

Demerit Point System & Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

Alain Areal

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Demerit Point System

Demerit Point System:

- Is complementary to traditional police enforcement.
- Focuses on repeat offenders.
- Assigns (or detracts) 'penalty' points to offenders.
- Results in additional punishment when the level of repeat offending has resulted in a certain number of penalty points being collected or lost.

General characteristics of a Demerit Point System :

- An offence leads to a number of points; the more serious the offence, the more points;
- If within a certain time period, a defined number of points have been collected the licence is withdrawn;
- After the withdrawal period the licence will be regained, either or not after having completed a rehabilitation course or having taken a new driving test.

The Main Mechanisms of a DPS

Prevention

- Prevention of unsafe behaviour through the risk of receiving penalty points

Selection

- Selection and suspension of the most frequent offenders.

Correction

- Correction of risk behaviour through an educative element in the demerit points system

Legal Penalties

Slight Offences	Serious Offences	Very Serious Offences	Crime
Fine	Fine	Fine	Fine
-----	Driving prohibition (between 1 month and 1 year)	Driving prohibition (between 2 months and 2 years)	Prison sentence/Driving prohibition??/other measures?
-----	2 or 3 points	4 or 5 points	6 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding between the legal limit and the minimum limit of serious offences; • Parking; • Other offences (not serious, very serious or crime); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol =>0.5g/l - <0.8g/l or =>0.2g/l - <0.5g/l; • Speeding (>20km/h urban areas/30Km/h outside); • Mobile phone use; • Child restraint system; • Wrong way driving; • Parking over zebra crossings; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol =>0.8g/l - <1.2g/l or =>0.5g/l - <1.2g/l; • Speeding (>40km/h urban areas/60Km/h outside); • Drugs; • Stop; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol =>1.2g/l; • Driving without driving licence; • Murder; • Dangerous behaviour;

Demerit Point System

 **12**
Points

11, 10...
8... 6... 2... 0



2 Points
Serious



4 Points
Very Serious



6 Points
Crime

3 Points: Serious Offences

Alcohol; Speeding 20 Km Areas; Overtaking near Zebra Crossing;

5 Points: Very Serious Offences

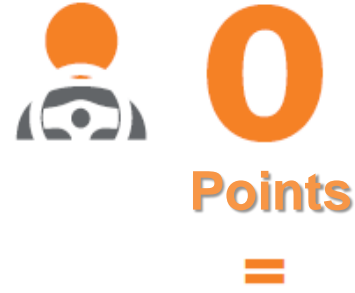
Alcohol; Drugs; Speeding 20 Km Areas;

Demerit Point System



**Mandatory
Training**

Failure to
attend the
course/exam
results in
withdrawal of
the driving
licence.



**Drivers lose
their driving
licence/ban
from driving**



**Theoretical
exam**



**2 years without
Licence**



**Training:
driver doesn't
gain points**



**After 2 years
theoretical and
practical exam**

Demerit Point System



+3

3 years without Traffic Offences
+3 points until a maximum of 15 points

Driving Licence Revalidation - Voluntary Driver Course +1 Point

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

Rehabilitation Programmes:

Systematic measures for traffic offenders – in particular drunk drivers and speed offenders – aiming at a change of their behaviour in order to prevent further offences and to keep or to regain their driving licence.

Aim:

- Promotion of internalization of an attitude of compliance with the law and concern for road safety through thorough examination of the motivations underlying the offense behaviour;
- to change personal attitudes and wrong cognitive beliefs;
- Promoting behavioural changes
- Prevent recidivism;
- Acquisition of relevant knowledge to those changes;

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

- The literature review conducted under the European project ANDREA concludes that drivers rehabilitation courses can reduce recidivism by about 50% mainly as a result of the change in attitude and behaviour.
- Since it is recognized that the offenses do not occur due to ignorance of the law but by other factors related beliefs, motivations, attitudes and behaviour of drivers
- Focused on self-reflection with elements of discussion and psychotherapeutic and not the pedagogical education carried out by experienced professionals.
- Only successful when they are targeted specifically for the "deficits" of offenders.

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

Programme:

Alcohol;

Speed;

Others (Mobile Phone, CRS);

Initial Common Session (3 hours)

Specific Session (6 hours)

Final Common Session (3 hours)

Duration: 12 hours (2 Saturdays or 4 days twice a week after work hours);

Groups: Maximum 12 offenders; ideal 10 offenders

Cost: 175 Euros

Serious Offences

In Portugal driving prohibition can be suspended if the driver attend on a voluntary basis to a training (rehabilitation of traffic offenders).

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

Trainers:

- Psychologists/Psychiatrists road safety experts, capable of promoting the desired behaviour change, not only through the transmission of knowledge as mainly thorough understanding of group dynamics, its internal mechanisms and interpretation of the various resistance to change.

Technical Project Structure:

1 Project Manager;

1 Pedagogical Coordinator;

65 Psychologist covering all country;

2 Senior Psychologists supervising/support;

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

Methodology:

- a) Dynamic methodologies that promote the participation and personal engagement of the participants in the training process;
- b) To convey concrete knowledge in order to support the dynamic methodologies.

A combination of both methods is desirable but more prevalence of dynamic methodologies

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders

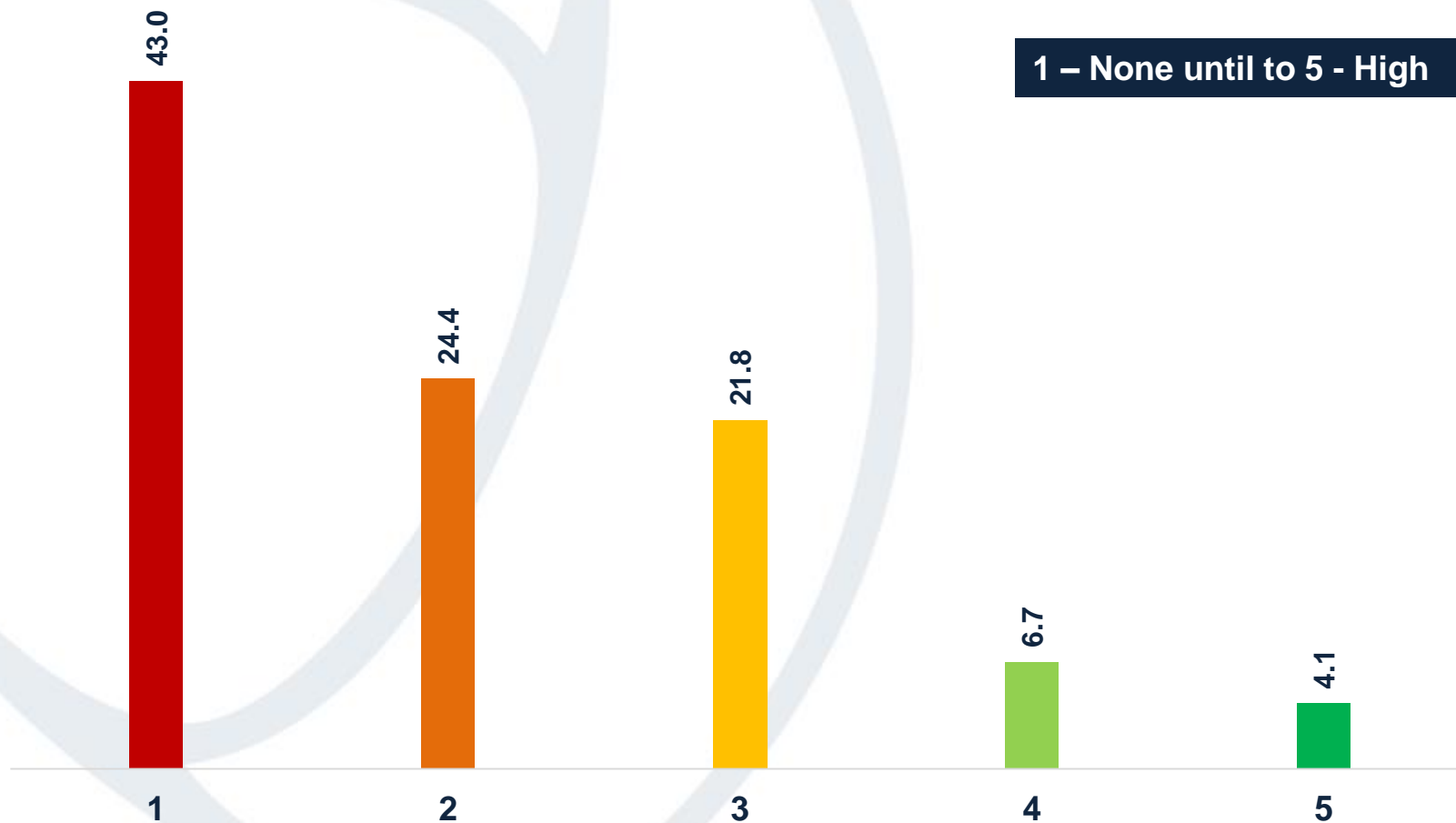
Courses:

Number of Participants p/ Year and p/ Course:				
Year	Alcohol	Speed	Others	Total
2012	211	609	20	840
2013	1288	1353	644	3285
2014	2938	8182	3642	14762
2015	1708	6319	2459	10486
2016 (so far)	582	2950	1039	4571
Total	6727	19413	7804	33944

Speeding Course Evaluation

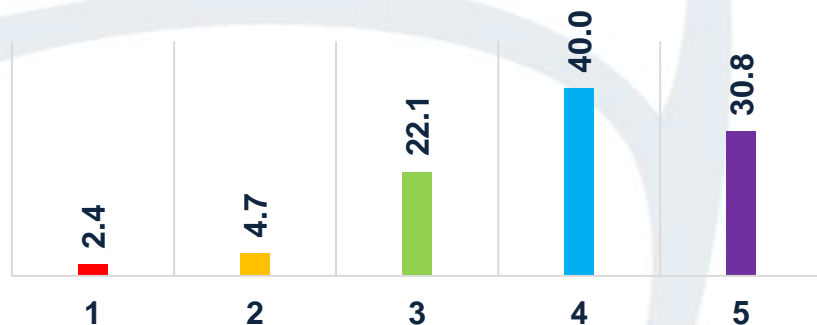
Before coming to the course my motivation for attending was (%)

1 – None until to 5 - High



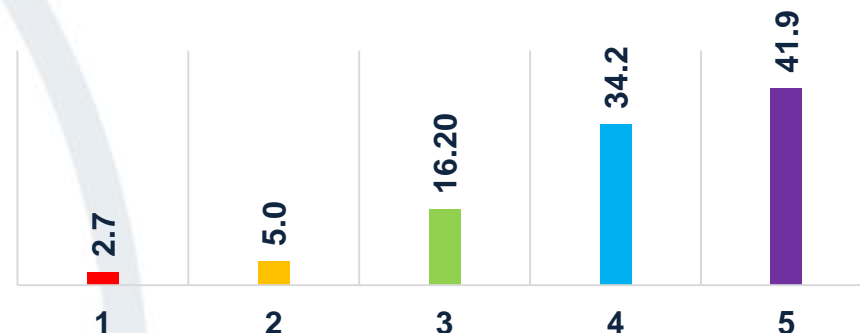
Speeding Course Evaluation

I feel motivated to participate in the activities proposed (%)



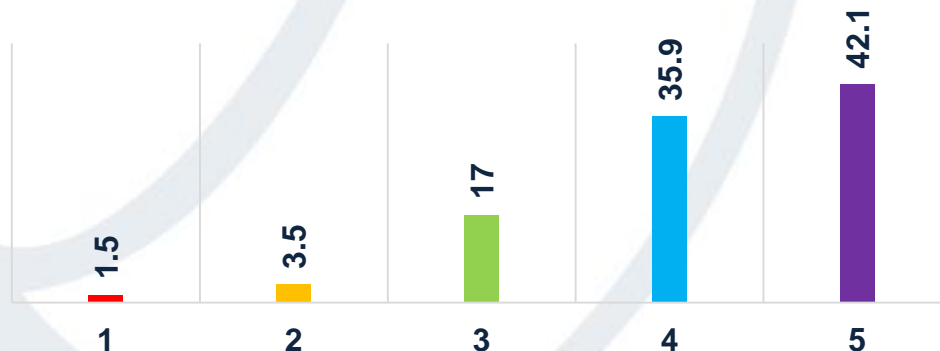
1 – Not at all to 5 - Very

I believe that this training has increased my knowledge (%)



1 – Not at all to 5 - Very

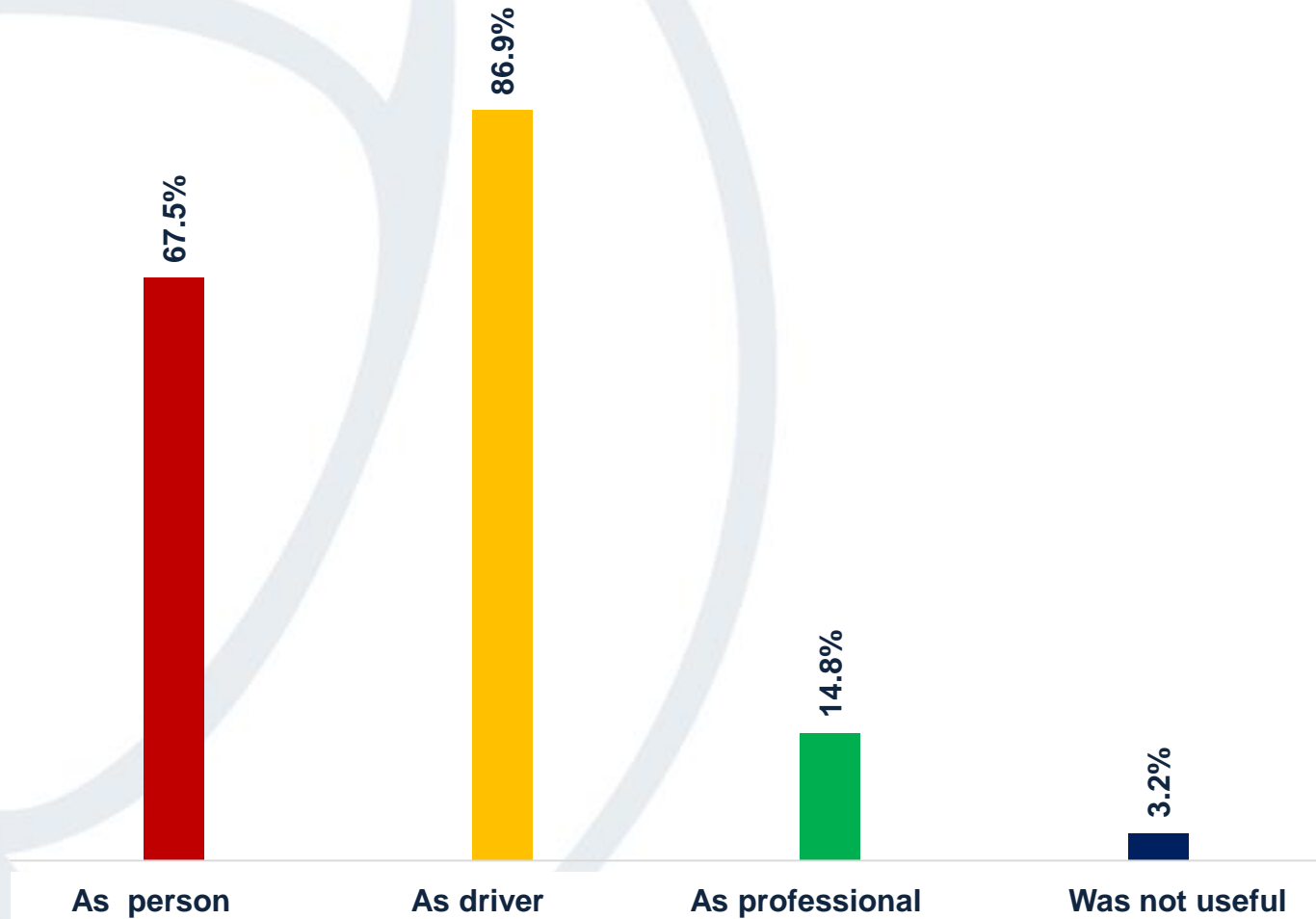
I consider the activities proposed to trainees (%)



1 – Totally Inadequate to
5 – Fully Adequate

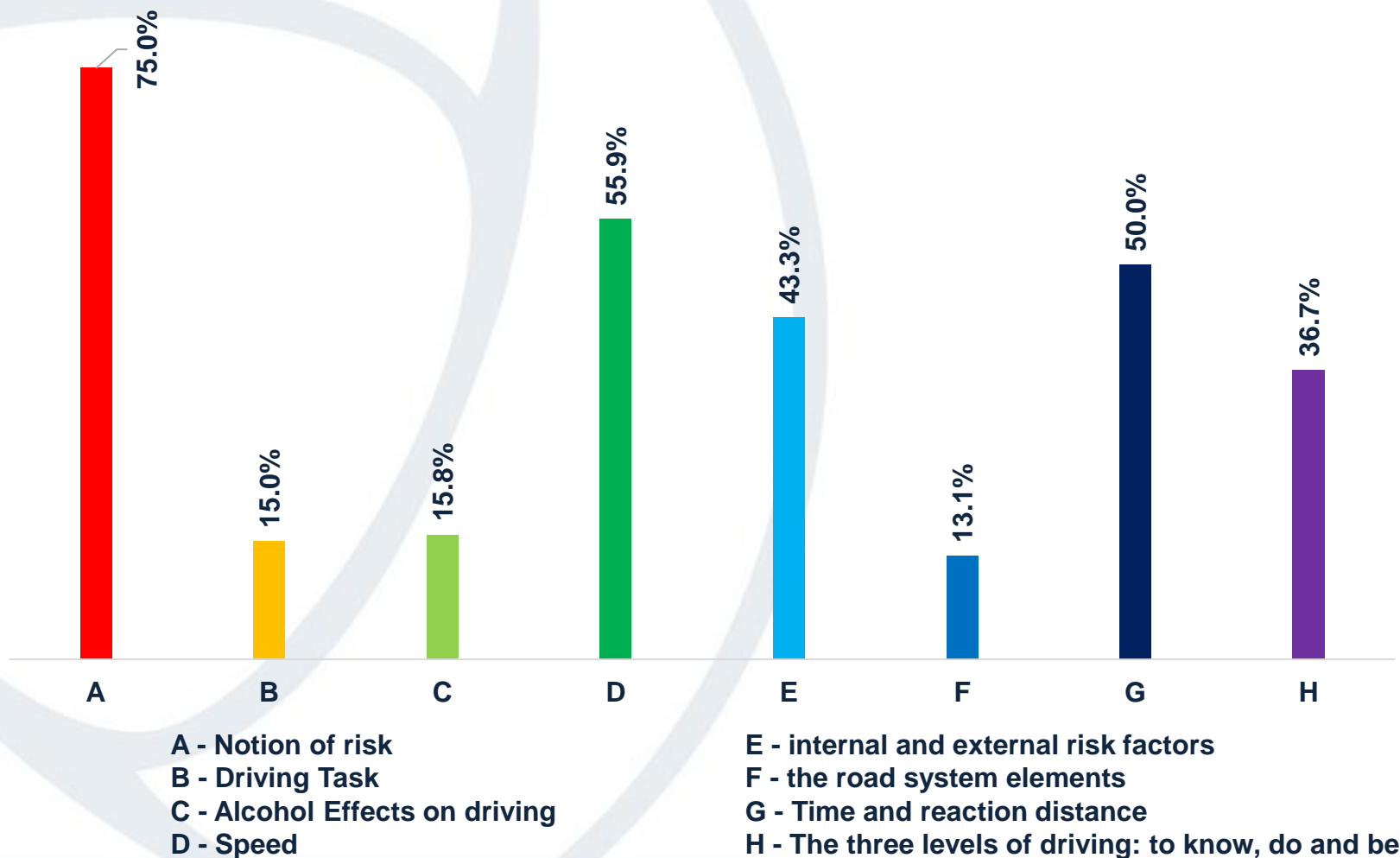
Speeding Course Evaluation

I believe that this training was useful for me (%):



Speeding Course Evaluation

The themes that I consider most useful to avoid driving over the speed limit (%):



Speeding Course Evaluation

Trainers Performance (%)

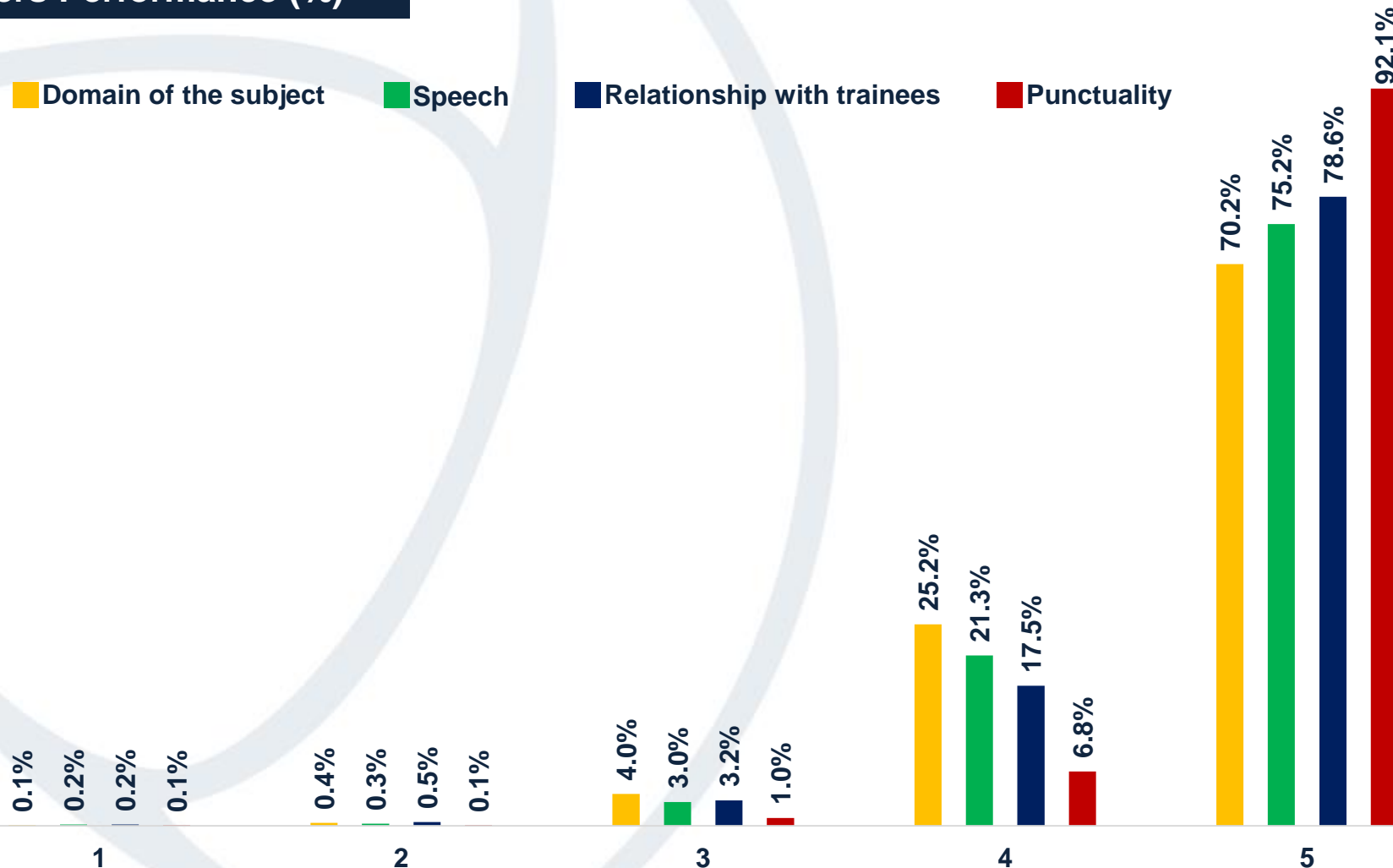
1 – Very Poor to 5 – Very Good

Domain of the subject

Speech

Relationship with trainees

Punctuality



Conclusion

Demerit Point System:

- The purpose is acting as a deterrent and providing sanctioning of offenders (through prevention, correction and selection), but the design and specifications largely vary.
- The initial effects are generally positive, but tend to wear off after a limited time period.
- Accompanying factors such as enforcement and communication are deemed essential for maintaining effectiveness.
- Unlicensed driving and points trafficking are undesirable side-effects of a DPS; the exact size of the problem is unknown.
- A majority of road users consider that a DPS is a good and fair approach to improving road safety.

Conclusion

Rehabilitation of Traffic Offences Courses:

- The courses are aimed at specific target groups such as alcohol, speed, etc. and the content and approach are tailored to their specific problems.
- The courses focus on improving attitudes and behaviour, instead of skills in terms of driving and knowledge.
- The trainers have a high quality teaching (behaviour), high knowledge of road safety (which is much more than having knowledge of the RC), the power to energize groups and a strong commitment to action and participants.
- Training must be available at the beginning of the process in order to avoid recidivism.

MORE INFORMATION:

Best Point Project Demerit Point System

ANDREA Project Rehabilitation of Traffic Offenders