dokumenti/statistike/Registrovana%20vozila%20u%202012.godini.pdf>

² <http://tuzla.danas.info/2013/10/06/foto-fuad-mujkic-20-i-hasib-mujezinovic-21-poginuli-kod-srebrenika/>

that Embassy in Warsaw will continue to follow this situation and provide all necessary help to the injured fan and to the families of two people who died.

In accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regoje could not convey the identity of those killed and injured, reports the agency FENA. According to reports of the Polish media, the young boys were 23, 25 and 27 years old, while the injured, a twenty-six-year old, came out of this accident with fractures. The accident occurred this morning in the town of Lomza, about 150 kilometers from Warsaw.³

Statistics:

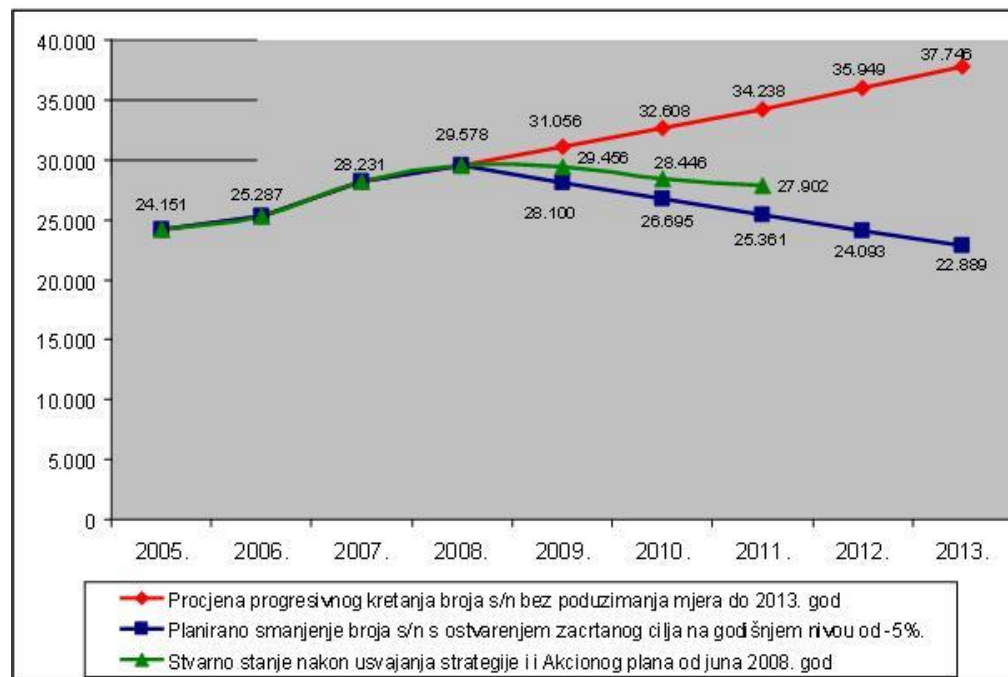
In 2011 in traffic accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina 356 persons lost their life, 43 of them are from Tuzla Canton. 10.039 persons suffered heavier or lighter injuries. The average death rate in accidents is slightly less than 10 deaths per 1,000 traffic accidents. According to data BIHAMK⁴ gathered by the competent authorities (FMUP, MUP RS, MUP of Brcko District, cantonal MUP), in 2011 in BiH there was 37.928 reported accidents, from which 7.088 are with dead or injured persons, and 30.840 with material damage.

With the conclusion of the government of Federation of BiH and the decision of the Minister of the Federal Ministry of the Interior a new team of experts is form for analysis and coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan according to the document **"Baseline Security Strategy in transport in BiH 2008-2013"**. According to the reports submitted by the cantonal ministries of Interior and Federal Police reports on the number, structure and consequences of accidents that have occurred in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the period January - December 2011 the expert team for analysis and coordination analyzed the accidents with the available data.

Based on the collected data we can conclude that after few years of growth of a total number of traffic accidents in 2009, there was a slight decline in total number of accidents, which in 2010 has significantly reduced and that reduction continued during a 2011.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2011 there was an average of 104 traffic accidents daily, including 19 with killed/injured people.

A TREND OF DECLINING AND INCREASING OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



Assessment of the traffic accidents before undertaking measures before 2013;
Planned reduction of the traffic accidents, achieving the set target of -5%;
Real condition after adopting a strategy and Action plan from June 2008

³ <http://tuzla.danas.info/2013/10/16/tragedija-vracauci-se-s-utakmice-u-kaunasu-u-poljskoj-poginula-tri-bh-drzavljana/>

⁴ Bosnian and Herzegovinian AMK (BIHAMK) is the most frequent association of motorized citizens. BIHAMK continues tradition of BiH Automobile-moto society founded on 7th February in 1946. and tradition of Autobile-moto association of BiH founded in 1947. It has a special role in the field of public information about road conditions and the provision of technical assistance to drivers and issuing international driving documents.

We have a similar situation in Republic of Srpska, which is a smaller entity of BiH. During 11 months of this year in Republic of Srpska there was 117 people killed, 495 seriously injured, and 1.202 slightly injured. (Reports FENA⁵, 30.12.2012.). According to the same period in 2011 number of deaths is 16% lower, number of the seriously injured people is lower by 9.1%, and number of slightly injured is lower by 12.4%. **More than 1.000 traffic accidents are caused by drunk drivers.**

During the 11 months of 2012, even 1.010 traffic accidents (of total of 7.634 evidenced accidents) are caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol, and 13.694 drivers under the influence of alcohol were excluded from the traffic. During the period from 15th to 23rd December of 2012 entity police conducted an action of intensified control of drivers operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. Under this action police officers all across RS controlled total of 2.784 drivers of motor vehicles, and 1.500 of them were tested. 575 of those drivers had alcohol in their blood. During this action 664 drivers were excluded from the traffic because of driving under the influence, which is 24.16 % of a total number of drivers controlled in this action.

The aim of the Ministry of Interior in RS is to get this percentage much lower and because of that similar activities will be organized in the next period. Traffic accidents caused by driving under the influence are most common and very often they bring a heaviest consequences to the traffic participants, states the police.

According to the analysis of the Expert Team of the Federal Ministry of the Interior most of the traffic accidents that have occurred in the 2011 are caused by irregular and / or inadequate speed and road conditions, but is still lower (6.215) as compared to the comparative period of -5.37% (6,568). Another reason is operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol, which means having more alcohol in their blood than is permitted and the number of those accidents is 1.303 which is 10.63% (-155) lower then it was according to comparative period (1.458).

The highest number of traffic accidents according to the place and road category, occurred in urban areas (14.568), which is according to the comparative period 1.68% (-250) lower.

PUT	2010. godina	2011. godina	Razlika	Procenti
MAGISTRALNI PUT	6.936	6.635	-301	-4,33%
REGIONALNI PUT	2.520	2.550	+30	+1,19%
LOKALNI PUT	2.822	2.544	-278	-9,8%
NASELJE	14.818	14.568	-250	-1,68%
OSTALO	1.347	1.605	+258	+19,15%
UKUPNO	28.443	27.902	-541	-1,90%

Highway

Regional road

Local road

Settlement

Other

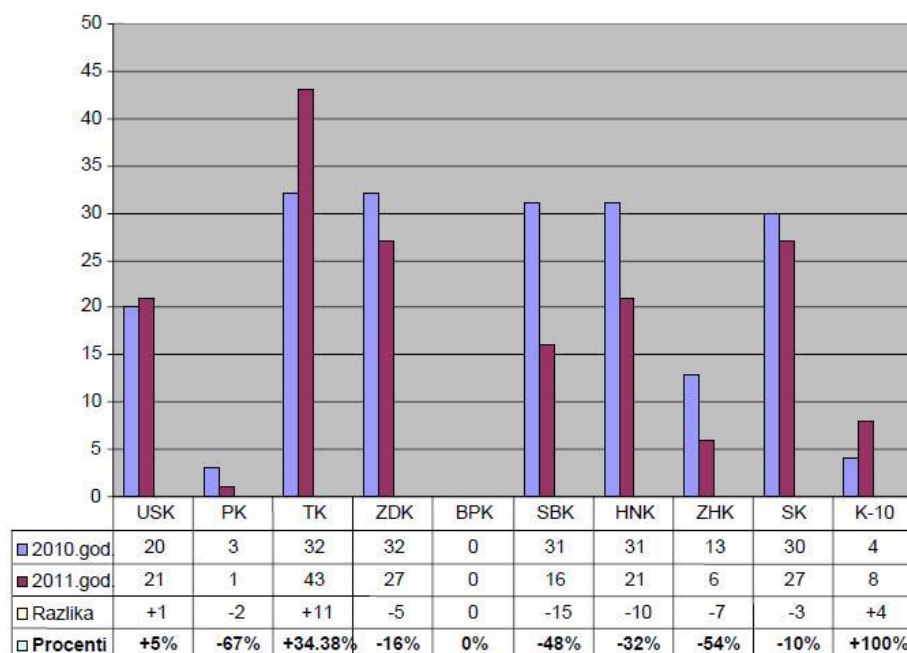
Total

The expert team made a proposal of measures:

1. In order to reduce traffic accidents in the Federation it is necessary to accelerate the adoption of legislation in terms of tightening measures for sanctioning offenders. First of all there is the Law on Traffic Safety, Law on Offences and Criminal Law in the part relating to traffic offenses.
2. It is necessary for cantonal and other security agencies to strengthen the measures of preventing and repressive action against the perpetrators of these crimes.
3. Given the very extensive requirements and tasks of police it is essential to provide additional material and financial resources to equip the police with modern technical aids for traffic control (radar, drug testers, computers, cars, etc.)

⁵ Federal News Agency: <http://www.fena.ba/Public2/Default.aspx>

On the attached diagram we can see that the largest **increase** in fatalities in road accidents was recorded in the **Tuzla Canton +11 deceased person or +34.38%**, while the largest **decrease** in the number of killed was recorded in the **Central Bosnia Canton of -48% or -15**.



As we found out even high-ranking citizens in the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina are not protected on the state roads. On the September 6th of this year at around 9 am on the main road M-5 in Ljubin Han near Travnik another traffic accident occurred. In this accident a Vice president of BiH Svetozar Pudarić's vehicle overturned, it has been said in daily newspaper „Avaz“ at the Ministry of Interior of the Central Bosnia Canton.⁶

According to the World Bank⁷ the main risk factors for injuries in traffic accidents are:

- Road design characteristics, including those that lead to the fact that drivers are at big risk of having accident when they are participating in the traffic (for example, lack of sidewalks and pedestrian crossings)
- The lack of effective regulation and enforcement of regulations related to the mandatory condition of the vehicle, driver education and training, and risk behaviors.
- Driver behavior: excessive speed, impatience, driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to use helmets, belts and other protective equipment, and use of mobile phones, especially sending text messages.

However, what we are most concerned about is the number of young participants in traffic accidents. We fully agree with the expert's opinion that the competent institutions (primarily Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Transport and Communications in BiH), but also educational institutions, civil society organizations, parents should invest much more effort in educating young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina about safety in traffic. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, from time to time, campaigns on safety in traffic are organized, but affect of those campaigns are not enough insufficient.

Our opinion is that only with a continuous education of youth (starting from the elementary schools), and with a making the traffic laws more strict, and greater involvement of civil society organizations can contribute to the reduction of road accidents which cause injury or death consequences for drivers (in a large number of young people).

⁶ <http://tuzla.danas.info/2013/09/06/prevmulo-se-vozilo-u-kojem-je-bio-svetozar-pudaric/>

⁷ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTBOSNIAHERZ/Resources/DeathonWheelsBos.pdf>

ADDITION TO THE CHRONICLE:

21 October 2013

Alarmingly: Young lives lost in street roulette

According to the research of the international-nonprofit-organization "European Road Assessment Program" (Euro RAP) Bosnia and Herzegovina has the least safe roads in Europe. More than a half of the road parts in BiH are designated as high risk, which means that the possibility of dying on those parts of the roads is two to three times larger.



European roads:

However, on some better parts of the roads in Croatia, from January to the end of July of this year, most of the people who died in traffic accidents were citizens of BiH.

Experienced court experts and traffic police inspectors in our country showed that cause of death in these accidents is usually aggressive driving or aggressive and delinquent driving with other offenses.

Moreover, the street roulette, in which life is at stake through aggressive driving, is becoming more frequent in our country, especially among the youth. It is a need to prove oneself, desire for domination and draining energy. Self-destructive impulse is a characteristic of the child without solid relationship with the parent, therefore child with lack of confidence or personal values.

There are several examples where the vehicle is an award, compensation, and at the same time simultaneously specific scale of values is sent to a child - says psychologist Jasmina Dizdarevic for "Dnevni Avaz".

Wrong Choices:

Jasmina Dizdarevic says, if parent was more personally, emotionally and physically oriented to a child it would be worth more than a vehicle, it would create a comprehensive relationship with a child and healthy personality of a child. -From that kind of healthy relationship a child becomes happy, healthy uses and directs his energy, not aggressive and does not prove himself on the way that is harming him or others- states psychologist.

According to the traffic police data, there is noticeable number of young people who easily grasp the seriousness and responsibility of having a driver license. This is also noticeable with drivers who are not active for years after getting a driver license.

Aggressiveness behind a wheel, as they states, may have the self-destructive motives, but it still has consequences for all participants in traffic. -In those situations we act by practicing the legal authority, but for situation to get better it is necessary for family, school, occupational medicine and other institutions, which the driver has to go through before getting behind the wheel, to do the same - says one of the traffic police officers from Republic of Serbs in Banja Luka- Jajce relation.

Experts in the field of motorsports note that aggressiveness behind the wheel is not to be equated with the speed, which is a combination of skills, prudence, experience, responsibility... Typical beginner's mistakes in traffic are

reckless and distracted driving, extremely risky, rapid, excessive number of passengers, alcohol, opiates and wrong choice of vehicles...

Montenegrin gave 20,000 KM for penalties

During the middle of this year police detained Ivan Zadkovic (27), called "Montenegrin", from Banja Luka. He held a record in having the biggest number of traffic violations in BiH. He was fined with more than 20.000 KM.

Black statistics

During the nine months in Republic of Serbs there were 3.463 traffic accidents

803 of those had consequences for people

49 persons died

160 were seriously injured

594 were easily injured

2.659 With material damage

<http://tuzla.danas.info/2013/10/21/alarmantno-mladi-gube-zivote-u-ulicnom-ruletu/>