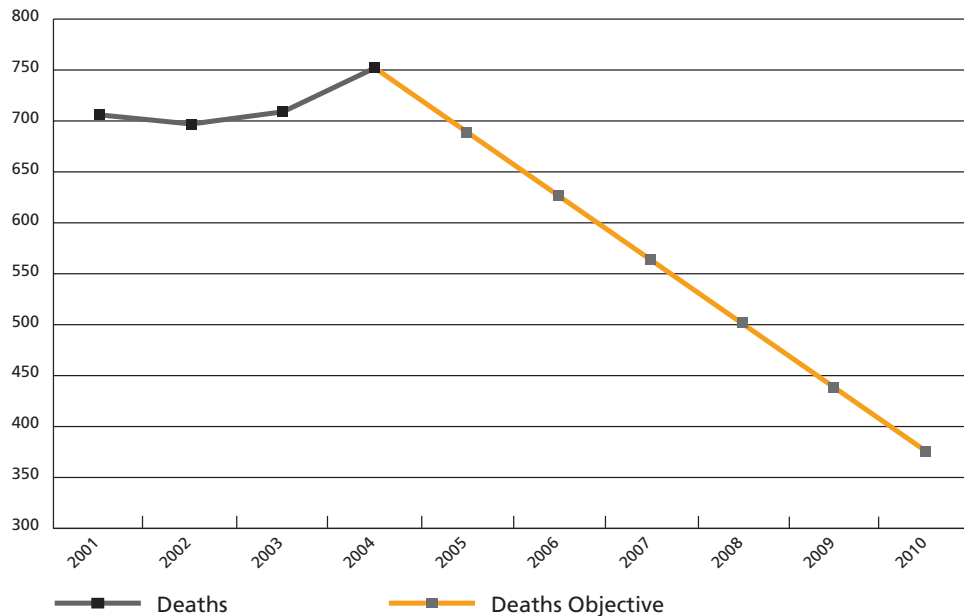


6.15 LITHUANIA



General Road Safety: The number of deaths increased in the recent years in Lithuania. Responsibility for traffic safety is mainly concentrated within the Ministry of Transport. In 2002, a Traffic Safety Department was established. The State Programme for Road Safety for 2005-2010 aims to provide conditions for targeted long-term improvement of road traffic safety, identifying and implementing measures to reduce road accident rates. The goal is to reduce road deaths by 50% by the year 2010, based on the 2004 number of deaths. An intermediate target is to reduce deaths by 25% by 2008. An enforcement working group has been set up under the Ministry of Interior to draw up a National Enforcement Plan. Other ministries are also involved. A penalty point system is implemented.

Speed: Lithuania is planning to implement in 2005 automated speed enforcement on state roads (i.e. motorways). At present, there are 13 fixed cameras and 8 mobile detection devices used in police cars. Speed measurements on a section of a main road (motorway and motor road) showed that 45% of car drivers exceeded the limit of 100, 110, 130 km/h. There is no owner liability for speeding offences.

Alcohol: Since 1994, the legal BAC level is 0,04 mg/ml. Enforcement is undertaken on all types of roads. After an accident, all drivers are tested. Random testing is carried out: 26,676 offences were detected in those tests in 2004. There are not enough screening devices available. All drivers who lose their licence due to drink driving must attend rehabilitation courses.

Seat belts: Blitz actions are not carried out and seat belt checks are usually undertaken in combination with other checks. Since 2003 seat belt wearing is also compulsory in the rear.

Follow up of offences: Lithuania has a penalty point system. In automated speed enforcement, both the driver and number plate have to be registered. The driver is held responsible.

Information: Information campaigns on different topics (seat belt use, drink-driving) are carried out by the Ministry of Interior.

Recommendations:

- Introduce owner liability for speeding offences.
- Increase the number of alcohol screening devices.
- Carry out blitz actions in seat belt enforcement.