



# 10 Things you should know for implementing a Safer Nightlife Label



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# Introduction

This guide for implementing a Safer Nightlife Label was developed by the Network within the Nightlife, Empowerment and Well-being Implementation Project (NEWIP).

The PARTY+ Network was created by four Labels and Charters:



Belgium: [www.qualitynights.be](http://www.qualitynights.be)

France: [www.fetez-clairs.org](http://www.fetez-clairs.org)

Spain: [www.qdefesta.cat](http://www.qdefesta.cat)

Switzerland: [www.safer-clubbing.ch](http://www.safer-clubbing.ch)

The PARTY+ network aims to improve nightlife settings through community empowerment among European cities and regions by implementing quality Labels and Charters for nightlife venues and by enhancing existing ones. Our values are:

## WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

We want to ensure collaboration between partygoers and youth, club owners and party organizers, community organizations, health NGO's, administrations, policymakers and founders, to increase participation and develop partnerships.

## TAKE A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE

Nightlife is a creative outlet for people talented in music, the arts and entertainment. It can also be a demonstration of enterprise, management skill and organisational abilities. These skills, talents and qualities should be recognised and supported, to enable them to be achieved safely and positively.

## PROMOTE A POSITIVE VISION OF NIGHTLIFE

Some aspects of nightlife offer young Europeans a sense of belonging and identity, and an opportunity for integration.

A vivid and manifold offer for parties contributes to make a city attractive. A quality Nightlife can enhance commerce, tourism and development and give a positive image of a city or region.

## BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE CONTEXT

We recognise that many people choose to enhance their experience of nightlife through using legal and illegal drugs and taking risks. Our aim is to enhance young people and revellers' enjoyment and social experience by improving settings which helps them stay safe and make healthier choices.

## PROMOTE HEALTH

Based on the definition of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, we want to promote health as a process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

# 01

## What is a Safer Nightlife Label?

Safer Nightlife Labels aim to improve nightlife settings through community empowerment and self-responsibility of the partygoers.

In cooperation with the stakeholders, the Labels and Charters are tools for ensuring a high standard of quality within the nightlife scene.

For a club owner or a party organizer, a Label is the recognition of the attention he pays to the well-being and health of his public. It gives them a positive image and can support them in case of crisis situation to reduce juridical risks.

For a partygoer, it's the guarantee of a quality venue to party in a safer way.

For an administration or a health NGO, it's a participative and sustainable methodology to reduce risks related to nightlife.

There are as many ways to develop and implement a Label as there are different projects linked to field realities.

However, all the safer nightlife Labels members of the Party+ Network share common values and methodology:

1/ A participative process, with a health promotion approach, which involves:

- Partygoers at least at the level of consultation ;
- Parties' professionals at least at the level of operational participation ;
- Health partners (NGO's, institutions) at the level of validation of the "health promotion" contents of the project

All of which will tighten towards a maximal participation. This implication must be effective at the levels of conception, realization and evaluation.

2/ In party venues, accessibility to health promotion material and information, according to the needs of the public (examples: leaflets, condoms, ear plugs).

3/ The improvement of the infrastructure and the comfort of party venues to reduce risks such as dehydration, for example by providing access to free fresh water.

4/ The training of the parties' professionals by meeting the needs of the project and party venues; for example: first-aid interventions, information about drugs and the law, non-violent communication, noise pollution...



# 02

## Why develop a label?

When partying, young people could take, or be exposed to, a multitude of risks:

- consumption of legal and illegal substances
- unprotected and/or unwanted sexual relations
- hearing damages
- violence
- problems related to road safety
- etc.

These risks can lead to health problems, crisis situations and possible HIV and HCV contaminations.

Our first experiences in the past have shown that establishing a quality Label or Charter for clubs and events help to reduce these risks, by improving nightlife settings and implementing health services in a sustainable way: accessibility to health promotion material and information, to free fresh water, to condoms and earplugs, training of the club's staff...

Licences' laws exist and increased the quality of events and clubs during the last decade in most European countries. But, even for countries with a comprehensive licence law, a Label is a complementary and sustainable solution. Because these labels and charters are developing participative and integrated approaches with all the nightlife stakeholders, promoting community empowerment and setting up actions for a responsible party's culture.

Labels and Charters give a framework:

- to work together with nightlife scene, partygoers, health NGO's and administrations in a way of cooperation ;
- to empower the nightlife community ;
- to improve nightlife settings "in a healthiest way" ;
- to raise awareness of partygoers on risky behaviours and how to reduce risks;
- to promote a positive and responsible party culture in cities and regions.

# 03

## How to assess the needs?

In each community there will be variations in the settings of the venues, the risks taken by the partygoers, and differences in nightlife. Bodies wishing to develop a safer nightlife Label should first assess, in a participative way, the regulation, the partnership and the local characteristics of nightlife in terms of health and settings, before designing an appropriate response to suit the local situation.

### KEY QUESTIONS

#### **What is the local regulation, and its application, concerning venues' licensing laws?**

- Maximal decibels allowed in nightlife venues;
- Minimal training for club staff and security agents;
- Sell of alcohol to minors;
- Alcohol level permitted for driving;

#### **Who are the key partners to involve (or wishing to be involved)?**

- Who are the key players in providing services and information to partygoers and youth (e.g. youth projects; health projects; club staff)? Where are they, how do they work, which nightlife public do they reach?
- Who are the nightlife providers? How do they operate, where, what kind of staff do they work with, which public do they involve, which service providers do they know and trust?
- Do they have a guild? What are their needs? What are they ready to work on first?
- Who are the people involved in nightlife? Where and when do they go, what age are they, what are the characteristics of different groupings, their preferences for music and pleasures, where do they go for information and support, what services are they aware of? What about their health awareness?
- Who are the administrations in charge of health, culture, public transport and security?
- Who are the emergency services, neighbours associations or local police near the venues?
- What is the level of experience and engagement of each of these different groups?

#### **What is the local situation in terms of health and settings?**

- Drug consumption? Which drugs ? Which use ? Drug mix? Associated problems?
- Sexual risks ? Unprotected relations? Unwanted relations?
- Road safety? Car accidents in the venues' area? Related with drug use?
- Hearing damages ? Sound level?
- Violence ? Within or near venues' area? Related with drug use?

Nightlife assessment requires more than quantitative data. Qualitative information may take more time and effort to gather, but it is vital in order to gain a thorough understanding of what is needed and what approaches are likely to work.

#### **Examples of possible methodologies for gathering data from stakeholders:**

- Surveys: conducted via clubbing magazines, websites, on site or service points.
- Focus groups: partygoers and youth invited to groups to share their views.
- Observation: staff observing events and recording (possibly with the help of a customer).
- Monitoring at service points: services provided, service users, comments.
- Key informants / peers: partygoers and youth recruited to give their views.
- Internet / new technologies: on-line surveys, chatrooms, party forums.
- Nightlife organisers willing to share their views and facilitate contact with others.
- Complaints: monitoring of complaints about noise, nuisance, racism, objections to licenses, etc
- Police awareness of local activity (interview).

# 04

## How building the partnership?

The structure of the partnership can take different forms and can be lead by different partners. But, in any case, the participation of all stakeholders is crucial.

Partnership working is often achieved in small steps over a long period of time, building trust and positive relationship between key personnel of each organization.

Here are concrete examples taken from existing Labels and Charters of the Party+ Network.

### THE FÊTEZ CLAIRS CHARTER

The project is lead by the City of Paris and the prefecture of Paris. The partners are:

- Nightlife professional associations and unions.
- Prevention associations: drugs and alcohol, harm reduction, Aids prevention, road safety, ear safety.
- Peers
- Drug unit of the police
- Media and Entertainment
- Clubs and party organisations having signed the charter

### THE Q DE FESTA! LABEL

The project is lead by the health department of the Catalonian government, and set up by an external organization called Spora Sinergies. The partners are:

- Catalan government departments: Security, Institutional relations and Participation, Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Culture and Media, Territorial Policy and Public works
- NGO's intervening in Nightlife
- Private companies, including Media and Entertainment
- Nightlife unions and federations
- City Councils

### THE QUALITY NIGHTS LABEL

The project is lead by a health NGO called Modus Vivendi. The partners are:

- Health department of regional authorities (Brussels French Community Commission, Walloon Region).
- NGO's active in drug prevention and harm reduction in Nightlife, as local operator of the Label.
- Public administrations: Transport, International relations.
- City Councils.
- Media and Entertainment.

### THE SAFER CLUBBING LABEL

The project is lead by a clubs' association called Association Safer Clubbing.

The Association is made of part-autonomous sections and is politically independent and non-denominational. Each division has its own quality commission. The partners are:

- Infodrog : national agency of the Swiss Federal office of Public Health for harm reduction.
- Swiss Aids Federation.
- Youth consulting agency "Streetwork" of the City of Zurich.
- Local police members.
- Medical services.
- Local prevention institutions working in the field of drugs and HIV/Aids prevention.

# 05

## What are the roles of the stakeholders?

Safer nightlife is achieved through effective co-operation between policy makers, administrations, health NGO's and nightlife organisers operating effectively to engage with their communities and with young people in local nightlife. In each area, the range of partners involved in effective collaboration should be decided according to local needs and circumstances. A clear understanding of the roles and aspirations of different stakeholders in different settings is essential.

### CLUB OWNERS AND NIGHTLIFE ORGANISERS - IMPLEMENTING THE LABEL

- Collaborate with health services and administrations – keeping customers safe and supported is good for business.
- Help making health services efficient, visible and known to your public.
- In-house staff can make a great contribution to safer nightlife, with appropriate training and guidelines.

### HEALTH NGO'S - HELPING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LABEL

- Be prepared to adapt approaches to find out what suits local culture and circumstances.
- Provide concrete material and support for the implementation of the Label: condoms, earplugs, information leaflets, training sessions, health staff and peers.
- Respect the needs of club owners and nightlife organisers and work in ways which will support the quality of their offer and will enhance their image.

### POLICY MAKERS AND ADMINISTRATIONS - SUSTAINING THE LABEL

- Create a bridge of understanding between local practitioners and politicians so that national policy and legislation fit the needs of the reality of nightlife venues.
- Give a place for communication in the project's building – a nightlife Label is not used if it's not known by the partygoers.
- Provide means and support to the projects (funding, authorizations, contacts...).

All partners have to stimulate the participation of clubbers, youth and partygoers.

### THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN A SAFER NIGHTLIFE LABEL

More and more, media are associated in Labels and Charters' partnerships, because such projects need a strong communication to be visible, known and understandable for the public. These collaborations are new and all partners will gain in knowing other's expectations and habits better.

#### Media

- Don't look for stronger headlines only, even if it's easier given the mixture of young people, alcohol, drugs and night fights...
- Understand the complexity of nightlife and help to promote safer practices and settings.

#### Label's Manager

- Identify the right way to transmit our message. Save some time to visit journalists. It's a good business for you to spend thirty minutes in a personal interview trying to explain your project, expectations and demands in regard of media information treatment.
- Be careful with press conferences. Media's work structures have been cut nowadays for economic reasons. To summon them all at once may seem more comfortable, but not more productive. Try to devote effort to a close relationship.

# 06

## Which resources do you need?

Safer nightlife Labels and Charters have found different ways to develop approaches, using different levels of resources for implementing their project and improving nightlife settings.

Resources	Low budget	>>>>	High level resources
<b>Staff</b>	One project manager		Team with specialists and professionals
<b>Health material (condoms, earplugs...)</b>	Sale at cheap prices	Provided for free by partners or sponsors	self-branded products
<b>Free water</b>	From the tap	Water fountain, in a glass at the bar.	In individual bottle (self branded)
<b>Information stand</b>	Once a year	Every month	Permanent
<b>Training of club staff, volunteers</b>	By project staff		By project staff and experts in first aid, conflict management, risks reduction, ear damages...
<b>Communication</b>	Logo, club's newsletters, digitally spread visuals, social networking, printed material	Website, IT tools, printed visuals (posters, leaflets...), promotion through tourist administration services	Mass media campaign, mobile phone application, Bluetooth technologies, T-shirts & other gadgets, promotion through commercial tourist companies
<b>Trust and credibility</b>	Earned through shared experience		Earned through marketing and published evidence
<b>Assessment of the criteria/services</b>	By project staff, at least once a year	Twice a year	By an external control service
<b>Assessment of the project</b>	By project least once a year	Twice a year	By an external expert or university

Concerning the working time needed: it's important to keep in mind that the "development" process will probably need time and patience.

# 07

## How to implement the label?

**TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVEMENT TO BE DEVELOPED AS INCLUSION CRITERIA AND/OR SERVICES AVAILABLE.**

**TO PRESENT THE PROJECT TO THE NIGHTLIFE STAKEHOLDERS:**

- By individual meetings.
- By round tables: participatory platform that involves the different agents related to nightlife.

**TO FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN A PARTICIPATIVE AND A TOP-DOWN LOGIC:**

A participative process is a more sustainable solution but it can only be effective if commercial and health aims find a common ground of understanding, and take advantages of investing in the Label.

**TO DEFINE THE SERVICES BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE PARTYGOERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

**TO CHOOSE THE LABEL OR CHARTER OPTION**

A Label is a formal engagement to ensure the permanent availability of services in with strict criteria. A Charter is more an approach defining orientations instead of criteria. It may be imperfectly applied due to reasons beyond the signatory's control.

**TO IMPLEMENT THE SERVICES**

Some services are considered to be basics. These basic services are the ones that have to be offered in order to be part of the Label or Charter. In addition to these, there are other services that are recognised.

**TO PROMOTE THE CREATION OF NIGHTLIFE PEER GROUPS IN HEALTH PROMOTION AND RISK REDUCTION IN THE CITY/REGION (OPTIONAL).**

Examples of services:

- Health information: information stand display with leaflets about health topics.
- Staff training: training and awareness of club nightlife staff about harm reduction, prevention, conflict management, first aid.
- Info alcohol: resources aimed at preventing drunk driving.
- Water: free access to drinking water.
- Info transport: detailed and up to date information about the nearest public transport station/system, sign showing transport information specific to the venue.
- Condoms: a condom vending machine can be provided or condoms can be sold by the staff.
- Earplugs: for staff and public, or a noise limiter.
- Menu of non-alcoholic cocktails: detailed in a visible physical menu.
- Chill Out: a ventilated, quieter place where people can sit.
- Food: provision of (ideally) healthy food at the bar or in vending machines.
- Cloakroom: a safe space to store clothes and other personal belongings.
- Safe transport: venues subsidise the cost of public transport or provide their own.
- Medical assistance: emergency medical assistance available in the setting.

**TO ASSURE THE FOLLOW UP AND THE PROMOTION OF THE LABEL**

The Label or Charter is effective upon signature. The partners support the signatory in implementing the services. The venue benefits from their commitment's promotion through the communication tools. The partners regularly evaluate the services implementation, its impact and desirable adaptations and improvements, and the parties' respect of their commitment. In case of failure, the venue will stop benefitting from promotional support.

# 08

## Which communication?

Each charter/label has to be proactive in its communication. Different tools can be used to get the label/charter known to the public, to the different stakeholders and to the press. It is of course better to have someone in the team who has specific abilities in communication. When this is not the case, outside professionals in design, communication & promotion can support you in these tasks. Although, as you know each work has a price.

Most important is to spread a positive image about nightlife. Don't communicate about drugs uses and night-related troubles. Promote fun, pleasure, music, dynamic culture, positive impact for the reputation of the cities, and the interest of club owners about their public's health.

The advised minimum communication tools for each label is to have

- **A logo** to create a visual identity, like a signature everybody should recognize.
- **A website** with
  - the values of the label
  - which services provided in which clubs, and their location
  - the stakeholders involved
  - the possibility to register for the newsletter
  - news regularly updated
- The best is also to have (depending on the budget and on the working time resources)
  - a map with the location of the clubs and the health-related services.
  - a press release with downloadable documents (logo, nice positive nightlife pictures,...) .
  - Some animations, animated banners or videos to introduce more life into the site.
- **A general presentation leaflet** that can be digital (broadcasted via internet) or printed. This leaflet can be adapted to specific publics:
  - The partygoers (simply to get the label known).
  - The potential new members (to explain the interest for them to take part in such a charter/label)
- **Newsletter (s)**
  - Internal newsletter ⇒to communicate with the clubs, the stakeholders, the administration, the volunteers. Tip: free tools are available on the Internet such as webgroups.
  - External newsletter ⇒for the public, forwarded by the club via their own newsletters, downloadable on the website and through the social networks.
- **Tools inside the clubs** to get the label known: label's logo, pictograms of the available services, display stands, posters, leaflets, gifts (t-shirts, pin's, stickers...) coherent with health promotion philosophy, events / stands / animations when new clubs join the label.

### OTHER TOOLS AND STRATEGIES CAN BE DEVELOPED

- Organization of a press conference: it's important, beforehand, to identify representations on how the local nightlife is perceived by the press, the population and the health services in the region, so as to promote a positive image of nightlife and avoid its negative perceptions. A good way is to have followed contacts with journalist in each media. You are then identified as an expert about nightlife.
- Health promotion campaigns with advices related to the services provided.
- Social networks (Facebook, Twitter...) to regularly have a direct communication with the public.
- Promotion through:
  - Commercial partnerships (sponsors...)
  - Nightlife websites and/or tourism organizations – ask administrations if they can “support”
  - Health and youth organisations
  - Other nightlife/entertainment places: pubs, cinemas, restaurants...

# 09

## How to evaluate your label?

Evaluation is necessary at many levels: to prove efficiency, to re-orientate programmes and to justify funding. Evaluation will also allow Label's Manager to communicate about their project.

### BE PREPARED TO REVISE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS AT REGULAR INTERVALS

- Local circumstances may change rapidly (nightlife may increase or decrease) or new trends may emerge, requiring adjustment of the approach.
- Meeting at regular intervals for review and forward planning, with all partners, helps to ensure achievement of objectives and that target will still be relevant and challenging.

### THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation of objectives and process must be considered, in the initial design of any programme, since it has to be planned to respond to the same questions the programme has generated. The relation between the objectives of the programme and the objectives of the evaluation has to be clear from the beginning; thus it is necessary to answer to a sequence of questions that imply the whole programme plan.

We propose here a sequence of questions that can help to structure the evaluation process of your programmes. We have divided these questions into 3 parts:

- Before the evaluation: what and why we do what we do?
- The evaluation: what and why we want to evaluate?
- The methodological approach: how do we evaluate what we do? This question will partly depend on your budget to achieve the evaluation process.

### EXAMPLES

#### Goals

- Creating an environment conducive of well-being amongst partygoers;
- Involve venues in paying attention to their public's health;
- Making partygoers aware of the risks they are taking and empowering them with harm reduction means.

#### Specific Objectives

- Reduce risks linked to the use of legal and illegal substances.
- Reduce risks of hearing damage due to sound level.
- Reduce risks of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.
- Reduce risks of violence.

#### Actions

- Providing information and harm reduction material on legal and illegal substances.
- Providing leaflets, ear plugs and making venues aware of sound level implications.
- Providing brochures about love and sex and condoms.
- Organizing staff training on how to handle conflicts.
- Ensuring the follow up of the criteria/services indicators.

#### Indicators

- Number of distributed leaflets on legal and illegal substances, ear damages, love and sex.
- Number of agreements with artists related to maximum sound level. Number of screens with sound level.
- Number of distributed earplugs and condoms.
- Number of people trained; integration of what they learned within their job activities.
- Availability and visibility of the criteria/services.

Reference: The guideline of the Safer Nightlife platform within the Democracy, Cities and Drugs Project "A European proposition to promote evaluation and share good practices".

# 10

## How to sustain your label?

### BE FAST BUT THINK ON LONG TERM

- Drugs trends, and more generally risks taken, are always changing as new markets are developed and exploited. You must accept that development and innovation will always be required.
- Safer Nightlife Labels help the night sector and its industry move toward the legitimization and normalization of its activities and its positive image in public opinion.

A Label or Charter provides health services for partygoers through an improvement of nightlife settings. Proceeding like this, these services become available each night and not only when a health organization is proposing an action. Health becomes a part of the venue and is integrated in its functioning. Staff is trained to face what could happen and the public is informed about the risks it could be exposed to and the way to reduce them.

### SOME CHAPTERS OF THIS GUIDE LEAD TO PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY:

- to assess the needs before starting the project
- to build a strong and representative partnership with stakeholders
- to develop an evaluation process from the beginning of the project

### THE NETWORK ENHANCES LABELS AND CHARTERS' SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH:

- Organization of expert visits.
- Practice and tools sharing with other members.
- Development of each project's visibility.
- Collaboration with tourist organizations.
- The use of the European logo and all our communication tools (web site, flyers, reception of a newsletter...).
- International promotion and recognition.

### GOOD INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABILITY:

- The project has been positively evaluated and has the awaited impact.
- Partners' collaboration has become habitual and an accepted part of service provision.
- Resource allocation has moved beyond the pilot stage and has been established on a rolling basis.
- Service providers' training, staff recruitment and development, information.
- Resources and reputation are all well established.

### STRATEGIES ORGANISATIONS MAY USE

- Staff directly involved in the work regularly pass on their knowledge and experience to ensure continuity if there is staff turnover.
- Evaluation methods include processes to involve of all the stakeholders.
- Regular updates or newsletters help keep all stakeholders informed of progress.
- Strategies/plans are updated to include action which will move the project onto the next stage or provide an exit strategy.

## DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN RECREATIONAL SETTINGS

Brussels, 26 October 2010

- 1/ Following the project called “Quality Nights” relating to health and safety at festive events presented at the meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs on 14 July 2010 (cf. doc. 11906/10 CORDROGUE 63 SAN 148), the Presidency decided to propose Council conclusions regarding this matter.
- 2/ In consultation with the COM and EMCDDA, draft Council conclusions were presented and examined at the HDG meetings of 13 September 2010 and of 12 October 2010.
- 3/ On the basis of these discussions and taking into account the last comments of the delegations after the meeting of 12 October, the draft Council conclusions on the prevention and reduction of health and social risks associated with the use of illicit drugs in recreational settings were finalised.
- 4/ Consequently, COREPER is invited to confirm the agreement on the text of the draft conclusions, as set out in annex, and to submit it to the Council for approval.

### THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

#### 1. RECALLS

- article 168 of the TFEU, which states that a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities and that Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health (...). The Union shall complement the Member States' action in reducing drugs-related health damage, including information and prevention.
- the EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012, which calls on Member States to further develop and implement effective, evaluated indicative prevention for specific high-risk groups of (poly-) drug users, by offering low-threshold access to counselling, problem behaviour management and outreach work where relevant (1);
- the EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012, which calls on Member States to develop, implement and exchange good practice guidelines/ quality standards for prevention, treatment, harm reduction and rehabilitation interventions and services (2);
- the EU Strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm (3), which aims to curb under-age drinking, reduce hazardous and harmful drinking among young people, in cooperation with all stakeholders;
- the Council Conclusions on Alcohol and Health (4), which proposes additional measures to reduce alcohol-related harm;

#### 2. REITERATES

- that Member States have the main responsibility for national drug policies, and that the Commission can further support and complement national policies in this area;
- that the recreational and nightlife setting should be considered as a place for preventive interventions, taking account its particular characteristics and limitations;
- that interventions in recreational and nightlife settings need to be developed principally within the framework of public health policy;
- that acute drug-related health harms and mortality in recreational settings can be avoided by implementing and enforcing public health measures that protect and promote the health of young people, among others by monitoring and enhancing the safety of recreational settings;
- that strategies for reducing the supply of illicit drugs in recreational and nightlife settings should be developed in cooperation with the entertainment and recreational industry;

#### 3. NOTES

- that recent EMCDDA data (5) shows that poly-drug use, with alcohol playing a major role, often takes place in the context of recreational activities, and that during holiday periods and weekends, young people are particularly liable to indulge in poly-drug-related activities that put them at risk;
- that studies (6) conducted in recreational settings report higher prevalence levels of stimulant drugs use than in the general population;
  - 5 EMCDDA, Poly-drug use: patterns and responses, Selected Issue, 2009, p. 14-15
  - 6 EMCDDA, Drug use in recreational settings, Selected Issue, 2006; EMCDDA, Annual Report on the State of the Drug Problem in Europe, 2009, p. 63; EMCDDA, Cocaine and crack cocaine: a growing public health issue, Selected Issue, 2007
- that the most recent report of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD), and its conclusions indicates that heavy episodic drinking ("binge drinking") increased in young people (7);

#### 4. CONSIDERS

- that the Report of the Final Evaluation of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008 concluded that in the field of indicated prevention – covering, among others, drug use in recreational settings – there is very little information on the existence of such programmes in Member States (8);
- that overall, there is a limited availability of measures to prevent or reduce health risks and drug use and that information on drugs use and prevention measures in recreational setting is scarce (9);
- that interventions in recreational setting are not always based in the best evidence available and that unintended consequences can be provoked by poor quality prevention interventions;

#### 5. INVITES THE MEMBER STATES

- to encourage the development of evidence based interventions aimed at the prevention of drug dependence and the reduction of drug-related health and social risks young people may incur in their day-to-day life, including within the framework of their recreational activities;
- to ensure a high level of access to support services and care by pursuing a coherent, and integrated and mutually reinforcing approach between prevention, risk and harm reduction (10), drug related diseases prevention, treatment and research;
- to consider the introduction of mandatory safety features and recommended or mandatory hygienic measures in recreational settings such as ensuring unlimited and free access to water,
- the availability of cool-down/ chill-out rooms, the availability of alternative transportation, the limitation of access to clubs for the under aged, etc;
- to ensure the effectiveness and proper implementation of these interventions, by basing them on an inclusive and transversal approach which involves full participation of key stakeholders, including – inter alia - nightlife industry, emergency and prevention services, the police and participants in recreational settings ;
- to facilitate and encourage the collaboration at local level of emergency services, health and social services, the police and the recreational sector, by developing cooperation protocols and procedures in case of incidents;
- to provide in recreational settings objective and accurate preventive approaches that target – among others - the potential consequences of risky behaviour, such as acute health problems due to [poly] drug use, driving under the influence, unwanted pregnancies/ sexual contacts, violations of public order, etc.;
- promoting and encouraging the development of training opportunities for personnel from public health and law enforcement services, as well as for staff in recreational establishments, targeting specifically preventive and risk reduction measures in recreational settings, including in the case of acute health problems;
- to enable policies and interventions aimed at creating recreational settings free of drugs and without alcohol abuses and in any case conditions of safety and environmental hygiene, using a integrated and balanced approach between prevention, risk reduction and control;

#### 6. INVITES THE COMMISSION

- to promote cooperation and exchange at EU level with the aim to develop evidence-based approaches and best-practices in the field of indicated prevention, among others by supporting research and development activities that help improve the understanding of the recreational drug use and all its

related facets, and to continue to encourage young people to become active partners in promoting their health through actions on youth and health (11) and the EU 2020 flagship initiative on youth on the move (12);

- to include the field of indicated prevention in recreational settings, in its proposal for an EU consensus on minimum quality standards and benchmarks by 2012, such in cooperation with the EMCDDA;

## 7. INVITES THE EMCDDA

- to continue monitoring the use of drugs and poly-drug use in recreational settings promoting, through networks and publications, data collection, further development and use of best practice interventions of proven effectiveness.

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1 OJ C 326, 20.12.2008; Action 12

2 OJ C 326, 20.12.2008; Action 17

3 COM (2006) 625 final

4 2980th Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 1.12.2009

7 European Commission, First Progress Report on the Implementation of the EU Alcohol Strategy, September 2009;

8 SEC (2008) 2456, 20.12.2008; § 6.1.2.3 (2);

9 EMCDDA, Annual report on the State of the Drug Problem in Europe, 2009, pag.56, 57, 63;

10 Member states can define these terms in accordance with their national legislation and their national practices and strategy.

11 [http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index_en.htm)

12 [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1786\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1786_en.htm)