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Inequalities, accidents and injuries, and alcohol

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Definitions

Injury – a non-medical condition

- An *injury* is the physical damage that results when a human body is suddenly subjected to energy in amounts that exceed the threshold of physiological tolerance, or the result of the lack of one or more vital elements, such as oxygen. This energy could be mechanical, thermal, chemical or radiant.

Injuries are usually defined as unintentional or otherwise.

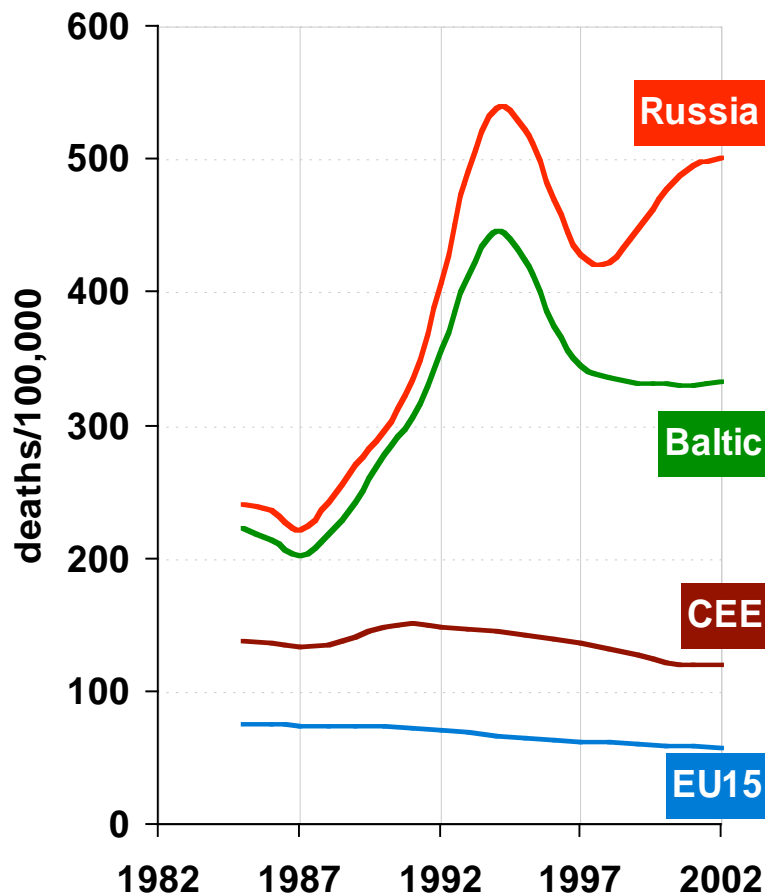
The main causes of *unintentional injuries* are RTIs (road traffic injuries), poisoning, drowning, falls and burns.

- *Violence* is defined as the *intentional* use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community that results in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation.

Violence can be divided by type: self-directed (as in suicide or self-harm), collective (in war and by gangs) and interpersonal (against a child, partner, elder, acquaintance or stranger).

In addition to intent and cause, injuries can be categorized by their settings, such as the home, workplace and road, and by activities, such as sports or other leisure activities.

Injuries mortality trends in Europe men aged 20-64 (rates per 100,000)



Russia – for comparison purpose

***** new EU member states *****

the Baltic States:

Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia

CEE:

Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia,
 Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria

***** „old” European Union *****

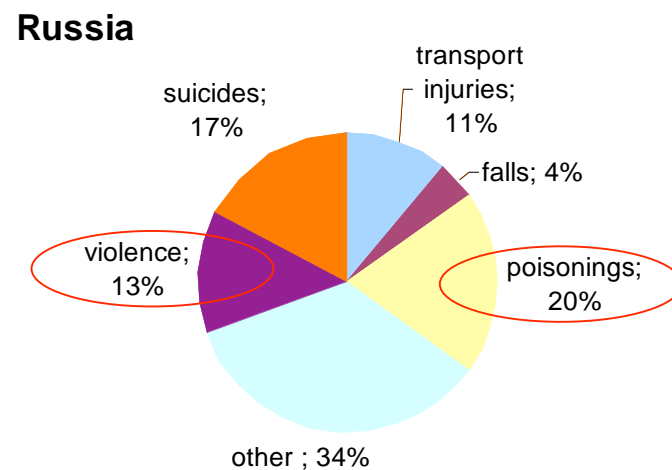
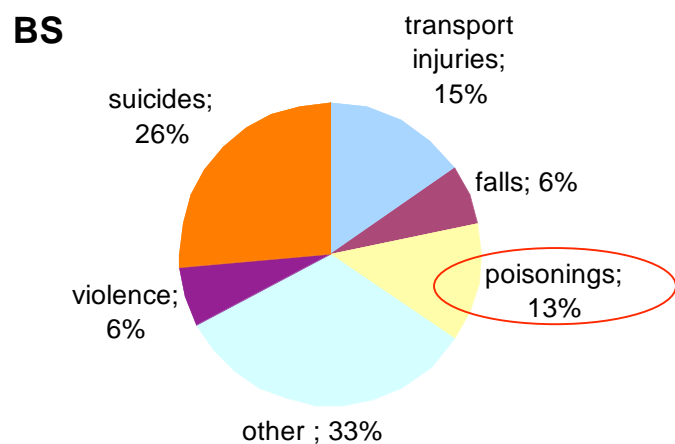
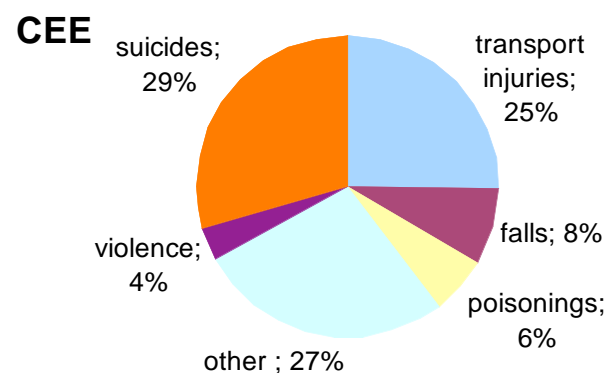
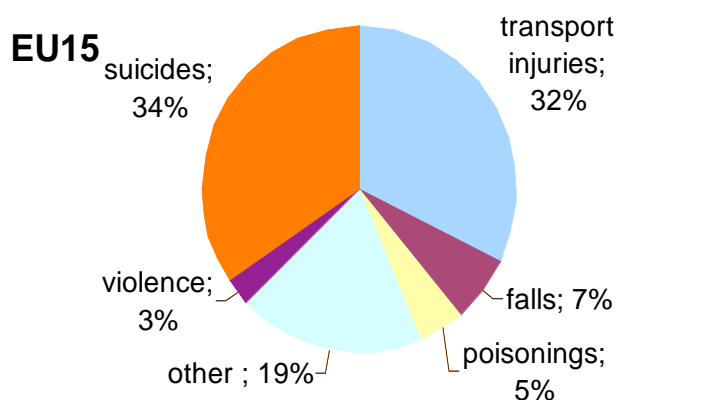
EU15:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland,
 France, Germany, Greece, Ireland,
 Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands,
 Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK

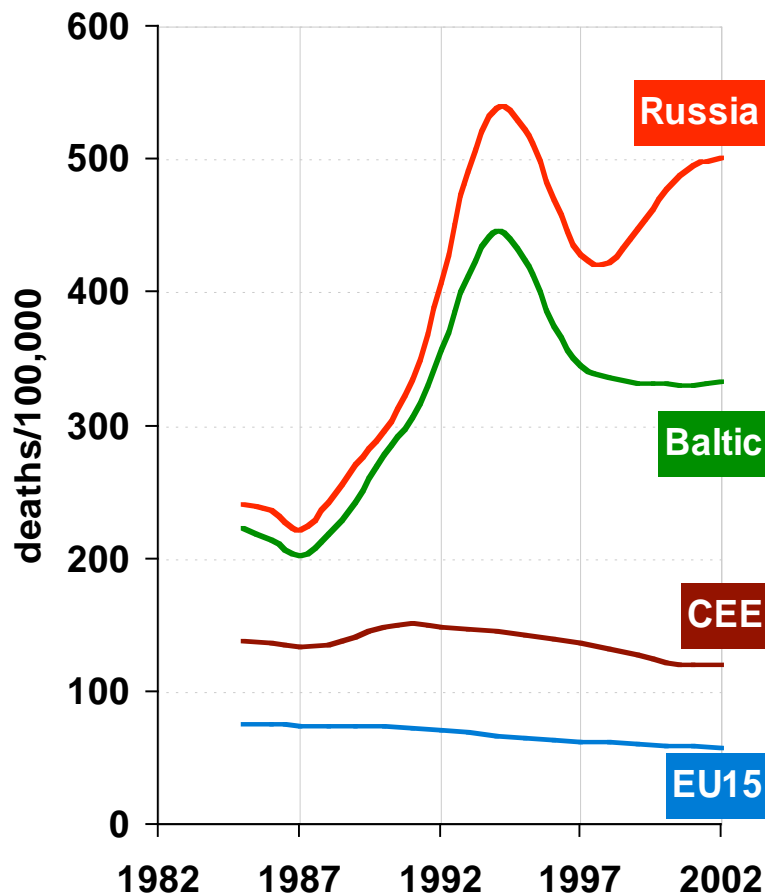
Difference of life expectancy in Europe, 2002 Contribution of injuries

Males 20-64	injuries	cvd	cancer	Infectious disease	Other medical causes
BS vs. EU15	3.52	2.46	0.57	0.19	0.95
	46%	32%	7%	2%	12%
CEE vs. EU15	0.87	1.62	0.69	0.04	0.67
	22%	42%	18%	1%	17%

Structure of sudden deaths from non medical causes in Europe in 2002 - men



Injuries mortality trends in Europe men aged 20-64 (rates per 100,000)



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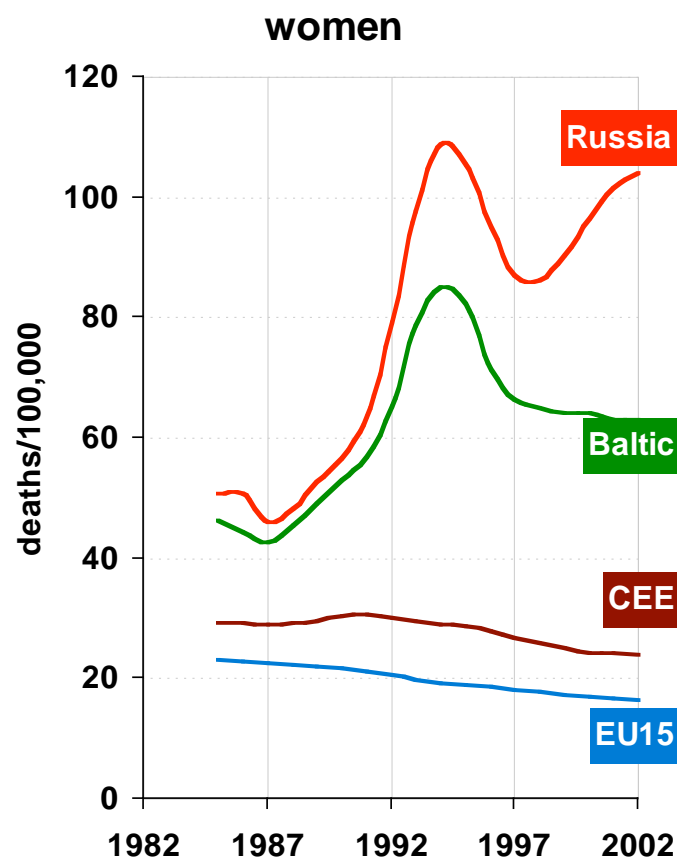
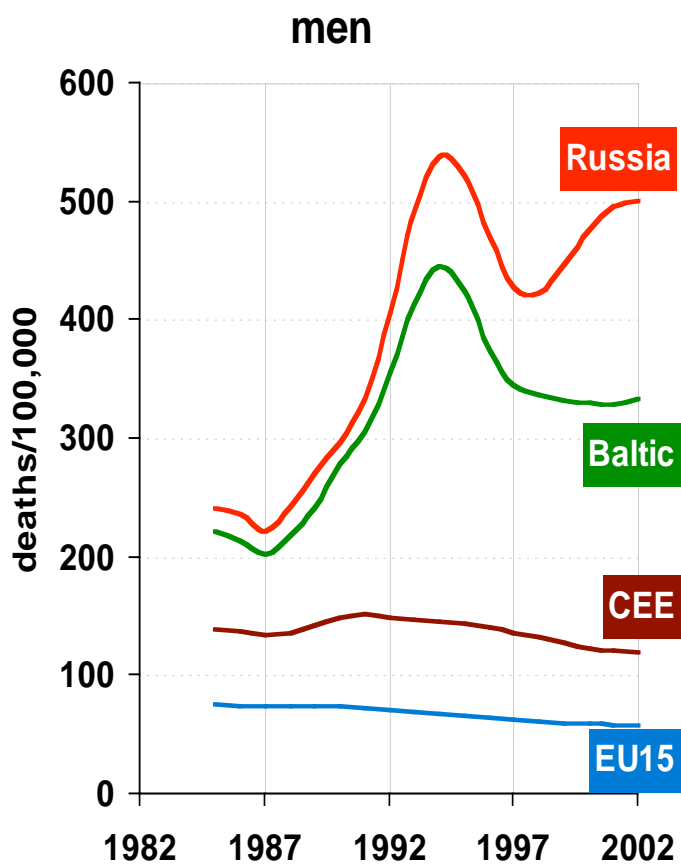
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Injuries mortality trends in Europe

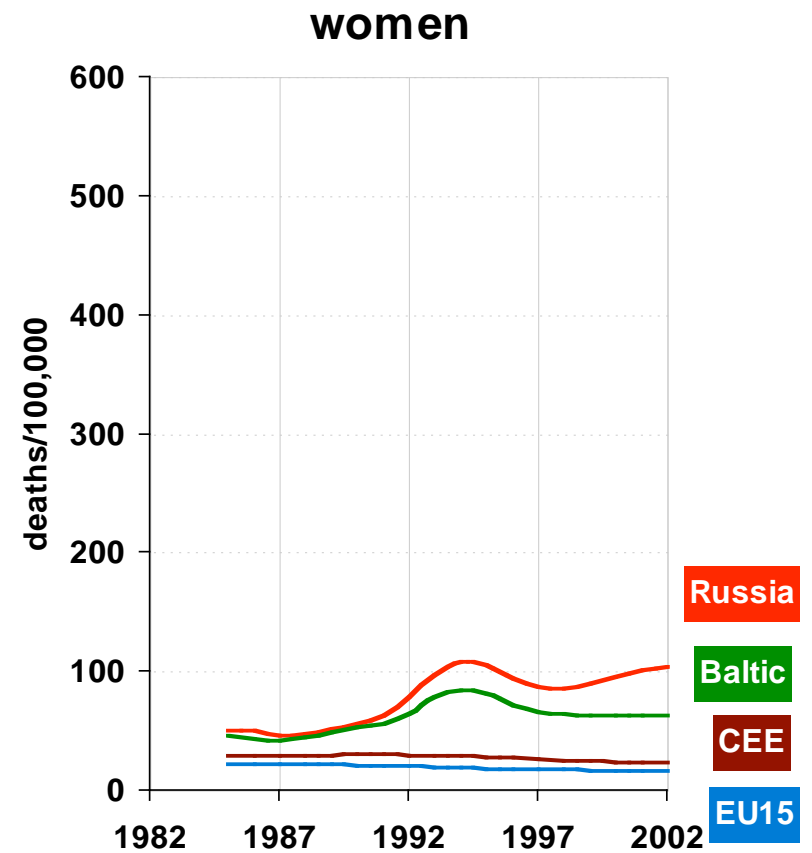
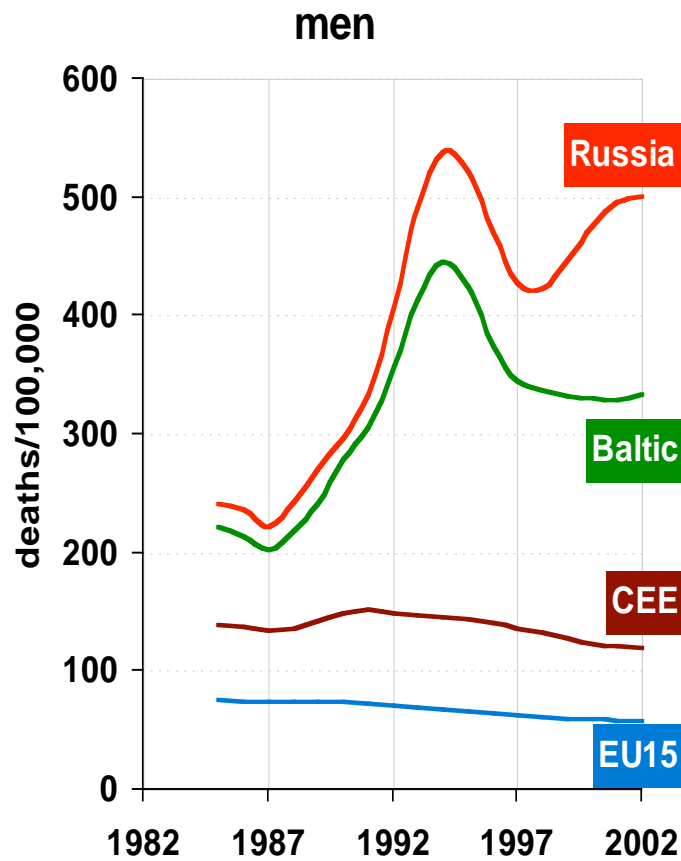
age group 20-64 (rates per 100,000)



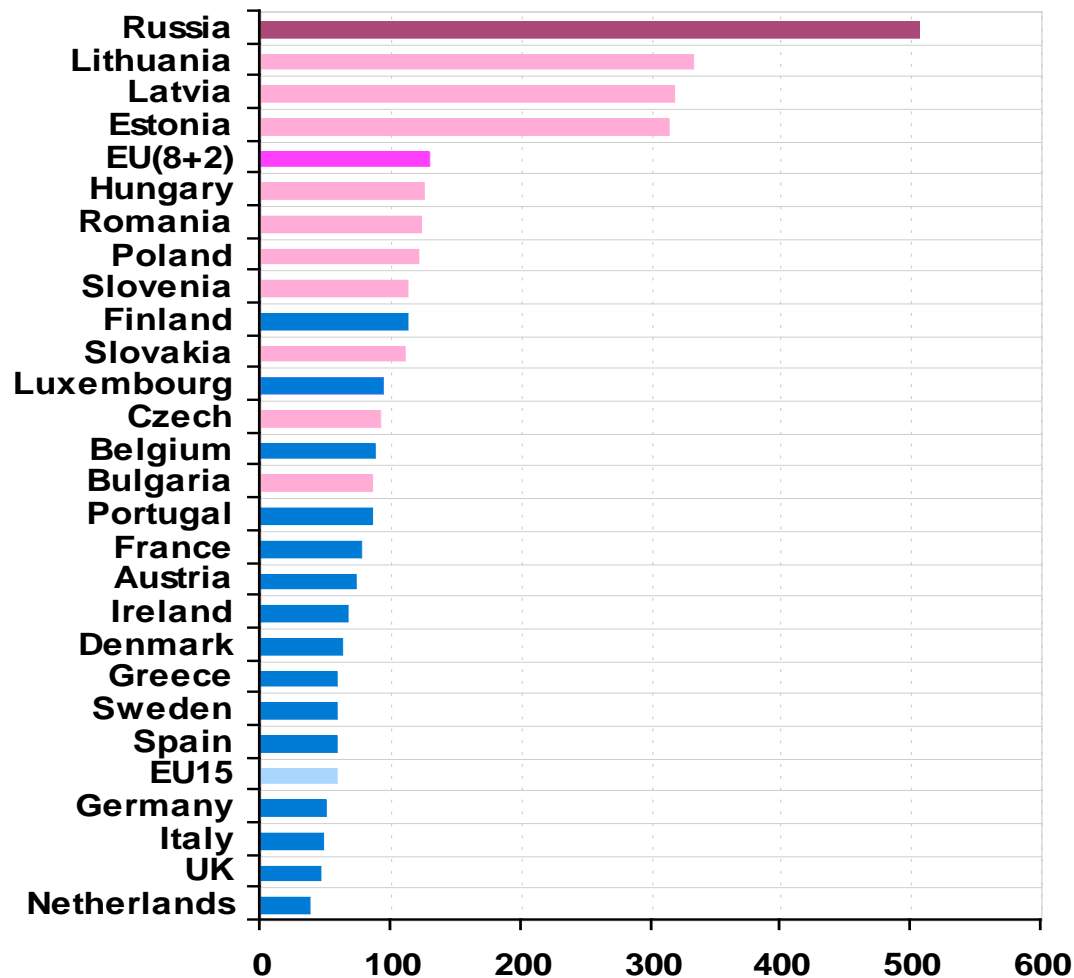
Men-women correlation coefficient ranges for all countries from 0.79 to 0.99

Injuries mortality trends in Europe

age group 20-64 (rates per 100,000)



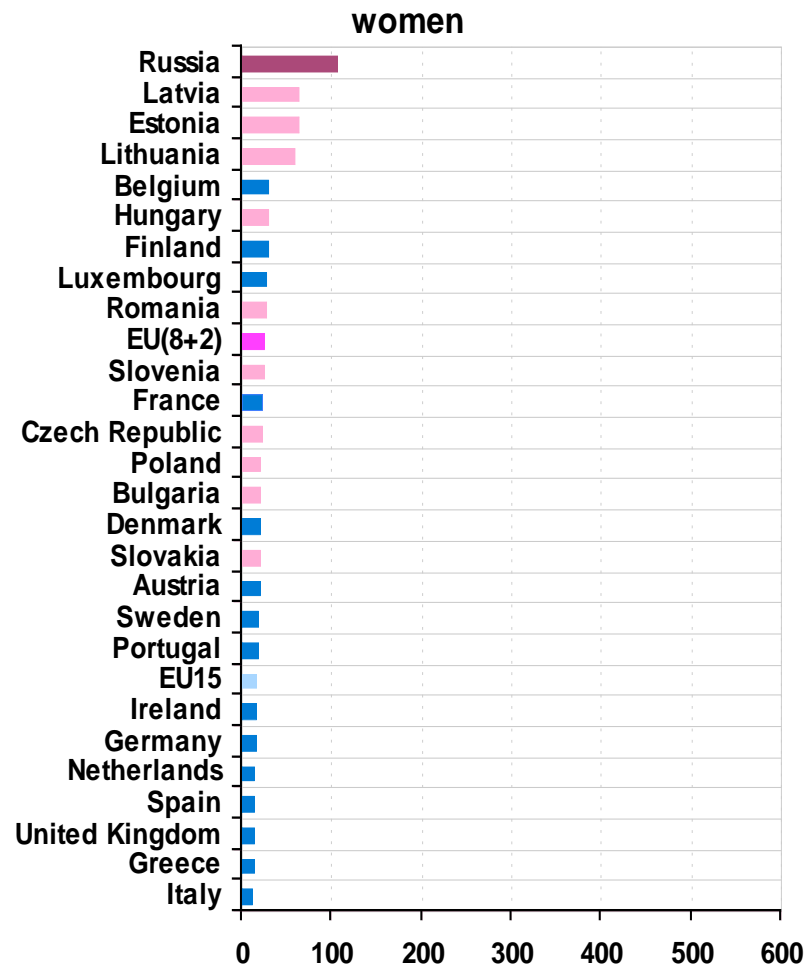
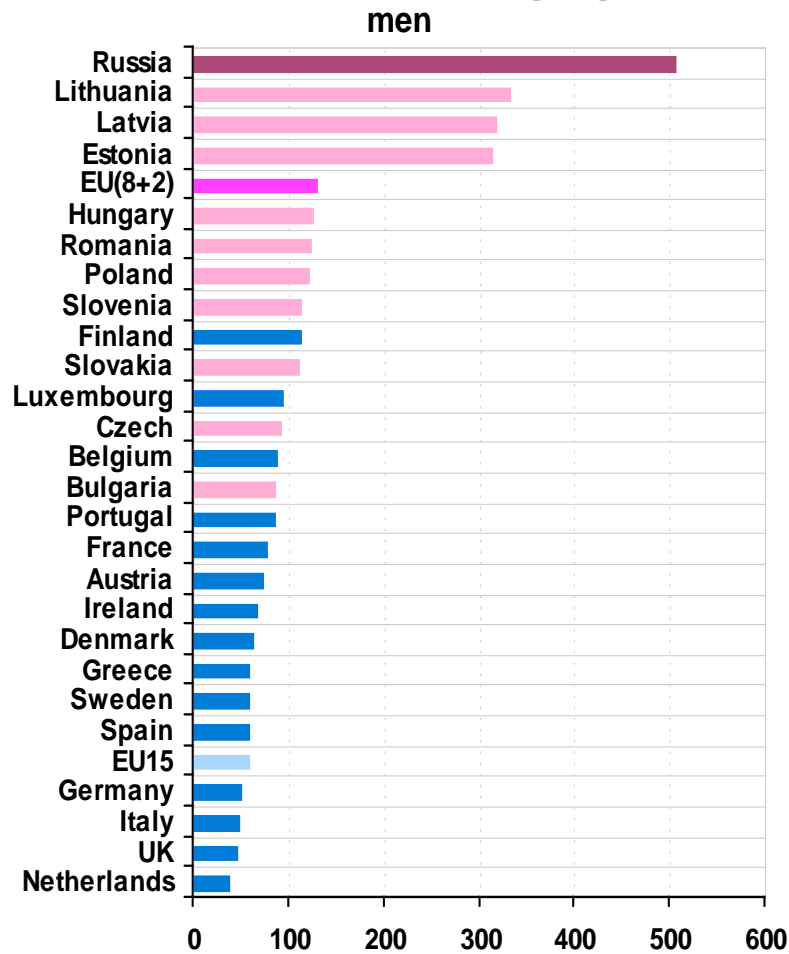
Injuries mortality in Europe in 2002, males aged 20-64 (rates per 100,000)



Commentary:

- Clear East-West gradient
- The Baltic States are leading

Injuries mortality in Europe in 2002, age group 20-64 (rates per 100,000)



Alcohol-attributable injuries in Europe in 2002

Percentages					
Males, 20-64	EU15	CEE	The Baltic States	Russia	EU25
share of alcohol injuries in all injuries (a)/(b)	29%	38%	48%	49%	33%
share of all injuries in all deaths (b)/(c)	16%	17%	32%	32%	17%
Females, 20-64	EU15	CEE	The Baltic States	Russia	EU25
share of alcohol injuries in all injuries (a)/(b)	19%	29%	42%	42%	23%
share of all injuries in all deaths (b)/(c)	9%	8%	18%	20%	9%

Conclusions

- Injuries mortality is enormous preventable public health problem (135,000 deaths in 2002 - 14% of overall mortality in EU)
- In Europe there are clear three strata of fatal injuries mortality: EU15 (5%), CEE (10%) and the Baltic States (25%)

Conclusions (2)

- Proximate cause leading to a very high level of fatal injuries mortality is alcohol
- In European Union in 2002 over 40,000 of injuries deaths were attributed to alcohol
- That constituted 31% of all mortality from non-medical causes

Conclusions (3)

- Special case in European Union – the Baltic States:
 - Alarming situation – injuries are one of the most urgent public health problems in the BS (in all EU)
 - 1/3 of premature mortality in the BS is due to injuries
 - 1/2 of the gap between the BS and the EU15 is attributed to injuries
 - Alcohol is a cause of 1/2 injuries deaths

Conclusions (4)

- Need for special EU program for injuries control in the Baltic States / rest of EU countries