



Press-release

Taking effect tomorrow:

Driver rehabilitation courses for drink drivers also in Slovakia – based on the concept from Austria and Germany

From 1 November 2011 on drink drivers of Slovakia have to participate in a traffic-psychological rehabilitation course. The know-how for these programmes origins from traffic-psychologists from Germany and Austria.

Latest German studies¹ indicate a further increase in quality of the traffic-psychological courses for drink drivers: Only 7 to 10 % of the course participants are being detected for repeated drink driving after the course participation within three years. About 90% of the course participants in Austria evaluate the usefulness of these courses on a five-scale ranking with “good” or “very good”.² Karol Kleinmann, head of the psychological centre „Salvus” in Bratislava is convinced: „Psychological driver rehabilitation programmes have proved success in Germany and Austria, therefore we decided to also implement such programmes in Slovakia.“

From 1 November on Slovakian drink drivers have to participate in a traffic-psychological drink driving course. There are four course sessions with a total of 12 hours. A psychiatrist proves the possible addiction first. Only addicts have to participate in a medical treatment instead of the traffic-psychological drink driving course. The execution of the drink driving courses and the training of the psychologists are based on the know-how from Austria and Germany.

Traffic psychologist Gregor Bartl, head of Institute *alles-fuehrerschein.at* from Austria points out that the traffic-psychological courses are even more effective than arresting drink drivers - referring to a study from the US. “During the training of the

¹) Zeitschrift für Verkehrssicherheit, 3/2011, 57 Jahrgang, S. 142-148.

²) Österreichische Alkolenker-Studie, Institut *alles-fuehrerschein.at*, Wien, <http://www.alles-fuehrerschein.at/publikationen.php>.

Slovakian psychologists”, Bartl continues, “It was essential to clarify that the psychologists shall not teach during these courses but work on the change of personal attitudes of the drink drivers.”

Comparison Slovakia / Austria:

	Slovakia	Austria
Drink drivers per year (2010)	ca. 10,000	ca. 38,000
Inhabitants	ca. 5.4 Mio	ca. 8.4 Mio
Annual number of drink drivers who have to participate in a course (year 2010):	Start Nov 2011	ca. 18,000

Also in the neighbour-country Czech Republic traffic-psychological courses will be introduced soon. At present in an EU-funded project best practice for the introduction is being proved.

In Europe first traffic-psychological courses for drink drivers have been conducted in Germany and Austria in the 1970s. After a number of evaluation studies and improvements these courses are offered nowadays in the **following EU-countries:** Belgium, Germany, England, Estonia, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Northern Italy, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, from 1 Nov 2011 on in Slovakia – and in about 5 years the Czech Republic will follow.

Further inquiry:

Dr. Gregor Bartl, manager & traffic psychologist, Institute alles-führerschein.at, Taborstraße 39/3, 1020 Wien, Mobil: 0664 / 654 15 76 - Tel: 01 / 212 2 212 - Fax: 01 / 212 2 212 – 20, E-Mail: bartl@alles-fuehrerschein.at Web: www.alles-fuehrerschein.at

Dr. Karol Kleinmann, manager & traffic psychologist, Salvus s.r.o, Narcisova 5, 821 01 Bratislava Slovakia. Email: karol.kleinmann@gmail.com, Web: www.salvus.sk

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schubert, Chairman & traffic psychologist, DGVP – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Verkehrspsychologie, Ferdinand-Schultze-Str. 65, 13055 Berlin, Tel: 0049 30 98 60 98 38 00, Email: wolfgang.schubert@dekra.com Web: www.dgvp-verkehrspsychologie.de

Dipl.-Psych. Jürgen Merz, manager & traffic psychologist, TÜV SÜD-Pluspunkt, 80339 München, Riedlerstraße 57, Tel.: 0049 89 519-3473, Email: juegen.merz@tuev-sued.de Web: www.tuev-sued.de/pluspunkt

Vienna, 31 October 2011 – alles-führerschein.at, 1020 Wien, Taborstrasse 39/3, Tel. 00431/212 2 212