



Legal Purchasing Age (LPA) limits in the EU countries (1.03.2013) – CP-AS 026-2013

	Minimum Purchasing Age		Notes
	Beer & Wine	Spirits	
Austria	16	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-premise consumption is subject to provincial regulation.
Belgium	16	18	
Bulgaria	18	18	
Cyprus	17	17	
Czech Republic	18	18	
Denmark	Off Trade 16 On Trade 18		
Estonia	18	18	
Finland	18	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Finland retail monopoly LPA is 18 for products below 22% and 20 for above this level, i.e. spirits
France	18	18	
Germany	16	18	
Greece	On-trade 18 Off-trade: no age limits		
Hungary	18	18	
Ireland	18	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals under 18 are allowed in bars but it is an offence to allow a person under the age of 18 years to be in the bar of a licensed premises after 9pm (or 10pm) during the months May – September. In the case of an under 15 year old, the child must be accompanied by his or her parent or guardian and the holder of the licence must be satisfied that the child's presence in the bar could not reasonably be regarded as injurious to his or her safety, health or welfare.
Italy	16 for all products on trade 18 for all products off trade		Changed in Summer 2012(16>18 yrs old)
Latvia	18	18	
Lithuania	18	18	



Luxembourg	18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPA On-Trade premises: 18 – the limit is 17 if accompanied by an adult There are no legal age limit for off-trade but recommendations that purchases of alcoholic beverages should not be allowed to persons under 16
Malta	17	17	
Netherlands	16**	18	** plan to increase LPA to all products by early 2014
Norway	18	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both in on-trade and in retail monopoly LPA is 18 for beer and wine and 20 for spirits
Poland	18	18	
Portugal	16	18	Voted in February 2013 (initial proposal was 18 for all products)
Romania	18	18	
Slovak Republic	18	18	
Slovenia	18	18	
Spain	18	18	Still 16 in the Asturias region but draft legislation for changing to 18
Sweden	18 , 20	Off Trade 20 On trade 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Off-trade</u>: Beer more than 2,25%vol but max. 3,5%vol.: 18 years of age. Comment: No minimum purchase age is stipulated for alcoholic beverages containing maximum 2,25%vol., although many shops require 18 years of age. All products at the <u>retail monopoly</u>: 20 years of age. <u>On-trade</u>: 18 years of age.
Switzerland	16	18	
United Kingdom	18	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPA: 18 People over the age of 16 may drink beer, wine or cider with a meal in relevant premises, when accompanied by an adult aged 18 or over. It is illegal for any child under the age of 5 to be given alcohol.

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