



# Impulsivity in novice drivers

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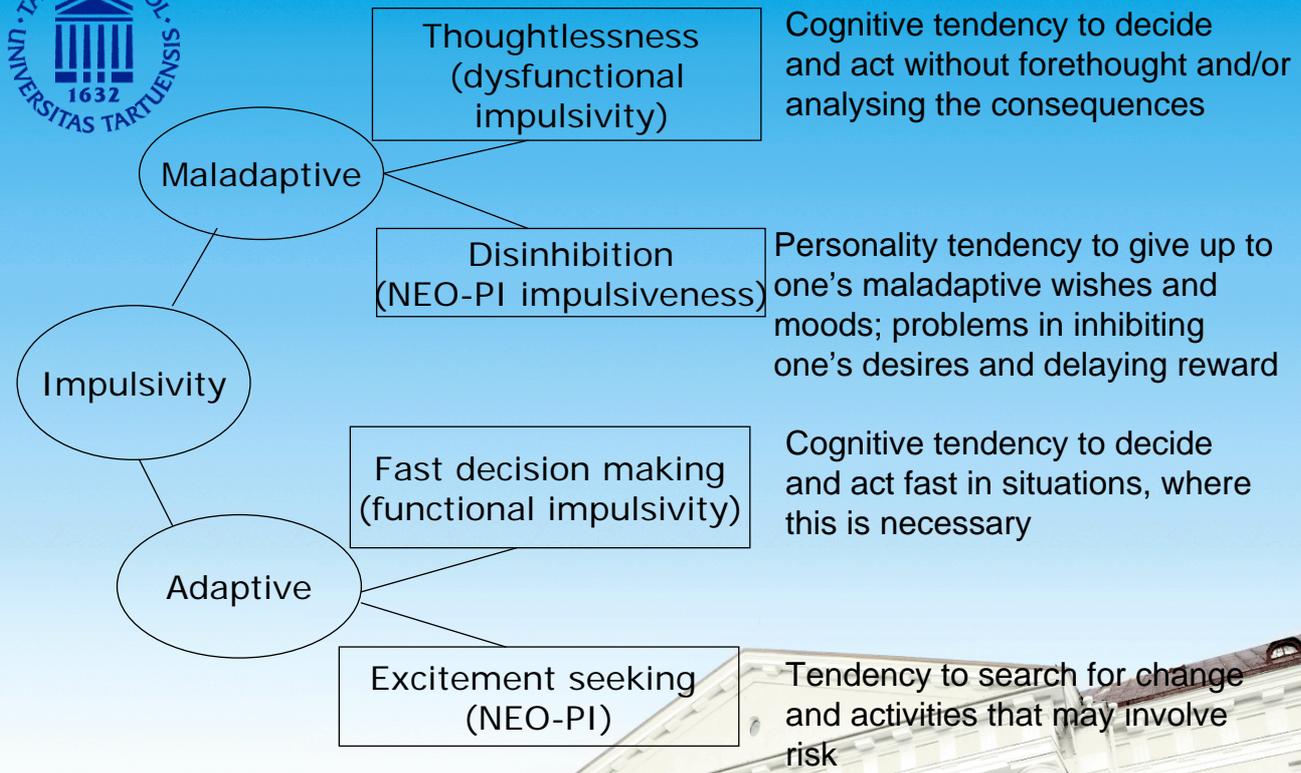
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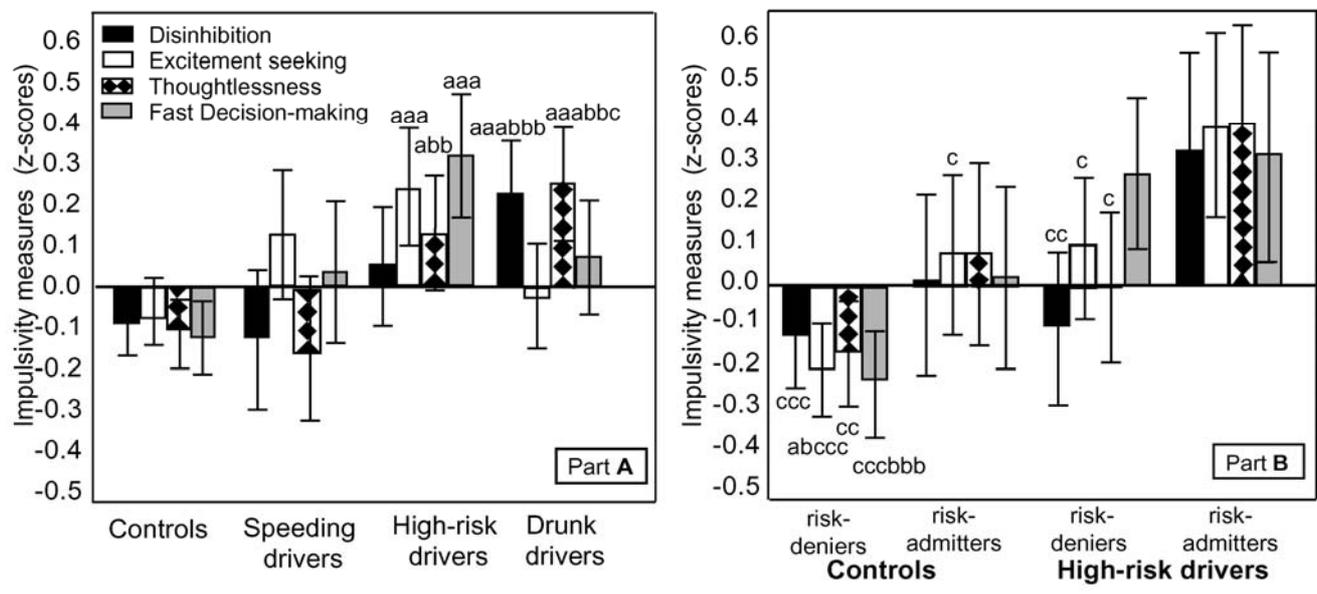
## Introduction (I)

- Traffic injuries are an important public health problem all over the world.
- Novice drivers are an important risk-group in traffic:
  - In the studies of drivers who were in hospital after a traffic accident it has been shown that most of them were novice drivers or had a little driving experience (McEvoy et al., 2007);
  - A study on novice drivers shows that there were more traffic violations and more negative attitudes towards safe driving in the year 2001 compared to year 1978 (Laapotti et al., 2003).
- Risk-taking behaviour is associated with personality trait impulsivity.



# Introduction (II)

➤ We found in our earlier studies on 1004 drunk drivers and speed exceeders from the police database of driving violations and controls:





## Aim

The aim of this presentation is to show if different types of impulsivity on novice drivers differ from randomly chosen control-drivers.



## Subjects

Car drivers	n	Age Mean $\pm$ SD
Novice drivers	803	21.3 $\pm$ 7.0
Controls	509	36.7 $\pm$ 11.8
Total	1312	





# Methods

- Facets of impulsivity measured by inventory:
  - Thoughtlessness and Fast Decision Making based on the Dickman Inventory
  - Disinhibition and Excitement Seeking based on NEO-PI subscales.

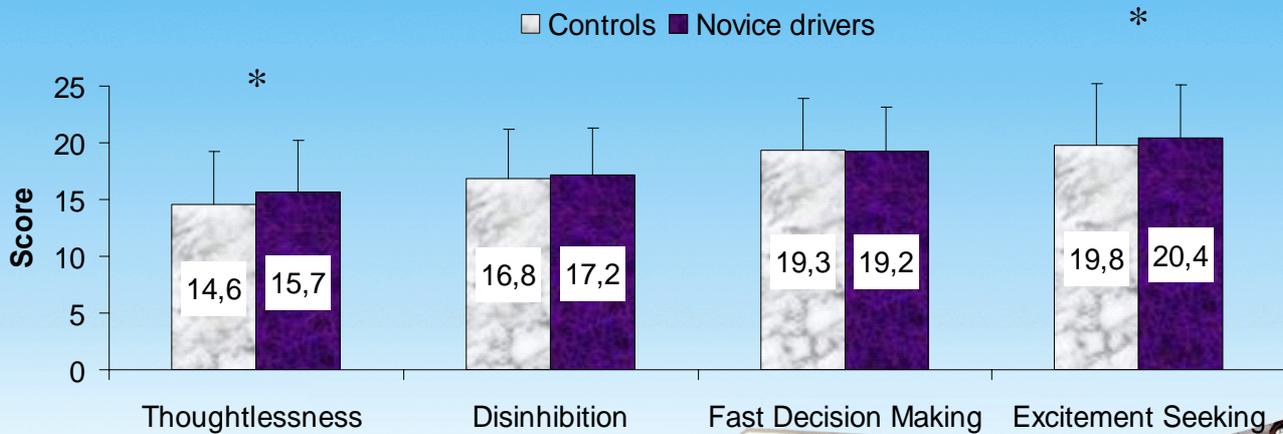


# Results





Figure 1. Different facets on impulsivity (mean score  $\pm$  SD)



\* $p < 0,05$ , significant difference between novice drivers and controls



## Conclusion

- The fact, that novice drivers have significantly higher impulsivity than control drivers might be considered in traffic injuries prevention activities.
- Psychological intervention might be helpful for improving abilities of self regulation and for decreasing risk of traffic accidents among novice drivers.