

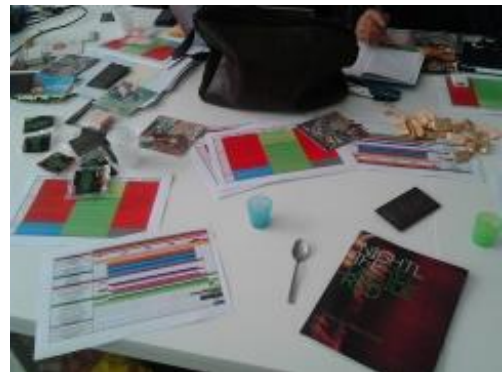
KICK-OFF MEETING

Alba (ITALY), 2-3-4 December 2015

The first meeting among partners in BAONPS project took place in Alba, in the first week of December 2015. To let the partners and associate partners know the context in which the Applicant daily operates, the meeting was organized at the headquarter of the Cooperativa Alice, at the local addiction service provider and lunch was served at the café of the local scientific college, that is managed by disabled people working in the Coop.Alice.

Main drug trends and NPS in the country partners

From the first session of the meeting came to light that heroin use is decreasing and it is considered a “generational” phenomenon since people that use heroin are quite old (over 35 years old); this situation is very similar in Italy, Slovenia and Germany. Ketamine is considered and treated as a NPS by international documents (http://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_2013_SMA_RT.pdf) but not from users and operators involved in harm reduction in party settings in Italy and Portugal: the ketamine



spread started many years before it was scheduled and it is used in raves since the beginning of the millennium.

In Portugal people prefer using “traditional” drugs and NPS are mostly used by psychonauts; however, as drug checking results show, NPS are often sold as adulterants in traditional drugs. Italy the situation is supposed to be the same that in Portugal.

In Slovenia NPS have generally been scheduled but there are some NPS that are still legal, as for instance 3-meo-PCP (dissociative anaesthetic). NPS are bought generally from friends (54.5% of the DrogArt survey sample) or from dealers (37.4% of the DrogArt survey sample) and people choose to use these substances because of their purity, price and effects; the legal status of the drug is not very important to them. At the moment the most popular NPS in Slovenia is 3 MMC; it is usually consumed orally or snorted, but some people also inject it



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In Germany the most used substances in party settings are: alcohol, cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy and MDMA. Ketamine use is rising and waves of GBL consumption are now registered. NPS are mostly used in the experimental Goa Scene (25I-NBOMe, 2C-X, MXE, tryptamines)) but also in other dancing, electrical or sexual orientated subcultures (chem Sex). NPS are also used in substitution of the main drugs, when those are not available.

What is considered as a NPS?

The definition of NPS is not consensual: are NPS drug that are newly forbidden by law? Are NPS new narcotics/compounds appeared in the black market of drugs and not under control of national and international laws? Are NPS new pattern of consumption of “traditional/old” drugs? Kick off meeting participants compared the different definitions of NPS and they decided that in this project they will use the definition proposed by EMCDDA:



“A new psychoactive substance is defined as 'a new narcotic or psychotropic drug, in pure form or in preparation, that is not controlled by the United Nations drug conventions, but which may pose a public health threat comparable to that posed by substances listed in these conventions'”

Drug Checking: implemented in Italy for the first time formally

In Italy drug checking will be performed by Centro Antidoping “A.Bertinaria” (CAD) by using RAMAN spectroscopy.

Italian drug checking procedure will be as follow: the sample (an unknown substance) will be given to the CAD technicians from a partygoer, with the purpose to know what there is inside the compound; it will be photographed, described in a form and information will be inserted in a database or sent to the national EWS (if a NPS is found). The analysis will be rapid. If the result is a know/controlled substance the information will be reported to the partygoer and he/she will be provided with a specific counselling about risks and harms that can derive from that substance.



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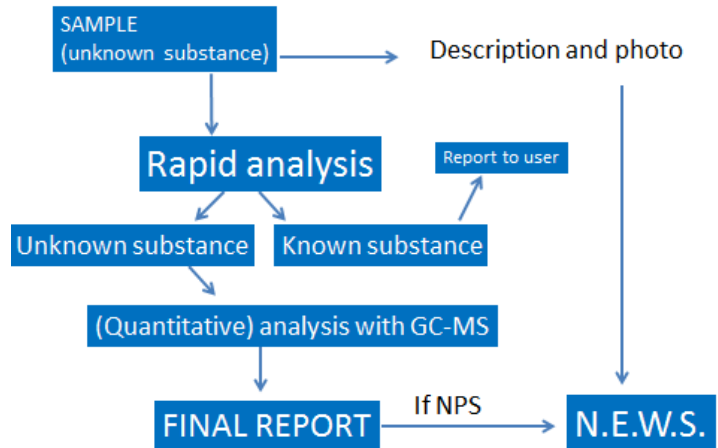




If the result is an unknown substance, the sample will be sent to the lab and analysed in the GC-MS (quantitative analysis); the partygoer will be firstly made aware of the high risk in taking something unknown and provided with a code: he/she will check on the BAONPS web site the result of the analysis with GC-MS, during next days. The procedure ends with a final report and the communication of the NPS found to the national EWS.

In any case samples will be returned to partygoers.

FINAL SCHEME



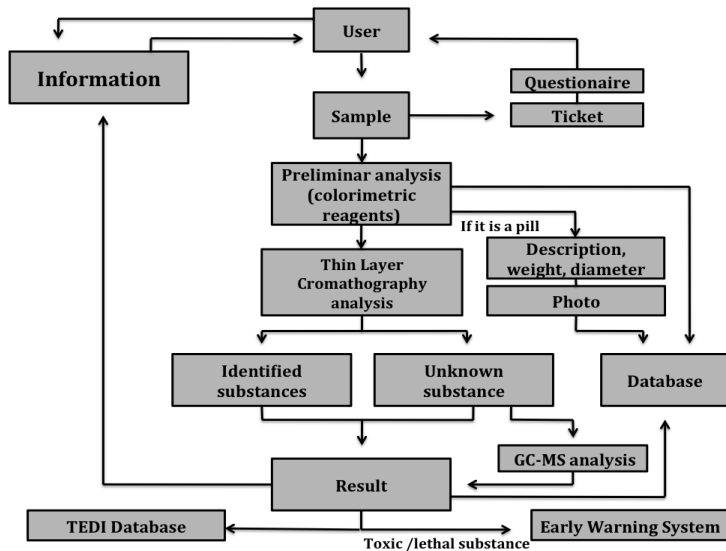
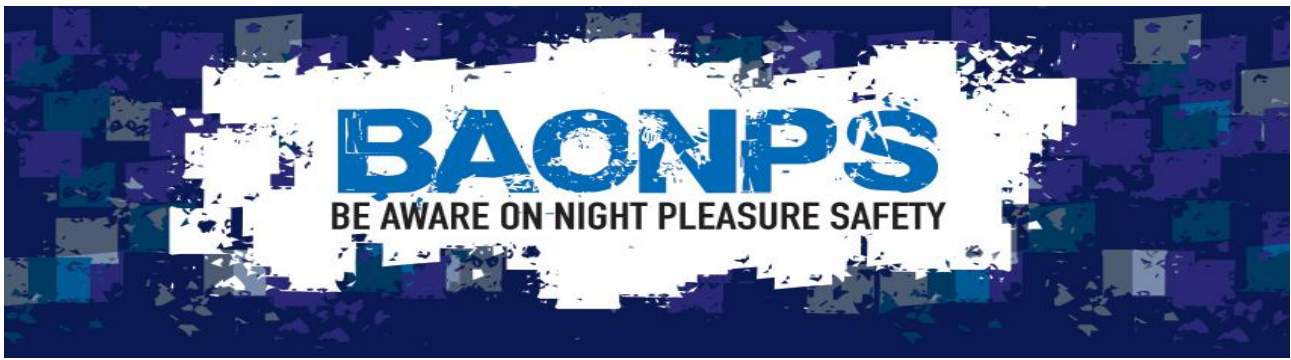
In 2009 the first Drug Checking service in Portugal was born integrated in CHECK!N, an Harm Reduction team that works in party settings; CHECK!N is promoted by APDES – Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento and co-financed by ACS – Alto Comissariado para a Saúde (Portuguese High Commissioner for Health).

The Drug Checking is integrated into the activities of the CHECK!N, following the guidelines recommended by the EMCDDA. Users go to the information stand where they have

several harm reduction services. The info-stand technicians are in contact with users, spreading harm reduction messages, answering questions and sharing knowledge oriented to the adoption of harm reduction strategies. Every time that relevant conditions are met, drug checking service is presented and the relevance of its use is discussed. Samples are collected at the information stand by technicians with specialized training. The amount of about 5 mg (or ¼ blotter) is placed in an eppendorf properly identified. At this point, a ticket containing an unique code is delivered to the user and the expectation by the use of the identity of the substance is registered. It should be noted that this is a privileged moment to discuss with the user the risks and harm reduction behaviours related with doses, consumption routes or patterns. Then the sample is delivered to the drug checking service.

A preliminary analysis using colorimetric reagents may be useful for information about the group of substances to which belongs the sample (amphetamines, phenethylamines, tryptamines, etc). After a new analysis using Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) is performed. TLC is a qualitative and semi-quantitative



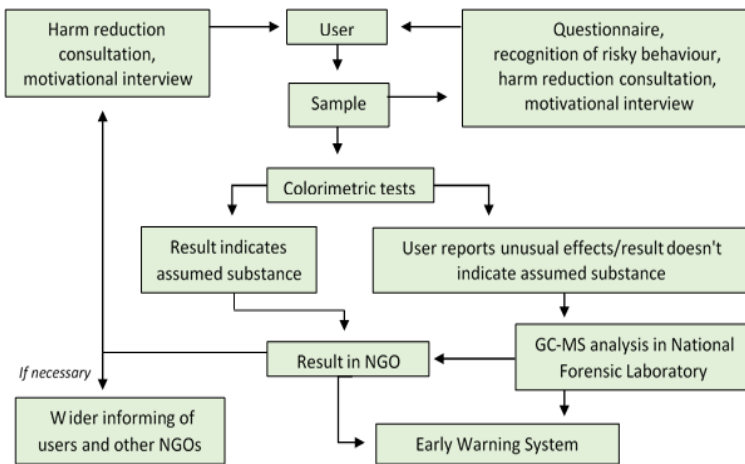


technique, which is based on the separation of chemical substances in a mixture by differential migration on an aluminum plate coated with a thin layer of silica gel (stationary phase). Results are placed in recording instruments associated with the code given to the user. When the user returns to know the result, a technician is responsible for checking the result and report it, bearing in mind the transmission of much information as possible from the effects of substances or mixtures of substances present, of possible adulterants, always in order to strenghten

harm reduction strategies and thus strengthen the consumer's ability to embark on the management of its pleasures and its risks. TLC is a cheap and quick technique and provides results suitable for an harm reduction intervention being a good option for low budget drug checking projects

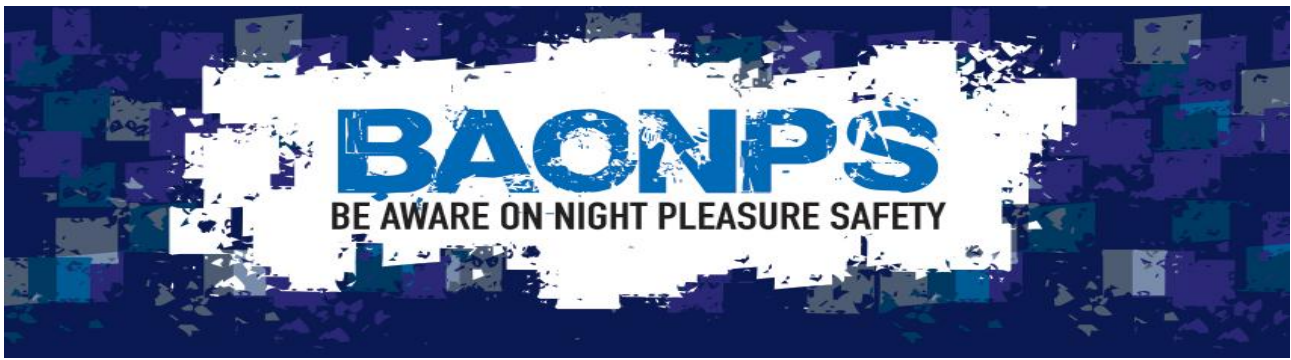
Since 2006 DrogArt is part of the EWS and performs drug checking in Slovenia. They have got an info point, in Ljubljana where users can bring their sample and get it analysed.

At first users are asked to fill in a questionnaire, composed of two sections: a general part, where the person is asked to tell information about the sample, and a second part where there are questions about the personal use of drugs and harm reduction strategies. After the substance is tested with colorimetric reagents and users are provided with a counselling (motivational interview) on harm reduction and about a recognition of risky behaviours.



If users report unexpected or side effects taking the substance or colorimetric tests does not confirm the presence of the supposed substance, the sample is sent to the National Forensic Laboratory, that can analyse the compound with the GC-MS. In big parties users can buy colorimetric reagents (EZ test) directly at the info-stand of DrogArt (<http://www.drogart.org/vsebine/2446/osnovne-informacije.html>).





Fixpunkt in Berlin has applied for a pilot project called “stationary analysis of unknown psychoactive substances in combination with qualified drug counseling located in Berlin”. The pilot implementation of drug checking in Italy can give suggestions to Fixpunkt in order to discuss and try to introduce the facility in Berlin. The dissemination will be helpful to discuss the results and proceeds of BAONPS with experts, departments and politicians. There are also other groups and organisations in music culture interested in the techniques scientific research and the organization of the experiences in Italy Portugal and Slovenia.

Project partners that will implement drug checking, will share their strategies in party settings outreach interventions and this can be useful for Slovenia to perhaps try to implement drug checking also in recreational contexts and not only at the DrogArt infopoint.

The research:

The research will analyse the meanings and consumption patterns concerning NPS and the cross-cultural differences that can represent risk/protective factors with respect to NPS.

The research is composed of a survey and a web research. The survey will be done in outreach interventions by asking partygoers to fill in an anonymous questionnaire. The intent of the web-based research is to get a different point of view on culture and practices surrounding NPS consumption by observing in a “natural” context real and everyday perceptions, representations and experiences about substances.

The web research will individuate sensitive topics about the matter outside of institutional and medicalised contexts and analyse if and how the online spaces are used as “free zones”, where users enact action strategies, representations and relationships with substances different from off-lines spaces and less bonded to social desirability.

The “deep web” will also be explored, as a pilot experience, in Italy: Eclectica will implement this action as the leading partner of the WS 2.

The web site, information and dissemination

The web site will be the place where results of drug checking will be published and users will be able to recognise, by a code, the sheet related to the substance they gave technicians to analyse. The code will guarantee the anonymity of the person. This section will be available on BAONPS web site just for Italian clients because Portuguese and Slovenian will continue to use their own channels and websites.





CNCA in the BAONPS project will disseminate the project results, to reach partygoers and professionals with information and knowledge produced; furthermore they will facilitate communications and relationships among partners and support the project management by using audio and video technologies for on-line meetings and conferencing. They will support Italian pilot implementation of drug checking in outreach interventions making available the different harm/risk reduction project teams of the different organisation involved in CNCA.

Alerts and information about NPS will also be spread on BAONPS Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Baonps-Be-Aware-On-Night-Pleasure-Safety-196588227348688/>

PIN & SteadyCam

The meeting has also been attended by Dr. Angelo Giglio, physician and director of the local addiction service provider ASL TO2 (Turin). He presented PIN – Progetto Itinerante Notturmo (nightlife itinerant project), an outreach project that intervenes in party settings (legal events) and in the main party district of the Turin (San Salvario); it is carried out by a public addiction service provider and funded from the Regional Health System. PIN project is focused on drug and alcohol prevention and risk reduction in party settings; in outreach interventions NHS professionals work together with peer operators and young volunteers, adopting the non judgemental approach in relationship with partygoers and drug users.

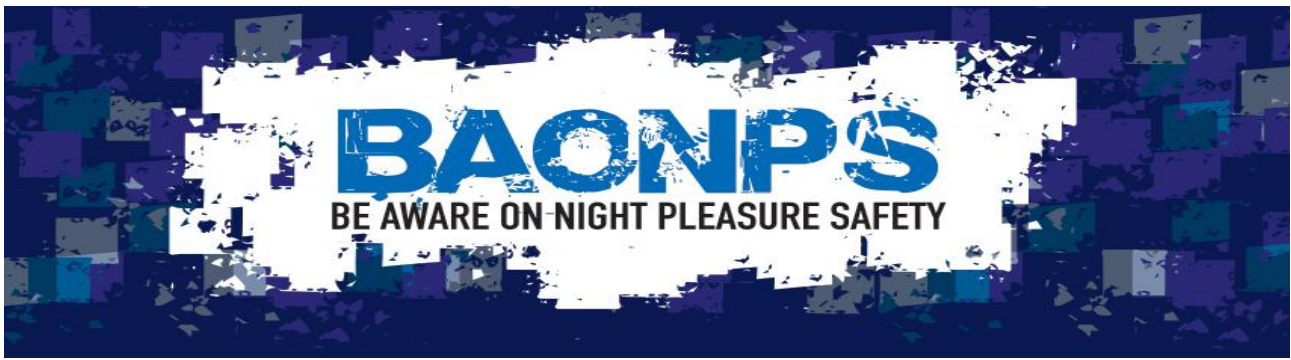


The second day of the kick-off meeting took place in the headquarter of Steadycam, a local project that performs prevention programs in school by using videos and that is physically located in the local addiction service provider. Steadycam was founded in 2000 with the aim of monitoring, collecting and archiving videos from TV, to be used in schools for drug prevention programs. Steadycam presents images and videos in schools to help youth in the knowledge of themselves: watching a video, it is possible to bring out the own society representations, stereotypes, interpretative paradigms and the own vision of the world. The same method is used in trainings they provide to professionals all around Piedmont and Italy.

Italian Public presentation of B.A.O.N.P.S. Project

During the second day of the kick off meeting, Cooperativa Alice organized a seminar to present BAONPS project to local/national authorities, institutions and service providers.





The second part of the seminar was a round table in which were involved different kind of stakeholders: local and regional policy makers and authorities, representatives from other Italian organizations and networks operating in outreach work and interested in drug checking activities, local experts in public policies. To read more: <http://coopalice.net/baonps/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/REPORT-PUBLIC-PRESENTATION-BAONPS.pdf>

ARTICLES

- **Music Festivals, Drugs And Pill Testing**

In 2015, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's [National Drug Strategy Household Survey](#) reported 27 percent of Australians aged 20-29 had used illicit drugs in the preceding 12 months, with eight percent having used ecstasy in that period.

"Using drugs is never without risk. Using unknown drugs is much riskier. If this continues, more young people will die". "People are going to use drugs anyway, not knowing what they're taking".

Pill testing does not prove that a drug is safe. However it can identify known unsafe drugs as well as dangerous adulterants.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2015/12/29/music-festival-drugs_n_8886364.html

- **Several people hospitalised in Cork after taking psychoactive substance**

Six young people were hospitalised on Tuesday after apparently consuming a substance called 2C-P at a house party; four young people were taken to hospital after taking drugs said to be a cross between LSD and ecstasy at a house party.

Young people are advised that there is no quality control on these drugs. There are problems with purity and contaminants, and there is no way of checking that what is purchased or consumed is the intended substance.

<http://leaderstandard.com/several-people-hospitalised-in-cork-after-taking/>

- **Rise of new psychoactive substances: new toolkit helps prisons address a growing problem**

NPS are a new breed of synthetically produced substances designed to mimic the effects of traditional illegal drugs. They are not safe or approved for human use, and the user cannot be sure of the contents of a specific batch which can make them incredibly dangerous.



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The report “[Changing patterns of substance misuse in adult prisons and service responses](#)”, published by HM Inspectorate of Prisons in December 2015, highlights that two-thirds of prisons reported having a “significant issue” with NPS in 2014-15 compared to one-third in 2013-14. This reflects the wider increase in their availability and use in the general population.

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2016/01/05/rise-of-new-psychoactive-substances-new-toolkit-helps-prisons-address-a-growing-problem/>

- **Zwei Häftlinge in Lebensgefahr**

A drug related death and intoxications in prison (JVA Ravensburg) with a legal high called "Kräutermischung", in South Germany

<http://www.swr.de/landesschau-aktuell/bw/friedrichshafen/todesfall-nach-konsum-von-krautermischung/-/id=1542/did=16827948/nid=1542/11dtx6q/>

- **CHECK!NG: The last frontier for Harm Reduction in party settings**

In the current context of proliferation of new psychoactive substances, and of adulteration of substances that circulate in the black market, Drug Checking is viewed here as a major Harm Reduction strategy.

http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0104-12902015000200646

VIDEOS

- **L'unite d'expertise stupefiant: l'identification rapide sur site (the unity of narcotic expertise : rapid identification on-site)**

3 screening techniques (Ions , RAMAN and FTIR) confirm the results on the site, without going in lab. Sandrine Sabini, IRCGN

<http://www.dailymotion.com/video/k3b1yg1tZFtAy4eLvTR>

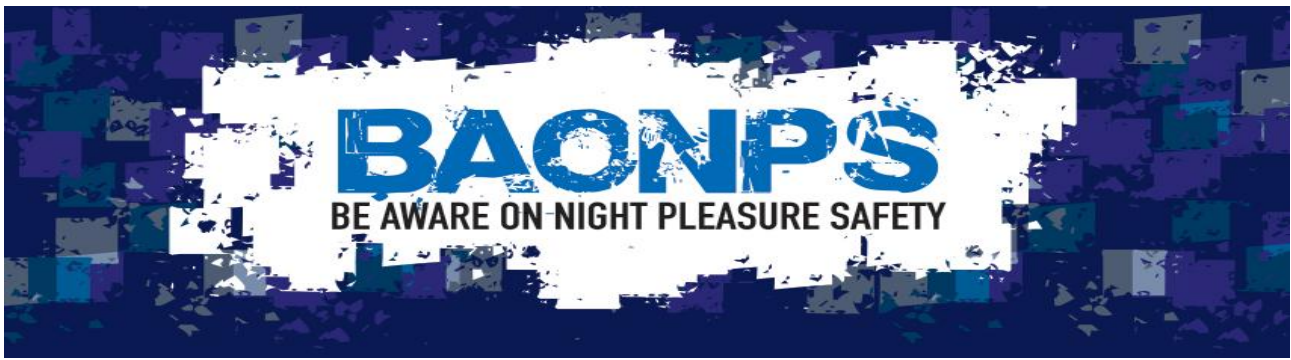
PUBLICATIONS

- P.Pacoda, “*Rischio e desiderio. Un viaggio nel mondo della notte tra giovani, droghe, eccessi e divieti*”, Agenzia NFC, 2015. (Only in Italian)
- F. Beccaria, “*La rivoluzione del bere. L’alcol come esperienza culturale*, Carocci Editore, 2015 (Only in Italian)



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- GERMANY 2015 NATIONAL REPORT (2014 data) to the EMCDDA by the Reitox National Focal Point Workbook Prevention
http://www.dbdd.de/images/dbdd_2015_eng/wb04_prevention_2015_germany_en.pdf

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Fixpunkt