



Alcohol Measures for Public
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AMPHORA

**Report on the impact of unstudied European
changes in the economic and physical
availability of alcohol on alcohol-related
harm**

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Report on the impact of unstudied European changes in the economic and physical availability of alcohol on alcohol-related harm

Abstract

When striving for lower total per capita alcohol consumption and related harm, restricting the physical and economic availability of alcoholic beverages are measures that works well and belong to the most cost - effective measures to implement. The second part of project Amphora's fifth work package looked at how, when where and to what extent the availability of alcohol has been made stricter or been liberalized in Europe during the beginning of the 21st century. Focus was set on policy changes that has not yet been scientifically studied or documented.

Over 70 cases of recent alcohol policy changes in Europe were identified, and over 80 per cent of them turned out to be restrictive measures. A large share of these alcohol policy changes has taken place in the Eastern parts of Europe.

Even though the outcome of this work package does not describe all recent alcohol policy changes in Europe, it gives us an updated view on trends and directions, and shows that there seems to be both will and room for making alcohol policies stricter in many parts of Europe.

Introduction

It is a well-established and well documented fact that restricting the physical and economic availability of alcohol is one of the strongest measures in the alcohol policy toolbox. Apart from being effective, these measures are at the same time cost-effective, when trying to reduce alcohol consumption and related harms (Anderson 2009; Babor et al. 2010; Anderson, Møller & Galea (eds.) 2012).

The fifth work package of EU project Amphora (www.amphoraproject.net) titled Economic and physical availability of alcohol, was dedicated to study the changes and effects of alcohol availability in Europe. The work package was split into two separate parts. In the first stage of the project previously studied policy changes regarding the economic and physical availability of alcohol in Europe were surveyed. Data for the first stage was identified through an extensive literature search including databases, meta analyzes, summary reports and national experts (Karlsson, Lindeman & Österberg 2012a).

The material gathered in the first stage of the work package consisted of 383 studies, dealing with different aspects of alcohol availability. Most of the studies came from the Nordic countries and the English speaking world, and most of the studies we identified were relatively new. The number of studies published on alcohol availability has culminated in the last decade, as it correlates with the fact that more scientific publications are being published through a larger number of distribution channels. Within stage one of Work Package five, we were also able to identify different types of study-orientations in different corners of Europe. Many of the studies dealing with Nordic countries were for example dominated by physical availability of alcohol, whereas studies from Eastern Europe to a larger extent dealt with studies on alcohol consumption and alcohol related harm. For more details, see Karlsson et al. 2011.

For the second phase focus was switched to unstudied policy changes that have occurred recently all over Europe. By “unstudied” we mean a policy change from the last decade – for example a tax increase, a new age-limit implemented or new sales restrictions for bars and shops – that affects the availability of alcohol in a country, but has not yet been scientifically studied and documented. By searching for these

kind of unstudied cases we can paint a picture of how, when, where and to what extent the availability tools are being used in the Europe of today.

Methods

Due to a number of reasons it is a challenging task to identify and analyze unstudied alcohol policy changes that have occurred in Europe. For instance, the wealth of languages spoken in Europe equals certain troubles since only fractions of the news are being translated into English. Even though most relevant alcohol policy changes either economic or physical in nature are found in international press nowadays, some regional or local changes may not have been detected as they were not newsworthy enough. These changes include also smaller changes in alcohol excise duties.

However, for the EU member states even these smaller changes have been included in the total tax changes which have been reported in the chapter “Alcohol taxes in the European Union in 1995–2012” which will be included in the book “Changes in alcohol affordability and availability. Twenty years of transitions in Eastern Europe” (see Moskalewicz & Österberg (eds.), 2013). The language problem was also partly solved by including national experts in the study as contact persons.

A wide range of methods have been used in order to capture as many of the recent alcohol availability changes as possible. The mapping of unstudied changes in alcohol availability started in 2009 when contact persons from the Alcohol Policy Network, Amphora -project and WHO EURO counterparts, as well as members from other networks were asked to assist in identifying unstudied changes as well as provide details of any planned changes in the near future. With the help of this sampling method a handful of responses were acquired, which formed the basis of our collection of unstudied cases.

During the course of the project, the list of unstudied cases was updated with policy changes that were picked up from national and regional online newspapers, newsletters and mailing lists, web portals, NGO’s plus Governmental and European institutions (see Appendix 5 for a full list of all the sources used). Also the composition of native Polish-, Finnish- and Swedish speaking researchers with knowledges also in other languages like Russian involved in Work Package five contributed to a broad coverage of Europe.

We do not claim that the work described in this report does cover all recent changes, but all major and relevant alcohol policy changes in Europe are included. Therefore, within work package five we have been able to show that there are interesting changes going on at the European alcohol-policy field. In order to detect, register and classify changes in a comprehensive and structured way in the future, we could also use tools that have been developed in other work packages in the Amphora project, for example the alcohol policy scale developed within project Amphora work package 8 (see Karlsson, Lindeman & Österberg 2012b).

The Amphora scale should be a refined enough tool for detecting changes in physical and economical alcohol availability in Europe. The scale, with a maximum score of 160, has seven subcategories dedicated to different aspects of alcohol policy.

Subcategory two, named “Control of production, retail sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages” and subcategory three “Age limit and personal control” scans the physical availability field, while questions on economic availability are dealt with in subcategory seven; “Alcohol taxation and price”.

If a scale like this was to be filled in with regular intervals for the countries we want to keep a closer look at, it would be fairly convenient to detect new changes, but also to see whether countries are moving towards more liberal or stricter policies many years in a row. We would also be able to see to what extent countries are changing their policies, and compare for example developments in neighbouring countries.

Results

During this second phase, over 80 cases of recent policy changes were collected.

After going through the list of findings, excluding cases that were vague, outdated or otherwise irrelevant we narrowed down the number to 76.

Figure 1 show which years these policy changes took place.

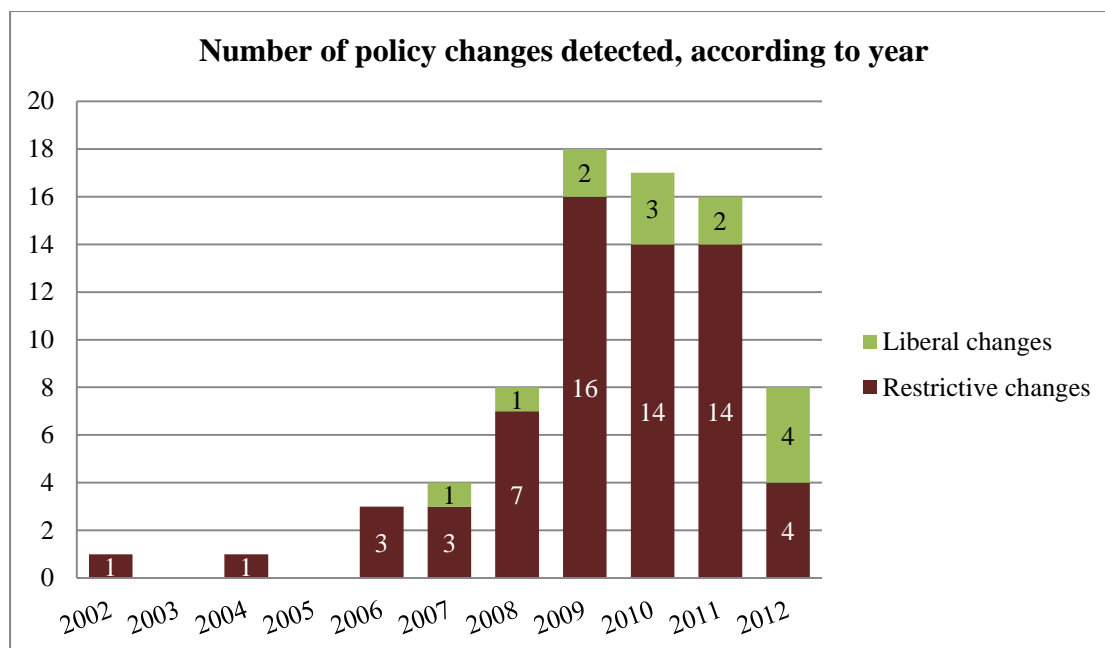


Figure 1. Years of the policy changes.

Out of the 76 cases, a great majority were measures restrictive in nature since only 13 turned out to be liberal policy changes, as displayed in Table 1. As many as 38 measures or half of the findings were limiting, economic policy changes. The largest part of all these cases were connected to excise duties. From Greece in the south, Finland in the North, United Kingdom in the West and Ukraine in the East, the taxation tool has been used frequently all over Europe during the last couple of years. (Moskalewicz & Österberg (eds.), 2013)

	Economic	Physical	Total
Restrictive	38	25	63
Liberal	5	8	13
Total	43	33	76

Table 1. Unstudied policy changes, classified as economic or physical, restrictive or liberal.

Though, within this group of 38 cases, we can also find examples of minimum pricing for certain alcoholic beverages in some European countries. Russia introduced minimum prices for vodka in 2010 at the same time as Moldova introduced minimum prices for strong alcoholic beverages. Ukraine increased the minimum prices for 0.5 litres vodkabottles in 2011 to \$3.25. These before mentioned countries are all non-EU members. The United Kingdom (with Scotland first) are the first EU country planning to introduce minimum prices per unit of alcohol. By the time this report is written, The Alcohol Minimum Pricing Scotland Act 2012 has been passed in June 2012 and prices were planned to come into force earliest in April 2013. Two cases in this group were in fact no real active policy measures, but two separate descriptions of how the recession changes peoples drinking habits and caused people in Romania and the United Kingdom to drink less.

One third - 25 - of all the policy changes were physical measures, restrictive in nature. Four new age-limits were detected in Europe during the study period. Denmark raised the age-limit for off premise sales of alcohol twice, while Malta and Belgium both raised the minimum age limit in 2009. The remaining cases of were different kinds of sale restrictions and new pieces of legislation, for example shortening opening hours.

Eight cases described physical liberal measures, such as longer opening hours or more liberal rules when applying for a license. The remaining five cases are liberal economic policy changes. One of these cases – a tax adjustment that took place in Sweden in the year 2008, was actually representing both sides of the coin since excise duties for beer went up while wine became slightly cheaper, in accordance with EU regulation.

In this report, the findings are reported according to type of measure, starting with the restrictive economic cases (p. 13 – 50), moving on to the restrictive physical cases, (p. 51 – 76) followed by the liberal economic (p. 77 – 81) and the liberal physical cases (p. 82 – 89). Within each of these chapters the cases are listed in reversed chronological order, starting with the ones from 2012.

Each case is described in a table with vital facts such as country, year and on which level the change occurred. Also information on from which source we got hold of the case is listed together with a short description of the source (newspaper, contact

person etc.), and a few summary descriptive sentences about the case. The table is followed by the original source or excerpts from the original text in the original language.

Discussion

By looking at the unstudied cases collected, we see that the recent policy changes are not equally spread all over Europe. One way of detecting any geographical patterns among the changes is to categorize the European countries into four profiles according to drinking patterns, consumption levels and historical background. In Table 2 the countries are displayed in four groups. This division is based on the work of Shield et al. (2012), but slightly altered as Denmark has been moved from the Nordic to the West/Central region due to its lack of a state alcohol monopoly, and a number of non-EU countries are added to the Eastern European group making it notably bigger.

Nordic Monopoly Countries	West/Central European Countries	Southern European Countries	Eastern European Countries
Finland Iceland Norway Sweden	Austria Belgium Denmark France Germany Ireland Luxembourg the Netherlands Switzerland United Kingdom	Cyprus Greece Italy Malta Portugal Spain	Belarus Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Estonia F.Y.R of Macedonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Moldova Poland Romania Russia Slovakia Slovenia Turkey Ukraine

Table 2. Division of the European countries into Nordic Monopoly Countries, West/Central European Countries, Southern European Countries and Eastern European Countries

The Nordic Monopoly Profile (or, the North) was the smallest group consisting of only four countries. These four countries, which all have off-premise alcohol retail monopolies, have harmonized and liberalized their strict alcohol policies during the past decades in accordance with EU law and other regulations (see for example Ugland 2002; Österberg & Karlsson 2002).

However, alcohol policy remains as a sizzling topic in these countries and we found eleven examples of recent changes within alcohol availability from this area- most of them restrictive in nature, but also a couple of liberal changes showing that the alcohol scene in Northern Europe has remained dynamic. See Figure 2 for the geographical division of all the cases. For example Norway has altered its alcohol act so that producers can be allowed to sell beer or cider at the production site, and Sweden has launched a home delivery trial for retail monopoly Systembolaget in six different regions, whereas Finland has raised excise duties for alcohol several times the last couple of years.

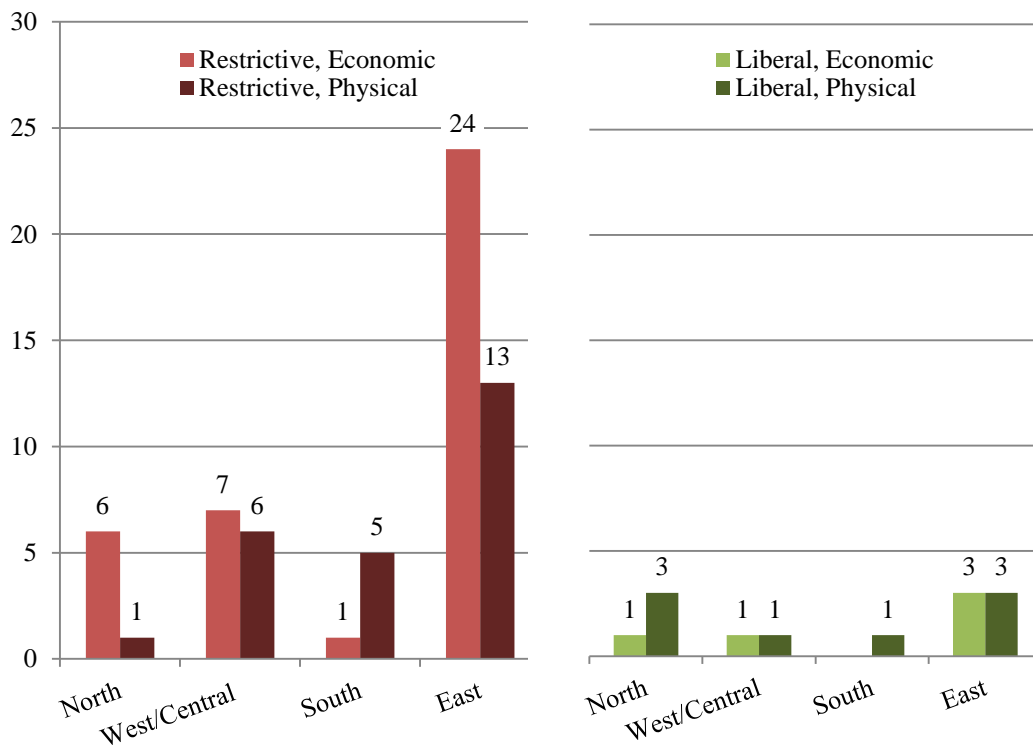


Figure 2. Geographical division

Ten countries belonged to the West - Central European group, (“West/Central”) with a total of 15 cases of recent policy changes - only two of them liberal. Denmark and the United Kingdom are frontrunners in this group, together they contributed with 10 of the 13 restrictive measures. Denmark has increased excise duty for alcohol in 2012, and raised the minimum age limit for purchasing alcohol both in 2004 and 2011. United Kingdom in turn has also raised taxes, banned multi-buy deals and is in the midst of a process of implementing minimum prices.

Seven cases were found from the Southern European countries, (“South”) and only one of them was a change in a more liberal direction: Spanish capital Madrid allowing petrol stations to sell all alcoholic beverages in 2012. The restrictive measures spanned from Malta implementing higher age-limits, Greece raising alcohol excise duties to local sales restrictions in different parts of Spain.

Southern European countries have traditionally had relatively low formal alcohol control and have mostly relied on informal, social control of alcohol consumption, (Allamani & Prina 2007), so one needs to keep in mind that for example Greece raising alcohol taxes reflects the economic recession in Europe and served as a fiscal instrument rather than as a public health measure. It is also worth pointing out that countries lacking strong formal policies tend to have stricter informal regulation and norms for drinking alcohol (Nordlund 2012).

With 17 countries belonging to the last group – Eastern European countries (or, the East), it comes as no surprise that this group proved to have the largest number of findings. What is a bit surprising though, is the order of magnitude of the cases; a total of 43, of which 37 were restrictive. Almost half of these findings spring from non-EU members, where high levels of alcohol consumption and related harm, combined with the absence or low level of formal regulation in many cases gives room for implementing stricter alcohol policies.

So to sum it up; with the help of the material collected in this work package we can detect and point out certain trends and directions, the most striking one being that an overwhelming majority of the recent policy changes affecting the alcohol availability in Europe have been restrictive, and we see that there are restrictive winds blowing. We can also see that there are different developments in different parts of Europe,

with Eastern European countries having taken many steps towards stricter alcohol policies in recent years.

We have addressed the development in several Eastern European countries in a monograph, with in depth descriptions and analysis of alcohol consumption and policy developments in Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine (see Moskalewicz & Österberg (eds.) 2013).

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Appendixes

1. Restrictive changes, economic availability

	Estonia
Year:	2012
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Baltic Times, an independent weekly newspaper that covers latest political, economic, business, and cultural events in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
Date published:	September 6, 2012
In September 2012, the Estonian government approved a bill of amendments, meaning that the excise duties on alcohol will increase by 5 percent per year until the year 2016.	

Estonian government approves of alcohol excise tax increase

TALLINN - At its Thursday session, the Estonian government approved the bill of amendments to the alcohol, tobacco, fuel and electricity excise tax law, according to which alcohol excise tax would increase by 5 percent a year till 2016, Public Broadcasting reports.

The change was decided upon in spring with the state budget strategy. The government states that a long-term plan of raising excise tax rates helps producers to plan their activities better.

The government estimated that as the result of raising alcohol excise tax, the state budget's cash-based tax income will increase by 7 million euros next year, 22 million euros in 2014, 40 million euros in 2015 and 60 million euros in 2016.



United Kingdom

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	BBC News, the world's leading public service broadcaster
Date published:	May 24, 2012

As a mean to tackle alcohol problems, Scotland will be the first place in the United Kingdom to introduce a 50 pence/unit minimum price for alcohol. It is planned that England and Wales follows suite with a minimum price of 40 p per unit.

Minimum alcohol pricing passed by parliament

Scotland will become the first place in the UK to introduce minimum drink pricing, after MSPs passed new laws. The SNP government will set the price of alcohol at 50p per unit, to tackle Scotland's historic alcohol abuse problems. Under the plans, the cheapest bottle of wine would be £4.69 and a four-pack of lager would cost at least £3.52. The move won broad political backing, although Labour refused to support the legislation at the Scottish Parliament. The Alcohol Minimum Pricing Bill, which aims to help tackle drink-fuelled violence and associated health problems, cleared its final parliamentary hurdle when MSPs backed it by 86 votes to one, with 32 abstentions.

Scottish government justice minister Roseanna Cunningham voted against the legislation by mistake. Scottish Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said that, as drink had become cheaper, alcohol-related hospital admissions had quadrupled and half of prisoners said they were drunk when they committed offences. Describing the vote as a "historic moment", she told parliament: "Tackling alcohol misuse is one of the most important public health challenges that we face in Scotland."

Labour said minimum pricing could generate profits of more than £125m for alcohol retailers, but the party failed in a bid to change the legislation to allow the government to claw back the "windfall". Jackie Baillie, Labour's health spokeswoman, agreed there was a link between price and alcohol consumption, but added: "Labour believes there will be significant unintended consequences if the windfall remains with supermarkets that can actually undermine the very purpose of the bill itself." A study into a 50p minimum alcohol price by Sheffield University said the policy would see a 5.5% cut in drinking - with harmful drinkers' consumption falling by more than 10%, compared with a 2.5% fall for moderate drinkers. That would mean harmful drinkers having to spend more than £120 extra a year to keep up their habit, with an £8 increase for moderate drinkers, according to the research. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, who previously opposed minimum pricing, backed the move, along with Labour MSP Malcolm Chisholm, a former health minister.

Deputy Tory leader Jackson Carlaw said: "I hope very much that it will work. I fear it cannot achieve all that some have hoped for it, but I believe it will make a contribution and that is what parliament must hope in passing the legislation." Willie Rennie, the Lib Dem leader, who said he had always supported minimum pricing but had to stay "relatively quiet" about it in the past, added: "The battle has just begun to deal with this problem and we need to make sure that it's absolutely effective to deal with the alcohol blight that we have in society." Minimum pricing, which made its second passage through parliament after it was defeated in 2010 when the SNP was a minority government, will be ditched after six years if the policy fails, under a "sunset clause" in the legislation. Scottish ministers said minimum pricing had won wide support across the medical profession, police and parts of the drinks and licensed trade industry.

But some groups, including the Scotch Whisky Association, have questioned the legality of the policy, under EU law. On her voting mishap, Ms Cunningham later wrote on Twitter: "Oooops! Discovered that I accidentally voted the wrong way on the minimum pricing bill :(#roseannafail *shuffles feet in embarrassment*." MSPs previously passed legislation banning "irresponsible" drink promotions at off licences, which also paved the way for the introduction, in future, of a "social responsibility fee" on retailers who sell alcohol.

The Scottish government also brought forward a public health levy on large retailers which sell tobacco and alcohol. A 40p minimum alcohol price is planned for England and Wales.



Denmark

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Skat.dk, the Danish government body responsible for collecting taxes and duties.
Date published:	December 22 , 2011

Wine- and beer taxes increased. The duty on beer was increased by 25%, and the duty on wine increased by 55% from 1 January 2012. Also excise duties on tobacco and sweets were altered.

Afgiftsstigning på usunde fødevarer, tobak, øl og vin

[...]”Øl

Afgiftssatsen på øl forhøjes fra 50,90 kr. pr. ren liter alkohol til 63,60 kr. pr. ren liter alkohol (øl- og vinafgiftslovens § 1).

Som følge af forhøjelsen af ølafgiften nedsættes tillægsafgiften på ølbaserede alkoholsodavand, således at afgiften på en alkoholsodavand forbliver den samme, hvad enten den er øl-, vin- eller spiritusbaseret.

Afgiften nedsættes således (øl- og vinafgiftslovens § 3 B):

1. Blandinger med et alkoholindhold på 10 pct. vol. eller derunder nedsættes fra 8,60 kr. pr. liter til 7,90 kr. pr. liter
2. Blandinger med et alkoholindhold, som overstiger 10 pct. vol. nedsættes fra 15,05 kr. pr. liter til 13,52 kr. pr. liter.

Som følge af forhøjelserne af ølafgiften stiger satserne i ølmoderationsordningen ligeledes 25 pct. (øl- og vinafgiftslovens § 2).

Vin

Afgiftssatserne for vin, frugtvin mv. og mousserende vin, forhøjes som følger (øl- og vinafgiftslovens § 3):

1. Vin med et alkoholindhold over 1,2 pct. vol., men ikke over 6 pct. vol. stiger fra 3,90 kr. pr. liter til 4,88 kr. pr. liter
2. Vin med et alkoholindhold over 6 pct. vol., men ikke over 15 pct. vol. stiger fra 6,87 kr. pr. liter til 10,62 kr. pr. liter
3. Vin med et alkoholindhold over 15 pct. vol., men ikke over 22 pct. vol. stiger fra 9,20 kr. pr. liter til 14,22 kr. pr. liter

Som følge af forhøjelsen af vinafgiften nedsættes tillægsafgiften på vinbaserede alkoholsodavand, således at afgiften på en alkoholsodavand forbliver den samme, hvad enten den er øl-, vin- eller spiritusbaseret. Afgiften nedsættes således (se øl- og vinafgiftslovens § 3 C):

1. Blandinger med et alkoholindhold på 10 pct. vol. eller derunder nedsættes fra 7,50 kr. pr. liter til 6,52 kr. pr. liter.
2. Blandinger med et alkoholindhold, som overstiger 10 pct. vol. nedsættes fra 14,27 kr. pr. liter til 10,52 kr. pr. liter.

Tillægsafgiften for mousserende vin, jf. øl- og vinafgiftslovens § 3 A, forbliver uændret”. [...]



Finland

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Ministry of Finance
Date published:	December 22 , 2011

Tax increase. Excise duty on alcohol increased by 13 %, on average, starting from January 2012.

Vuodenvaihteen muutoksia VM:n hallinnonalalla

[...]” Oluen ja mietojen käymisteitse valmistettujen alkoholijuomien valmistevero nousee noin 15 prosenttia ja muiden alkoholijuomien valmistevero noin 10 prosenttia. Keskimäärin alkoholijuomien valmistevero nousee 13,1 prosenttia. Kolmasosalitran olutpullosta kannettavan alkoholiveron määrä nousee 41 sentistä 47 senttiin. Viinipullon (8-15 til.%) alkoholivero nousee 2,12 eurosta 2,34 euroon ja puolen litran väkevän alkoholijuomapullon (38 til.%) alkoholivero 7,49 eurosta 8,25 euroon. Korotuksen vuoksi alkoholijuomien vähittäismyyntihinnat nousevat keskimäärin 4,5 prosenttia.”[...]



United Kingdom

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local (Scotland)
Source:	BBC News, the world's leading public service broadcaster
Date published:	December 8, 2011

Ban on multi-buy deals. The introduction of bans of multi-buy deals has lowered the alcohol consumption in Scotland.

Scottish alcohol sales fall after multibuy ban

The amount of alcohol sold in Scottish shops and supermarkets has fallen since a ban on multi-buy deals was brought in this October, figures show.

Retail analysts Nielsen said sales of wine fell 5%, spirits by 3% and beer by 8% during the first eight weeks of the ban, compared with that period in 2010.

The 1 October ban is aimed at the 10% of drinkers in Scotland who consume 45% of alcohol sold.

One public health expert said the figures were "encouraging".

Nielsen looked at sales from January to September 2011 compared with the same period in 2010, and found wine sales up 1%, spirits up 1% and beer sales down 3%.

They also looked at sales in England and Wales over the same periods.

In the eight weeks that Scotland has seen falls - and while the ban has been in place - sales of wine in England and Wales went down by 4%, spirits 1% and beer sales rose by 1%.

'Hit consumption'

The analysts said there were clearly a number of factors affecting how much alcohol people bought.

A huge amount is being consumed by a small proportion of people"

Dr John Holmes, University of Sheffield

But Gavin Humphreys from Nielsen added: "Whilst we can not categorically attribute all the declines in Scotland purely down to the multi-buy ban, it does appear that the measure has had an impact.

"There will be other factors at play influencing shopper behaviour such as the economy and general cutting back and stretching of budgets.

"But if the measure was designed to cut consumption then the immediate sales figures suggest it is working."

The Alcohol Scotland Act also restricts alcohol advertising around premises, and brings in age verification checks and a new tax on some licence holders.

Dr John Holmes from the University of Sheffield studies how price affects the type of alcohol people buy, and advised the Scottish government on the multi-buy legislation.

He said: "The figures are encouraging from a public health perspective and the policies that the Scottish government has put into place to reduce the supply of cheap alcohol may be having some effect".

Figures calculated by the University of Sheffield predicted sales would fall by exactly 8% after a multi-buy ban came in.

Dr Holmes said "A huge amount is being consumed by a small proportion of people, so if you can enact policies which hit the consumption of those drinkers, you can have a huge impact on alcohol related harm."

A bill to introduce a minimum price per unit of alcohol sold was put to the Scottish Parliament in October by Scottish health secretary Nicola Sturgeon as another attempt to combat alcohol abuse.

Alcohol pricing is being reviewed across the rest of the UK and a ban on the sale of alcohol below a minimum price will be introduced in England and Wales from 6 April 2012.

Shops and bars will not be able to sell drinks for less than the tax paid on them - a move the government says will cut crime.



Belarus

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Telegraf.by. Electronic news source from Belarus, founded in 2006.
Date published:	October 26, 2011

Tax increases. According to the presidential decree signed in October 2011, the rate of excise duties for vodka and wine with 28% or more of ethyl alcohol, as well as 7 - 28% ethanol spirits, cognac, brandy and Calvados was increased by 33.3%. The excise duties in Belarus were also raised in September 2011.

Alcohol, Cigarettes and Diesel Fuel Get Go up in Belarus from November

Excise rates on alcohol, tobacco products and diesel fuel are increasing in Belarus from November 1. The President signed the corresponding decree № 489 on October 25, 2011. The new rates will be valid through December 31, 2011. According to the presidential decree, the rate of excise tax for vodka and wine with 28% or more of ethyl alcohol, as well as 7 - 28% ethanol spirits, cognac, brandy and Calvados is increased by 33.3% to Br40 thousand. Excise rate on fruit and fortified ordinary grape wine is increased by half to Br32 thousand; fortified fruit vintage wines of improved quality and special technologies is raised to Br16 thousand, while original wines - up to Br40 thousand. Excise rate on 0.5-7% alcohol beer is increased by 33% to Br1.33 thousand per liter of finished product. If the alcohol content exceeds 7% - to Br2.67.

Excise taxes on alcohol from food raw materials are also getting higher - in 1.9 times to Br18.17 thousand (per liter of 100% ethanol), while rates on rectified ethyl technical alcohol – in 2 times to Br100. The new excise rate on filter cigarettes, the retail price of which is less than Br3 thousand per pack, is set at Br17 thousand per thousand units (11% higher than the current one); on cigarettes, which cost Br3 - 6 thousand, - Br45 thousand (12.5% more); on cigarettes of more than Br6 thousand per pack without a fixed value - Br65 thousand (8.3% more). Excise duty on diesel is increased 2.9-fold to Br676.26 per ton from November 1. As Telegraf previously reported, the excise rates on tobacco and alcohol products in Belarus rose last time on September 1.



Hungary

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Ministry for National Economy, "Update on The Stable Public Finances of Hungary"
Date published:	September 2011

Tax increases. In September 2011, Hungary raised the excise duty rate on flavoured spirits by 50 %. Duty rates for other alcoholic beverages (and also for pálinka, a locally-produced fruit-based spirit) was raised by 5 %.

UPDATE on THE STABLE PUBLIC FINANCES OF HUNGARY SZÉLL KÁLMÁN PLAN

[...] "Excise tax

- Raising tax on gambling by 50%
- Raising tax on tobacco by 7%
- Raising the excise tax of alcohol by 5%
- Raising the tax of flavored alcoholic beverages by 50%
- Raising the excise tax on gasoline from 97 HUF to 110 HUF per liter" [...]



Ukraine

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Kyivpost, Ukraine's leading English-language newspaper
Date published:	August 26, 2011

Minimum price on 0.5 liter vodka bottles. The Cabinet of Ministers issued changes to an earlier resolution, increasing the minimum retail price of a half-liter bottle of vodka by almost 50 percent to Hr 26.10 (\$3.25). Taxes on alcohol have not been changed and remain far lower than in the European Union

Vodka price up, but not tax

"In Ukraine, vodka is traditionally not mixed with anything – apart from politics. With owners of leading vodka producers sitting in parliament and one even having the ear of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov as an adviser, the spirits lobby holds strong policymaking clout. It appears to have exercised it again this month.

Effective Aug. 6, the Cabinet of Ministers issued changes to an earlier resolution, increasing the minimum retail price of a half-liter bottle of vodka by almost 50 percent to Hr 26.10 (\$3.25). The price hike comes despite the fact that taxes on alcohol remain far lower than in the European Union, contributing to the nation's high alcohol consumption.

The government apparently acted on the price hike in response to an appeal in April by vodka producers. Experts said it was another victory for the powerful vodka lobby, as it fixes a higher profit margin with no competition. The minimum vodka price has been set by the government for the past 10 years.

"The vodka lobby has always been very strong and not particularly shy," said Kostyantyn Krasovsky, director of the Ukrainian Information Center for Alcohol and Drugs Problems. Krasovsky said the recent lobbying efforts could be linked with a drop in vodka production from 195 million liters in the first six months of 2010 to 136 million liters in the same period this year. Azarov said price changes are needed to protect consumers from counterfeit vodka. His deputy, Vadym Kopylov, issued a statement justifying the price increase as a way to discourage production of moonshine vodka. A spokesperson for Global Spirits, which produces the Khortytsa brand, said counterfeit vodka currently accounted for up to 25 percent of the market. The price hike could get that share down to 10 percent, the industry representative said. The vodka lobby has always been very strong and not particularly shy, - Kostyantyn Krasovsky, director of the Ukrainian Information Center for Alcohol and Drugs Problems. Oleksandr Glus, president of the supervisory board at Nemiroff, said the increase in price is necessary because components of the production process have risen in price. "[...]"



Moldova

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	All Moldova. Daily news covering Moldova's most significant political, economic and social events.
Date published:	July 7, 2011

Increase in minimum prices. The Cabinet approved an increase in the minimum wholesale price of spirits from 36 to 56 lei a liter (~ 2.40 € to ~3.73 €) and in the retail price from 50 to 80 lei a liter (~3.33 € to ~ 5.33 €).

Spirits to increase in price

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved a raise in the minimum wholesale price of spirits from 36 to 56 lei a liter and in the retail price from 50 to 80 lei a liter, Info-Prim Neo reports.

Deputy Food Industry Minister Stefan Chitoroaga noted that the proposal to amend the Law on alcohol and alcoholic beverages is an initiative of Democrat MP Valeriu Guma.

Prime Minister Vlad Filat said that the proposal will be forwarded to Parliament with the discretion to make adjustments as it sees fit.



Latvia

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	New Europe Online. A European political newspaper.
Date published:	May 1, 2011

Taxes up in Latvia. The new tax rates are estimated to generate an additional 14.53 million lats in revenue this year and 37.56 million lats in 2012. The amendments provide for increasing excise tax on liquor from 890 to 940 lats (= ~ 1 274 € to ~1 346 €) per 100 liters of pure alcohol, to make the tax rate equal with those of Estonia and Lithuania.

Latvia to up excise duty on alcohol, petrol

The Latvian finance ministry last week announced that the excise tax on alcohol and petrol in the country will be raised on 1 June and the tax rates on cigarettes from 1 July, local media reports revealed. It was previously announced that the tax rates will increase on 1 July. However the ministry said that due to "terms of fiscal impact" the tax rates on alcohol and petrol will be raised earlier. The new tax rates are estimated to generate an additional 14.53 million lats in revenue this year and 37.56 million lats in 2012. The amendments provide for increasing excise tax on liquor from 890 to 940 per lats 100 liters of pure alcohol, to make the tax rate equal with those of Estonia and Lithuania. The amendments also stipulate increasing excise tax on gasoline from 269 to 289 lats per 1,000 liters, which will also make the tax closer to the tax rates of Lithuania and Estonia. Excise tax on cigarettes and smoking tobacco will also be gradually increased so as to meet the European Union's minimum level by 2018.



Moldova

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Moldova Azi, information portal and independent, impartial publication
Date published:	February 18, 2011

Alcohol excise duty increased in Moldova. In April 2011, the excise duties on alcohol were raised by 50 %

Moldova increases tobacco and alcohol excise duty rate by 50% in 2011

The Moldovan Government will increase excise duties on tobacco goods and alcohol beverages by 50% starting from April 1.

Experts said "the excise duty increase by 50%" is a peculiar subsidiary coin in the Governmental agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, which ended the 2nd review of the cooperation program that is projected for 2010-2012.

The Government insisted on the salary increase in the education and public sectors, as well as pension indexation, but the IMF advised Moldovan authorities to not increase the expenditure part of the Budget for these purposes within crisis conditions. According to experts, the increased excise duty on tobacco goods and alcohols became a peculiar compromise, which was achieved by the Government and the IMF mission.

"Thanks to the negative phenomenon provided by the 50%-increased excise duty, the Government managed to achieve a positive element for it - to increase revenues of a big category of citizens, which will allow moderating the social tension in the society", experts said.

The salaries of the state-financed organization employees [with lowest incomes] will be increased by 8.5% starting from July 1, which, in conformity with the Government, will touch upon 125 thousand persons. The salaries of teachers will go up 12.5% from September 1; their salaries have been already increased by 12.5% since January 1. About 70 thousand persons will benefit this increase. The Government will increase allowances to civil servants by 12% starting from October 1, where over 20 thousand persons of them will profit by.

Economic agents, going in for tobacco goods and alcohols production and selling, said that they have no information on what part of the excise duty will be increased by the Government.

"One applied excise duties on the percentage part till now, as well as the quantitative part, for example, it was 6.6 lei per 1 thousand of cigarettes", a representative of a company (selling foreign cigarettes in Moldova) said.

Alcohol producers also do not have a clear idea on the matter, a part of them said that dry wines must be compulsory exempted from the excise influence.

"The state shall promote their [dry wines] consumption amount in every possible way, if it is really concerned about the citizen health", experts said.



United Kingdom

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	BBC News, the world's leading public service broadcaster
Date published:	January 4, 2011

In January 2011 the VAT rate in the United Kingdom rose from 17.5% to 20%. Though this is no specific alcohol-related change, it still affects the economic availability of alcoholic beverages, making them slightly more expensive.

VAT rate rises from 17.5% to 20%

[...] "How will the VAT rise affect the prices families pay at the till?"

The standard rate of VAT has risen from 17.5% to 20% as the government looks to boost tax revenues to cut its deficit.

Business groups have warned that retailers will be hit by the increase, while opponents of the rise have said the poorest will be hit hardest.

The government says the rise is necessary to help bring down the UK's high budget deficit.

Chancellor George Osborne said the move was more "progressive" than a hike in income tax or National Insurance.

Food, children's clothing, newspapers and magazines are not subject to VAT.

'Wrong tax'

When unveiling the VAT rise over the summer, Chancellor George Osborne said it would raise more than £13bn a year by the end of the parliament.

However, the Labour opposition has accused the government of penalising low-income families.

Labour leader Ed Miliband said it was the "wrong tax at the wrong time", arguing that the rise would hit families at a time when they will be under pressure from government spending cuts.

And shadow chancellor Alan Johnson has warned the move is likely to hit the poor hardest.

But Mr Osborne told the BBC on Tuesday that targeting VAT was more "progressive" than increasing income tax or National Insurance.

Although they will end up paying less VAT in total, lower income households spend a bigger share of their incomes on taxed goods, meaning they are proportionately harder hit" [...]



Norway

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Ministry of Finance, state budget 2011.
Date published:	October 1, 2010

Tax increase. The state budget for 2011 included a 5 % increase for alcohol taxes. This meant a price increase of 3.05 NOK for a 6-pack of beer, 3.70 NOK for a bottle of wine and 15.05 NOK for a bottle of strong spirits.

Alkoholavgift

Foruten å skaffe staten inntekter har alkoholavgiftene som mål å begrense alkoholforbruk som bidrar til helsemessige og sosiale problemer. Flertallet i Særvavgiftsutvalget (NOU 2007:8) anbefalte å øke alkoholavgiftene reelt, selv om det uregistrerte forbruket kunne øke. Avgiftene er ikke blitt økt siden utvalget la frem sin konklusjon. Regjeringen foreslår derfor å øke avgiftene med 5 prosent reelt for 2011. Dette innebærer en avgiftsøkning (inkludert mva.) på 3,05 kroner for en 6-pakning med 0,33 liter øl, 3,70 kroner for en 0,75 liter svakvin (14 volumprosent) og 15,05 kroner for en 0,70 liter flaske brennevin (40 volumprosent).

For nærmere omtale av forslaget vises det til Prop. 1 LS (2010-2011) Skatter og avgifter 2011 avsnitt 4.3.



Romania

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Romania-Insider. News in English from Romania.
Date published:	December 6, 2010

Reduction in purchasing power leads to reduction in alcohol consumption. Consumption of spirits in Romania has decreased to 5 liters per capita from 6 liters per capita in one year, because of the economic recession.

Local spirits market, down to EUR 500 mln because of recession

Consumption of spirits in Romania has decreased this year to 5 liters per capita from 6 liters per capita last year because of the recession, said Romulus Dascalu, head of the Garant employers' association in the industry, quoted by newswire Mediafax. Dascalu said the consumption of spirits was at 8.5 liters per capita in 2008, decreased to 6 liters per capita in 2009 and estimates for this year indicate a decrease to 5 liters per capita.

"For this year, we estimate a consumption of 90-100 million liters, down 15-20 percent compared to last year, at some EUR 500 million. In 2009 we saw a decrease of over 25% in consumption," said Dascalu. He added prices for spirits increased 5-7 percent this year, as the Romanian leu depreciated against the euro. "Because of the crisis, people have switched to making their own spirits and next year will be just as bad because the spirits market evolves at the same rate as the general economy," Dascalu said.



Turkey

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Commission Staff Working Paper. Turkey 2011, Progress Report. (page 75).
Date published:	October 12, 2011

Tax increase. In October 2010, the excise duty rate on all spirits was increased by 30% across the board.

[...] “4.16. Chapter 16: Taxation

There is no progress to report with regard to the taxation of alcoholic beverages. Specific duties levied on alcoholic beverages are differentiated on the basis of the type of product, rather than the alcoholic content. The defined levels are higher for categories of products which are primarily imported than for categories of products which are primarily produced domestically. The action plan adopted on 18 May 2009 had set clear mutually accepted milestones with a view to the total elimination of discriminatory taxation. In October 2010, the excise duty rate on all spirits was increased by 30% across the board.

In contradiction with the Action Plan, this increased the differentials in absolute figures between taxation of imported compared to domestic spirits. Turkey will be required to comply with the commitments in the Action Plan. Gradual elimination of discriminatory practices in taxation in line with the Action Plan is the key to making further progress in the accession negotiations under this chapter” [...]



Belarus

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	September 2, 2010

Price increase. Retail prices for vodka and selling prices for ethyl alcohol have been raised on average 5% since 27 August 2010. The cost of vodka containing 40% of alcohol by volume totals BYR 8,240 (EUR 2.14 USD 2.73) per 0.5-litre excluding the cost of a package. It is the second rise of retail prices for vodka in 2010.

Belarus: Retail prices for vodka and selling prices for alcohol raised 5%

Retail prices for vodka and selling prices for ethyl alcohol have been raised on the average 5% since 27 August 2010. The cost of vodka containing 40% of alcohol by volume totals BYR 8,240 (EUR 2.14 USD 2.73) per 0.5-litre excluding the cost of a package. It is the second rise of retail prices for vodka in 2010.

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United Kingdom

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Guardian, newspaper from the UK founded in 1821.
Date published:	March 24, 2010

A price increase for alcoholic beverages, particularly cider (+ 10 %)

Budget 2010: Cider tax inspires Facebook rebellion

Hundreds of cider lovers are flocking to a Facebook campaign to protest at the 10% duty hike announced in today's budget. The group, called Leave Our Cider Alone, had attracted more than 3,400 members within a few hours of Alistair Darling announcing that the tax on cider will rise by 10% plus inflation. The change will come into effect this Sunday. The chancellor said the move would go some way towards correcting the "long-standing anomaly" under which the duty on cider is much less than other alcoholic drinks. But fans of the beverage have expressed anger at the prospect of paying an estimated 5p a litre more for still cider, and 9p extra for a 75cl bottle of sparkling cider.

"What has us cider drinkers done to Alistair Darling? Join the group and invite cider lovers. WE CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN!" declared Jono, creator of the Facebook group. West Country band The Wurzels also expressed their disappointment. In a statement, the group said that: "We are all very upset that scrumpy cider, being one of the few pleasures that we cherish down here on the farm in the West Country, is being hit by such a tax rise."

They added that the chancellor "won't be the Darling bud of our May." Two years ago, some pubs banned Darling from their premises after he raised alcohol duty. The government had warned in December's pre-budget report that it was reviewing the duty levied on cider amid pressure to bring it into line with beer. Today's 10%-plus-inflation change will only go some way to closing the gap. Shares in C&C Group, the Irish brewer that sells Magners cider, actually rose 4% following Darling's announcement on relief that the duty increase was not larger. Last night C&C said it would absorb the tax rise. The National Association of Cider Makers said the hike in cider duty was a "real hit" and "far more than expected". But the Society of Independent Brewers (Siba) welcomed the decision and said the government should have gone even further. "We urge the government to complete the process of levelling the taxation on brewers and cidemakers by introducing comparable rates based on ABV and by pressing Europe to introduce a small cider producers relief," said Siba chairman Keith Bott. Darling also said that changes would be made to the definition of "cider" in September to ensure that "strong" ciders were taxed more appropriately. The government is keen to tackle binge drinking among young people in England and Wales but has ruled out minimum pricing, the route being pursued by Scottish politicians. There were no other shocks for drinkers, with the duty on beer, wine and spirits to increase by 2% plus inflation from midnight on Sunday, as planned.

The Treasury said this will add 2p to the price of a pint of beer, 10p to the price of a bottle of wine, and 36p to a bottle of spirits. The duty on tobacco duty will also increase by 1% above inflation from today – adding 15p to the price of a packet of cigarettes. The chancellor also said tobacco duty would continue to rise by 2% a year until 2014.



Greece

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	BBC News, the world's leading public service broadcaster
Date published:	January 8, 2010

Greece raises taxes on alcohol and tobacco. For most drinks, tax per litre of alcohol will rise from 11.4 € to 13.7 € with immediate effect.

Greece raises taxes on alcohol and tobacco

The Greek government has announced increases in taxes on alcohol and tobacco as it seeks to counter the country's debt crisis. For most drinks, tax per litre of alcohol will rise from 11.4 euros (£10.23) to 13.7 euros with immediate effect.

Tax on a pack of cigarettes will rise from 57.5% to 70% on 12 January.

The Finance Ministry said the measures would increase revenues. The government has ruled out increasing VAT. Value added tax currently stands at 19%.

The Finance Ministry also said the increased taxes on alcohol and cigarettes would deter consumption, "to the benefit of public health".

As taxes on drinks are levied according to alcohol content, the rise will be more significant for spirits than for wine and beer.

Greece's debt has reached 300bn euros, the highest level in its modern history.

Prime Minister George Papandreou has already announced major cuts in public spending as he tries to reduce the country's debt.



Russia

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	BBC News, the world's leading public service broadcaster
Date published:	January 1, 2010

Russia slaps minimum price on vodka. As a part of an anti-alcohol program that will run until the year 2020, Russia has implemented minimum prices for vodka. The cheapest bottle will now be 89 roubles (2.20 €) for half a litre.

Russia slaps minimum price on vodka

Russian authorities have brought in new measures imposing a minimum price for all vodka sold in the country.

The move is part of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's plan to tackle alcoholism.

The cheapest bottle of vodka on sale will now be 89 roubles (\$3;£1.80) for half a litre.

An average Russian earns just under 18,000 roubles (\$600; £367) per month and illegal vodka can be found for as little as 40 roubles.

Experts estimate that sales of bootleg vodka in Russia make up almost 50% of all vodka drunk by Russians.

As an average Russian drinks 34 bottles a year, that adds up to a lot of bottles.

Mr Medvedev is determined to cut that by a quarter by 2012 - a brave target considering the lack of success his predecessors have had.

The problem is that historically, whenever Russia has tried to combat excessive drinking, sales of illicit alcohol have risen. Homemade vodka in Russia is highly dangerous and contributes heavily to the country's 35,000 deaths a year from alcohol poisoning.

The most draconian anti-alcohol campaign was virtual prohibition under former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s.

That resulted in people drinking perfume and industrial alcohol which in turn led to widespread death and injury.

The worry is that, at best, this gesture is just a token effort and at worst may even encourage the production of illicit vodka.



Czech Republic

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	PraguePost. The Czech Republic English-language newspaper.
Date published:	December 23, 2009

The 2010 budget passed by Parliament increases excise taxes on hard alcohol. The tax hike requires distilleries to pay an additional 20 Kč (0.77 €) per liter of pure alcohol sold, a price tag that will be passed on to consumers. At retail, a 1-liter bottle of liquor containing 40 percent alcohol will increase an estimated 6 Kč. (0.23 €)

Taxing spirits out of the holidays. 2010 will see new taxes and regulations on the sale of liquor

The 2010 budget passed by Parliament increases excise taxes on hard alcohol, which will result in consumers having to pay more for spirits. The tax hike requires distilleries to pay an additional 20 Kč (\$1.11) per liter of pure alcohol sold, a price tag that will be passed on to consumers. At retail, a 1-liter bottle of liquor containing 40 percent alcohol will increase an estimated 6 Kč. Set to take effect in the new year, the tax hike has angered producers and distributors, who say the higher prices will weaken demand and lower sales.

"The resulting effect of this tax collection effort by the government is, by definition, negative," says Jiří Štětina, managing director of Rémy Cointreau in the Czech Republic. "All the studies in many different EU markets prove that a government's intention to collect more taxes through increased excise taxes leads to a drop in consumption and an expansion of gray [illegal or semi-legal] production and distribution." [...]

The same tax hike applies to imported alcohol. It will represent about a 2 percent increase in the retail price of premium imported liquors, though this is not considered a significant increase for a market catering to wealthier clientele.

"Clearly, the hardest hit will be low-end local spirits, which will have to increase sales prices 6 percent to 8 percent," Štětina said. "It could be devastating for them, but, obviously, this is too complex a thought for the Finance Ministry."

In an effort to keep prices down, local producers in particular will be sure to stock and report 2009 inventories before the Jan. 1 tax increase comes into effect. The Czech Republic's excise tax on alcohol is average among all EU member states at 946 euros per hectoliter of pure alcohol (HPLA), higher than Austria and Slovakia, which plans an increase for March 2010, and less than Germany. With the increased tax, Parliament has also passed supplemental legislation that will tighten regulations to combat the anticipated growth in black market alcohol production. According to a September report by the Union of Alcohol Manufacturers, the Czech alcohol market has faced a steady increase in black market distribution over the past five years, with sales now estimated at 10 percent of the market. The additional legislation requires liquor bottles containing more than 1 deciliter of alcohol to have a tax stamp, a rule that presently applies to bottles with 2 deciliters or more of alcohol. The stamp is proof of tax payment and targets the widespread practice of producing bottles containing 1.99 deciliters of alcohol which often are used to circumvent taxes. "Thanks to the mandatory labeling of spirits, we were able to substantially reduce the amount of illegally imported or manufactured alcohol used in the illegal manufacturing of alcoholic beverages," said Jiří Barták, spokesman for Customs Administration.

"From this, along with the system of checks at marketplaces, we were able to put a squeeze on the sale of illegal alcohol." There is, however, much to be done, says Anthony Schofield, CEO of Jan Becher, maker of Becherovka. "They could improve controls in gastronomy outlets and significantly raise penalties for people who sell illegal alcohol," he told The Prague Post. "At customs, the control of goods that are not intended to be sold in the European Economic Area could be also improved, as they still appear on our market." Parliament is also considering a proposal to ban retail sales of bottles more than 6 liters. Taxes on beer will also rise in 2010; a 33 percent increase will add 50 hellers to the price of every 0.5 liters of beer.

"Of course, I do not agree with the tax hike," said Jan Veselý, president of the Czech Beer and Malt Association, which represents 95 percent of Czech brewers. "From the point of view of the Finance Ministry, I understand what they are doing, but, as someone who works in the industry, absolutely not. There are bigger targets to hit out there - like, how about slot machines?"



Moldova

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	December 22, 2009

Moldova introduced minimum selling prices for strong alcoholic beverages for the year 2010, as a mean to curb the sales of illicit alcohol.

Moldova: Minimum prices for strong alcohol drinks introduced for 2010

Following the decision by the parliament of Moldova, the minimum selling prices for strong alcohol drinks have been introduced for 2010 in the country. From now on, the minimum wholesale price for strong alcohol drinks will stand at MDL 36 (EUR 2.05 USD 2.94) per litre and the minimum retail price at MDL 50 per litre. Shipment of strong alcohol drinks at a price lower than stipulated by the law will be fined MDL 10,000 each case. The introduction of the minimum prices will help the government curb sales of falsified alcohol products in Moldova.

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Estonia

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Taloussanomat , the largest business online daily newspaper in Finland
Date published:	November 27, 2009

Alcohol prices on the rise in Estonia. The price of a vodka bottle (40 vol. %) went from 80 EEK to 85 EEK (~ 5.30 € to 5.67 €), and the price of a bottle of beer went from 12 EEK to 12, 25 EEK. (~ 0.80 € to ~ 0.81 €) Also, the Estonian beer producers have decided that strong beers containing over 7 vol. % will be withdrawn from the market.

Alkoholi kallistuu Virossa

Alkoholijuomien ohella kallistuvat myös tupakka, polttoaineet ja sähkö.

Puolen litran pullo 40-prosenttista votkaa, joka maksaa nyt 80 kruunua (5,10 euroa), maksaa ensi vuonna 85 kruunua (5,45 euroa).

Puoli litraa 5-prosenttista olutta kallistuu 12 kruunusta (77 eurosentistä) 12,25 kruunuun (78 eurosenttiin). Viineissä korotus on suhteellisesti vielä pienempi.

Käytännössä Viron hintaetu Suomeen paranee. Suomi nosti alkoholiveroa lokakuun alussa kymmenen prosenttia. Viron korotus on samansuuruinen, mutta kun lähtötaso Virossa on matalampi, sen juomat ovat entistä edullisempia Suomeen verrattuna.

10-prosenttiset oluet katoavat

Supervahvat virolaiset oluet katoavat kaupoista tammikuussa. Viron oluentuottajat ovat päättäneet lopettaa yli 7-prosenttisten oluiden panemisen.

Näin markkinoilta poistuu muun muassa 10-prosenttinen Saaremaa X, jota panee Olvin omistama tarttolainen A.Le Coq -panimo.



Slovakia

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Central Europe Retail Online. Covering Central and Eastern Europe, Central Europe Retail Online is PMR's news service for the latest retail-related events in the region. (PMR is a British-American company providing market information, advice and services to international businesses interested in Central and Eastern Europe)
Date published:	November 23, 2009

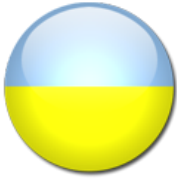
15% increase of excise tax on alcoholic beverages. A new bill signed by the Slovak president related to consumer tax on alcohol came into effect on 1 March 2010. The excise tax on alcohol increased from €939.38 to €1,080 per hl of pure alcohol (15% increase). The Slovak Finance Ministry expects the law to generate an additional €13m in 2010 and around €20m in each of the following two years for the state budget.

President signs law on alcohol sales

The Slovak president Ivan Gasparovic has signed a new bill pertaining to consumer tax on alcohol, which will come into effect on 1 March 2010 and is expected to result in a 15% increase of the price of spirits. One of the provisions in the new law allows retailers to purchase spirits either directly from producers or from registered and licensed wholesalers.

Permits to distribute alcohol, however, will be granted according to new legal provisions and only to those companies with an annual turnover of at least €100,000 or workforce of more than 10 people.

The new law will see consumer tax on alcohol increase from €939.38 to €1,080 per hl of pure alcohol. The Slovak Finance Ministry expects the law to generate an additional €13m in 2010 and around €20m in each of the following two years for the state budget.



Ukraine

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Kyivpost, Ukraine's leading English-language newspaper
Date published:	October 13, 2009

Increased prices for fortified alcohol. Ukraine increased wholesale and retail prices of vodka, liquors and cognac.

Ukraine from Oct. 20 to increase bottom prices of fortified alcohol

Ukraine from Oct. 20, 2009 increases wholesale and retail prices of vodka, liquors and cognac.

Cabinet resolution No. 1055 of September 23, 2009 published in the Uriadovy Kurier newspaper on October 10 takes effect in ten days after its publishing.

The bottom wholesale prices of vodka and liquors was set at UAH 68.05 per liter of 100% spirit, the retail price – at UAH 89.8 per liter of 100% spirit against present UAH 58.33 and UAH 70 respectively. From October 20, the bottom retail prices of vodka is to be at least UAH 17.96 per half-liter bottle, while at present it is UAH 14 per half-liter bottle.

The bottom wholesale prices of three-star cognac were slightly cut to UAH 95.35 per liter of 100% spirit against present UAH 104.17 per liter of 100% spirit, although the retail prices were increased from UAH 125 per liter to UAH 131.6 per liter, which is UAH 26.32 per half-liter bottle.

According to the document, the wholesale price of four-star cognac should be no less that UAH 106.3 per liter of 100% spirit, and the retail price – no less than UAH 146.7 (UAH 29.34 per half-liter bottle), and that for five star cognac – UAH 120.8 and UAH 166.7 (UAH 33.34) respectively.



Belarus

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	June 29, 2009

Excise duties up. President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed a decree to increase excise rates for alcohol and tobacco products since 1 July until 31 December 2009. Depending on the products, the rates were increased by up to 15%.

Belarus: Alcohol and tobacco excise duties up

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed a decree to increase excise rates for alcohol and tobacco products since 1 July until 31 December 2009. The rates will grow by up to 15% depending on a product. According to experts, this move will allow to attract an additional sum of BYR 85bn (EUR 21.34mn USD 30.01mn) to the country's budget in 2009.

The decree also exempts cognac supplied to Belarus and bottled into packaging of over two litres not considered of the consumer type from excise duties since 1 July until 31 December 2009.

© Esmerk



Belarus

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	April 2, 2009

Price increase. The government of Belarus has accepted a resolution about rising retail price of vodka on the average by 5% and selling price of food ethyl alcohol by 10% since April, 2 2009.

Belarus: Price of vodka raised 5%, alcohol by 10%

The government of Belarus has accepted a resolution about rising retail price of vodka on the average by 5%, selling price of food ethyl alcohol by 10% since April, 2 2009. The listed retail price of most popular kinds of vodka (Akvadiv, Belaya Rus Serebryanaya, Berezovaya and Ofitser) is fixed at R 6,740 (US\$ 2.55 EUR 1.89) per 0.5-litre bottle, excluding packaging that costs R 240-320 depending of the type of a bottle and design.

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Finland

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Ministry of Finance
Date published:	[1] November 18, 2008 [2] May 13, 2009

In January 2009, the excise duties for alcohol were raised so that a bottle of medium-strength beer became 4 cent more expensive, the price of a wine bottle rose by 22 cents and a bottle of hard liquor became 0.75 € more expensive. In addition, Finland's parliament unanimously agreed to raise the taxes on alcohol by up to 10% – beer and wine by three percent and spirits by seven percent- again in October 2009.

[1] Excise duties on alcoholic beverages up by 10 per cent

The Government is dedicated to mitigating the adverse effects of alcohol. The price of alcohol has proven to be an effective way statistically of reducing overall consumption of alcohol. The price of all alcoholic beverages will be raised by 10% at the beginning of 2009. This will increase central government tax revenue by an estimated EUR 65 million a year.

The increase means that retail prices for alcoholic beverages will go up by an average of 4½% on average. The price of spirits will increase about twice as much as beer and wine prices. This change in taxation means that the price of a bottle of beer will go up by an average of 4 cents, a bottle of wine by 22 cents on average and a bottle of Koskenkorva vodka by 75 cents. This legislative amendment will be brought into force as soon as possible.

[2] Alkoholivero nousee kymmenellä prosentilla lokakuun alussa

Hallitus esittää eduskunnalle, että valtion verotuloja lisätään korottamalla alkoholiveroa kymmenellä prosentilla 1.10.2009. Veronkorotuksen tavoitteena on jatkaa vuoden 2008 alussa alkanutta maltillista ja portaittaista alkoholiverotuksen kehittämistä, mikä tukee alkoholipoliittisia tavoitteita.

Korotus lisää valtion verotuloja vuositasolla arviolta noin 70 miljoonalla eurolla. Vuoden 2009 alkoholiverokertymän arvioidaan korotuksen seurauksena kasvavan noin 15 miljoonaa euroa. Korotuksen johdosta alkoholijuomien vähittäismyyntihinnat nousisivat keskimäärin 4½ prosenttia. Väkevien alkoholijuomien hinnat nousisivat noin kaksi kertaa enemmän kuin oluen ja viinin hinnat.

Hallitus hyväksyi esityksen alkoholi- ja alkoholijuomaverosta annetun lain liitteen muuttamisesta 13.5.2009.

Eduskunta on hyväksynyt lain ja tasavallan presidentti vahvisti sen 7.8.2009



Ukraine

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Kyivpost, Ukraine's leading English-language newspaper
Date published:	March 31, 2009

Excise duties for strong spirits raised. Excise duties for strong spirits raised by 58.14% to 34 UAH (3.32 €) per liter of 100% spirit, from July 1.

Rada raises excise duty on vodka and spirit by 58.1 percent to Hr 34 per liter of 100 percent spirit from July

The Verkhovna Rada has raised the excise duty on alcoholic beverages and ethyl spirit [other than spirit used for production of medicines] by UAH 12.5 or 58.14%, to UAH 34 per liter of 100% spirit from July 1.

With 226 votes required, a total of 230 MPs supported draft law No.4265 entitled "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on the Issue of Excise Duty," which was drafted by the Cabinet of Ministers, to pass it on the whole.

The Verkhovna Rada has also introduced annual indexation of excise duty on ethyl spirit and alcoholic beverages depending on the index of consumer prices.

During the debates on the draft law at the parliament MPs withdrew from the draft law provisions increasing from July 1 excise duty on natural grape wine from UAH 0.01 to UAH 0.5 per liter, raise the excise duty on fortified wine to UAH 1.4 per liter for those with up to 19.5% alcohol content and UAH 34 per liter for those with more than 19.5% alcohol content, raise the excise duty on sparkling and effervescent wine from UAH 1.6 to UAH 2.5 per liter, raise and the excise duty on vermouth to UAH 34 per liter of 100% spirit.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, the Verkhovna Rada decided in late December 2008 to raise the rate of the excise duty on ethyl spirit and hard alcoholic beverages (excluding cognac) by UAH 1.5 or 7% to UAH 23 per liter of 100% spirit on July 1, 2009; by UAH 5.5 or 26% to UAH 27 per liter of 100% spirit on January 1, 2010; by UAH 12.5 or 58% to UAH 34 per liter of 100% spirit on January 1, 2011.

The parliament also decided to gradually raise the excise duty on cognac by UAH 4 or 40% to UAH 14 per liter of 100% spirit on July 1, 2009; by UAH 10 or two-fold to UAH 20 per liter of 100% spirit on January 1, 2010; by UAH 17 or 2.7-fold to UAH 27 per liter of 100% spirit on January 1, 2011.

The excise duty on natural fortified wine remains unchanged at UAH 0.5 per liter.

The excise duty on ethyl spirit and hard alcoholic beverages is presently UAH 21.5 per liter of 100% spirit and the excise duty on cognac is UAH 10 per liter of 100% spirit.



Iceland

Year: 2009

Type of change: Economic

Direction of change: Restrictive

Level of change: National

Information provided by: Rafn M Jónsson

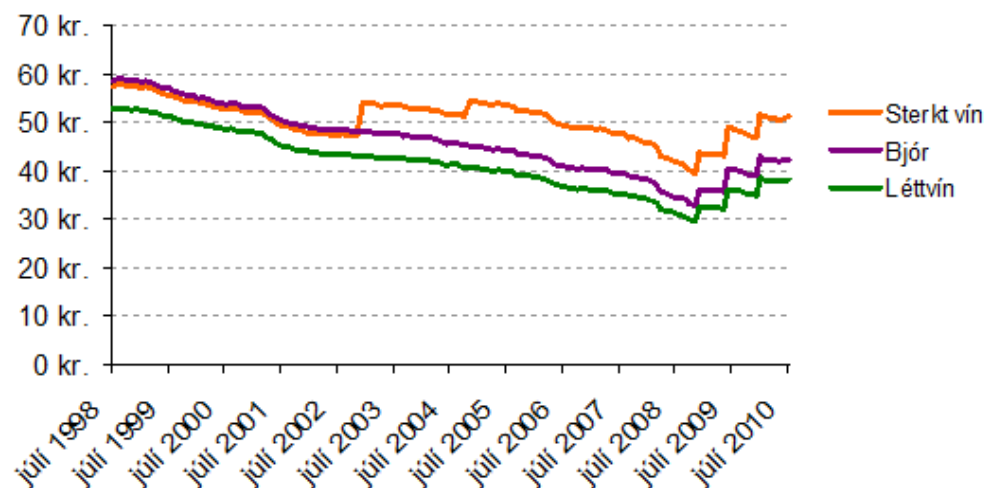
Source: project manager alcohol- and drugabuse prevention,
Directorate of Health, Iceland

Date published: 2009

Price increases. The prices for distilled spirits, wine and beer have been raised at several occasions after the economic crisis.

Information provided by Rafn M Jónsson, project manager alcohol- and drugabuse prevention, Directorate of Health, Iceland

Price increases. The prices for distilled spirits, wine and beer have been raised at several occasions after the economic crisis.
Sterkt vin = strong spirits, Bjór = Beer, Lettvín = Wine





United Kingdom

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Guardian, newspaper from the UK founded in 1821.
Date published:	January 27, 2011

Other things than policy changes can cause a change in alcohol consumption. Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) General Lifestyle survey shows that the recession caused people to drink less. Men in the UK drank 16.3 units of alcohol a week on average in 2009, down from 17.4 in 2008, while women drank eight units a week on average, down from 9.4 in the previous year.

Fewer people drinking as recession hits

As alcohol consumption and drink-related deaths fall, figures show that the more people earn the more they drink. The recession saw fewer people drinking alcohol in Britain although those that did enjoy a tipples increasingly came from the middle classes, official figures show.

New data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) General Lifestyle survey shows men in the UK drank 16.3 units of alcohol a week on average in 2009, down from 17.4 in 2008, while women drank eight units a week on average, down from 9.4 in the previous year.

The number of alcohol-related deaths in the UK fell by nearly 13% in 2009 to 8,664, but these were still more than double the figure of the early 1990s.

The survey results were issued just a week after ministers announced they would introduce a "de facto" minimum price on alcoholic drinks by banning sales at prices at below "cost price plus VAT". Critics said that the move will have little effect on current retail prices.

Don Shenker, chief executive of Alcohol Concern, said: "The slight fall in 2009 in alcohol-related deaths mirrors a slight drop in alcohol consumption, and while this is positive, it is wholly due to a drop in consumer spending as a result of the recession. "It is very likely that alcohol consumption will rise again once the economy picks up. Government alcohol policy should ensure alcohol becomes less affordable permanently, not just in an economic downturn."

In a noticeable social trend the middle classes drink more than their working class peers. The former had a higher weekly alcohol intake – 13.5 units – compared to households headed by those engaged in "routine and manual work" who imbibed 10.7 units. The current recommendations for daily alcohol intake are that it should not regularly exceed three to four units for men and two to three units for women. A pint of lager contains almost three units.

In poorest households – those with annual incomes of less than £10,400 – men's alcohol intake is relatively high at 16 units a week. However in households in the next income bracket alcohol intake falls back with men imbibing 12 units weekly.

From this point on the income scale as wages rise, so does average weekly alcohol consumption – with more people in high-earning jobs drinking more than the recommended amounts than anyone else.

Men earning £52,000 or more drank on average 18.7 units a week. Women in the same pay bracket were drinking 10.8 units.

Among white-collar women more than one in seven drank heavily – more than six units – every day. Doctors have warned that younger women have been taking up social drinking to an extent that could damage their long-term health.

With smoking the class positions are reversed. Lighting up a cigarette is nearly twice as common among adults in "routine and manual" occupation groups as it is in managerial and white-collar professionals. In households where the breadwinner is engaged in manual work 29% of adults smoked, almost double the rate – 15% – of adults addicted to nicotine in wealthier households.

This data showed that smoking rates appear to have bottomed out – for the third year running 21% of the population say they are puffing away. This is still more than half the number of nicotine addicts as in 1974. The north-west had the highest proportion of smokers – 23%.

There has also a dramatic increase in hand-rolled cigarettes – especially among women. In 2009 21% of women smokers said they rolled their own, compared to only 2% in 1990.



Latvia

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in Latvia (NCCL), a non-profit, non-governmental business association established in 2007
Date published:	December 12, 2008

Latvia increases VAT and excise tax rates. The standard VAT rate has been raised from 18% to 21% as of 1 January 2009. For alcoholic beverages, the excise tax rates will be as follows: Beer – LVL 1.45 (2.07 €) for each percent of alcohol volume, but no less than LVL 4 (5.72 €) per 100 litres, instead of the previous LVL 2 (2.86 €) per 100 litres; Wine and other fermented beverages will be taxed by LVL 40 (57.28 €) instead of LVL 30 (42.96 €) per 100 litres. Other alcoholic beverages are to be taxed with LVL 825 (1181 €) instead of LVL 705 (1009 €) per 100 litres of absolute alcohol content.

Latvia introducing significant tax changes

With the Baltic economies being amongst the hardest hit by the global credit crunch, all three countries are in the process of or have already introduced changes to their taxation systems in order to boost budget revenues and stabilise the economy. Latvia's main amendments adopted on 12 December 2008 cover Value Added Tax (VAT), Excise Tax, and Personal Income Tax. In general, the changes bring a slight shift of the tax burden from direct taxation to indirect, or consumer taxation. New tax incentives have also been introduced for promoting business development.

VAT up. The standard VAT rate has been raised from 18% to 21% as of 1 January 2009. The amendments also provide for the cancellation of the reduced VAT rate of 5%, replacing this with 10% for the following goods and services: Medicines, medical equipment and services; infant products; heating, electricity and natural gas supply; public transport services within Latvia; mass media products. This also means the reduced VAT rate will be replaced by a standard 21% rate for the following: books, commercial TV and radio licenses; hotel services, water supply and sewage services; waste management; funeral services; sports event and cinema tickets; hairdressing services; renovation services; firewood and firewood delivery services.

Excise tax up. Changes to excise tax rates will take effect on 1 February 2009. For alcoholic beverages, the excise tax rates will be as follows: Beer – LVL 1.45 for each percent of alcohol volume, but no less than LVL 4 per 100 litres, instead of the previous LVL 2 per 100 litres; Wine and other fermented beverages will be taxed by LVL 40 instead of LVL 30 per 100 litres.

Other alcoholic beverages are to be taxed with LVL 825 instead of LVL 705 per 100 litres of absolute alcohol content.

Mineral oil product excise taxes will increase as follows: LVL 269 instead of the previous LVL 228 per 1,000 litres of unleaded petrol; LVL 300 instead of LVL 297 per 1,000 litres of leaded petrol; LVL 234 instead of LVL 193 per 1,000 litres of diesel; LVL 90 instead of LVL 87 per 1,000 kg of fuel oil.

The amendments also expect to double the excise rate for coffee from LVL 50 to LVL 100 per 100 kg of coffee, while the excise on non-alcoholic beverages is to increase to LVL 4 from LVL 2 per 100 litres.

[...]



Iceland

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Nosam.net. News and information about the Nordic alcohol market.
Date published:	November 18, 2008

The economic crisis in Iceland causes alcohol prices to rise. The state monopoly raised the prices by ~ 5 % in November 2008, but the alcohol excises remained unchanged.

Finanskrisen medfört högre priser på isländsk alkohol

På grund av finanskrisen har det statliga alkoholmonopolet höjt priserna på alkohol i sina butiker. Dagarna före prishöjningen hamstrade islänningarna alkohol.

På grund av finanskrisen har det isländska alkoholmonopolet höjt priserna på alkoholen. I genomsnitt har priserna stigit med 5,25 procent på omkring hälften av varorna. Alkoholskatten är oförändrad

Priserna steg från och med den första november och dagarna innan kunde man notera en ökad försäljning då islänningarna ville bunkra upp med alkohol till ett lägre pris. På ett par ställen bildades det långa köer utanför butikerna.

Fredagen före prishöjningen såldes alkohol för 319 miljoner isländska kronor, vilket är tre gånger mer än under en normal fredag i oktober. [...]



Finland

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Ministry of Finance
Date published:	September 13, 2007

Tax increase: Distilled spirits 15%, other beverages 10%. The new rates came into force in the beginning of 2008, and made a beer bottle 5 cents more expensive, a bottle of wine 20 cents more expensive, and a bottle of strong spirits 1,50 € more expensive.

[...] **Alkoholiveroa korotetaan**

Hallitus esittää alkoholiveron korottamista 40 miljoonalla eurolla terveyshaittojen vähentämiseksi. Veronkorotus painottuisi väkeviin alkoholijuomiin niin, että väkevien alkoholijuomien veroa korotettaisiin 15 prosenttia ja mietojen alkoholijuomien 10 prosenttia. Veronkorotuksen seurauksena esimerkiksi keskiolutpullon hinta nousisi noin 5 sentillä, viinipullon hinta noin 20 sentillä ja edullisen väkevän alkoholijuomapullon hinta 1,50 eurolla. [...]



Lithuania

Year:	2007 - 2008
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	www.baltic-course.com, international magazine for decision makers.
Date published:	March 5, 2009

2008 was dubbed “year of abstinence” in Lithuania. For example excise duty on alcohol was increased and tax relief for small breweries abolished.

2008 – year of abstinence in Lithuania

During 2007 and 2008 state alcohol-abuse control policies were enforced in Lithuania and, therefore, 2008 was announced as The Year of Abstinence, the Lithuanian Ministry of Health reported.

When the number of alcohol-related diseases and deaths significantly increased in Lithuania, intense discussions started in Lithuanian society on how to fight the problem.

Primarily, despite the enormous pressure from alcohol industry, advertising of alcohol was limited: advertisements were partially banned on the radio and television. Moreover, excise duty on alcohol (including cider) increased, also tax relief was abolished for small breweries, and, at the end of the year, legislative amendments were enacted, under which trade time limits were set from 2009.

Recent Alcohol Control law amendment provides that alcohol trade will be forbidden in trade stalls from 2010. Furthermore, not only the value of fines for driving under the influence were increased, confiscation of a vehicle and even administrative arrest can be applied for drunk driving. Permitted alcohol concentration in the blood was reduced from 0.4 to 0.2 ppm. for beginner drivers.

In 2008, compared with 2007, the amount of seized alcohol increased by a third, and therefore the number of poisoning and psychosis under alcohol influence decreased.

For the first time after Lithuanian health program was confirmed, consumption of alcohol decreased significantly in 2008 – from former 14.3 liters of absolute alcohol per person in 2007 to 13.2 liters in 2008.

All the efforts that were made during The Year of abstinence gave clear results, but the absolute amount of alcohol per person in Lithuania is still nearly twice bigger than the limit of alcohol consumption that the World Health Organisation suggests.



Romania

Year:	2007
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Information provided by Andrei Botescu, Romanian National Antidrug Agency, Romania
Date published:	2007

Tax on homemade alcohol imposed. In order to discourage alcohol consumption, the same level of excises is applied in the European Union for alcohol, both for own consumption and for marketing. Through negotiations, Romania obtained derogation after accession date. Thus, for up to 50 litres of fruit alcohol for own consumption, each household will pay 50% of the yearly excise duty.

Information provided by Andrei Botescu, Romanian National Antidrug Agency, Romania

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Homemade production of alcohol is allowed but producers have to register legally and meet hygiene and consumer protection standards. These measures are taken by the EU to prevent black market alcohol production.



Bulgaria

Year:	2007
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Novinite.com. Sofia News Agency.
Date published:	December 13, 2006

Excise duty for homemade alcohol introduced. In connection with Bulgaria joining the European Union in 2007, the country had to introduce taxes on homemade spirits. The introduction of taxation led to protests, but Bulgaria's parliament finally approved changes to the excise duty law, introducing for the first time a levy on the brewing of the traditional rakiya.

Bulgaria Introduces Excise Duty on Rakiya Brewing

Bulgaria's parliament approved definitively Wednesday changes to the excise duty law, introducing for the first time a levy on the brewing of the traditional rakiya.

The tax for a litre of pure rakiya, produced in a small distilling factory, will be BGN 2.2 for brewing up to 30 litres of rakiya and BGN 4.4 over that amount, the MPs decided.

The MPs admitted they fear the control over homemade brew will be difficult and slack and an increase in alcohol poisoning cases may follow.

Coal, coke, and electricity will be levied too, except for when they are used for everyday necessities. Gasoline taxes will also go up.

Excise duties on fuels will be increased by BGN 0,12-13 for the different types, under the approved amendments to the law.



Romania

Year:	2006
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	[1] HotNEws.Ro. News from Romania, in English and Spanish [2] HotNEws.Ro. News from Romania, in English and Spanish
Date published:	[1] May 2, 2006 [2] June 30, 2006

A health-tax was introduced, and excise-duties rose in the summer of 2006. A separate (additional) Health Tax - so called "sin tax"- was introduced in 2006 and applied to spirit drinks at a rate of €200 per hlpa. Also the excises increased, starting July 1, 2006. Alcohol excise increased by 85 euro/ton, leading to 15% higher prices for alcoholic beverages.

[1] Prices up for tobacco and alcohol

The cigarettes and alcoholic beverages will be more expensive on the Romanian market within days, following the inclusion of a sin tax into the excise value. The sin tax was envisaged in order to reduce excessive consume of alcohol and tobacco and to provide additional money to the Health budget. It was established to 200 Euros/ hl of alcohol and 10 Euros/thousand cigarettes. The Government's decision was supposed to enter into force on May 1, but the measure was postponed due to the free-day labour holiday. According to the law, the money coming from the sin tax is to become a revenue source for the Health Ministry starting January, 1, 2007.

The price of cigarettes will hike again on July, 1, when the excises will be increased. According to the National Statistics Institute, in Romania the bread consume is 8% while cigarettes consume is 4%.

[2] Wave of high prices to hit Romania in July

Prices for natural gas, electricity, gasoline, alcohol and tobacco products are due to rise significantly starting July 1, 2006, in accordance with policies announced by the Romanian Government earlier this year. The gasoline price will rise by 500-600 ROL per liter, while a pack of cigarettes will be 20% more expensive.

Sunday, July 1 is also the first day when all the prices for products and services must be listed in RON (new lei) only, instead of the RON and ROL (old lei) listing scheme used over the past 12 months. RON is the new currency following the denomination process launched last year. 1 RON=10,000 ROL.

Alcohol excises will also rise by 85 euro/ton, leading to 15% higher prices for alcoholic beverages.

And natural gas prices for household use will rise 1.54% in average, while those for industrial consumers will grow 1.65%.



United Kingdom

Year:	2006
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Guardian, newspaper from the UK founded in 1821.
Date published:	March 23, 2006

Beer and wine duties on the rise. Beer and wine taxes were raised slightly, in line with inflation.

Inflation-linked rise in beer and wine duties

Taxes on a pint of beer and a bottle of wine are to be raised by 1p and 4p respectively from midnight on Sunday, in line with inflation. Similarly, the chancellor imposed an inflation-linked 9p increase on a packet of 20 cigarettes.

Tax levels on spirits, champagne, other sparkling wines and cider were all frozen. From August, fixed-odds betting terminals in betting shops are to come under a gaming machine tax regime. In addition to VAT, each terminal will be subject to £1,965 amusement machine licensing duty - higher than bookmakers had expected.

2. Restrictive changes, physical availability



Moldova

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	All Moldova. Daily news covering Moldova's most significant political, economic and social events.
Date published:	November 17, 2011

Local sale restrictions. The city of Dubossary (Transnistria) introduced a prohibition on off-premise alcohol sales between 9 pm and 8 am.

Dubossary authorities forbid alcohol sales between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Administration of the city of Dubossary (Transnistria) has introduced a prohibition on alcohol and beer sales by trading organizations between 9 pm and 8 am. The only exception was made for restaurants, cafes, bars and other fixed catering objects.

Transnistrian authorities explained by the decision by the necessity to create conditions for ensuring public order and safety of the citizens, as well as based on grown number of complaints on acts of hooliganism and damaging of public property by drunken persons.



Russia

Year: 2011

Type of change: Physical

Direction of change: Restrictive

Level of change: National

Source: The Centre for Eastern Studies, a research institution dealing with analyses and forecast studies of the political, social and economic situation in: the countries neighbouring Poland and in the Baltic Sea region, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Date published: July 27, 2011

Tightened legislation. The amendments to the law on state regulation of production and distribution of alcohol brings along several restrictive changes. For example beer will now be treated as an alcoholic beverage, not foodstuff.

Russia tightens its anti-alcohol legislation

On 20 July, President Dmitri Medvedev signed an amendment to the law on state regulation of the production and distribution of alcohol, introducing restrictions on its consumption, sale and advertising; and on 21 July, he signed another law providing for criminal liability for the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors. The new rules are part of the campaign Medvedev announced in 2009 to combat Russian alcoholism, but it seems doubtful that they will have the desired effect.

Excessive alcohol consumption in Russia is a very important social problem; among others it contributes to high premature male mortality, which is one of the Russian Federation's major demographic problems. The most important change introduced by the new regulations is to extend the anti-alcohol provisions to beer, which had previously been treated as a normal food item. In addition, alcohol will be sold only in non-mobile commercial facilities (which will eliminate the small kiosks which are popular in Russia). The act prohibits the sale of alcohol in places of mass gatherings, including sports facilities, railway stations, bus stops, petrol stations, airports and transport systems. It also prohibits the advertising of alcohol on radio, television and billboards. As of 1 January 2012 the drinking of alcohol in public places will be banned. From 2013, night-time prohibition will come into effect, banning the sale of alcohol from 11pm to 8am, with the exception of bars and restaurants.

The Russian authorities are trying to solve the problem of alcoholism by administrative methods, in isolation from questions of preventive health care, early education and so on. The experience of partial prohibition, as introduced in the perestroika period by Mikhail Gorbachev, shows that banning the sale of alcohol at night does not necessarily bring about a decline in consumption, while limiting beer sales can result in increased consumption of spirits, including illegal domestic distillations. The absolute enforcement of these stringent rules could result in increased public discontent with the government.



Malta

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Maltatown.com. News from Malta.
Date published:	July 8, 2011

New rules for serving alcohol at entertainment venues. At all venues (including open-air events), young people (i.e. under 17) must not have access to those areas where alcohol is sold.

Malta cracks down on alcohol sales at entertainment venues

Alcohol will be allowed to be served at all-ages concerts in Malta as long as serving bars prevent minors from accessing them and a bank guarantee is provided up to €50,000. These are two conditions that must be followed if entertainment venues want to serve alcohol at concerts.

The regulations were amended after NNG Promotions organized a James Blunt show in April and were told they couldn't serve alcohol at the venue, the Valletta Waterfront, during the event because it was an all-ages show with minors under the age of 17 in attendance.

The new legal notice means that alcohol can now be served as long as specific conditions are strictly adhered to. One of the rules states that drinks can only be sold and served in a separate physical area of the entertainment venue which has the approval of the Police Commissioner. This is to easier deny access to those who aren't of legal drinking age.

In addition, police will have the power to order organizers to follow any conditions they propose to make sure that minors aren't able to purchase tobacco and alcohol during events. The venues' management will also have to hand over up to €50,000 in the way of a bank guarantee to make sure that the laws and police orders are properly obeyed.

The new regulations were originally drawn up to better control dance parties and raves, but musical concerts were also added to the law with the addition of the words "*places of entertainment and concert venues*".

In the past, the police had the power to refuse permits for any event in which the character of the applicants, disc jockeys, or proprietors meant that there could be possible substance abuse during the events. The new laws now include performing artists in this list.

This basically gives police the power to approve or deny the performance of any proposed artists. For instance, the recent show by American performer Snoop Dogg at the Isle of MTV could have been banned due to his several drug-related convictions. The Police Commissioner will have the final say on these matters in the future.

The legal notice also announced that fines would be levied to people who break the law. Patrons of events can be fined between €60 and €120 for the first offence and any subsequent convictions will result in a fine between €120 and €250. Event organizers can be fined between €500 and €1,000 for a first conviction and any subsequent ones will result in a fine between €1,200 and €2,500



Denmark

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Danish Health and Medicines Authority, the supreme authority in healthcare and regulatory control of medicines.
Date published:	March 7, 2011

Denmark increased the age limits for purchasing alcohol. To buy alcohol stronger than 16, 5 vol. % in shops one must now be 18 years or older. The law came into force in March 2011.

Strammere regler for salg af alkohol

Fra den 7. marts 2011 kan unge under 18 år ikke længere købe drikkevarer med mere end 16,5% alkohol i butikkerne. Loven om salg af alkohol er skærpet for at beskytte unge og hjælpe dem med at udvikle bedre vaner i forbindelse med alkohol. Danske unge er blandt de unge i Europa, der drikker mest – og de drikker ofte meget på én gang. Hvert år kommer 3.000 unge på hospitalet med alkoholforgiftning.

Unge kan hjælpe butiksmedarbejdere ved at have gyldigt billed-ID klar. Det kan for eksempel være pas, kørekort eller det særlige unge-ID, som kan købes hos kommunen.



Turkey

Year: 2011

Type of change: Physical

Direction of change: Restrictive

Level of change: National

Source:

[1] FRANCE 24, a leading 24/7 international news channel. Its mission is to cover international current events from a French perspective and to convey French values throughout the world

&

[2] Hurriyet dailynews, leading news-source for Turkey and the region.

[1] January 12, 2011

Date published:

&

[2] May 25, 2011

New alcohol rules were passed in Turkey in the beginning of 2011, including stricter regulations on advertising and promotion, stricter licensing rules and a ban on alcohol-selling on concerts and events for everyone under the age of 24. Also selling of alcohol along the highway was forbidden. Later in the year 2011, Turkey's top administrative court changed some of the rules, for example the 24-year age limit down to an 18-year age limit.

[1] Turkish government under fire over alcohol restrictions

Turkey's Islamist-rooted government came under fire Wednesday over tighter rules on alcohol sales, with opponents charging that the new regulation targeted secular lifestyles. The row broke over a regulation issued last week said to be aimed at protecting public health and the well-being of children and young people.

"This kind of mentality is unacceptable... An oppressive mentality is seeking to control Turkey," said Akif Hamzacebi, a senior member of the main opposition CHP party, according to Anatolia news agency. The new rules "aim to make life difficult for those who want to drink and thus to force them to change their lifestyle," columnist Mehmet Y. Yilmaz wrote in the mass-selling Hurriyet daily.

The head of the Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Board, which issued the regulation, rejected the accusations. "It is not true that (alcohol) sales are being restricted... There is absolutely no restriction and no ideological dimension to the issue," Mehmet Kucuk said in a television interview.

The ruling Justice and Development Party, the offshoot of a banned-Islamist movement, is often accused of seeking to reinforce the role of Islam in Turkey and undermine the country's secular system, charges that it strongly denies. The regulation curbs the advertising of booze and tightens rules on how alcohol is displayed in shops, and sold or served in the public realm.

It prohibits authorised sellers from taking alcohol outside their premises, making it harder for catering companies to organise wedding parties or similar gatherings. Alcohol is banned from events for "children and young people", like concerts or festivals, with the age barrier kept as high as 24.

One provision says alcoholic beverages cannot be distributed for free or as presents and promotion.

The regulation bans the advertising of alcohol on television and radio, while stating that printed advertisements should not associate drinking with the celebration of special days.

The new rules have forced Turkey's internationally renowned basketball team Efes Pilsen to look for a new name to replace the beer brand it currently bears.

In 2007, the government attempted to designate "red zones" outside cities for establishments serving wine and spirits, but one of Turkey's top courts scrapped the regulation.

[2] Turkish court partially suspends new alcohol restrictions

Turkey's top administrative court partially suspended restrictions Wednesday on alcohol sales that were introduced in January to a strong public reaction, halting two provisions in the regulation.

The ruling party tabled one of the most disputed articles in the law, one which had banned alcohol sales at events and activities "for children and young people," dealing a blow to festival and concert organizers and attendees.

The regulation had come under particular fire for defining "young people" as those up to 24 years of age, a provision the court said contradicted existing laws that set 18 as the minimum legal age for buying and consuming alcohol.

The Council of State made its decision as it continued to examine a petition by the Ankara Bar Association seeking the annulment of the entire bill. It also suspended a second provision of the law that had prohibited shops from selling liquor in small bottles, which regulators argued made alcohol easier to access for young people.

The regulation was passed in January by the ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, with the aim of protecting young people from alcoholism. Its adoption triggered protests saying that the party was targeting liberal lifestyles.

The law also affects adults attending celebratory events with a provision that bans authorized sellers, such as catering companies, from taking liquor outside their premises.



Russia

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	The Guardian, newspaper from the UK founded in 1821.
Date published:	August 18, 2010

Sale restrictions in Moscow. Sales of vodka between 10 pm and 10 banned.

Moscow bans overnight sales of vodka in Dmitry Medvedev's war on alcohol. Crackdown on Russia's lethal drink culture where vodka is country's number one killer

Ivan the Terrible ramped up its production, Mikhail Gorbachev banned it and Boris Yeltsin wandered the streets of Washington in his underpants after consuming too much of it.

Now President Dmitry Medvedev has become the latest leader to step on to the floor in Russia's eternal and deadly dance with vodka.

City authorities in Moscow have announced a ban on the sale of spirits between 10pm and 10am, in the most recent of a series of measures designed to break the country's drinking habit.

The average Russian drinks a litre and a half of pure alcohol every month, a habit that kills half a million people a year and is a major factor in population decline. An estimated 51% of production is on the black market, with factories running illegal night shifts and huge supplies of moonshine called *samogon* distilled in villages, where it acts as a second currency.

Medvedev announced a war on alcohol last summer saying he was shocked by the "colossal" level of consumption. He ordered the government to draw up measures to discourage excessive drinking and cut off supplies of bootleg liquor.

Russia has since increased excise on beer, raised the minimum price of a bottle of vodka to 89 roubles (£1.87) and announced plans to cut sales at kiosks. Legal changes to make it a criminal rather than an administrative offence to sell alcohol to minors are also in the pipeline and last month police began enforcing a zero drink-drive limit.

Shops and other outlets in Moscow had been banned from selling alcohol over 15% in strength between 11pm and 8am but a legal loophole allowed them to acquire permission for 24-hour sales from district authorities. Establishments serving food are not affected.

"We can only welcome this law," said Yevgeny Bryun, the ministry of health's chief specialist on alcohol and drug addiction. Bryun admitted that hardened drinkers could still down vodka during the day and "catch up" late at night by purchasing beer, "but overall the alcohol burden will be lower".

Martin McKee of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who has studied alcohol trends in Russia, said: "It will depend on enforcement but this is a good thing.

"The experience of the Nordic countries shows us that any measure which makes it difficult to access alcohol has a positive effect."

However, he added: "What is most effective is higher excise taxes and limiting the number of outlets selling alcohol."

Alcohol was prohibited in the Russian empire between 1914 and 1917 but reintroduced by the Bolsheviks when they realised its earning power. In the 1980s Gorbachev also banned booze, tearing up huge vineyards in Crimea and other southern climes of the Soviet Union. Mortality rates dropped as a result but there was a spurt in use of dangerous "surrogate" alcohols such as aftershave, boot polish and window cleaner.

Vodka – both legal and illegal – remains the chief killer in Russia, where it accounts for up to 70% of consumption, despite the rising popularity of beer and mixed drinks such as gin and tonic in cans.

Alkashi – alcoholics – are still a common sight on Moscow streets. A collection of wild-eyed and grubby men sprawled at one notorious hangout outside the entrance to Belorusskaya railway station is a common sight.

"Vodka's got more expensive so sometimes we chip in to share a bottle," said one of the group, echoing a practice in Soviet times, when three men would contribute a rouble each to buy half a litre.

Andrey Demin, a public health expert who drew up a recent report on alcohol abuse, said future measures would face stiff opposition in parliament. "The alcohol lobby and foreign producers in Russia are so strong and ruthless," he said.

Demin said higher prices, tougher legislation and stricter control on production and distribution were the only solutions.

"Otherwise this extermination by alcohol will continue."



Ukraine

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Kyivpost, Ukraine's leading English-language newspaper
Date published:	March 18, 2010

Kiev bans alcohol and tobacco sales from kiosks. City councils in western Ukrainian cities of Lviv, Uzhhorod and Ivano-Frankivsk forbid the off-premise sale of beer and alcohol from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Kyiv moves to ban sales of alcohol, cigarettes in kiosks

Despite resistance from affected businesses, Kyiv on April 1 is banning alcohol and tobacco sales from small street kiosks. While many praise the initiative as helpful in improving public health, businesses appear set to challenge the legality of the move. The decision, adopted by the Kyiv city council on Dec. 23, specifically bans alcohol and tobacco sales in street kiosks that occupy less than 40 square meters – covering most of more than 10,000 such small business establishments operating in the city. The measure also forbids the sale of alcohol (except beer in plastic bottles) and tobacco during mass gatherings.

However, entrepreneurs who run kiosks call the decision unlawful and protested outside the Presidential Administration on March 11, demanding that Viktor Yanukovich ask the prosecutor to review the legality of the decision. "Owners of big supermarkets obviously want to have a monopoly for alcohol and tobacco sales. Meanwhile these products account for most of the kiosks' profit," said Vadym Hladchuk, from the civil organization Molod – Nadiya Ukrainy (Youth – Hope of Ukraine), who was among organizers of protest. Entrepreneurs say no public hearings were held on the matter and the decision contradicts 1996 rules for alcohol retail still in force today. According to those rules, alcohol sale is allowed in shops bigger than 20 square meters, not 40, as in the council's action. Businessman Mykola Omelchuk says his small beer shop is under threat. "We have enough space, more than 20 square meters, so customers can come in and even take a seat. We sell quality beer and many customers appreciate the product," Omelchuk said. However, city council members say they are constantly hearing complaints from concerned Kyivans – especially parents -- about the easy availability of tobacco and alcohol on the streets.

While street sales of hard alcohol were banned many years ago, the measure would broaden the alcohol ban to include beer and low-alcohol beverages as well. "Kids manage to run to a nearby kiosk from school and buy cigarettes to smoke during breaks," said Iryna Kovalchuk, who has a teenage son. "Supermarkets are probably easier to control so that they do not sell to kids under 18 and so that they do not sell counterfeit goods." The Kyiv prosecutor said many kiosk owners break the law by selling alcohol and tobacco to children. "In 2010, 60 licenses for retail alcohol sale were revoked and 30 more were revoked during the latest check," said Myroslava Mushka, a spokeswoman for the Kyiv city prosecutor. Members of the city council are sticking with their decision. "Alcohol and tobacco are not sold in kiosks in civilized countries," said Oleksiy Davydenko, one of the authors of the ordinance. "Mostly it is young people and teenagers who buy beer and low alcohol drinks in kiosks, so kiosks simply fuel alcoholism among youngsters." Alcoholism has long been a problem in Ukraine. The nation is 5th in per-capita alcohol consumption, according to the World Health Organization, with 15.6 liters consumed annually. Experts say consumption might be even higher, as many Ukrainians, especially in rural areas, brew and consume moonshine. [...]

"Despite the legislation being quite adequate in Ukraine, with print and billboard advertising of alcohol forbidden, low prices for alcohol and tobacco make these products very affordable," said Maksym Boroda, an expert from International Centre for Policy Studies. Public health activists also say authorities need to promote healthy lifestyles and legally recognize beer as alcohol, making it subject to advertising restrictions. "For example, football is being associated with beer, because in all commercials, we are being shown happy fans with beer bottles," said Oleksandr Poheketa from Tvereza Ukraina (Sober Ukraine) movement. However, other Ukrainian cities have also shown that action can be taken at a local level.

City councils in western Ukrainian cities of Lviv, Uzhhorod and Ivano-Frankivsk forbid the sale of beer and alcohol from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. in all kiosks and shops, except for cafes and restaurants. Local police in Ivano-Frankivsk say that, since the ban went into effect in September, the number of crimes at night has decreased. One city official said the next step is to forbid the sale of alcohol and tobacco in kiosks within 500 meters of schools and kindergartens. "Our town is quite small, so that would include a great deal of kiosks anyway," Ruslan Martsinkiv, secretary of the Ivano-Frankivsk city council, said.



Ukraine

Year: 2010

Type of change: Physical

Direction of change: Restrictive

Level of change: National

Source: [1] Information provided by: Kostyantyn Krasovsky, Director of the Ukrainian Information Centre for Alcohol and Drugs Problems & [2] Visitua.info. Information about Ukraine

Date published: February 11, 2010

Ukraine introduced a new, stricter alcohol act in January 2010, including – among other things – a minimum age of 18 years.

[1] Information provided by: Kostyantyn Krasovsky, Director of the Ukrainian Information Centre for Alcohol and Drugs Problems

New law lays down some new ground rules on alcohol. Ukraine used to have a very liberal beer policy. Since 1995 beer was not legally considered an alcohol beverage, which meant there were almost no restrictions for sales and advertising. Also beer excises were very low (6-10% of retail price). As a result beer consumption increased five folded in 1996-2008. According to the WHO/Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in 2006 Ukrainian children had the highest levels of alcohol consumption in Europe mainly due to beer. A new law adopted by parliament on Jan. 21, 2010, introduced restrictions on alcohol sale and consumption. A minimum age of 18 years was introduced.

[2] As of today, Ukraine begins the path to health and sobriety

Today the law limiting the consumption and sale of beer and low-alcohol drinks officially published in the newspaper "Holos Ukrainy" and enters into force. The law adopted by parliament on Jan. 21, 2010, introduced the category of alcoholic beverages- alcoholic drinks and beer. Are increasing restrictions on their sale and consumption. Also for the first time introduced a ban on the sale of alcohol beverages to persons under 18 years.

"Ukraine begins the path to health and sobriety", - the deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, co-author of the law Mykola Tomenko.

"I understand that many young people would react to a critical need to respect others and restrict their actions and desires. However, authorities and politicians, who have long turned a blind eye to what is happening in Ukrainian society for various reasons (mainly lobbying their own business interests or fear of losing popularity before the elections), it is time to adopt appropriate legislation and do unpopular things "- he said .

As the press office of Tomenko, the law prohibits the consumption of beer (except soft) and low alcohol drinks in health, in education and training and educational institutions, public transport, public transport stops, in underground passages, and in cultural institutions, in closed sports facilities (except beer in plastic container), in elevators and public phone, children's playgrounds, sports fields: the premises of state authorities and local authorities, other government agencies.

The sale of beer (except soft) and low alcohol beverages on the premises and in the schools, health facilities, indoor sports facilities (except for beer in plastic container), in vending machines, in the premises of the specialized trade organizations engaged in trade of goods for children, etc. .

The law also introduced the rule that at the time of the events, rural, village and town councils can prohibit or restrict the sale of beer (except beer in plastic container), alcohol, alcohol drinks and tobacco in their administrative territory



United Kingdom

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Reuters.com, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals.
Date published:	January 19, 2010

New restrictions and rules for bars and clubs. Stricter rules for clubs and pubs were introduced in the United Kingdom, regarding for example certain drinking games and promotions.

Out go drinking games in booze crackdown

LONDON (Reuters) - Tough new rules for pubs and clubs -- including a ban on drinking games like the infamous "dentist's chair" -- will be introduced in Britain this year in a bid to curb a heavy drinking culture that costs the country billions of a pounds a year.

Other promotions like "all you can drink for 10 pounds (\$16)," speed drinking competitions and "women drink free" nights will also be prohibited.

But, controversially, bulk offers of cheap alcohol in supermarkets -- widely regarded as one of the main sources of Britain's problems with under-age and excessive drinking -- will not be affected. Home Secretary Alan Johnson said he did not want to target responsible drinkers on low incomes, but that the government and the industry had a duty to act on booze-fueled promotions.

"These practices have a real impact on society, not to mention the lives of those who just want to enjoy a good night out," he said.

The dentist's chair, where drinks are poured directly into the mouth by others, was made famous by the celebrations of footballer Paul Gascoigne at Euro '96.

It will be banned from April and publicans will have to ensure free tap water is made available to revelers.

A second set of rules enforcing compulsory ID checks and making sure smaller alcoholic measures are on sale come into effect in October.

The government says excessive boozing costs Britain up to 12 billion pounds a year and has vowed that any premises that breach the new mandatory code will face stiff penalties.

Publicans and vendors could lose their licenses, be fined up to 20,000 pounds (\$32,750) or face six months in prison.



Belarus

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	December 21, 2009

Belarusian capital Minsk has introduced a ban on sale of cheap vodka, fruit and berry wines, low-alcoholic drinks, and beer at stores from 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. The ban covers all outlets regardless of their opening hours, except when the above-mentioned beverages are sold on draught at public catering places.

Belarus: Ban on sale of alcohol products at night introduced

Belarus has introduced a ban on sale of cheap vodka, fruit and berry wines, low-alcoholic drinks, and beer at stores of Minsk from 22 p.m. to 9 a.m. The ban covers all outlets regardless of their work hours, except when the above-mentioned beverages are sold on draught at public catering places.

In 2009 over 164,000 litres of home-distilled vodka and 13,400 litres of falsified alcohol beverages were seized and destroyed. In January-September 2009, sales of vodka and distilled beverages rose by 78,000 decalitres.

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Spain

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	BBC News, the world's leading public service broadcaster
Date published:	October 15, 2009

Catalonia bans happy hours and other special offers.

Catalonia says no to happy hour

Revellers looking for drunken antics in the Spanish region of Catalonia may have to rethink their options following a new crackdown on budget alcohol.

Catalonia has banned happy hour promotional gimmicks to help curb excessive drinking among young people, the regional government said.

Violators in the region, which includes the city of Barcelona, could face fines of up to £6,000 (\$9,000).

The measure is part of a new regional health bill approved on Wednesday.

It bans promotions such as offering two drinks for the price of one and unlimited drinks after payment of an entrance fee.

Spanish Health Minister Trinidad Jimenez welcomed the move and said similar measures could be extended to other areas of Spain as part of a new national health bill.

A tourism problem?

Catalonia is a popular tourist destination and Barcelona in particular is a target for many Britons celebrating pre-wedding hen and stag parties, PA news agency reported.

Sean Tipton, a spokesman for British travel organisation Abta, said he did not think foreign visitors were the problem. The company encourages customers to act responsibly when travelling abroad, he said.

"It's possible that this measure is aimed at young Spaniards rather than visiting tourists," he said.

However, in 2008 a UK Foreign Office report said the number of Britons arrested in Spain the previous year had risen by almost a third.

Most of the arrests were due to "behaviour caused by excessive drinking", the report said.



France

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	EuroCare, The European Alcohol Policy Alliance.
Date published:	Newsletter August/September

New law on alcohol, July 2009. The new law introduced a clearly defined age limit (18 years), as well as other sale restrictions.

France adopts new law on alcohol

On 22 July 2009 the French Government has adopted a new law in an attempt to tackle the problem of binge drinking among youths.

The new law bans the sale of alcohol to under 18s anywhere in France.

Before the law there was a grey area surrounding sales of alcoholic drinks to teenagers aged 16 to 18, with different rules depending on the kind of alcohol and whether the sales point was a bar, a club or a supermarket.

The new bill also bans promotions known as "open bar" which allow customers to drink as much as they want to for a fixed price.

"These are a classic at student parties and encourage binge drinking," the French Health Minister, Ms Bachelot said.

Drinking alcohol in public places close to schools is also forbidden.

Another measure introduced by the law is a ban on sales of alcohol in petrol stations. Such a ban existed before only from 10 pm to 6 am.

This new rule should help curb drunk driving.

Regrettably the law now allows alcohol advertising on the internet, with the only exception of those websites that are mainly aimed at young people and those owned by sport organisations. Internet advertisements will have to fulfil the same requirements that apply to those in the written press and billboards under the loi Evin.

The number of under-25s hospitalized because of excessive drunkenness had doubled between 2004 and 2007.

* The Loi Evin prohibited Alcohol Sponsorship and also banned alcohol advertising on TV and cinemas as well as on youth magazines.



Czech Republic

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Information provided by Hana Sovinova, M. D. National Institute of Public Health
Date published:	August 2009

The number of local authorities banning drinking alcohol in public places have increased during the last two years.

Information provided by Hana Sovinova, M. D. National Institute of Public Health

Ban/restrictions on retail sales – during last two years, number of local authorities' regulations banning drinking alcohol in defined public places is increasing – about 45 municipalities in 2009.



Belgium

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Flanders News.be. Flemish online news in English.
Date published:	March 22, 2009

Age-limits set for off-premise purchases of alcohol. One must now be 16 years to buy milder alcoholic beverages in Belgian shops. For strong spirits the age-limit remains at 18 years.

Total alcohol ban for youngsters under 16

Youngsters under the age of 16 will not be able to buy alcohol in shops from next year. Public Health Minister Laurette Onkelinx (Francophone socialist) announced the measure.

It is already illegal to sell alcohol to youngsters under the age of 16 in café's or restaurants. Youngsters are however can be sold wine or beer in shops. They are not allowed to be sold spirits until the age of 18. From next year shopkeepers will not be allowed to sell youngsters under 16 beer or wine either.

VRT

The professional association of the Flemish restaurants, cafés and hotels is happy that a total alcohol ban will be implemented. "This will finally put an end to the unfair competition," says chairman of the association Jan De Haes. "Whoever sells alcohol to youngsters can no longer sit back and plead ignorance," Mr De Haes adds.

Unizo, the retailers' organisation, however is critical of the measure. An alcohol ban does not make sense, says Unizo, unless the parents, youth groups and youngsters themselves back the measure.

The general alcohol ban for youngsters under 16 is included in a health law that will soon be submitted to the council of ministers.



Belarus

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	January 12, 2009

Online sales of beer and low-alcohol drinks was forbidden in the beginning of 2009. This new measure is expected to reduce under-aged drinking in Belarus.

Belarus: Sales of beer via Internet prohibited

The Cabinet of Belarus has accepted a resolution prohibiting sales of beer and low alcohol drinks (at most 7% alcohol by volume) via the Internet. This measure is expected to reduce consumption of these drinks by under age people. At present, about 0.5% of retail sales of beer and low alcohol drinks fall at the Internet. The document also envisages temporary restriction of retail sales of these beverages in shopping facilities. It will be defined by regional executive committees, Minsk city executive committee considering peculiarities of development of administrative institutions. Local authorities are expected to use this right, as before, during holidays and different events. The resolution comes into force in a month after it is published.

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Hungary

Year: 2009

Type of change: Physical

Direction of change: Restrictive

Level of change: Local

Source: Information provided by:
Dr Tamas Koos,
National Institute for Health Development, National
Centre of Addictions, Hungary

Date published: 2009

Two municipalities restrict nighttime alcohol sales. The city hall of Debrecen (more than 200.000 inhabitants) and Salgótarján (approx. 40.000 inhabitants) banned the off-premise sale of alcohol products between 22.00 and 06.00 hours.

Information provided by Dr Tamas Koos, National Institute for Health Development, National Centre of Addictions, Hungary

Even under these conditions (lack of a comprehensive national alcohol policy, alcohol-related public policies are not assessed by their health-related impacts, etc.) some of local municipalities make efforts to decrease the alcohol-related social harms. They introduced access control measures, focusing on public nuisance and other harms related to alcohol consumption. The city hall of Debrecen (more than 200.000 inhabitants) and Salgótarján (approx. 40.000 inhabitants) banned the off-site sale of alcohol products between 22.00 and 06.00 hours in 2009. The experiences of these two towns are encouraging; a detailed examination of local achievements could be exemplary for other municipalities.



Malta

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Information provided by: Mr. Manuel Mangani, Services Manager, Sedqa, Malta.
Date published:	2009

Malta raised the age limit for purchasing alcohol from 16 to 17.

Information provided by Mr. Manuel Mangani, Services Manager, Sedqa, Malta.

Age-limit for purchases of alcohol raised by one year.

The age limit was changed from 16 to 17.

Persons under 17 may not buy alcohol in a public place, drink alcohol in a public place, or be in possession of alcohol in public place. It is also illegal for anybody to supply alcohol to anybody under 17 in a public place.

A public place is defined as any place which is not a private residence. This means that bars, cafes, clubs, supermarkets, stores, shops etc are to be considered public places. The law, therefore, applies to all of them.



Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Southeast European Times Web site, a central source of news and information about Southeastern Europe in ten languages
Date published:	September 9, 2008

Limited sales hours, and new rules for licensing. Under amendments to the trade law, only licensed stores will be allowed to sell alcohol products. The economy ministry issues the licenses, which cost 330 Euros. Alcohol can no longer be sold at farmers' markets, newsstands or gas stations. Even at the licensed stores, sales are forbidden between 7pm and 6am.

Macedonia restricts alcohol sales

Under new regulations, only licenced stores can sell alcohol products over the counter, and hours are limited.

In a bid to reduce smoking and alcohol consumption, especially among young people, the government in Macedonia passed new amendments to the trade law.

Since late July, Macedonians have been adjusting to changes in the way alcohol can be sold in the country. Under amendments to the trade law, only licenced stores can sell alcohol products. The economy ministry issues the licences, which cost 330 euros. Alcohol can no longer be sold at farmers' markets, newsstands or gas stations. Even at the licenced stores, nobody can buy it between 7pm and 6am. Those wanting a drink during those hours will have to visit bars or restaurants. They remain exempt from the new restrictions, which also cover tobacco sales.

"The aim of the amendments is to stop alcohol abuse and regulate the markets -- not to boost the national budget," says Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Bocevski. "Abuse of these measures will be punished rigorously, and the State Market Inspectorate will closely monitor the process."

Those violating the law -- including parents whose underage children buy alcohol -- face a fine of up to 300 euros. Reactions within the liquor retail industry have been mixed. Owners of smaller shops complain that the licencing fee is too high, while large stores, such as the SP Market chain, back the changes. "We will respect and abide by the law because it is in the interest of children," a representative of the company said. Though most consumers agree regulation is needed, some are unhappy that they cannot buy liquor after 7pm. "What should one do if friends suddenly call saying they are arriving and there is no alcohol at home, and it is after 7pm?" asks Nikola Petrovski of Skopje.

"There should be some stores selling alcohol and tobacco where those over 18 can buy such products at all times," Petrovski recommended.

The government has acted before to tackle underage drinking, which has become a serious problem in Macedonia. A few years ago, the fine for selling alcohol or tobacco to minors increased. Although bars and restaurants complied with restrictions on sales to minors, stores often did not. Meanwhile, a report from Macedonia's ombudsman highlighted the need for efficient prevention of underage purchases. Some experts, however, are sceptical that the new rules will have the desired effect. "Those who are intent on drinking will find a way to buy alcohol," says sociologist Ilija Acevski. "If the state wants to put an end to this, it should take other steps, such as better informing the public of the ill effects of alcohol consumption, especially in schools -- since schools are concerned with education and upbringing of the young."



Ireland

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	National Documentation Centre on Drug Use
Date published:	July 23, 2008

New Intoxicating Liquor Act. Among other things, the opening hours for both on- and off-premises were restricted.

The Commencement Order on the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008 was signed on 23 July 2008. The purpose of this Act is to amend the Licensing Acts 1933 to 2004 and the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 in order to give effect to reforms recommended by the Government Alcohol Advisory Group.

The main provisions in the new Act are as follows:

Sale of alcohol

Off-sales of alcohol will be restricted to the hours from 10.30 am to 10.00 pm (12.30 pm to 10.00 pm on Sundays and on Saint Patrick's Day). Any future applicants for a wine retailer's off-licence will also require a District Court certificate. The grounds on which the District Court may refuse to grant a certificate for a spirit, beer or wine retailer's off-licence will be extended. When granting a certificate, the District Court may also impose a condition that a CCTV system be installed. In premises that are engaged in mixed trading, such as supermarkets, convenience stores and petrol stations, alcohol products must be displayed and sold in a specified area that is structurally separated from the rest of the premises. As compliance with this provision may require structural alterations to premises, it is intended to give licensees an adequate period of time to make the necessary arrangements before bringing it into force. The grounds on which an objection may be made to the grant of a District Court certificate for any off-licence will be extended to include consideration of the needs of the neighbourhood and the adequacy of the existing number of off-licences in the area. Test purchasing of alcohol products will be permitted in both on- and off-licences; appropriate safeguards for the protection of the young people concerned will be put in place.

Extended opening hours

The conditions under which 'special exemption orders' can be made will be amended to require the operation of a CCTV system and compliance with fire safety standards. The public order ground on which objection may be made by the gardaí to the grant of such orders is also being strengthened. The sale of alcohol in premises with theatre licences will be permitted only during normal licensing hours, or during extended opening hours under a special exemption order granted by the District Court.

Public order

The gardaí will have the power to seize bottles and containers of alcohol in the possession of a person who is aged under 18 years. It will be an offence for a person, when requested by a Garda, to refuse to give his or her name, address and age, or to hand over the bottle or container, with a fine of up to €500 on conviction.

Alcohol promotions and discount sales

Advertising, promoting, selling or supplying alcohol at reduced prices will be prohibited.

Penalties and sanctions

There will be a minimum two-day closure period for temporary closure orders made by the District Court on the conviction of licensees for certain licensing offences, for example, sale of alcohol to a person under 18, or permitting drunkenness or disorderly conduct on the premises. Certain fines in the Licensing Acts 1833 to 2004 and fines under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 will be increased. The majority of provisions in the Act came into operation on 30 July 2008. The provisions relating to test purchasing of alcohol products and to structural separation of alcohol in supermarkets and convenience stores have not yet been commenced.



Estonia

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	BBN, a leading online English-language news service providing business and most important political news from Estonia
Date published:	June 19, 2008

Stricter rules regarding hours of sales. The Estonian Parliament accepted the alcohol act amendment that bans nighttime alcohol sales from 10 pm to 10 am in stores all over Estonia.

Estonian Parliament banned nighttime alcohol sales

The Parliament accepted the alcohol act amendment that bans nighttime alcohol sales from 10 pm to 10 am in stores all over Estonia, the amendment will take effect in a month.

The amendment postpones alcohol sales by two hours in Tallinn, aripaev.ee writes.

However, the restriction is not laid down in the airport's custom control zone that is opened for international traffic and on the boats and airplanes that serve international travels.

61 members of Parliament voted for the amendment and 11 against.



Italy

Year:	2007
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Alcohol Policy in Italy, Report on 2007 activities. Emanuele Scafato. Produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumer Protection DG
Date published:	November 5, 2007

New closing hours for some on-premise venues. Law 3/10/2007 introduced new rules on sales of alcoholic beverages. It is now forbidden to sell alcohol in discos after 2 a.m.

Actions CURRENTLY implemented in Italy – 2007

- Enforcement against serving intoxicated persons, new rules on sales of alcoholic beverages forbidden in discos after 2 a.m. (by law 3/10/2007)
- Mandatory BAC and drugs controls for public transport driver and for a long list of working activities considered at higher risk for community safety (by State-Region agreement 16/03/2007)
- Better enforcement of age limits for serving (actually to 16); proposal to complement current ban for serving with a new ban of sales to underaged and to increase from 16 to 18 the serving/sales limit



Finland

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	The Finnish Alcohol Act
Date published:	May 11, 2007

Amendments to the Alcohol Act. Some amendments were made to the Alcohol Act adopted in 1994. For example bulk discounts were prohibited, and sales hours for off-premise sales of alcohol were shortened. The changes came in to force 1.1 2008

Laki alkoholilain muuttamisesta

[...] 1 a) se toteutetaan televisio- ja radiotoiminnasta annetun lain (744/1998) mukaisessa televisioinnassa kello 7—21 tai kuvaohjelmien tarkastamisesta annetun lain (775/2000) mukaisesti 18 vuotta nuoremmille esitettäväksi sallitun kuvaohjelman elokuvateatterissa tapahtuvan julkisen esittämisen yhteydessä;

33 a §

Hinnoittelu ja hinnan ilmoittaminen

Kahden tai useamman alkoholijuomapakkauksen tai -annoksen tarjoaminen alennettuun yhteishintaan vähittäismyynnissä tai anniskelussa on kielletty.

Alle kahden kuukauden ajaksi rajatun tarjoushinnan ilmoittaminen alkoholijuomapakkaukselle tai -annokselle vähittäismyynti- tai anniskelupaikan ulkopuolella on kielletty.[...]



Spain

Year:	2006
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Typicallyspanish.com. News and information about Spain, in English.
Date published:	October 11, 2006

The region of Andalucía adopts an “anti-botellon law”. This law empowers local councils to regulate the practice of young people getting together to drink in the streets.

Andalucía approves botellón law

A meeting of Andalucía’s regional parliament on Wednesday has approved what has been dubbed the ‘**anti-botellón**’ law - a law which empowers local councils to regulate the practice of young people getting together to drink in the streets.

The new regulations were passed with just the support of the Socialist Party, and come into effect within a month. Left wing coalition Izquierda Unida have described them as encouraging civil disobedience. Both IU and the Partido Andalucista voted against, with the Partido Popular abstaining in the vote.

The law means that Town Halls will have the power to establish specially designated areas for the botellón, or botellódromos. Fines can be imposed for drinking on the public way, and for any shops selling alcohol after 10 o’clock at night. The fines will go from 600 to 60,000 €.

The Partido Popular in Andalucía describe the new law as electioneering on the part of the Socialists.



Denmark

Year:	2004
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Retsinformation.dk. Danish laws and regulations online.
Date published:	March 31, 2004

Denmark raises age limit for acquiring alcohol and tobacco. Denmark is changing the country's age limit for acquiring alcohol and tobacco from 15 to 16 years.

Lov om forbud mod salg af tobak og alkohol til personer under 16 år

VI MARGRETHE DEN ANDEN, af Guds Nåde Danmarks Dronning, gør vitterligt:
Folketinget har vedtaget og Vi ved Vort samtykke stadfæstet følgende lov:

§ 1. Tobaksvarer må ikke sælges til personer under 16 år.

Stk. 2. Ved tobaksvarer forstås:

- 1) Varer, der er bestemt til at ryges, indsnuses, sattes eller tygges, hvis de helt eller delvis er fremstillet af tobak.
- 2) Varer, der fortrinsvis benyttes i forbindelse med tobaksrygning.

§ 2. Alkoholholdige drikkevarer med en alkoholvolumenprocent på 1,2 eller derover må ikke sælges til personer under 16 år fra butikker, hvor der foregår detailsalg.

§ 3. Tobaksvarer og alkoholholdige drikkevarer med en alkoholvolumenprocent på 1,2 eller derover må ikke indføres fra andre EU-lande af personer under 16 år. Dette gælder dog ikke for øl.

§ 4. Indenrigs- og sundhedsministeren fastsætter regler om, at personer på 16 år og derover af opholdskommunen kan få udstedt legitimationskort med foto samt nærmere regler om udstedelsen og udformningen af legitimationskortet.

Stk. 2. Kommunalbestyrelsen kan fastsætte et gebyr for udstedelse af legitimationskort, jf. stk. 1.

§ 5. For overtrædelse af §§ 1 og 2 straffes butiksindehaveren, restauratøren, hotelværten, kantineindehaveren m.v. med bøde. Der skal ved udmålingen af bøde tages særligt hensyn til, om butiksindehaveren, restauratøren, hotelværten, kantineindehaveren m.v. har gjort sig skyldig i grov eller gentagen overtrædelse af §§ 1 og 2. Bestemmelsen i straffelovens § 23 finder ikke anvendelse.

Stk. 2. Der kan pålægges selskaber m.v. (juridiske personer) strafansvar efter reglerne i straffelovens 5. kapitel.

§ 6. Loven træder i kraft den 1. juli 2004.

Stk. 2. Samtidig ophæves lov nr. 97 af 9. februar 1994 om foranstaltninger mod alkoholmisbrug.

§ 7. Forslag om revision af loven fremsættes for Folketinget senest ved begyndelsen af folketingsåret 2006-07.

Givet på Christiansborg Slot, den 31. marts 2004

Under Vor Kongelige Hånd og Segl

Margrethe R.

/Lars Løkke Rasmussen



Latvia

Year:	2002
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Restrictive
Level of change:	Local
Source:	The Baltic Times, an independent weekly newspaper that covers latest political, economic, business, and cultural events in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
Date published:	June 20, 2002

Night-time sales ban on hard liquor in Riga from June 2002. The off-premise sales of spirits was banned in the Latvian capital in the summer of 2002. The ban, which runs from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Sunday, began at midnight on June 15. Bars and night clubs will continue to sell liquor after 10 p.m. Beer will continue to be sold around the clock.


Liquor ban draws mixed reaction

The newly introduced late-night sales ban on hard liquor in Riga has been greeted with mixed reactions. The ban, which runs from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Sunday, began at midnight on June 15. Police hope the ban will help keep Riga's streets calmer and drunk drivers off the roads during the upcoming midsummer festivities. Bars and night clubs will continue to sell liquor after 10 p.m. Beer will continue to be sold around the clock. Austris Kalnins, a consultant with the Latvian Trade Association, believes the most visible effect will be an increase in sales of illegal alcohol. Kalnins pointed to former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev's ban on alcohol consumption in the 1980s to illustrate his point.

"The ban won't effect the total consumption at all. People will still be drinking as much as they did before the ban. Turnover on alcohol sales, however, may decrease," he said. The head of prevention at the State Narcology Center, Janis Caunitis, defended the government's move to ban late night sales of strong alcohol, citing Latvia's chronic alcohol consumption rates. "We see this as a first step," he said. "The main question is that we don't have an alcohol policy in this country." Dace Komole, a sales clerk at a 24-hour store in Riga's Old Town, said she thinks the new law is good for the country. "I think we need this law. Young people drink too much and then they just get aggressive," she said. Others say the ban is too intrusive into people's personal lives. "People need to relax in the evenings and especially on weekends. I don't like this ban," said Olga Kirilova, a manager at the Merkurs AT food store and games arcade. Police patrol officer Kaspars Paegle said one benefit of the law is that it will force people to go to clubs and bars rather hang around on the streets drinking.

"I have seen this system in Ventspils already and it is working fine," he said. "The only difference, though, is that in Riga it will still be possible to buy beer 24 hours a day." Adult Latvians consume around 12 liters of pure alcohol annually, compared to 7.1 liters per capita in Finland or 4.3 liters in Norway, with rates of alcoholic psychosis and alcohol-related deaths similarly high, he said. State police spokesman Kristis Leiskalns said the new ban may decrease the number of drunk drivers, which would lighten the police work load. But he also said an increase in bootleg alcohol is a real concern. The Latvian midsummer festivities lure many drunk drivers to Riga's roads. During the midsummer celebrations in 2000 police arrested 344 drunk drivers. The number climbed to 554 last year. Police arrest an average of 40 to 50 drunken drivers daily in Latvia and there are roughly seven road accidents per day related to alcohol, Leiskalns said.

3. Liberal changes, economic availability

	Belarus
Year:	2011
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Belarus Digest. Belarus Digest provides non-partisan analysis of Belarus-related events written by Belarusians specifically for an English-language readership
Date published:	September 2, 2011
"The affordable alcohol policy". "People would not survive without vodka, bread and cigarettes and we help them", says President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Despite tax increases, the Belarusian Ministry of Economics ensures that alcohol and cigarettes remain cheap.	

Cheap Booze for the People of Belarus

As the economic crisis deepens prices on nearly all products rise sharply in Belarus with one remarkable exception - alcohol. These days a bottle of vodka in Belarusian restaurants often costs less than a packet of orange juice - US\$3. In a supermarket half a liter of a cheap alcoholic drink with around 30% alcohol content costs around US\$0.65. Yesterday the government increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco, but the state policy of providing affordable alcohol and tobacco remains unchanged. This policy arises from Alyaksandr Lukashenka's own understanding of what Belarusians need. At a June press conference he explained: "People would not survive without vodka, bread and cigarettes and we help them". The Belarusian Ministry of Economics ensures that alcohol and cigarettes remain cheap by imposing price caps, which sellers cannot exceed. This policy sharply contrasts with that of other northern European countries, which have the world's highest alcohol taxes. The affordable alcohol policy comes at a very dear price to Belarus.

In August the Belarusian government increased quotas on the production of spirits by around 15 percent. Although alcoholic drinks in Belarus are inexpensive, producing them is even cheaper. Nearly all alcohol production is in the state's hands, which makes it a good source of revenue. Moreover, a significant number of alcoholic drinks produced go to Russia in exchange for much needed hard currency.

This year a monthly salary of merely US\$200 has become normal for many Belarusians. This is the result of a nearly 300% devaluation of the national currency. Although US\$200 dollars does not sound like a serious sum, one can afford 230 bottles of cheap alcohol for this money. And alcohol sales have significantly increased. The numbers released by the Belarus National Statistics Committee last month suggest that the sales of vodka and other liqueurs increased by more than a third in the first half of 2011. The General Prosecutor's office reported that every fourth crime in Belarus is committed by intoxicated offenders. They also registered a 10% increase of alcohol abusers. This is a serious blow to the health of Belarusians who are already distressed by the economic crises. A report released this year by Hrodna State Medical University suggests that at least 30% of deaths of working age adults in Belarus are now related to alcohol.

The real figure is even higher because the Hrodna study did not include deaths resulting from cardiovascular diseases related to alcohol abuse or alcohol-related accidents and crimes. The report points out that only Russia has comparable figures in Europe. It should be noted that this year Russia registered a drop in per capita consumption of alcohol while consumption of alcohol in Belarus is growing. The Belarusian state supplies abundant cheap alcoholic drinks, a significant part of which is of very poor quality. The cheapest and the most popular drink among Belarusian alcoholics is called *charlik*: a mixture of a poor quality apple juice, cheap alcohol and colouring agents which costs less than a dollar per bottle. Not only is the drink very addictive, but it also contributes significantly to the onset of liver disease.

Although the authorities like to demonstrate that they are taking measures to tackle the growing alcohol epidemic, their approach lacks consistency. For instance, they have limited drinking in public places and reduced the permitted alcohol level in blood of drivers. But these measures do little to alleviate the problem. As long as alcohol is ridiculously cheap and salaries are so low, alcohol will remain the most affordable pleasure for many Belarusians. Ironically, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the main proponent of cheap alcohol and tobacco, has a reputation as a non-smoker who rarely drinks. Apparently the current Belarusian regime views alcohol as a source of stable revenue, which also helps people forget about political problems and the dire economic situation.



Hungary

Year: 2010

Type of change: Economic

Direction of change: Liberal

Level of change: National

Source: Information provided by:
Dr Tamas Koos,
National Institute for Health Development, National
Centre of Addictions, Hungary

Date published: 2010

Eased taxation of home-produced spirits. In 2010 the law on excise taxation was amended. From September 2010 the home production of spirits up to 50 liters of pure ethanol content is exempt of excise taxation. In Hungary these products are typically fruit-based brandies, e.g. plum brandy, or grape marc brandy.

Information provided by Dr Tamas Koos, National Institute for Health Development, National Centre of Addictions, Hungary

In 2010 the law on excise taxation was amended. From September 2010 the home production of spirits up to 50 liters of pure ethanol content is exempt of excise taxation. In Hungary these products are typically fruit-based brandies, e.g. plum brandy, or grape marc brandy.

This alleviation of excise tax regulation has been followed by a decrease of registered (official) turnover of spirits, and also by a lower trade volume of other alcohol products, such as e.g. beers.

The detailed examination of excise tax regulation shows that the supervising authority and legal competencies of the National Customs and Finance Guard were not adapted to the changing regulation. The Customs and Finance Guard has no official information on home-production, except the self-declaration of home-producers when they reach the legally allowed limit. Furthermore, the Customs and Finance Guard is not entitled to monitor the home production, e.g. the production activity or to measure the volume of brandy.

These changes can result in a lower price and a better affordability of alcohol-products, since a considerable volume of production is exempt of excise taxation, the details of monitoring system of home production are not worked out, and the feasibility of monitoring is not checked under real-life conditions.



Ireland

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Independent.ie provides up to the minute news content and services to a global audience.
Date published:	December 10, 2009

A 20 % reduction in excise duties. Finance Minister Brian Lenihan announced cuts in excise that will reduce duty on spirits by around €2.75 per bottle, beer by 12c per pint and wine by 60c a bottle.

Alcohol cuts are toast of the town but raise health fears

PUBLICANS and drinkers were last night toasting a Budget that will knock sizeable sums off the price of alcohol. Finance Minister Brian Lenihan yesterday announced cuts in excise that will reduce duty on spirits by around €2.75 per bottle, beer by 12c per pint and wine by 60c a bottle.

But he warned the drinks industry that he would reverse the cuts if they are not passed on to drinkers.

"If I find this reduction has not been passed on to the consumer I will reverse today's reduction," Mr Lenihan said.

The industry said the cuts would narrow the price gap with Northern Ireland, which has sent consumers flocking across the border to shop. Mr Lenihan said that his aim was to help the retail sector and "reduce consumption taxes, which are among the highest in the European Union". This would protect government revenue and stem the flow of cross-border shopping.

The excise cuts are on a scale well in excess of the usually modest changes to the old reliables, and Mr Lenihan left taxes on cigarettes unchanged. Retailers said that the cuts amounted to a 20pc cut in duty levels and the sector would also benefit from yesterday's announcement in Britain that UK VAT rates would be increased from 15pc to 17.5pc, whereas Irish VAT has been reduced from 21.5pc to 21pc. The Vintners' Federation of Ireland said there were 90,000 people working in the drinks industry, most of them in pubs, and this move would help maintain jobs and attract tourists.

"While price is the sole domain of each individual publican, our expectation is that consumers will benefit from these measures without delay," said VFI president Val Hanley. The Drinks Industry Group of Ireland warmly welcomed the changes and said they were "very confident" the full excise cuts would be passed on immediately to consumers, and the entire retail sector would benefit, as alcohol was a key driver of cross-border shopping.

Vulnerable

Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard, which makes Paddy, Jameson, Cork Dry Gin and other drinks, welcomed the Budget move and said they would pass it on in full with immediate effect, urging retailers and publicans to do likewise.

But Alcohol Action Ireland (AAI) said they were shocked that excise on a luxury good was being slashed as supports to the most needy were cut, and when over half Irish drinkers already take harmful amounts.

"Cutting excise on alcohol won't put food on a family's table, won't put clothes on a child's back and certainly won't support the most vulnerable in our society," said AAI director Cliona Murphy.

Dublin Chamber of Commerce said the excise reduction would benefit retailers who lost out from shoppers heading north, levelling the playing field, in particular, for the capital.

Employers' body Ibec's retail and food divisions both welcomed the move claiming that every 150 shopping trips to the North by consumers cost another job in retail, with 11,000 jobs lost in the sector already this year, along with €900m worth of grocery sales.

The Irish Heart Foundation and Ash Ireland slated the decision to leave cigarette prices unchanged, as price was the biggest incentive to get smokers to quit or discourage young people from taking up the habit.

Mr Lenihan said he had not increased excise on tobacco "because I believe the high price is now giving rise to massive cigarette smuggling". He said that, early in the New Year, he would explore what further measures were needed to stem cigarette smuggling.



Croatia

Year:	2009
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	June 11, 2009

Excise duties on non alcoholic beer were abolished altogether and taxes for production of wine for private use were lifted.

Croatia: Tax on non-alcoholic beer to be abolished

According to the newly adopted Law on Excise Charges, taxes on the non-alcoholic beer products will be fully abolished. The new law has been adopted in accordance with the European and will include abolishment of taxes for products with up to 1.2% of alcohol, instead of the previous 2%. In addition, taxes will be removed for production of wine for own uses.

© Esmerk



Sweden

Year:	2008
Type of change:	Economic
Direction of change:	Liberal/Restrictive
Level of change:	National
Source:	Dagens Nyheter. Daily Swedish Newspaper.
Date published:	September 14, 2007

The government decided on some minor alcohol-tax adjustments, adapting EU standards on wine and beer excises. After the changes, a 50 cl can of beer costs 0,62 SEK more than before, whereas a bottle of wine is 0,47 SEK cheaper.

Nästa år höjs skatten på snus och cigaretter

Snus och cigaretter blir dyrare från årskiftet. Ölskatten höjs också medan vinet blir något billigare. Dessutom satsas 115 nya miljoner årligen i tre år på att förebygga ohälsa.

Höjningen av tobaksskatten betyder att ett paket cigaretter blir cirka 1,50 kronor dyrare. Det innebär att ett paket av de mest sålda märkena kommer att kosta cirka 47,50. Detta enligt regeringens höstbudget som läggs fram på torsdag.

- Det är en försumbar höjning trots allt, men vi vet att särskilt ungdomar är väldigt priskänsliga, säger folkhälsominister Maria Larsson.

Vi måste vara ganska måttfulla med att höja eftersom vi vet att smuglingsrisken annars ökar, säger hon.

Även snuset blir dyrare, en dosa med portionssnus blir cirka 2,70 kr dyrare. För en dosa lössnus, 50 gram, blir prisökningen ungefär det dubbla, drygt fem kronor. Idag kostar en dosa portionssnus av ett av de vanligaste märkena cirka 27 kronor och en dosa lössnus av samma märke cirka 33 kronor.

Likaså blir rökobaken dyrare, priset på en förpackning om 40 gram höjs med drygt 29 kronor.

Varför höjs snuspriset? Är det inte trots allt bättre att snusa än att röka?

- Det förs diskussioner om detta, men då handlar det om rökare som går över till att snusa, säger Maria Larsson. Men det är bara en fjärdedel av dem som snusar som tidigare varit rökare.

Antalet snusare i yngre åldrar har ökat, enligt Maria Larsson.

- Snus marknadsförs mot tjejer idag, med rosa snusburkar och jag vet inte allt.

Den 1 januari 2007 höjdes också tobakspriserna, då med cirka fyra kronor för ett paket cigaretter och ungefär lika mycket för en dosa snus.

När det gäller skatten på öl respektive vin gör regeringen nu en EU-anpassning. EU-kommissionen anser, och har fått medhåll av EU-domstolens generaladvokat, att vin och öl i stort sett är utbytbara och ska beskattas lika.

- Därför höjer vi ölskatten och sänker vinskatten. Men totalt sett innebär detta ändå en liten alkoholskattehöjning, säger Maria Larsson.

En burk starköl på 50 centiliter blir 62 öre dyrare och en flaska vin blir 47 öre billigare.

En stor satsning på folkhälsoinsatser ska göras med start nästa år, enligt Maria Larsson.

- Totalt handlar det om nära en miljard som satsas på folkhälsan årligen de kommande tre åren.

Nytt är att 115 miljoner årligen ska gå till förebyggande åtgärder. Exakt hur de ska användas ska spikas i höst i en folkhälsopolitisk proposition.

- Någon liknande samlad satsning har inte gjorts tidigare, säger Maria Larsson. Nu måste det förebyggande arbetet få större genomslagskraft. Vi ska särskilt prioritera barn och ungdomar och det är metoder som är vetenskapligt prövade som ska stimuleras.

De nya pengarna ska bland annat gå till föräldrastöd, självmordsförebyggande arbete och till att förebygga övervikt.

Andra satsningar, som tidigare aviserats, är 260 miljoner till drogförebyggande arbete, 300 till vaccineringskamp vid pandemier, 146 till hiv/aids och 100 miljoner till övriga folkhälsoinsatser. Alla gäller årligen under tre år.

4. Liberal changes, physical availability



Sweden

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Eurocare
Date published:	September 16, 2012

State retail monopoly Systembolaget launches a home-delivery trial in six different regions.

Sweden - Systembolaget to launch home delivery

Swedish state-owned alcohol monopoly retailer Systembolaget has been given the green light to begin offering a home delivery service.

The Swedish government has agreed to allow Systembolaget to deliver to homes in six locations across Sweden on a trial basis.

"In the trial we want to explore whether home delivery is possible while maintaining the regulatory framework which Systembolaget has today," said Minister for Children and the Elderly Maria Larsson.

"We want to see if it can be done in a responsible manner without contributing to increased consumption," Larsson said.

Systembolaget's CEO Magdalena Gerger explained that the move was in response to the increasing popularity of internet retail. To ensure that the legal minimum drinking age is observed the home delivery service will operate a three stage check.

-Firstly prospective customers will be required to open an account, approve conditions of service and divulge their personal identification number.

-Secondly the buyer must produce a valid ID when receiving the goods; and thirdly the ID will be scanned by Systembolaget's employee.

Research shows that increased availability of alcohol leads to a rise in alcohol consumption and alcohol related harms and costs. IOGT-NTO has expressed some concern about age checks. "In Norway they have had a system of home delivery of alcoholic beverages for some years and experience shows that it renders age verification at the point of delivery more difficult and can put the home delivery person in a difficult situation since this person would be on his own without any colleagues who could help him in case of trouble with drunk or aggressive clients.

<http://iogt.se/nyheter/darfor-ar-hemleverans-ett-problem/>

Meanwhile the government stated that it doesn't intend to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages directly from farms and vineyards.

"The consultation bodies, not least the legal ones, have been critical and say that it is difficult to reconcile with the retail monopoly," Maria Larsson said.

But the issue is set to remain under consideration at the Government Offices.

"We will analyze the issue one more time, we explore all the avenues to see if there is a way forward. But we are not prepared to do so in a way that risks the Systembolaget."



Denmark

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Danish Chamber of Commerce, the network for Trade, IT, Industry and Service in Denmark.
Date published:	October 1, 2012

Changes in the shop-closing law. With some minor exceptions, all shops can be open also on Sundays, starting from October 2012. Even though this is no alcohol-specific change, it improves the physical availability of alcoholic drinks in Denmark.

Lukkeloven

Fra 1. oktober 2012 bliver lukkeloven erstattet af en helligdagslovgivning, og butikkerne frit vil kunne holde åbent med undtagelse af helligdage. **Liberalisering af lukkeloven.** Hovedindholdet i de nye åbningstidsregler for alle de butikker, som ikke er omfattet af undtagelsesbestemmelser, er følgende:

Fra den 1. oktober 2012 ophæves reglerne om lukketider helt på nær på helligdage og enkelte andre dage.
alle butikker får mulighed for at holde åbent alle dage, herunder alle søndage
undtaget er helligdage, grundlovsdag, juleaftensdag samt nytårsaftensdag efter kl. 15.00

Butikker fritaget fra lukketidsreglerne. Når en butik er undtaget lukketidsreglerne, må den holde åbent uden begrænsning døgnet rundt, året rundt. Det gælder følgende særlige butikker:
Bagere, Byggemarkeder, Butikker i udstillingslokaler, forlystelseshaver, dyreparker og lign., Serviceanlæg beliggende på motorvejsnettet, Butikker beliggende i passagerskibe, fly og tog til betjening af de rejsende., Butikker beliggende i lufthavne (samme bygning som lufthavnens egne faciliteter til betjening af de rejsende), Butikker beliggende på lejrpladser for den tid af året, hvor lejrpladsen er åben for lejr-gæster., Butikker beliggende i jernbanestationer og rutebilstationer (i samme bygning som stationens egne faciliteter til betjening af de rejsende). Omsætningen må dog ikke overstige 32,2 mio kr. inkl. moms (pr. 30/3-2012), Brød, mejeriprodukter og aviser må på søn- og helligdage, grundlovsdag og juleaftensdag i tidsrummet fra kl. 7.00 til kl. 11.00 sælges fra butikker, hvorfra der på hverdage sælges aviser eller mejeriprodukter.

Herudover kan butikker, der sælger følgende særlige varer også holde åbent uden begrænsning:

Brændsel

Motorøretøjer, traktorer, landbrugs- og entreprenørmaskiner, skibe og luftfartøjer samt brændstof og tilbehør hertil

Lystbåde og tilbehør hertil, campingvogne, telte og andet lejrudstyr

Planter, blomster, kranser og tilbehør hertil samt havebrugsvarer

Husdyr

Løsøre, der afhændes ved tvangsauktion eller er indleveret fra et bo og afhændes ved frivillig offentlig auktion.

Brugte genstande, der sælges fra en butik, hvis indehaver har bevilling til handel med brugte genstande

Små dagligvarebutikker: Butikker med en omsætning (pr. 30/3-2012) på under 32,2 mio. kr. om året inkl. moms er fritaget fra gældende lukketidsregler. Butikker med en årlig omsætning i intervallet mellem 13,9 mio. kr. og 32,2 mio. kr., skal indberette omsætningen til Erhvervsstyrelsen, for at kunne blive undtaget lukketidsreglerne.

Den nye bagatelgrænse for små dagligvarebutikker, der er undtaget fra at udarbejde en revisorerklæring, er 13,9 mio. kr. inkl. moms (pr. 30/3-2012).

Åbent på helligdage i forbindelse med særlige arrangementer. Erhvervsstyrelsen kan efter indstilling fra kommunalbestyrelsen give tilladelse til, at butikker ved ganske særlige lejligheder kan holde åbent på en helligdag. Bestemmelsen kan kun tages i brug i forbindelse med store, officielle begivenheder.

Uændrede regler i erhvervslejeloven. De nugældende regler i lejeloven og erhvervslejeloven om, at ingen forretningsdrivende i lejekontrakter eller lignende kan pålægges at holde åbent på hverdage efter kl. 20.00, lørdage efter kl. 17.00 og på søndage, opretholdes.



Spain

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Esmerk, talkingalcohol.com. A site with news and information on alcohol, maintained by Sab Miller.
Date published:	Jan 6, 2012

Petrol stations in Madrid allowed selling alcohol. The regional government has decided to grant petrol stations in Madrid the right to sell strong spirits, in addition to wine and fermented beverages. This means alcohol will be available 24 hours a day, all year round.

Spain: Madrid petrol stations allowed to sell all alcoholic drinks from January

The Association of Petrol Pump Businesses in Madrid (AEESCAM), Spain, has welcomed the decision made by the regional government to allow the petrol stations in the region of Madrid to sell alcohol. The change is part of a group of measures aimed at liberalising retail. AEESCAM says that the importance of the measure is not the sale of alcohol itself but the fact that it could bring with it other sales such as soft drinks and snacks. Petrol stations will be able to sell alcohol throughout their opening hours, which is 24 hours a day, all year round, due to their categorisation as convenience stores. Up until now, they were only allowed to sell fermented alcohol such as beer and wine, but will now also be able to sell distilled drinks.

© Esmerk



Norway

Year:	2012
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Lovdata.no. The purpose of Lovdata is to establish and operate legal information systems on a non-profit basis
Date published:	May 6, 2011

The Norwegian alcohol act was changed, allowing alcohol producers in Norway to sell beer and cider (max 4.7 vol. %) at the production site.

Statsråd 6. mai 2011

I statsråd 6. mai 2011 ble lov nr. 13 om endringer i lov 2. juni 1989 nr. 27 om omsetning av alkoholholdig drikk mv. og lov 19. juni 1931 nr. 18 om Aktieselskapet Vinmonopolet sanksjonert. Les statsrådslisten [her](#).

Lov nr. 13 om endringer i lov 2. juni 1989 nr. 27 om omsetning av alkoholholdig drikk mv. og lov 19. juni 1931 nr. 18 om

Aktieselskapet Vinmonopolet innebærer blant annet at

- alkoholforskriftens gruppebetegnelser på alkoholholdig drikk blir tatt inn i alkoholloven
- presiseringer av aldersbestemmelsene
- salg i egen virksomhet av egenprodusert alkoholholdig drikk som inneholder t.o.m. 4,7 volumprosent alkohol blir tillatt
- auksjon av alkoholholdig drikk mellom private i regi av Vinmonopolet og mellom næringsdrivende blir tillatt
- plikten til å avgi opplysninger til statiske formål utvides.

I tillegg blir en feil henvisning i loven, feil i overskrift i alkoholloven kap. 3 samt endringer som følge av at Helsedirektoratet har skiftet navn rettet. Loven trer i kraft 1. januar 2012. Les forarbeidene til loven [her](#).



Sweden

Year:	2011
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Accent, by IGT-NTO Sweden.
Date published:	August 1, 2011

The new Alcohol Act, that came into force 1.1 2011 changed the rules regarding alcohol sales at restaurants and cafés. It is now easier for cafés and restaurants to apply for an alcohol license. Before January 2011, it was required of restaurants to offer “prepared” (cooked) food in order to be able to serve alcohol – now it’s enough if the café sells cold dishes such as sandwiches or sushi. In Stockholm and Gothenburg there has been a clear increase in the number of premises applying for an alcohol license.

Nya alkohollagen: Dubbelt så många ansöker om serveringstillstånd

Café Mariaberget på Södermalm i Stockholm var ett av de första kaféer som fick serveringstillstånd efter att den nya alkohollagen infördes. Arthur Adell, som står i kassan, driver kaféet tillsammans med Bibi Eberstein som syns i bakgrunden. Glöm kaffe latten. Nu är det alkohol som gäller. Sedan den nya alkohollagen infördes har antalet ansökningar om serveringstillstånd ökat kraftigt. Framförallt är det kaféer som vill bredda utbudet med öl och vin. Café Mariaberget på Södermalm är ett av de första kaféerna i Stockholm som fått serveringstillstånd efter att den nya alkohollagen infördes den 1 januari.

Förutom ett par vinflaskor i kyldisken och några ölflaskor i läskkylen finns det inga tecken på att det serveras alkohol i lokalen. På Café Mariaberget säljs det två till tre flaskor vin och några öl i veckan.

– Vi gör ingenting för att lyfta fram alkoholen. Här står maten i centrum. Alkoholen har vi bara för att de som vill ska kunna få ett glas vin till maten, säger Bibi Eberstein, en av delägarna. Och berättar att de inte hade några förväntningar på att öka omsättningen eller få fler kunder med hjälp av serveringstillståndet.

– Vi känner oss inte som det stället som skyltar med en stor stark. Här är det kaffe, lunch och vatten som gäller. Alkoholen är bara ett komplement.

Den 1 januari trädde den nya alkohollagen i kraft och med det ändrades reglerna för vilka krav en restaurang måste uppfylla för att få serveringstillstånd. Tidigare skulle ett serveringsställe tillhandahålla “lagad mat”, i dag lyder formuleringen “lagad eller på annat sätt tillredd mat”.

Sedan den nya lagen trädde i kraft har ansökningarna om serveringstillstånd fördubblats i Stockholm. 115 ansökningar har kommit in hittills i år, under hela 2010 var det 130 som ansökte.

– Det är en tydlig tendens att det är många fler som söker nu. De som är nya är dels sushirestauranger men framförallt kaféer. De behöver inte göra så mycket för att utöka menyn och kan ganska lätt komma upp i kraven som ställs, säger Anders Häregård som är chef på tillståndsenheten i Stockholm.

Vilka som får serveringstillstånd i slutändan går inte att säga ännu eftersom många av ärendena fortfarande handläggs men Anders Häregård tror inte att de nya serveringsställena kommer att öka alkoholen skadeverkningar nämnvärt.

– Det är tyvärr så att ökar tillgängligheten så ökar konsumtionen. Men om man gissar att det är mest kaféer och sushiställen som tillkommer tror jag inte att ungdomar sitter där och dricker eller att det leder till mer krogvåld.

Även i Göteborg har ansökningarna om att få servera alkohol ökat kraftigt. Under 2010 var det totalt 27 stycken som sökte om nya tillstånd, hittills i år är det 37. I Malmö hade 33 ansökningar kommit in vid halvårsskiftet. Det är en liten ökning sedan 2010 då 28 sökte under det första halvåret.

Utanför storstäderna har den nya lagen inte lett till någon ökning. I mellanstora städer som Gävle, Linköping och Umeå har det kommit in ungefär lika många ansökningar som vanligt.

I dagsläget finns det cirka 11 000 serveringstillstånd i Sverige, år 2000 fanns det 9 631 tillstånd.



Belarus

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	Local
Source:	Telegraf.by. Electronic news source from Belarus, founded in 2006.
Date published:	June 7, 2010

A sales ban revoked. Back in 2009 Minsk authorities banned sales of alcohol at public transportation stops. The ban was however revoked only one year later.

Ban to Sell Beer in Booths at Stops Revoked in Minsk Voblast

Minsk Voblast executive committee revoked interdiction to sell beer and other low alcohol drinks with volume fraction of ethyl spirit no more than 7 % in booths at public transport stops. The decision of the Minsk Voblast authorities has already entered into force.

This interdiction was imposed in Minsk Voblast in the end of the summer last year according to the decision of Minsk Voblast executive committee № 479, passed on May, 19th, 2009, "Yezhednevnik" informs. Such decision Minsk Voblast executive committee made according to the Ministerial council decision № 317, made on March, 6th, 2006. This decision, on the one hand, entered the restrictions on beer trade in certain places (educational institutions, institutions of system of public health services and others), and on the other hand, gave to regional executive committees and Minsk Voblast executive committee the right to enter additional restrictions in their territories.

Except public transport stops, Minsk Voblast executive committee forbidden to trade in beer round the clock in the retail trade objects (tents, pavilions without trading floor, booths). Also it was forbidden to trade in beer in mobile means of conveyance and carrying trade, such as trading automatic machines, autoshops and other special adaptations, except the autoshops which trade in countryside.



Lithuania

Year:	2010
Type of change:	Physical
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Baltic Reports. Daily news from the Baltic states.
Date published:	December 4, 2009

Extended opening-hours for alcohol sales. Off-premise vendors in Lithuania got two more hours to sell beer and cider, which can now be sold up until midnight. The new law does not affect the sales hours for hard liquor, as it remains forbidden to sell strong spirits between 10 pm and 8 am.

2 more hours for beer

VILNIUS — Next year alcohol vendors will be able to sell beer and cider until midnight, two hours past the current cutoff time in Lithuania.

On Tuesday the Seimas voted 47-12 with 13 abstentions to extend the time limit starting in January 2010. Conservatives who oppose the measure say it will exacerbate already high alcoholism rates throughout the country. But members of the Liberal Movement Party argue that alcoholism levels have not decreased and the extra sales would add to the government coffers.

Seimas member Andrius Endzinas of the Liberal Movement told the local press that the expanded hours of sales would also curb consumption of home-brewed alcohol, a common remedy in rural areas

Lithuania comes in fourteenth place in the 2004 World Health Organization study of alcohol consumption rates by country. "Consumption of alcohol is higher among the rural population," a WHO report reads. "Traditions of drinking heavily, which were formed over a period of several decades after the war, became stronger when home brew alcohol became more widespread and accessible. The rural population remains the principal market for illegal alcohol."

The law does not affect liquor, which is still illegal to sell from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. as before.



Poland

Year:	2007
Type of change:	Physical/Economic
Direction of change:	Liberal
Level of change:	National
Source:	Publication of The State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems, Poland.
Date published:	2007

[1] Growing affordability of alcohol. Compared to 1998, in 2007 an average monthly wage could buy three times more vodka and wine and twice as much beer.

[2] Growing number of alcohol outlets. There was an eleven percent increase in number of alcohol outlets between years 2005-2006, and a ten percent decrease in number of inhabitants per one alcohol outlet.

[1] Rosnie dostepnosc ekonomiczna alkoholu

W porównaniu do roku poprzedniego w roku 2007 nastąpił nieznaczny wzrost cen napojów alkoholowych (o 0,6%). Jednak niekorzystnym zjawiskiem jest uwidaczniający się od roku 2000 spadek cen mocnych alkoholi (wyroby spirytusowe i likiery) przy jednoczesnym wzroście cen alkoholi słabszych (wina i piwa). Obecnie, w porównaniu z 1998 rokiem, za średnie miesięczne wynagrodzenie można kupić trzykrotnie więcej butelek wódki oraz wina i dwukrotnie więcej butelek piwa.

[2]

➤ Rośnie dostępność fizyczna napojów alkoholowych (ilość punktów sprzedaży)



5. Sources used

National experts	
Andrei Botescu	Romanian National Antidrug Agency, Romania.
Dr. Tamas Koos	National Institute for Health Development, National Centre of Addictions, Hungary.
Hana Sovinova	M. D. National Institute of Public Health.
Kostyantyn Krasovsky	Director of the Ukrainian Information Centre for Alcohol and Drugs Problems.
Mr. Manuel Mangani	Services Manager, Sedqa, Malta.
Rafn M Jónsson	Project manager alcohol- and drug abuse prevention, Directorate of Health, Iceland.
NEWS: daily newspapers, journals, magazines, news portals	
Accent	By IGT-NTO Sweden.
All Moldova	Daily news covering Moldova's most significant political, economic and social events.
Baltic Reports	Daily news from the Baltic states.
BBC News	The world's leading public service broadcaster.
BBN	A leading online English-language news service providing business and most important political news from Estonia.
Belarus Digest	Belarus Digest provides non-partisan analysis of Belarus-related events written by Belarusians specifically for an English-language readership.
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Drugnews.nu	The Scandinavian News Agency about Drugs in the World, financed by ads and a cooperation with The Temperance Organization IOGT-NTO, The Swedish National Association for a Drug-free Society RNS, A Non Smoking Generation and the media group RASP.
Flanders News.be	Flemish online news in English.
FRANCE 24	A leading 24/7 international news channel. Its mission is to cover international current events from a French perspective and to convey French values throughout the world.
HotNews.Ro	News from Romania, in English and Spanish.
Hurriyet dailynews	Leading news-source for Turkey and the region.
Independent.ie	Provides up to the minute news content and services to a global audience.
Kyivpost	Ukraine's leading English-language newspaper.
Maltatown.com	News from Malta.
Moldova Azi	Information portal and independent, impartial publication.
New Europe Online	A European political newspaper.
Novinite.com	Sofia News Agency.
PraguePost	The Czech Republic English-language newspaper.
Reuters.com	The world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals.
Romania-Insider	News in English from Romania.
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Telegraf.by	Electronic news source from Belarus.
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Danish Health and Medicines Authority	The supreme authority in healthcare and regulatory control of medicines.
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European Commission	
Lovdata.no	The purpose of Lovdata is to establish and operate legal information systems on a non-profit basis
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Ministry of Finance	Norway.
National Documentation Centre on Drug Use	Ireland.
Nosam.net	News and information about the Nordic alcohol market.
Retsinformation.dk	Danish laws and regulations online.
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The Centre for Eastern Studies	A research institution dealing with analyses and forecast studies of the political, social and economic situation in: the countries neighboring Poland and in the Baltic Sea region, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
The Finnish Alcohol Act	Alkoholilaki.
The Ministry for National Economy	Hungary.
The Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in Latvia (NCCL),	A non-profit, non-governmental business association established in 2007.
The State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems	Poland.