

# SAFEER NIGHTLIFE

in Europe

WE KNOW THE WAY TO A WONDERFUL  
WORLD!!!

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## EXASS Net

European network of partnerships between stakeholders at frontline level  
responding to drug problems providing experience and assistance for  
inter-sectoral cooperation

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## Summary

Recreational use of drugs in nightlife settings is a common feature among European cities but only in some of them are developed targeted responses to reduce the related-risks.

These responses have been initiated in the 90s by peer projects emerging from the party scenes. A range of tools are used to increase the partygoers' awareness on the risks they take and to promote a safer environment: drug-information leaflets, chill out, drug-checking, websites, safer dance guidelines, charters and labels. The most efficient responses are based on local and integrated partnerships involving the concerned stakeholders (peer projects, prevention agencies, club owners, party organisers, police and local authorities).

At the European level, with the support from EU funding programmes, city and NGO networks have carried out practice sharing projects on safer nightlife issues and nowadays, useful guidelines are available to support local initiatives.

Municipalities should take profit of these European exchanges in order to support, coordinate and promote safer nightlife projects in their cities.

## Introduction

*Throughout Europe, legal and illegal drug use has become a consistent feature of nightlife and a complex issue to attend. The use of cocaine is increasing in most European countries, the interrelated consumption of psychoactive substances, which include both alcohol and tobacco, the emergence of new substances and new trends complicate both our understanding and response. The cultural changes taking place in our society indicate the relevance of developing new strategies related with the nightlife activities and the public who use them. As people attempt to gain a new balance between "work" and "free time" this work becomes more important for our societies. It's not clear if the youth have more free time than adults but they certainly reclaim it more and the night venues are now important spaces where the youth of today form their identity. These are not spaces of marginality but spaces of integration where nightlife "consumers" escape from their routine, meet new people, try new experiences and also assume new risks such as drug taking. Bars, Clubs and clubbers, community organisations and service providers, local and national politicians in every European country are concerned to respond to this issue realistically and positively.<sup>1</sup>*

Unfortunately, if young people have fun and take risks in all European cities, there is no intervention to respond the recreational use of drugs and alcohol in the most part of them. This is a big challenge for the municipalities which have a key role to assume in terms of initiating, supporting, coordinating and promoting the potential responses of the concerned stakeholders.



<sup>1</sup> Safer Nighlife Projects, a European proposition to promote safer nightlife and share good practices, coordinated by Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo, 2007

## Situation of drug use in nightlife settings in the EU

Although recreational drug use among the general population is low, use among people in nightlife settings is much higher. However, trends vary greatly across the EU. For example, lifetime use of 'ecstasy' in the general young adult population (15–34) range from less than 1% in Greece to 12% in the UK. Use is highest among men aged 20 to 30 years. Surveys carried out in nightlife settings have shown lifetime prevalence for ecstasy as high as 22% in Athens and 85% in London.

Rough calculations suggest that between 3 and 3.5 million adults in the EU have tried ecstasy at least once. Of these, 4–500 000 have used it once a week or more over a period of time.

The main reasons people give for taking 'ecstasy' is to enjoy dancing and have fun. Other recreational drugs are also taken to boost confidence and energy or offer new experiences. The key link between drugs and alcohol is highlighted by the higher rates of drug use among relatively affluent young people who go to dance clubs, pubs and bars and drink a lot of alcohol. Alcohol remains the psychoactive substance most frequently and widely used for recreational purposes.<sup>2</sup>

A wide range of illicit drugs is used in nightlife settings depending on the cultural background of the parties and of the regional trends of use:

- Ecstasy, amphetamine or cocaine are the most common to have fun and dance all the night long ;
- Hallucinogens such as LSD, magic mushroom or ketamine are more used in rave parties ;
- GHB and poppers use is observed mainly in gay scenes and are related to sexual practices ;
- Heroin can be sniffed to soften the down of stimulants (mainly in free rave parties) ;
- Finally if cannabis is the most common drug used among young people, it is not so used during parties in nightclubs or bars as its consumption is easily detected by the security staffs.

The mix of different substances is quite frequent and very often illicit drugs are combined with alcohol. This is the main reason of crisis at parties as it currently occurs in Paris where the combination of GHB with alcohol causes comas within the gay club scene. However, compared to the level of recreational use of drugs, the frequency of accidents remains relatively low as well as the transition from an occasional use of drugs to a problematic or addictive one.

The risks due to the use of drugs and alcohol in nightlife settings cannot be dissociated from other party-related risky behaviours such as violence, sexuality, hear-related risks, road safety, etc. These issues should thus be approached in a global framework of health promotion in nightlife settings and should take into account the cultural background of the concerned dance scenes to which the behaviours are linked.



2 Recreational drug use, a key EU challenge, Drugs in Focus, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2002

## European responses reducing drug-related demand and harms in nightlife settings

### From peer projects to municipal strategies and action plans

Concerns about the combined use of drugs and alcohol by young people in nightlife settings have led to the development of strategies that aim to alter the social, economic and physical environments associated with alcohol and drug consumption, with the goals of: modifying consumption behaviours and norms; creating conditions less favourable to intoxication; and reducing opportunities for alcohol and drug-related problems to occur.

A number of measures are reported by EU Member States to take place in, or around, nightlife settings with the specific aim of reducing harm or positively modifying the social environment. These include: training for bar and security staff; increased enforcement of existing legislation; raising awareness of substance-related harms; provision of late-night transport services; and improvements intended to provide a safer nightlife environment.

Measures in this area are diverse, including such things as: improvements to street lighting; the availability of drinking water; proper ventilation; or even measures to provide a rapid response to medical emergencies. Often, a common feature of this approach is that it is based upon a dialogue between different stakeholders, such as the police, licensing authorities, club owners and healthcare providers, who are required to work together in partnership to identify both local needs and possible solutions.<sup>3</sup>

On an historical point of view, the members of the dance communities were the first stakeholders to tackle the recreational use drugs and other related risks. The first peer project emerged in 1989 in Edinburgh (Crew 2000), followed during the 90s by the other community-based groups across Europe. During the 90s, a more integrative approach has been developed including the peer projects, drug prevention agencies, the dance scenes actors (club staffs and party organisers) and the authorities in order to establish safer dance of safer clubbing guidelines. These guidelines aim at promoting a safer environment

(overheating, overcrowding, water availability, etc.) and training the club and party staffs (mainly the bouncers). For a couple of years, safer dance charters and labels have been the last innovative approach strongly supported by the municipalities and other local authorities in order to strengthen the visibility of the safer dance guidelines application.

### Peer education and drug information

In the nightlife settings, the peer projects play a major role in the responses developed in Europe.

*The delivery of [...] interventions, which are largely information based, [...] is usually carried out by trained peers at information stands. Brochures or leaflets/flyers about drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as condoms, are provided. Typically, a number of different self-help, non-governmental or scene-based organisations provide interventions at parties. These organisations acknowledge that drugs play a part in the festival scene and, while stating that the safest option is not to take drugs at all, they usually neither proscribe nor condone the use of illegal drugs [...]. Risk reduction materials are usually developed in styles that emulate youth cultures. Volunteers who provide peer education [...] may occasionally be recreational drug users themselves or have used drugs in the past. In these cases, the objective is to be able to answer questions from young people about safe use and risk reduction, rather than to prevent drug use.*<sup>4</sup>

A peer project is a community-based project in which people address their equals. So, a group of people emerging from a particular scene such as partygoers, drug users, people living with HIV, sex workers etc. In the nightlife setting, some peer projects are self-supported whilst others are incorporated into professional organisations:

- In France, peer projects from the rave party scene work in partnership with Médecins du Monde exchanging information and acting in common at large events, however each group retains its own identity.
- In Germany, Spain, Portugal or Italy some groups include individuals from various fields such as social and medical workers as well as partygoers and drug users. Some of these projects are independent whilst others form a part of larger organisations.

<sup>3</sup> The state of the drugs problem in Europe, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Annual report 2008

<sup>4</sup> Developments in drug use within recreational settings, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Selected Issues 3, Annual report 2006

According to the peer projects member of the *Basics Network* (see p. 10), *more the partygoers themselves participate better is the result. Of course the best way is to integrate peers who are the most experienced people but where there is no group of volunteers in the concerned region, the safer dancing project has to look for partygoers or clubbers to take this role:*

*the partygoers are experts about the risk they take, about what they need to reduce the risks and are credible stakeholders as regards the target group.*

*Peers are quite alone to have the skill of organising a chill out (see next chapter), because of the cultural aspect of this tool. It's useful to integrate peer projects in local licensing authorities. Some experiences have been done successfully in this way. Moreover, the door staff have to be trained by the peer projects to become more sensitive to the partygoers practices and needs and to the peer projects' way of working as well as the sanitary staff who are generally not well adapted to troubles related to drug use (i.e.: bad trip).*

Generally, peer projects act only on site but some of them like Crew 2000 in Edinburgh, Le Tipi in Marseille, Modus Fiesta in Brussels or Drogart in Ljubljana animate drop-in centres targeting partygoers and providing drug-information, prevention materials, counselling, music workshops, etc.

## Chill out

The chill out is the most integrated tool used mainly by the peer projects. It is an area where music, culture, art and harm reduction come together as one. The chill out is a safe space for people to relax during a party, to cool down, to access good quality information and advices related to safer drug use, and also access a crisis intervention worker if required. Music played in the chill out is generally of lower tempo than the rest of the event in order to allow people to relax.

The aims of a chill out are to:

- Reduce the risks associated with use of drugs and alcohol at parties ;
- Promote the culture of the electronic and dance scene ;
- Create a link between the electronic and dance scene and risk reduction organisations to enable the management of pleasure ;
- Create a confidential and happy environment.

Generally a chill out provides:

- Credible up to date information on drugs and safer use ;
- Condoms, water, ear plugs, fruit, clean straws (for snorting), syringes etc (where appropriate) according to the needs of the intervention ;
- Quick drug checking in countries where the law allows this to happen ;
- Crisis intervention, medical assistance ;
- A dialogue with officials and people responsible for putting on an event.

Often the chill out includes artistic activities such as video projection, photo exhibitions, etc. It is thus a tool integrating harm reduction strategies into dance cultures.

## On-site drug checking

Since the 90s, on-site drug checking has been developed in party scenes in some European countries (The Netherlands, France, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Czech Republic...).

The main objectives of on-site drug checking are:

1. To use "Drug checking" programs as an educational and harm/risk reduction tool by getting in touch with consumers and providing them with individual and personalized information about the substance they may consume.
2. To use "Drug Checking" programs to help make contact with drug consumers that would not normally approach drug programs by providing peer focus interventions that suit the needs of the party scene and work well within the locations that drug use is focused.

The main techniques currently in use are:

1. The Colour reaction tests (Marquis tests). These tests detect the presence of a limited amount of substances, changing colour in accordance to their presence. However, they are not precise and cannot give an indication about the quantity of any substance detected in a sample; neither detect other substances potentially dangerous. Another problem is that several molecules can produce the same colour reaction. So, there is no certitude that the test reacted to the molecule the operator was looking for. Nevertheless the colour reaction test is quite simple to use, relatively inexpensive and the result is almost immediate meaning it can be used on-site at parties.

2. The Chromatography. This technique consists in separating the content of a sample into its different components, identifying them and measuring them. This type of analysis gives qualitative and quantitative information about the sample contents. However, this procedure requires expensive equipment and qualified scientific technicians to use it. The time needed to obtain the results depends on whether the sample is sent to a laboratory or tested on-site. If the sample is analysed at a laboratory, it may takes days until the result is known. If the sample is analysed on site results are usually known in approximately 20 minutes.

On-site drug checking is subject of debates among European countries and is becoming less common in Europe than it was in the past. The main argument against pill testing is that, by permitting on-site pill testing, contradictory messages are being sent out about the risks related to both use and possession of controlled substances. The capacity of on-site tests to accurately detect harmful substances is limited, and for this reason testing in France was banned in April 2005 (but using chromatography is still legal). The main argument in support of on-site pill testing is that it offers a valuable and effective means for establishing contact with recreational drug users in the dance setting.

## Internet

*Prevention strategies have made use of the Internet to establish low-threshold contact with young people who take drugs or might be considering taking drugs. In many Member States, information and prevention is being provided through Internet websites to promote critical reflection among young people about their own consumption behaviour. These sites provide advice, for example about going out 'wisely', safe sex, road traffic risks, healthy diets, party tourism and legal issues. Online support is also provided to help people reduce or stop drug taking or to refer them to other local help services.*

*Increasingly, such Internet sites include interactive modules for the self-assessment of risk or dependence. In 2004, the German Internet portal [www.drugcom.de](http://www.drugcom.de) received 25 % more hits than in the previous year. An analysis of visitors to the site showed that about two thirds of them were under 22 years of age, 75 % of them had experience with cannabis and about 50 % were currently using the substance. These figures demonstrate that an important target group can be reached via the Internet<sup>5</sup>.*

In Spain, the interactive Internet site [www.cocaonline.org](http://www.cocaonline.org) tries to be an instrument of a virtual and anonymous aid regarding cocaine for those consumers who begin to be worried about their own consumption, for the relatives and friendly who feel disoriented when discovering it and for professionals of the public health and educative scope.

## From Safer dance guidelines to charters and labels supporting local partnerships

In some European cities (Paris, Barcelona, Edinburgh, Brussels, Zurich, etc.), club owners and party organisers, with the participation of outreach workers and local authorities, help promote moderate drinking, raising awareness of the harms of drugs and alcohol, while raising the safety characteristics of settings (e.g. providing free water, staff trained in first aid, chill-out areas). This commitment of the nightlife stakeholders has been raise in two steps:

In the 90s in UK, Safer dance or Safer clubbing guidelines has been developed jointly by organisers, club owners, users' organisations and prevention agencies, aiming above all to create a safe physical environment. Health hazards in recreational settings more often arise from how events are organised rather than directly from drug use (e.g. intoxication or unexpected effects). Above all, overcrowding, poor ventilation, lack of affordable drinking water, violence and accidents from broken glass are addressed. But guidelines also deal with drug dealing and the training of door supervisors to organise searches and supervise toilet areas. Training in first aid and early detection of drug-induced problems is included.

Recommendations for drug prevention by distributing information and outreach teams are included. The guidelines include aspects related to local communities, for example promoting liaison with local agencies and police officers to organise safe transport and ensure that people can get home safely. These guidelines are being largely applied in Belgium, northern Italy and the United Kingdom.

Since 2005, the last innovation in the field is the development of safer nightlife charters or labels. These charters or labels are signed generally by a club owner on the one hand and by the responsible of the local safer nightlife partnership on the other hand (for example the Mayor). The charters or labels include in fact the main

5 Developments in drug use within recreational settings, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Selected Issues 3, Annual report 2006



responses promoted by the safer clubbing guidelines but present the advantage of officialising the commitment of the club owners. The added value of this tool is the visibility offered by the charters and labels to the benefit of the committed clubs (for the clubbers it means that this club proposes better quality parties), the local authorities (the electors see that the institutions do something) and the partygoers (it increases the partygoers' awareness on this issue). Cooperation with medias is a key factor of success for these initiatives.

The condition for developing these charters and labels is the mobilisation at local level of the concerned stakeholders in a strong integrated partnership such as Fêtez Clairs in Paris, Quality Night in Brussels, Nit Segura in Catalonia or Safer Clubbing in Zurich. These four programmes are currently developing a European platform of safer nightlife charters and labels. These partnerships are led by different stakeholders according to the local situation:

- In Paris, Fêtez Clairs is led by the city drug unit and the local representative of the National anti-drug agency. The coordination is managed by the French Forum for Urban Safety and the partners are peer projects and prevention agencies, the drug unit of the police, the associations of night clubs and party organisers as well as medias ;
- In Brussels, Quality Night is led by the NGO Modus Vivendi with the support of the local Ministry of Health.
- In Catalonia, Nit Segura is led by the "Deputacion" de Catalonia (institutional level between the city of Barcelona and the Region of Catalonia) and the intervention are carried out by the community-based Energy Control project.
- In Zurich, the Safer Clubbing project is led by an association of night clubs with the support of the city and the involvement of local prevention agencies.

A guide<sup>6</sup> has been written out in order to support the development of safer nightlife localpartnerships in the framework of the Democracy, Cities & Drugs project (see next chapter).

## European networks for safer nightlife

### Basics Network "for dance culture and drug awareness" – Democracy, Cities & Drugs

Founded in 1998, the Basics Network<sup>7</sup> gathers peer projects issued from party scenes among 12 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland). The subscribing projects are peer projects coming from and being part of the different party cultures, developing harm reduction, risk-competence and self-empowerment strategies related to party culture, sexuality, and drug use. The projects are working in different juridical and structural contexts. Some are independent grassroots groups; others are part of larger organisations. However, the actions of all groups are initiated and realised mainly by peers from the party scene, and they all define their projects as community-based and selforganised.

The Basics Network aims at:

- Promoting individual choice and drug awareness.
- Enabling people to manage their personal pleasure and related risks in a proper, well-informed way which fits into their life's concepts.
- Enabling people to find their own decision and give them the necessary support to follow their way.
- Promoting community health by developing empowerment of drug users and party goers to participate in drug policy.
- Take an active role within the scientific community, contributing to the dissemination of scientific data.
- Play a part in the cultural development of our scenes

In 2001-2002, the member NGOs developed a project co-financed by the European Public Health Programme in order to:

- Share their practices on volunteer training, chill out organisation, drug checking, crisis intervention, leaflet edition, etc.
- Promote safer clubbing within the party scenes ;
- Support the emergence of new peer projects across Europe ;
- Encourage and develop scientific research based on user's needs.

6 *Safer Nighlife Projects, a European proposition to promote safer nightlife and share good practices*, coordinated by Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo, 2008

7 <http://www.basics-network.org>

Since 2005, the Basics Network has been leading a working group on safer nightlife in the framework of the **Democracy, Cities & Drugs projects**<sup>8</sup> (DC&D). Led by the *European Forum for Urban Safety*<sup>9</sup>, the DC&D projects gather European cities and civil society networks in order to promote local, integrated and participative responses to the issue of drugs.

This DC&D Safer Nightlife working group published a guide<sup>10</sup> to support the development of integrated and local partnerships for safer nightlife. They are currently working on a digital library, universal preventive icons, video production, etc.

Finally the Basics Network submitted a proposal in April 2009 to the Drug Prevention and Information Programme to share practices on new technologies, research, training and to organise common interventions in big European events.

## Irefrea

Irefrea<sup>11</sup> is a professional European network founded in 1988 interested in the promotion and research of prevention of drug and other child and adolescent problems.

Since 1996, Irefrea has been developing studies and editing publications on nightlife related issues such as:

- Social representations of synthetic drugs among users and non-users: The implications for prevention ;
- Nightlife in Europe and recreative drug use ;
- Risk and control in the recreational drug culture ;
- Cultural mediators in a hegemonic nightlife.

Irefrea is currently leading a European funded project called *Recreational Culture as a Tool to Prevent Risk Behaviours (RECREATION PREV)* whose main objective is to progress towards a professional conception of prevention in these spheres through the creation of instruments to analyse, asses and evaluate risk behaviours, the recreational settings and their mutual influence.

8 <http://www.democitydrug.org>

9 <http://www.fesu.org>

10 Safer Nighlfe Projects, a European proposition to promote safer nightlife and share good practices, coordinated by Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo, 2008

11 <http://www.irefrea.org>

12 <http://www.correlation-net.org>

13 <http://www.clubhealth.org.uk/>

## Correlation - “European Network for Social Inclusion & Health”

The Correlation<sup>12</sup> network develops projects funded by the European Public Health Programme with the aim of improving the access to services for the marginalized and excluded people. The partners of the network cover a wide range of backgrounds and activities: National Health Institutes, Research Institutes, grass root organisations, service providers and self organisations of service users. Correlation cooperates with other European networks, transnational bodies, organisations from East Europe and the US.

In the framework of the Correlation project, an expert group called “Youth at risks group” focus on hard to reach group in the area of recreational drug use. The group is led by Blue Point, a Hungarian NGO leading a safer nightlife project.

The objectives and activities of the group are:

- Collect the basic parameters and needs of the subculture in order to set up a specific campaign ;
- Development of a website with clear and obvious information for users ;
- Produce a manual with the complete know-how of the Party Service.

## Club health conferences

Led by the Centre for Public Health (Liverpool John Moores University, UK), Club Health<sup>13</sup> brings together experts from around the world to exchange information on the latest research, policy and evidence on protecting and promoting health in nightlife settings.

Organised every 2 years, the Club Health conferences focus on the wide range of issues that affect the health of young people in nightlife settings, including substance use, sexual health, alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, management and design of nightlife settings, training for club staff, and international dance tourism.

The current main issue tackled by Club Health concerns violence in nightlife setting. The next Club Health conference will be held in 2010.



## Safer Nightlife and policies at the EU level

### The EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan

In order to tackle the issue of drugs the EU has in recent years developed a European approach. This approach tends to be comprehensive and multidisciplinary, focusing simultaneously on demand reduction, supply reduction, the fight against trafficking, and international action. It combines action at a number of levels:

- within the framework of European Community competence (public health, precursor control, money laundering, development aid);
- close cooperation between Member States (foreign policy, justice and home affairs);
- partnerships with international organisations.

The European model is reflected in the **EU Drugs Strategy**, which covers a period of eight years (2005-2012). Each Strategy is translated into actions in two 4-years **EU Drugs Action Plans** (2005-2008 and 2009-2012).

Nightlife setting or recreational use of drugs is not explicitly taken into account in the new Action Plan. However, some of the demand reduction objectives relates to this topic and more specifically the 8th: Enhance the quality and effectiveness of drug demand reduction activities, taking account of specific needs of drug users according to gender, **cultural background**, age, etc.

### The EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs

To prepare the best possible EU action plans on drugs, the European Commission needs to tap the wealth and diversity of knowledge and experience held by organisations of professionals acting in the drug fields as well as groups and associations supporting or otherwise representing drug users or their families, and many other stakeholders who, while not working directly or primarily with drug policy, still have valuable insight.

Created in 2007, the Civil Society Forum on Drugs meets at least once a year and serves as a platform for informal exchanges of views and information between the Commission and civil society organisations. Membership is for a period of two years and at present 26 organisations are members of the Civil Society Forum.

The overall objective of the forum is to feed specific grass-

roots experience into future Commission proposals, but also into the work to monitor the EU action plan on drugs (2005-08) and prepare the new action plan (2009-12). Unfortunately, Basics Network, the European network dedicated to Safer Nightlife, is not currently member of the forum.

### The EU Health Programme

The Health Programme 2008-2013 is intended to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States and contribute to increased solidarity and prosperity in the European Union by protecting and promoting human health and safety and by improving public health. The Public Health Programme (2008-2013) supports actions on drug prevention aiming at tackling health determinants, which are multi-dimensional issues linked to a number of major health problems. Drug prevention is included in the strand "Promoting Health" of this programme, under actions on health determinants.

Concretely, calls for proposals are published every year in order to co-finance projects reaching the priorities of the programme. Regarding drug use among young people, the Work Plan 2009 of the Health Programme gives priority to projects developing, implementing and evaluating drug demand reduction activities related to prevention of first/experimental use among young people in different settings. So nightlife setting is not any more an explicit priority as it could be in previous Work Plans.

However, this programme has supported some projects in this field, as for example:

- 2001-2002: *European strategy by the peer education associations within the Techno movement for harm reduction in consumption of synthetic drugs linked with the Techno/House scene* (BASICS network)
- 2005-2008: RECREATION PREV - *Recreational culture as a tool to Prevent risk behaviours* (Irefrea)
- 2005-2012: *Democracy, Cities & Drugs I and II* (European Forum for Urban Safety) in which a platform on Safer Nightlife is developed in order to share practices at municipal level.
- 2007-2010: *Healthy nightlife toolbox — Effective interventions for (youth) drug use in recreational settings*. Project led by the Trimbos Institute to support the identification and implementation of effective preventive interventions that address emerging trends in alcohol and drug use in nightlife settings.



## The Drug Prevention and Information Programme

This programme, created in 2007, builds on the EU's Drugs Strategy and Action plans, the ultimate aim of which is to significantly reduce the social harm and health damage caused by the use of, and trade in, illicit drugs.

The general objectives of this programme are:

- to prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug related harms;
- to contribute to the improvement of information on the effects of drug use;
- to support the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy.

*Prevention programmes on drug use, including poly-drug use, aimed at young people in educational and recreational settings is one of the priorities of the programme for 2008. The Basics Network submitted a proposal at the call for proposals 2008.*

For more information about legal responses at international and European level, you can read the Selected issue 3 "Developments in drug use within recreational settings" from the Annual Report 2006 of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

## Conclusion

Strict abstinence-oriented messages are not realistic in party settings and information-based approaches alone are not effective. Lifestyle fashions, beliefs and attitudes of young target groups and the symbolic aspects of drugs and drug use are key factors that can be only used by the stakeholders issued from party scenes: peer projects, club owners, party organisers, etc. Their involvement in integrated local partnerships developing safer clubbing guidelines, charter and labels appears as the most efficient response.

The municipalities have the responsibility to support the safer nightlife integrated partnerships which carry out such responses. This support can be done by co-financing, coordinating and/or promoting the local programmes. Each city can take profit of the experiences of European networks acting in this field which develop practice sharing and produce related guidelines.

# Resources

## Main guidelines

Safer Nightlife Projects, a European proposition to promote safer nightlife and share good practices, coordinated by Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo, 2008 – available at <http://www.democitydrug.org>

Safer Nightlife - Best practice for those concerned about drug use and the night-time economy, Russell Webster, London Drug Policy Forum, 2008 – downloadable at [http://217.154.230.218/NR/rdonlyres/E4E0FE3A-9F8E-4182-AFBF-31C83E74C03A/0/SS\\_LDPF\\_safer\\_nightlife.pdf](http://217.154.230.218/NR/rdonlyres/E4E0FE3A-9F8E-4182-AFBF-31C83E74C03A/0/SS_LDPF_safer_nightlife.pdf) or [contact\\_communities@capita.com](mailto:contact_communities@capita.com)

## Council of Europe – Pompidou Group

Internet site: <http://www.coe.int/T/dg3/pompidou/>

The ESPAD Report 2003:  
Alcohol and Other Drug Use Among Students in 35 European Countries, November 2004 – Joint publication Pompidou Group / CAN [ISBN 91-7278-103-3], to order from CAN - The Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and other Drugs, fax: +46 8 10 46 41 or e-mail : [barbro.andersson@can.se](mailto:barbro.andersson@can.se)

Targeted Drug Prevention – How to reach young people in the community? Report of the Conference in Helsinki, November 2002

## European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Internet site: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu>

*An inventory of on-site pill-testing interventions in the EU*, EMCDDA, 2001

*Recreational drug use, a key EU challenge*, Drugs in Focus, EMCDDA, 2002

*Developments in drug use within recreational settings*, EMCDDA, Selected Issues 3, Annual report 2006

The state of the drugs problem in Europe, EMCDDA, Annual report 2008, p. 57

## UE drug policy and related programmes

European Commission – EU Drug Policy:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/drugs/fsj\\_drugs\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/drugs/fsj_drugs_intro_en.htm)

Public Health Programme:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/programme\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm)

Drug Prevention and Information Programme:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/drugs/funding\\_drugs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/drugs/funding_drugs_en.htm)

## European networks Internet sites

Basics Network for dance culture and drug awareness (guidelines available as well as leaflets translated in English): <http://www.basics-network.org>  
Democracy, Cities & Drugs (Safer nightlife platform): <http://www.democitydrug.org>  
Correlation Network (Youth expert group): <http://www.correlation-net.org>  
Irefrea (available studies on recreational drug use and responses): <http://www.irefrea.org>  
Club Health (conference organisation and resources): <http://www.clubhealth.org.uk/>

## Local safer nightlife programmes across Europe

Fêtez Clairs (Paris) – <http://www.fetez-clairs.org>  
Safer Clubbing (Zurich) - <http://www.safer-clubbing.ch/>  
Nit Segura (Catalonia) - <http://www.gencat.cat/salut/depsalut/html/ca/dir451/index.html>  
Quality Night (Brussels) - <http://www.qualitynights.be>

## Peer or community-based projects across Europe

Technoplus (Paris) – <http://www.technoplus.org>  
Keep Smiling (Lyon) - <http://www.keep-smiling.com>  
Le Tipi (Marseille) - <http://www.letipi.org>  
Prev'En Teuf (Louvier, FR) - <http://www.preventeuf.org>  
Spiritek (Lille) - <http://spiritek.free.fr>  
Energy Control (Barcelona) - <http://www.energycontrol.org>  
Modus Fiesta (Brussels) - <http://www.modusvivendi-be.org/modusfiesta>  
Raid Blue (French-speaking Switzerland) - <http://www.raidblue.ch>  
Crew 2000 (Edinburgh) - <http://www.crew2000.co.uk>  
Drogart (Ljubljana) - <http://www.drogart.org>  
Drug scouts (Leipzig) - <http://www.drugscouts.de>  
Eve & Rave (Berlin, Zurich) - <http://www.eve-rave.net>  
Eclipse (Berlin) - <http://www.eclipse-online.de>  
Party project (Breme) - <http://www.party-project.de>  
Unity (Amsterdam) - <http://www.unitydrugs.nl>  
Blue Point (Hungary) – <http://www.kekpont.hu>  
CheckIt! (Vienna) - <http://w3.checkyourdrugs.net/checkyoursite/index.html>  
Check In (Oporto) - <http://www.apdes.net/> (see Unit 1)