Newsletter N°1_11/2015

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B.A.O.N.P.S.
Be Aware On Night
Pleasure Safety

alice
Cooperativa Sociale Onlus

In partnership with:

- apdes in People we trust
- A.S.L. TO4
- Centro Regionale Antidoping
- Numeri
- DrogArt
- eclectica
- FederSerD
- Fixpunkt
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BAONPS PROJECT

Despite being almost unknown to institutions and professionals, a growing number of new synthetic drugs - from 41 in 2010 to 81 in 2013, according to the EMCDDA - is produced for the illegal market and is widely available. Most of these substances are used in clubs and parties: Eurobarometer 2013 data reveals that 65% of respondents used new psychoactive substances (NPS) in recreational contexts in the last 12 months (Eurobarometer, 2014). NPS imply high health risks for both users and the general public: they can be toxic, addictive and produce long-term damages or adverse effects (V. Reding-Eu Justice Commissioner, 2014). For some people, the use of NPS is a choice, but not for everyone: many NPS employ groups of chemicals giving effects similar to those of controlled substances, but it is very difficult to recognise NPS without a screening instrument that can analyse the contents of a drug. Moreover, in 2013 more than a quarter of young people (29%) were not informed about the effects of the “legal highs” (Eurobarometer 2013).

Drug checking is an integrated service that allow drug users to have their synthetic drugs analysed and receive counselling (TEDI Project, 2011). In nightlife contexts it has been shown to be useful at different levels: early detection of NPS, harm and risk reduction in drug users, knowledge improvement for service providers and policy makers (Hungerbuehler et al. 2011). However in most EU countries drug checking is not implemented. This happens because of different laws but also because of some prejudicial concerns: organizers of musical events are afraid that allowing drug checking could mean surrender to the idea that those contexts are connected with drug use while for some policy makers “formal” drug checking is supposed to increase drug use (Hungerbuehler et al. 2011). Therefore, it seems necessary to develop assessments that can clarify concerns and doubts about testing drugs in nightlife contexts. Lastly, there is a lack of understanding about cultural factors that can influence NPS use and that can be useful to improve effective policies and interventions.

To sum up, there are 2 main needs to tackle: the first is to rapidly identify and assess NPS, by using specific screening instruments and then transmit the results to the European Early Warning System (EWS); the second is to improve awareness and knowledge about NPS among partygoers, professionals and policy makers. In order to meet these needs the project partnership will experiment with drug checking in nightlife contexts within the framework of a comparative research and will provide the EWS as well as the local service providers with information.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to provide the governments of the partners’ countries and EU institutions with information about new psychoactive substances (NPS) in order to better identify the different typologies of these drugs and the consumption patterns, assess related risks, and set up more effective responses. In particular aims can be detailed as follows:

- to identify new psychoactive substances and inform the Early Warning System (EWS) about them;
- to improve awareness and knowledge of drugs and NPS, their risks and effects, among partygoers;
- to understand meanings and consumption patterns concerning NPS and related cross-cultural differences;
- to inform local and national drug service providers about NPS and cultural factors influencing drug consumption patterns;
- to create guidelines for a pilot implementation of drug checking and extend them to other European countries where it is not carried out yet.

Target Group

Recreational drug users and people attending clubs and parties where drugs are widely used are the main target of the project. This is because The choice of the target group is due to a higher prevalence of drug use and probably also of NPS among those partygoers, so they are deemed to be at risk more than other types of population.

A second target group is composed of professionals working in drug addiction services and policy makers who need to be informed about NPS use and cultural factors that can influence it, in order to improve effective interventions and policies; since they are involved in prevention, treatment of addicts and policy construction to tackle drug related problems, they must have a good knowledge of NPS, especially those mostly used.
The research

Through a comparative research plan among 3 countries (Italy, Slovenia and Portugal) it will be possible to identify similarities and differences among drug users and to identify cultural factors that can facilitate or prevent NPS use. Partygoers using drug checking will be asked to fill in an anonymous questionnaire to understand meanings and consumption patterns concerning NPS use and to highlight the cross-cultural differences in the 3 countries involved. A web research will complete the information by analysing if and how the online spaces are used as «free zones» where users enact action strategies, representations and relationships with NPS. The research will include a pilot study on the Deep Web.

As Internet is the main source where users can share information of NPS (Eurobarometer 2013), the comparative research will provide crucial insights to understand the social and cultural factors underlying the rapid spread of NPS across Europe and will provide essential information to researchers and professional dealing with the issue.

Drug checking and outreach work

Outreach work in recreational contexts will be the framework of the activities of drug checking and research.

The outreach methodology is based on the non-judgemental approach and, if combined with a drug checking facility, it is the best strategy to identify NPS and observe consumption patterns; by entering the contexts where drugs are sold and consumed it is possible to early detect new products. In fact it is almost impossible to identify new and unknown substances by analyzing biological fluids; the detection of the parent drugs in substances with the GC-MS is more effective because the analysis can reveal the molecule inside the drug: when the molecule is unknown, the mass spectrum can be interpreted by the expert, who can recognize the chemical structure of the substance.

Drug checking also works as a prevention and harm reduction tool: by sharing the results, the awareness of youth and partygoers on the NPS composition can be increased, and not necessarily it increase drug use, as shown in recent researches (Hungerbuehler et al, 2011).

Project partners will implement the drug checking both in outreach intervention and outside recreational contexts, at the same time.

The 3 involved partner countries (Italy, Portugal and Slovenia) have different methods to analyze drugs, but this will be useful to evaluate pros and cons of different practices, both related to the drug checking and the outreach intervention. In this way it will also be possible to review and update the present literature.

The Partnership

The project involves 9 European organizations active in the field of drug use in 4 EU countries.

- Coop. Sociale ALICE Onlus – Lead Partner - IT
- Azienda Sanitaria Locale ASL TO4 (NHS Italian – Piedmont local addiction public service provider) - IT
- Consorzio piemontese per la prevenzione e la repressione del doping e di altri usi illeciti dei farmaci , Centro Regionale Antidoping “A.Bertinaria” – CAD (Piedmont Consortium for the prevention and repression of doping and other illegal use of prescription drugs – Regional Centre Against Doping) - IT
- CNCA Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità Accoglienza (National Coordination of Care Communities) - IT
- ECLECTICA (Institute for Research and Training) - IT
- FEDERSERD (Italian Federation of Professional Working in Addiction Service Providers) - IT
- DROGART ( Association for Drug related Harm Reduction) - SLO
- APDES (Piaget Agency for Development) - PT
- FIXPUNKT (Association for Addiction Accompanying Care) - DE

Coop.Alice, ASL TO4, DrogArt and APDES provide services for drug users and harm/risk reduction facilities in nightlife contexts through outreach teams in Italy, Portugal and Slovenia; they face common challenges in their work with recreational drug users and they will implement outreach interventions in the 3 countries.

Eclectica will implement a research on cultural aspects, meanings and patterns of drug use, collecting and
elaborating questionnaires from Italy, Slovenia and Portugal; it will also provide the Applicant with an external evaluation of the project activities and results.

CAD will provide Italian outreach work with drug checking and will communicate NPS found both to the EWS and partners.

FixPunkt, FederSerD, ASL TO4, CNCA will disseminate the project results; CNCA will provide a web platform both for dissemination and training events.

All the partners will share expertise and know-how to develop common models for drug checking in the contexts of NPS-use, find and improve strength points of the methodology and promote it among partygoers, event organizers, service providers, policy makers. The expertise of each organization will ensure quality and efficiency of the project partnership.

All partners have established practices related to confidentiality and trust for the work of their outreach teams. Participation to both drug checking and research will be anonymous and the privacy will be guaranteed by the project partners.

**Lead Partner: COOPERATIVA SOCIALE ALICE ONLUS**

Since 1981 Alice provide people with assistance and care services; furthermore, from the beginning of 2014, it also creates workplaces in order to support the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons.

The Cooperative aim is to improve social conditions of disadvantaged people by research activities and social work, through the mediation between mutual purpose and social solidarity.

For the members of the Cooperative, social work means to analyze social relationships existing in the local territory, to choose appropriated methods, interpretations and educational guidelines, to produce new culture. In this way social worker can go inside the local social fabric, approach the people and be aware of local cultures, interpret the needs of the community and know the existing relationships.

The essence of the cooperative originates from fostering citizenship rights.

Alice is guided by the following principles:

- To make the most of the human resources and cooperative members
- To protect the interests of clients
- The working teams are considered the basis of the organization, so they are asked to contribute to the pedagogical, organizational, strategic and economical Cooperative choices.
- To guarantee the transparency of information
- To involve the local community

Alice cooperate with other realities to create new collective knowledge: this is realized at the local level by the membership in a Consortium (CIS), by the accession at national level to CNCA and “Idee in rete” (Ideas on the net), by the membership in the European network “Alliances to fight poverty” and by the collaboration with a association of volunteers called “Lucio Grillo”.

**Areas of intervention**

Alice intervene in 4 areas:

1. **DISABLED PEOPLE:** Alice organizes recreational and employment activities, to promote the social inclusion, by the local Day Centers called “Il Coccio e la Tela” (Alba), “Rosaspina” (Sommariva Bosco) and “Principe Ranocchio” (Canale). Alice manages the café into the Scientific College of Alba.

2. **MINORS:** Alice creates and implements projects to support parenthood and family, organizes recreational summer camps, after – school services, a “recreational bus” called “Ludobus A.L.I.C.E. Goca” and early childhood centers called “Zucchero Filato” (Ceresole D’Alba), “Arcobalon” (Castagnito), “Il Fiore” (Alba). Alice supports and assists projects that foster autonomy.
3. ADDICTIONS: Alice manages two therapeutic communities: “Il Tavoleto” (San Rocco Seno D’Elvio) and “Alice Mamma e Bimbi, that is specific for addicted mothers and their children. The Cooperative manages a project to prevent and treat gambling, called GAP and during last 7 years implemented a harm reduction/risk reduction project in nightlife contexts, “Neutravel Project”

4. SOCIAL RIGHTS AND INCLUSION: Alice supports disadvantaged people in pathways of inclusion and empowerment by different structures:

- Social Housing “Casa Pina” (Mussotto – Alba)
- Flats in the ASL CN2 district to face housing and migration emergencies
- Employment centre (CIS Consortium): services of guidance and help to find a work.

The main employment activity is that of Casa Pina, started in 2014: it is a social gastronomy that involves disadvantage people producing high quality food; Casa Pina promotes and supports a sustainable model of consumption, paying attention to the territory.

Alice manages accommodation services with an ergotherapeutical function (woodworking, café into the local Scientific College, maintenance of cars and vehicles of the Cooperative, handcraft products).

Outreach work and risk reduction in party settings

In 1998, in partnership with CNCA, Alice created a regional project, called “Activa-Mente”, which aim was to reduce harms and risks in recreational drug use settings.

Since 2008, in partnership with ASL TO4, Alice manage Neutravel Project, focused on harm and risk reduction interventions both in legal and illegal (the so called “free party” or “rave party”) party settings.

The partnership between Alice and ASL TO4, where a private organization/ NGO co-operate with a public one, give the intervention a multidisciplinary team: doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists and peer operators work and put together their specific knowledge and combine actions to manage drug / alcohol related crisis on field. Neutravel Project carried out few research activities too, to better know and understand the real drug consumption patterns and trends.

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Agência Piaget Para o Desenvolvimento – APDES (Piaget Agency for Development)

APDES is a Portuguese NGO that promotes the integrated development of communities. It was founded in 2004 and its goal is to ensure universal access to health care, employment and education, mainly by vulnerable communities and groups. APDES aims to empower people and institutions, in several national, European and African territories. APDES works on a daily basis to stop inequality, defend human rights and promote full citizenship of all citizens. We develop our activities in the present, but also aiming to anticipate the future and the realization of a more balanced world at a social, economic and political level, for the future generations.

Currently APDES is collaborating in several European projects. Is responsible for the overall coordination of the project NPS in Europe ([www.npsineurope.eu](http://www.npsineurope.eu)), developing innovative and effective responses to emerging NPS use in Europe. In collaboration with experienced civil society organizations, the project will contribute to the readiness of relevant stakeholders throughout Europe to address NPS in populations of people that use drugs heavily, combining research, practical guidance development and capacity building activities. APDES also took part of the project LOCAL-PASS, which started in 2013. LOCAL-PASS developed an effective, standardised local system for identification and assessment of new developments in psychoactive substance use, and to develop an effective plan for local interventions.
Another European project APDES was working in was NEWIP (Nightlife Empowerment and Implementation Project) funded under the European Health Programme. NEWIP was an initiative of several European civil societies NGO’s, to meet the new challenges in the fields of harm reduction (HR) and health promotion in party settings. With the purpose of developing innovating responses adapted to youth cultures, promoting community empowerment and increase the celerity and quality of the interventions regarding new trends and new substances, NEWIP has developed a set of innovative practices in this field of work.

In 2006 APDES founded a outreach team working in party settings: CHECK!N. The project seeks to inform and support young drug users and promote the health and safety of partygoers. In 2009 CHECK!N incorporated a Drug Checking (DC) service. In fact, one of the risks associated with the use of illegal substances is the uncertainty regarding its content, since the appearance, shape, logo, taste or smell are not valid or safe methods to identify its composition. Given their illegal status these substances are likely to be adulterated with other components that may involve a higher risk than the user is willing to take. DC helps users prevent these risks by detecting the real composition of a sample. Using the information given by DC, service providers can give users very specific information on which harm reduction strategies to be adopted, effects, risks associated with use of certain substances or mixes, etc. This service is also a useful tool for detecting market trends. CHECK!N integrates the Trans European Drug Information network (TEDI) an European database system that collects, monitors and analyses the evolution of the various European drug scenes and reports on them on a regular basis, by collecting and gathering information from most DC services available in Europe.

Also in 2014, CHECK!N was granted with the European Drug Prevention Prize 2014, awarded by the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

Website: http://www.apdes.pt
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Azienda Sanitaria Locale ASL TO4 (Local Health Service Provider)

In Italy the public health programming, governance and control is conferred to Regional councils by the National Health System.

The Regional Health System is composed of local districts, called ASL, AUSL or USL; they promote and protect the health of local citizens, by programming and providing services, respecting the “Essential Levels of Care” (ELC).

Every single district provide citizens from basic to specialised care; the addiction services are considered as specialised care and managed by Local Addiction Departments – LAD (1 for each district).

The ASL TO4 LAD was created in 2009; it is composed of 3 general addiction services (both for drug and other addictions, 3 alcohol addiction services, 1 facility for prisoners, 1 crisis centre for drug addicts and 5 therapeutic communities

Drug addictions:

The LAD provide treatments for 1883 drug addicts: the 80% use heroine as a primary drug, the 15% use cocaine and the 5% use cannabis. Cocaine, cannabis and alcohol are often used as secondary drugs. The poly-drug use/abuse is the main consumption pattern, especially in younger clients.

The 80% of heroine and the 50% of cocaine users inject the drug.

Clients are mostly from 30 to 39 years old aged, but the 20% are younger than 29 years, while the 30% are older than 39.

An high number of clients is treated with replacement therapy from many years; they are discreetly social included.

Alcohol addictions:

The LAD provide treatments for 1092 alcohol addicts; the 30% are from 40 to 49 years old aged, the 45% are
older than 50 years while the 15% are younger than 40 years. The 60% of alcohol addicts are males, the 40% are females.

In Italy alcohol use is very common and socially accepted; furthermore alcohol is a legal drug; this bring to an older age in the service first access and treatment request than in drug addictions services. So, clients are mostly pensioned and housewives.

**Gambling addictions:**

The LAD provide treatments for 153 gambling addicts; the 54% are older than 60 years old, the 28% are between 40 and 59 years old, the 18 % are younger than 40 years old. The 86% of gamblers are male.

**Tobacco addictions:**

The LAD provide treatment for 144 tobacco addicts; the 33% are older than 60 years old; the 53 are between 40 an 60; the 14 are younger than 40 years. The 49% are male the 51% are female.

**Outreach work and interventions**

Since the end of 90’s, the ASL TO4 LAD implement harm reduction and risk reduction facilities: in 1998 a Drop-In centre (syringe exchange) was opened in Ivrea and many outreach interventions in the district were planned and implemented throughout the following years.

In the beginning of 2000’s, specific outreach interventions were proposed in party settings, such as clubs, legal and illegal raves, big electronic music events, concerts. The aims of this services were: meet the people, talk with persons, give assistance, care and counseling, letting come to light problems and identifying risky behaviours, related to drug and alcohol use/abuse.

ASL TO4 is able to define different kinds of outreach interventions, giving the people a huge variety of services and meeting the needs of those that don’t recognize themselves as addicts or don’t have to deal with drug related problems yet.

In 2007 ASL TO4 met Gruppo Abele and started to cooperate in outreach interventions in party settings.

Since 2008 ASL TO4 and Coop. Alice cooperate in Neutravel Project, implementing outreach interventions in legal and illegal party settings (free parties), using harm and risk reduction strategies.

Young recreational drug users are the main target of Neutravel Project and the main aims are: to create a map of “pleasing places” where people use to party (both legally and illegally), to identify what drugs are used and what are the consumption patterns, to improve the evaluation of drug related crisis and the consequent access to the emergency service.

An added value of Neutravel Project is the multi-professional team, given by the partnership between the National Health Service (ASL TO4) and an NGO (Coop.Alice).

Website: [www.aslto4.piemonte.it](http://www.aslto4.piemonte.it)

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**Consorzio piemontese per la prevenzione e la repressione del doping e di altri usi illeciti dei farmaci , Centro Regionale Antidoping “A.Bertinaria” – CAD (Piedmont Consortium for the prevention and repression of doping and other illegal use of prescription drugs – Regional Centre Against Doping)**

The Regional Antidoping Center “Alessandro Bertinaria” (CAD) was founded on the occasion of the Torino 2006 XX Olympic Winter Games and the IX Paralympic Winter Games and was built within the park of San Luigi Gonzaga Hospital in Orbassano, Torino. CAD has been certified by the Region of Piemonte and appointed as the reference regional laboratory for all toxicological aspects. It is currently the reference laboratory for public laboratories, Emergency Rooms, Police Departments, traffic police, public and private companies for alcohol and drug screening in the so-called “dangerous jobs”. 

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Furthermore the laboratory performs toxicological detection on samples of biological liquids and tissues taken during post-mortem examinations. The most usual methods of toxicological analysis have been accredited by the Italian Accreditation Authority ACCREDIA (SINAL) according to UNI CEI ISO 17025:2005.

CAD also carries out training activities for medical staff and traffic police for the correct enforcement of regional guidelines and laws in force.

**Clinical Biochemistry**

CAD performs a wide range of blood examinations which can show either a recent or a remote administration of illegal substances. As far as sport is concerned, it carries out epidemiological researches and medical prevention amongst young people.

**Distric medical commission for driving licenses**

CAD performs alcohol and drug screening on people driving vehicles. The analysis include biological markers on hair, blood and urine in order to detect occasional and/or chronic use of psychotropic substances.

**Animal and zootechnical doping**

CAD collaborates with Veterinary Services of the Region of Piemonte and the Experimental Zoo-prophylactic Institute of Piemonte, Liguria and Valle d’Aosta (IZS) for the development of innovative analytical methods in order to discover any fraudulent use of anabolic substances for breeding.

CAD also carries out confirmation analysis (II level) in case of any positiveness found by IZS in order to legally fight against any illicit action and to safeguard food safety. It finally carries out scientific research to support the previous activities.

**Clinical and forensic toxicology**

CAD represents the reference Center of the Region of Piemonte for toxicological II level analysis for the detection of alcohol and drug abuse on biological samples (blood, urine and hair).

CAD also develops research activities both for the development of methods in order to increase the range of detected substances and the analysis on non-conventional and/or alternative biological samples. A further research activity is being performed on judicial findings for scientific detection and for the development of forensic sciences. The forensic toxicological analysis include quality and quantity analysis on confiscated drugs and on post-mortem findings taken from dead bodies in order to show any possible use of toxic substances (alcohol, drugs, other xenobiotics) which might have determine death.

CAD works with the Centre for sexual abuse of Sant’Anna Hospital in Torino to perform toxicological detection on biological samples taken from victims.

**Veterinary toxicology**

CAD carries out toxicological analysis on animals, post-mortem samples and baits for IZS in order to detect any possible intentional, incidental or environmental poisoning.

CAD offers a wide range of organic molecules and pharmaceutical determination with respect to the main classes of doping, toxicological substances and drugs: antidepressants, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, Ketamine, scopolamine and GHB, LSD, methadone and buprenorphine, narcotics (opiates and similar), sedative and hypnotics, stimulants (amphetamines, cocaine and similar), markers for alcohol abuse screening (EDAC, CDT) and confirmation (EtG), anabolic steroids, anti-estrogenic substances, β-blockers and β-2-agonists, corticosteroids, diuretics, pesticides.

The analysis are carried out on different samples (biological fluids, hair, pharmaceutical compositions, road findings, food supplements).

**Website:** www.antidoping.piemonte.it

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Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza – CNCA
(The National Coordination of Care Communities)

Main activities of the CNCA

The National Coordination of Care Communities (C.N.C.A.) is established in Turin in 1986; now includes about 266 Third-Sector organisation as associated members, located in 15 regional areas, including social co-operatives, support centres, communities care, etc.

The CNCA works with: people tackling various addictions (to heroin, cocaine, synthetic drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling), children and young people with personal and family problems, offenders and ex-offenders, physically and mentally handicapped people, homeless people, women and children forced in slavery (trafficking and smuggling), people affected by Aids, migrants, people having psychiatric problems.

The C.N.C.A. is made from: 266 groups, 2089 structures, 6788 social workers
5897 volunteers
107 help and advice centers
102 day care centers or communities
96 re-integration/inclusion centers
89 street units and outreach centers
89 youth centers (information centers, day care centers etc.)
85 ergo-therapeutic laboratories
68 study and research centers
62 social clubs (promotion of social community)
50 guidance centers
48 schools, structured training activities
36 vocational training centers
33 social secretariat centers
12 spiritual training centers
5 advisory centers

More than 35,000 people are taken in charge by the C.N.C.A. every year whereas more than 135,000 are the people who get in touch with it.

In order to meet the rising requirements of development of the Third Sector, the C.N.C.A. has set up an operating structure – called National Agency – aimed at training social workers of both social economy and non-profit organizations, as well as designing and managing interventions that are carried out by means of regional, national and community financial resources.

The main fields of activity are:

Creation of social enterprise. Development of new social enterprises and strengthening those already existing, as instruments of active policy of work for social inclusion and at the same time as economic actors who are quality-oriented within the services to the person.

Quality of services. Aimed at promoting tools, methods and ways to rise the value of social organizations supplying services to the person – the quality of services is about defining a specific model of quality for non-profit making organizations: the Active Model of Social Quality (MAQS).

Working inclusion of vulnerable people. Building effective tools for supporting disadvantaged and weak people on the labour market throughout the whole process of working inclusion: from acceptance, to guidance, to training until the actual working inclusion.

Social professions: Definition of competences and qualifications about social professions, paying particular attention to lifelong learning and enhancing the relationship between social workers and vulnerable people.

Other activities that give a contribution to increase the specific competence of CNCA are:

- Organisation of important national trainings, as “Assessore sociale”, “Redattore Sociale” and other specific courses on addiction, youth problems and prostitution
- Contribution in designing health and social policies

Thematic Groups

CNCA is composed of 7 thematic groups: Addiction and deviance, Prison, Children, Teenagers and families,

Groups carry out their work programme organising seminars, conferences and workshops.

CNCA is a national agency accredited for civil volunteer service, both national and international.

**Comunication and Networking**

Communication, networking, partnerships and social information are crucial for the defence and promotion of civil and social rights of vulnerable people. The objective is to reach, through information and raising awareness activities, the public opinion, policy makers and public institutions and influence their opinions and decisions, in order to pay more attention to the civil and social rights of marginalized and disadvantaged people and give an answer to the needs of the caregivers.

**Website:** www.cnca.it

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**Slovensko združenje za zmanjševanje škodljivih posledic drog – DROGART (Association for Drug related Harm reduction)**

**Slovenian Association for drug related harm reduction – DrogArt** has been active since 1999 with our main objective to reduce the damage related to alcohol, synthetic and other drugs among youth. We are reaching the goal by the use of modern information and prevention communication channels (internet, web and mobile apps, printed materials), field work (focusing on nightlife venues), offering counselling service and frequent research of the prevalence and the characteristic of drug use among youth as well as constant development of innovative harm reduction programmes / responses. In our info point in the centre of Ljubljana, we offer drug checking service with colorimetric tests. When more specific information on sample content is needed (e.g. user is reporting unusual effects or side effects of the sample or/and colorimetric test result does not confirm the presence of an expected substance …), the substance is further tested in the National forensic laboratory with GC/MS methodology. We are also part of the Slovenian Early warning system in which we exchange information with The National Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia and other EWS members. We spread out information to users about emergence of particularly dangerous and/or strong substance or adulterant through different communication channels and activities (e.g. web site, mobile application, posters in clubs…). The Association stimulates the development of the innovative youth projects, inclusion of youth in our activities, international collaboration and promotion of volunteering and prevention work. Our values are cooperation, help, development, education and training. We are a humanitarian and youth organization and members of NEW Net and Correlation Network. The social entrepreneurship project 'Iz principa' (social marketing) is running from 2012. We realize how important it is to keep in touch with users and trends on drug use. Besides the personal approach that is established with users through field work, we carry out different research projects that help us follow the changes in drug and alcohol use among young people. This gives us a good foundation for fast and appropriate actions. Findings and conclusions from different research projects on synthetic drugs and alcohol are available in numerous books, manuals and other publications.

**Website:** www.drogart.org

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Eclectica – Institute for training and research

Founded in 1998, Eclectica focuses on health-related research, training and action projects together with other public and private organizations. Thanks to a multidisciplinary work group, Eclectica has become a valued partner for local, national and international institutions embarking on innovative and integrated projects targeting organizations and communities.

Health, well-being, lifestyles: these are the areas where Eclectica provides consulting services and assistance for all the stages of a project: from needs assessment and planning, to implementation and impact evaluation.

The research group engages in international, national and local scientific studies that combine traditional and innovative methods. The focus is on lifestyles, particularly on drinking cultures and the use of legal and illegal substances, as well as “new addictions”. Eclectica’s curriculum includes more than one hundred publications on these topics, most of them published on scientific peer-reviewed international journals.

Thanks to the experience accumulated in numerous international projects, the research team has specialized particularly on comparative qualitative research methods. Moreover, the research team is interested in developing web-based research, both by exploring user generated contents already existent in the web and by adapting more traditional methods (such as individual interviews and focus group) to the web.

Research achievements inspire and inform the other activities of Eclectica: a mixed team of training experts, psychologists and educators develops and manages educational programs for health promotion and preventive health professionals, as well as for those who, more generally, deal with well-being and lifestyles. As part of its health promotion expertise, the team organizes also peer and media education initiatives for teenagers and those who work with this target group. Social communication products and tools for promoting health and well-being are often part of this kind of projects.

With its entrepreneurial spirit, Eclectica’s work is characterised by a goal-oriented approach. Involving senior figures in project planning and supervising all the activities, but giving room also to youth ideas and competences, ensures a high degree of reliability with a great contribution of creativity and innovation.

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Federazione Italiana degli operatori dei Dipartimenti e dei Servizi per le Dipendenze – FEDERSERD (Italian Federation of the Professionals Working in Addiction Services)

Advancing addiction as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, prevention, and human welfare

FeDerSerD Repesent about 2,000 people (over 6,800) working in addiction services (Medical Doctors, Psychologists, Nurses, Social Workers, etc.) everywhere including in all national Scientific, Political and Institutional Organizations, Promote Clinical Research (Survey Studies, Open Studies, Clinical Trials, etc.), Promote Prevention and Social Research, Share knowledge and expertise, Advocate for important scientific, social, and political issues

FeDerSerD’s Science Directorate is the focal point of our efforts to enhance the science of addiction and to expand the recognition of its achievements

FeDerSerD:

- promotes the practice of the best addiction treatments and the availability and accessibility of the drug abuse services
- serves to advance the science and practice of the best addiction treatments for the benefit of the public through educational institutions, programs, and initiatives
- promotes the science and practice of addiction treatment as it contributes to the improvement of our society and of dignity and quality of life of all addicted people
provides information for all facets of addiction, including science, academia, practice, public interest applications, and public policy

offers the latest information and novelty in the field of addiction covering every interest

FeDerSerD annually organizes five dozen scholarly educational events for people working in the addiction services. More than 5,000 people annually attend to FeDerSerD events; the programs and initiatives help bring the discipline's knowledge and expertise to society and provide the means and materials to make a difference in every community

Mission: The Official Quaternaly Journal of FeDerSerD

Organisation

FeDerSerD has a national directory board (elected every three years), a scientific board (with both national and international members) and a local directory board in each Italian Region.

It has a national permanent secretariat office (Expopoint) able to support all administrative activities and has an annual budget with an audited financial statement.

FeDerSerD is authorized by the Ministry of Health as provider for the mandatory update of the professional health workers (educational programme in medicine) and its statute is a registered non profit organization

Researches and Projects

Since 2001 FeDerSerD has promoted several studies and projects supported by public and private institutions, including the European Union (as partner). The results of the previous studies in the field of addiction are published both on national and international papers (see PubMed database). In particular, in relation of the proposed project FeDerSerD has published a book entitled "Management of Medical Disorders Associated with Drug Abuse and Addiction" by Barbaro et al. Editors Nova Sciences Publishers, Inc., New York, 2007, and some papers on recommendations for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of chronic viral hepatitis both in drug users and prison inmates (see Almasio et al., Dig. Liver Dis., 43: 589-595, 2011 Pellicelli et al., Clin. Ter., 159: 41-49, 2008). Actually FeDerSerD is involved in several projects (also as promoter) and in particular in three main national multicenter researches: the first on the opiate detoxication (Phase III), the second on the efficacy of the pharmacologic drugs on alcoholism (Phase IV) and the third on the improving of the best practices for the professionals working on the Addictor Services (Consensus). In others works FeDerSerD has a strong background in the field of clinical research and dissemination of the results and may offer a valid guarantee in conducting a multicenter project in the Italian Prisons. Moreover, FeDerSerD has been involved as partner (receiving funding) in EU projects such as:

- GRUNDTVIG - I am Art as an agent for change! (2012-1-GB-GRU06-08406-5)
- Project "Notte Brava" (CUP E72B09000060006)
- Project "Pride" Care - Quality and continuity of care for drug users in prisons on the issue of infectious disease in drug addicts detainee: (JUST/2011/DPIP/AG/3583)

FeDerSerD developed 11 clinical research projects.

Website: www.federserd.it

Contact: federserd@expopoint.it

FIXPUNKT – Verein für suchtbegleitende Hilfen e V.
(Association for Addiction Accompanying Care)

Fixpunkt is a non-profit, non-governmental organization located in Berlin, Germany. The aims of Fixpunkt are:

- support drug-users to improve the conditions of health and social life
- support self-help activities, self-control and survival strategies
- harm reduction, prevention of infections which are related to drug use, HIV & Hepatitis
- offer various low threshold employment facilities

Fixpunkt currently runs several projects:

- Health promotion projects, mobile outreach work: Mobilix (including Partyteam), MAX, Mobile Supervised Injection Facilities Team, Mobile Outreach in the Berlin district Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf
- Health education projects BEST (training of club staff) and Sani (training and empowerment of young drug users, mainly migrants)
- low-threshold contact sites Druckausgleich, SKA (including supervised injection facilities) and SPAX
- qualifying for jobs: project “BeTaMax” (including IdeFix)
- Test It Berlin – HIV, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing

Fixpunkt’s work is carried out in vans and ambulances that are stationed in public drug scenes and in other support agencies which cooperate together with Fixpunkt. All of its medical services began as innovative model projects which underwent scientific evaluation. Emphasis is placed on an interdisciplinary approach (including social workers, nurses and physicians) and the incorporation of the drug user’s ability to develop self-management strategies.

More information (only german): www.fixpunkt.org

The BEST project is a coöperational project between Fixpunkt and Livekomm (Association of German Clubs, Live Music Venues and Music Promoters). Funded by the German Ministry of Health this project developed an educational program for employers in clubs, at open air festivals and discotheques. The program has been established in four different regions / cities of Germany: Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt and Potsdam. The program actually covers five modules: Best Clubbing (Organizers), health promotion at the door (security staff) and at the bar (bar staff), first aid (whole staff) and consumption reflection (whole staff). Other regional german health and party projects are involved in the implementation and design of the trainings and a trainer-pool.

More information (only german): www.best-clubbing.de

The Partyteam introduces innovative ideas and well established methods of harm and risk reduction as well as health promotion in the Berlin party scene. The widespread and famous Berlin club scene including their stakeholders offers different settings for mobile health promotion. The activities are offered nearly weekly with information desks or an information bike in different scenes (like Goa-, Techno-scene, Queer Partys, Free Open Airs). The most important aspects are new developments like New Psychoactive Substances, emergency aid and infection prophylaxis on HIV and Hepatitis. Participation and involvement of party guests as peers in all aspects of nightlife interventions are central within this project.

More information (only german): http://www.fixpunkt-berlin.de/index.php?id=party

Fixpunkt is engaged in the Drugchecking Initiative Berlin-Brandenburg (www.drugchecking.de), a working group aimed to implement drugchecking in the region of Berlin-Brandenburg. Unfortunately the Committee on Health (Bundestag) refused drug checking in 2013. In 2015 Fixpunkt and collaborating partners decided to apply for a pilot project called “stationary analysis of unknown psychoactive substances in combination with qualified drug counseling located in Berlin”. This application seems to fail though the Berlin coalition (SPD, CDU) decided to intend the Implementation of a drugchecking program in the coalition agreement. Actually the application is in opposition proceedings which are an attempt to go on with discussions and negotiations.

Website: www.fixpunkt.org

Contact: r.koehnlein@fixpunkt.org
NEXT APPOINTMENTS/EVENTS

- 02.03.04/12/2015  kick-off meeting of BAONPS Project
- 03/12/2015           Italian Public Presentation of BAONPS Project

Website is coming soon....stay tuned!!!

To insert articles/contribution in next newsletter issues of BAONPS Project, please contact:

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