



Personal information on the author

First Name Alexander

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Position Deputy head of the youth counselling Streetwork

Organisation City of Zürich, Department of Social Affairs, youth counselling Streetwork

Most important career path

Since finishing my studies of Social Work in 2001, I'm engaged as a social worker for the youth counselling organisation Streetwork of the City of Zurich being responsible for the Recreational Drug Prevention program. During this work I was involved in various projects such as On-site drug-checking, the build-up of a recreational drug-prevention-centre DIZ, the establishment of a drug-prevention-network in Switzerland and Europe and the foundation of the association 'Safer Clubbing'. Since 2009 I am Master of Arts in Community Development and Local Economy. My masterwork "Von der Nacht zum Tag" was looking at the potential of the nightlife culture to be involved in community development.

Title of presentation

Fourteen years of Recreational Drug Prevention in the City of Zurich.

Which results have been achieved and what we can learn from these experiences?

Description of the contribution

Over the past fifteen years the city of Zurich with its 380'000 inhabitants has evolved into one of the most significant party metropolises in Europe. Weekend for weekend more than 100 clubs and dance bars attract close to 50'000 festive people from home and abroad. This development generates new phenomena's as well as new problems especially in connection with the consumption of alcohol and so called party drugs.

For this reason the youth counselling Streetwork of the Social Services of the City of Zurich started 1996 with on site prevention at large dance events. Since 2001 this offer was constantly extended and includes today the following interventions: Onsite interventions at Clubs, Events or Public Spaces regarding the topic of Alcohol or with Drug-Checking facility, a special counselling space with an offer of Drug-Checking called DIZ, Saferparty.ch, the quality label Safer Clubbing as well as different forms of structural exchange platforms. All offers are based on a Community Development approach and the Swiss National Drug Policy law which is based on the 4 pillars: Prevention, Market Control (Repression), Therapy and Harm Reduction.

Since the start of the on site interventions with Drug-Checking in the year 2001 and the DIZ in 2006, Streetwork has reached more than xx000 recreational drug users. The two involved laboratories have analysed over 1700 pills, powders and liquids which resulted in over 1800 counselling sessions with social workers. All counselling sessions have been documented and included a specific questionnaire. In spring 2010 these questionnaires will be evaluated scientifically in cooperation with the ISGF. At the Club Health Conference I will present the outcome of the evaluation which will give answers to the following questions:

- Which group of consumers have been reached?
- What consumption trends and patterns have we observed in the past?
- How do the actual consumption trends and patterns look like today?
- Which results have been achieved?
- Which offer should be recommended to other cities?