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Profiles of drug checking services in 2017

The following profiles are an accompaniment to DPMP Bulletin No. 24 '[Global review of drug checking services operating in 2017](#)', intended to provide further information on the services that participated in our survey in narrative form.

The profiles were constructed based on the data provided by the participating drug checking services. We sent the profiles to the services for content revision and approval prior to publication and received feedback on 28 of the 29 profiles.

The profiles are presented in chronological order of establishment; providing detailed descriptions of the models of service practiced around the world, as well as fleshing out the local context the services operate in (at the time this information was collected). Each profile includes the authorised service contact, or contacts, and when available the references to an array of publications about the service.

Many of the services grew from informal grass-roots activist interventions; simultaneously providing a service to individuals, and lobbying for formal recognition, legislation, and support. The Drug Information and Monitoring System (DIMS) in the Netherlands formed the first drug checking service that is still in operation in 1992 and has grown to its present-day operation of 23 fixed-site services that are officially recognized as public health instruments. Energy Control in Spain was soon to follow in 1999; today it plays a capacity-building and mentoring role to new services around the world (Hungary, Colombia, Mexico, Boom! festival, and Poland).

The organic development of this field has led to complex configurations of services operating in certain European countries such as France and Switzerland. In France, there are currently over 40 active organisations involved with harm reduction and drug checking interventions. In 2016, France passed a law to provide a legal framework to the sector, and a structure of sorts. Four of these services were invited to participate in this survey, each answering our questions from their perspective. The Swiss organisations that are authorised to offer on-site drug checking utilising a mobile laboratory are presented together in one profile, while two additional profiles describe the characteristics of the two services offering weekly fixed-site drug checking.

Read as a whole, it becomes apparent that there is no 'one way' to run a drug checking service. Each developed in accordance with the local cultural and legal climate; resulting in services that are unique in principle, capacity, and practice.

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Drug Information and Monitoring System (DIMS), Netherlands



Founded in 1992, DIMS operates at 23 fixed-site locations throughout the Netherlands, which are open to service users for two to three hours a week. DIMS is officially recognised by the department of justice as a public health instrument, and as such is able to provide both qualitative and quantitative substance analysis results, to a variety of stakeholders. Testing facilities include GC-MS, LC-MS, IT-MS, FTIR, and reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mandelin, and Ehrlich). Individual service users receive results within a week, by way of a phone call or an email. Health and welfare organisations, researchers, politicians and media, and the public at large are all able to access published reports based on aggregated data.

Service users can access harm reduction materials, and staff offer brief one-on-one intervention sessions to service users. Analysis procedures require either a whole pill, or 50 milligrams of a sample. Leftovers from the analysis are never provided back, even if only a portion of the sample was used during testing, and secure disposal facilities are available on site.

The ministry of Health and Welfare oversees and finances DIMS operations. Funding is around 1 million euros per annum for the entire operation.

There are multiple publications available detailing DIMS work and public health contributions. Please see below:

Brunt, T. (2017). Drug checking as a harm reduction tool for recreational drug users: opportunities and challenges. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Available at:

http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/28065/1/EuropeanResponsesGuide2017_BackgroundPaper-Drug-checking-harm-reduction.pdf

Brunt, T.M., & Niesink R.J. (2011). The Drug Information and Monitoring System (DIMS) in the Netherlands: Implementation, results, and international comparison. *Drug Testing and Analysis*, 3(9), 621-634.

Brunt, T. M., Nagy, C., Bücheli, A., Martins, D., Ugarte, M., Beduwe, C., & Ventura Vilamala, M. (2017). Drug testing in Europe: monitoring results of the Trans European Drug Information (TEDI) project. *Drug Testing and Analysis*, 9(2), 188-198.

Benschop, A., Rabes, M., & Korf, D. J. (2002). *Pill testing, ecstasy & prevention*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Rozenberg.

Korf, D.J., Benschop, A., Brunt, T.M. (2003). *Pill testing in The Netherlands*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Rozenberg.

For more information, please contact Tibor Brunt, Trimbos Institute, tbrunt[at]trimbos.nl

Asociación Hegoak Elkartea, Spain



Since 1994, Asociación Hegoak Elkartea have offered qualitative and quantitative substance analysis on-site at festivals, events, as well as at a fixed site. Individual service users can access their results after a 30-59-minutes wait, in person or via text message. Facilities include TLC and reagent testing kits (Marquis and Merck). Harm reduction materials are also made available, and staff also offer brief one-on-one intervention sessions to service users. Testing requires a quarter of a pill, and the organisation encourages service users to provide only the amount needed for the testing.

Despite operating independently of local law enforcement agencies, the service receives funding from local government, enabling them to conduct roughly 200 tests per year.

For more information, please contact Asociación Hegoak Elkartea, hegoakdrogas[at]gmail.com

Technoplus, France



Technoplus was founded in 1995. At the time it offered qualitative substance analysis on-site at events and raves, as well as at a fixed-site location. In 2004, colorimetric drug analysis was banned in France. In 2007, Technoplus developed an independent TLC analysis project, which ran until 2009. Since 2009, Technoplus collects samples (100 mg of powder) for analysis on-site at events (at large events such as 1st May Teknival they collect 100-150 drug samples), and at a fixed-site location (roughly 80 samples per annum), collaborating with Sida Paroles 92 who conduct TLC analysis of those samples. The results are usually available one week later. Médecins du monde maintains a database of TLC substance analysis results. Technoplus also collaborates with SINTES, for HPLC analysis. Results are made available to individual service users after 3 weeks.

Technoplus do not have authorisation to conduct reagent testing, so they offer advice to individuals who wish to conduct reagent testing independently: explaining the limitations of the technology such as false positives, false negatives, and the lack of quantitative information. In addition, Technoplus publishes weekly updates about drug composition, “la météo des prods”: a compilation of European drug checking results.

Costs for the service come in under 1,000 euros per annum, thanks to the substantial investment of time and expertise made by volunteers and paid staff.

In 2016, France passed a new law addressing drug checking services, and as such the service is interested in developing another substance analysis service, CCM 2.0, collecting samples nationwide via postal submission. This service would publish results on the Technoplus website, a first in France, as results to date are communicated verbally to the individual service users. This plan is on hold as in November 2016, CCM 2.0's headquarters were subjected to a police raid, searching for drugs. The service's truck and computers were seized. This matter is still ongoing.

A published evaluation of the Technoplus service:

Benso, V. (2016) Les dispositifs d'analyse en France. *Asud journal*, 59.

CCM 2.0's website: <http://ccm-drugtest.com/>

For more information, please contact Vincent Benso, Technoplus, [benso_vincent\[at\]yahoo.fr](mailto:benso_vincent[at]yahoo.fr)

Modus Fiesta, Belgium



Modus Fiesta has been operating as a pilot project since 1996, courtesy of an agreement with the health ministry, and a transport authorisation from the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products. As such, they have been able to offer qualitative and quantitative substance analysis to service users both on-site at festivals and at a fixed-site booth, which is accessible to the public on Friday nights, from 6pm to 10pm. Analysis facilities include GC-MS, TLC, and reagent testing kits (Marquis and Mandelin). Service users can access their results in person, but GC-MS results are only available after two to four weeks. Other stakeholders such as health and welfare organisations, event managers and promoters, and the public at large are welcome to engage with Modus Fiesta's website. For optimal testing results the whole pill is required, however they will accept half a pill for testing. Secure facilities are available on site for safe disposal of drug samples, and leftover samples are not returned to service users. Staff offer brief interventions in the form of one-on-one sessions with service users as well as distributing harm reduction materials.

The service conducts around 150 analyses a year. Of those, only 20 are conducted on-site at one festival per year. Modus Fiesta receives 10,000 euros per annum via state-level funding; evaluation reports are submitted to COCOF (French Community Commission).

For more information, please contact Berenice Libois, Modus Vivendi, berenice.libois[at]modusvivendi-be.org

checkit! - Suchthilfe Wien gGmbH, Austria

Based in Vienna, checkit! have offered integrated drug checking (IDC) in an outreach format at events, nightclubs, and festivals since 1997. IDC incorporates qualitative and quantitative substance analysis, psycho-social interventions for service users (which include the provision of information, advice, and counselling), and scientific research. checkit! is a collaborative effort between the Addiction Support Services Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna. It enjoys the support of law enforcement agencies. Analysis facilities include HPLC-MS/MS, UHPLC, MALDI-IT-MS/MS, and HRMS. Tests are conducted on scrapings of products, or 3-5 milligrams of a substance, however testing leftovers are not returned to service users, even when only a part of the sample was used. Individual service users obtain their results after 15-29 minutes from a staff member who is trained in, and offers, psycho-social counselling. Other stakeholders include health and welfare organisations, event managers and promoters, researchers, and the public at large, who can access results in the form of aggregated data reports. checkit! attends between 10-12 events per year and conducts roughly a thousand tests per annum. Funding is provided by the city of Vienna and the Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs. checkit! maintains an open access historical database of test results. For the near future, checkit! aims to add enantiomeric separation testing facilities to its operation.

For a publication about this service in German, see:

Grabenhofer, S. et al. (2016). Drug Checking und Aufklärung vor Ort in der niedrigrschwelligigen Präventionsarbeit. In von Heyden, M. et al. (Ed.) *Handbuch Psychoaktive Substanzen*. Springer Reference Psychologie. DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-55214-4_7-1.

For publications about this service in English, see:

Ostermann, K. M. et al. (2014). MALDI Orbitrap mass spectrometry for fast and simplified analysis of novel street and designer drugs. *Clinica Chimica Acta*, 433, 254-258.

Kudlacek, O. et al. (2017). Cocaine adulteration. *Journal of Chemical Neuroanatomy*, 83/84, 75-81.

For more information, please contact Anton Luf, Clinical Department of Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of Vienna, anton.luf[at]meduniwien.ac.at or Alexandra Karden, checkit!, Suchthilfe Wien gGmbH, alexandra.karden[at]suchthilfe.at

Saferparty.ch; Raveitsafe.ch; Safer Dance Basel, Nuit Blanche, Switzerland

In 1998 the Health and Social Welfare Department of Berne set up two consecutive projects, a mobile lab which operates on-site at nightclubs and events. The service is covered by two independent legal opinions, they offer both qualitative identification of substances and quantitative analysis of purity levels of samples.

The mobile lab has two HPLC systems that allow analysing 5-6 samples per hour, and provide service users with test results in person within 15-29 minutes. The mobile lab visits about 12 events in Switzerland per year, analysing a total of 400 samples annually.

Stakeholders such as the police, health and welfare organisations, researchers, politicians and media, and the public at large can access reports using aggregate data; and the police

also have on demand access to aggregate data. A restricted-access historical database of test results is maintained.

Harm reduction materials and brief interventions with staff members are also available to service users. The analysis requires a quarter of a pill, but the entire pill is required for documentation (photo, weight, and dimensions). Unused remains of samples are not returned to users, and there are safe disposal services for drugs available on site.

The service is funded on a state-level, and receives funding from private foundations. Costs consist of lab costs, which are invoiced to the partner organisations, at 120 CHF per hour, as well as counselling costs and other expenses.

It is worth noting that on-site drug checking was recently offered at five events in Basel during 2016 and 2017, and at one event in Geneva in 2017 where a new fixed-site service is expected to start operation soon (see appendix for further detail regarding both).

The following publications about the service are available:

A poster presenting party substance analysis:

http://www.gef.be.ch/gef/de/index/gesundheitsgesundheitspartydrogentesting.assetref/dam/documents/GEF/KAPA/de/Poster_Party_drugs_testing_on_the_dance_floor_Jan_2017.pdf

A written publication:

Maier et al. (2014). *Erarbeitung Instrumente zur Früherkennung und Frühintervention von problematischem Substanzkonsum im Schweizer Nachtleben (2011-2013)*. Bulletin. Swiss Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction. Online edition:

http://www.zora.uzh.ch/id/eprint/102177/1/Maier_Schlussbericht_FF_Nightlife.pdf

Videos:

Video by LaPresse: <http://www.lapresse.ca/videos/actualites/201309/12/46-1-faire-tester-sa-drogue-en-vingt-minutes.php/c2e6226bdc9c4b828f029c8f9f123800>

A BBC documentary about the stationary lab is available from YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqpFofTHkMI>

For more information, please contact Hans-Jörg Helmlin, GEF Berne, [hans-joerg.helmlin\[at\]gef.be.ch](mailto:hans-joerg.helmlin[at]gef.be.ch) or Daniel Allemann, GEF Berne, [daniel.allemann\[at\]gef.be.ch](mailto:daniel.allemann[at]gef.be.ch)

DanceSafe, United States



DanceSafe was founded in 1998 to educate and provide a public health service to nightlife communities. Starting with only Marquis reagent testing kits, today DanceSafe operates multiple chapters which enable qualitative on-site substance analysis at nightclubs, festivals, events, and other mobile venues in local communities, by selling reagent testing kits on-site. Testing capabilities include a range of reagent testing kits: Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, Liebermann, Froehde, Folin, and Ehrlich. Staff also offer service users harm reduction materials. Staff do not actually handle the drug samples however, they do offer peer education; taking special care to avoid giving individual service users a false sense of security. Individual service users receive their results on the spot, within a 5-minute timeframe. Other stakeholders may include police, health and welfare organisations, and event managers and promoters, who may also be briefed on results in person.

Co-ordination with medical services, sanctuary services, and other service providers depends on whether or not DanceSafe have received official support to operate their service at an event. When there is no official support, they still operate, only under a “plausible deniability” model, with promoters and managers turning a blind eye to their presence.

DanceSafe attends about 200 events a year, their presence officially recognised at less than 50 such events every year. Funding for the service comes from on-site donations,

event donations, and test kit merchandise and sales. DanceSafe operations costs are estimated as \$140K USD per annum.

DanceSafe seeks to expand their testing services and are researching their options while navigating a myriad of obstacles, including: the legal status of the substances being tested, the RAVE Act, as well as funding and organisational capacity.

For more information: www.dancesafe.org

For more information, please contact Mitchell Gomez, DanceSafe, [Mitchell\[at\]dancesafe.org](mailto:Mitchell[at]dancesafe.org), Kristin Karas, DanceSafe, [Kristin\[at\]dancesafe.org](mailto:Kristin[at]dancesafe.org) or Bryan Oley, DanceSafe, [bryan\[at\]dancesafe.org](mailto:bryan[at]dancesafe.org)

Energy Control, Spain



Founded in 1999, Energy Control currently operates four fixed-sites which accept national and international postal submissions, as well as operating on-site facilities at nightclubs, festivals and other events.

Energy Control offers both qualitative and quantitative results, harm reduction materials, and brief interventions, in the form of one-on-one sessions between service users and service staff.

The testing facilities, and stake holder engagement are slightly different for the fixed-site and on-site operations. The fixed-site operation offers HPLC, GC-MS, UV/Vis and TLC testing; whilst on-site operations offer UV/Vis, TLC, and reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon) and p-dmab-ts, which is a test for detecting tryptamines. Individual service users who use the on-site booths receive their results in person, or by email if they wish, and results take between 1-2 hours. Event managers and promoters can also receive results in person, and they receive a report using aggregate data.

The fixed-site booth provides results to individual service users in person, over the phone, and via email, as well as receiving a report using aggregate data. National users receive their results within 4-7 days, and international users receive their results after 1 or 2 weeks.

Testing requires a scraping for qualitative testing, and a quarter or a pill for quantitative testings. Powder submissions are 10-15mg. Drug samples are consumed during testing.

The fixed-site operation also releases results to health and welfare organisations, and researchers via email. Politicians and media, and the public at large are welcome to view the public website.

Testing requires the submission of a whole pill, or 10-15 mg of powder. Testing only uses a quarter of a pill however, the whole pill is required to calculate dosage accurately. Drug samples that have not been used are not returned to the service users.

The fixed-site operations are open to the public once a week. In Barcelona the opening hours are from 12pm to 11pm, and in other cities from 5pm to 11pm. The fixed-sites collect between 50-80 samples per week, and events collect between 50-150 samples per night.

A restricted-access historical database of testing results is maintained.

Energy Control also conducts a pre-test survey and a post-test survey examining harm reduction strategies employed by the service user, with the goal of evaluating whether or not their intervention has impacted the service user's drug use.

Energy Control receives national funding, state-level funding, city-level funding as well as co-payments from service users. The substance analysis service costs around 200,000 euros per annum.

Energy Control has evolved significantly since it opened its doors in 1999 offering colorimetric testing on-site at rave parties. The following year a collaboration with IMIM's pharmacology department enabled GC/MS testing of samples. In 2006 the adulterant m-CPP emerged in MDMA/ecstasy pills, and Energy Control developed a new analytical technique in response, Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC). The scale of testing and the number of service users increased gradually every year.

In 2012, a new method for analysing cannabis was developed and this allowed Energy Control to engage with cannabis users for the first time. This was also the year that Energy Control acquired HPLC/MS to analyse LSD, fentanyl and GHB.

In 2014, Energy Control developed an international substance analysis service, marketed towards darknet market users.

In 2017, Energy Control developed a new quantitative method to analyse LSD, phytocannabinoids and GHB on LC/MS.

Energy Control is currently working towards a quantitative test for LSD blotters to be offered on-site.

The methods section of the following publication provides a cogent explanation of the service:

Quintana, P., et al. (2017). The hidden web and the fentanyl problem: Detection of ocfentanil as an adulterant in heroin. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 40, 78-83.

For more information, please contact Mireia Ventura, Energy Control, mireia[at]energycontrol.org or Núria Calzada, Energy Control, info[at]energycontrol.org

SINTES, France



SINTES (National Identification System for Toxics and Substances) was founded in 1999 as a collaborative public health initiative to monitor and document the chemical composition of illicit psychoactive substances, utilising forensic laboratories to conduct substance analysis. The SINTES network is comprised of professionals and volunteers who work with people who use drugs, and the analysis laboratories. Drug samples are collected at a variety of settings including low threshold facilities, nightclubs, festivals and other events, and hospitals and emergency departments throughout France. These samples are then sent to participating laboratories. SINTES conducts qualitative and quantitative analysis of substances and releases results to a variety of stakeholders. Analysis facilities include HPLC, UHPLC, GC-MS, LC-MS, UV/Vis, FTIR, LC-QToF, and NMR. A small quantity of substance is used for the analysis; any remaining sample is destroyed. Samples must meet one of the following criteria to qualify for testing by SINTES: unusual effects; new psychoactive substances (NPS); new forms of a drug; or failed to be successfully identified by other drug analysis services or tests such as TLC.

SINTES releases results back to the individual who collected the sample (harm reduction worker) via email, and then the collector communicates the results back to the individual who submitted the sample. This process can take over a week. This brief one-on-one intervention can also include the dissemination of harm reduction materials. Police, health and welfare organisations, and researchers are provided with information both verbally and via email. Reports using aggregate data are also regularly released, and the public at large can access SINTES' website. Data regarding NPS is also reported directly to the EMCDDA.

SINTES serves as an early warning system in France, able to act quickly due to its collaborations between public health, welfare, law enforcement, and government institutions. In the last two years, SINTES has analysed roughly 400 samples a year. The service costs 10,000 Euros per annum, and it receives national funding. In 2016, France

passed a national law which contains an article authorising and structuring drug analysis services in France, in response to growing public support.

SINTES have recently started cultivating an active online presence, promoting the service on French drug related forums.

They also maintain a publicly accessible website: <http://www.ofdt.fr/enquetes-et-dispositifs/sintes/>

For more information, please contact Thomas Néfau, OFDT, thomas.nefau[at]ofdt.fr

DrogArt, Slovenia



Founded in 1999, DrogArt is a harm reduction non-governmental organisation (NGO), active in nightlife settings. As part of their harm reduction services they offer qualitative substance analysis; which is performed within the Slovenian Early Warning System. DrogArt is part of a network of NGOs across Slovenia (8 in total) operating at fixed-sites, which all serve as drop-off points for drug samples to be tested. Samples will ideally include either a whole pill, or at least 10mg of powder however, the service will accept smaller samples if provided.

Harm reduction materials and brief one-on-one interventions with harm reduction workers are available to the individual service user at the point of sample collection. The following day, law enforcement seizes the de-identified surrendered drug samples and transports them for testing at the national forensic laboratory. When the results are available, they are communicated back from the police to DrogArt, or the other respective collecting agency. The intermediary organisation then communicates the results back to the service user over the phone, via email or in person. This process usually takes two weeks to a month, two months at most.

Testing facilities include HPLC, GC-MS, and NMR. Only qualitative results are communicated back to the organisations and individual service users. On the spot Colorimetric tests can be performed at DrogArt info points. A restricted-access historical database of testing results is maintained. In 2016, 115 samples were collected for analysis across 9 sample collection points.

Funding is a composite of national funding, city-level funding, and funding from the European Commission (I-SEE project – ended, RESPONSE project – ended, and B.A.O.N.P.S project – ongoing, ends on the 18th of November, 2017).

On-site substance analysis is currently in the works (funds are available, and negotiations with stakeholders are ongoing), and additional upgrades to the current system are planned: such as shortening wait-times for the communication of results to one week, as well as offering quantitative results.

An evaluation of the service from the individual service user's perspective was performed in accordance with the I-SEE project design. Upon publication, it will be available from DrogArt's website: www.drogart.org

A short description of the service in English is also available from the B.A.O.N.P.S website:

<http://coopalice.net/baonps/drug-checking-procedure-slovenia/>

For more information, please contact Špela Dovžan, Association DrogArt, spela[at]drogart.org or Simona Šabić, Association DrogArt, simona[at]drogart.org

DrugsData/EcstasyData, United States



DrugsData, formerly known as EcstasyData was founded in 2001, as a program of the non-profit organisation, Erowid Center. DrugsData operates as a fixed site, which accepts domestic as well as international submissions via postal mail. The project has formal permission from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to conduct anonymous mail-in testing of controlled substances through a DEA licensed laboratory, offering qualitative identification of substances. The program does not have authorisation to publish quantitative data about samples.

Testing capabilities include GC-MS and reagent testing (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Ehrlich, and on occasion Iodine). Testing requires a whole tablet, a dose-unit of blotter, or a sample of 20 mg powder/crystal, to allow for multiple tests and sample identification. Drug samples are never provided back to the individual service users. Individual service users receive results by accessing DrugsData's website, after 1-2 weeks. Service users who email questions may receive email communication in response.

DrugsData does not require user registration to view results. Health and welfare organisations, researchers, media, law enforcement, and the public at large can all access the project's website, social media announcements, and test results. Aggregate data is used in published articles written by Erowid and other researchers.

A database of more than 5,600 historical test results is maintained and accessible online. This database includes a contribution of 600 test results from DanceSafe from 1999-2000, and 33 test results from a MAPS-sponsored project in 1996. Since 2011, DrugsData has also republished test results from other drug checking services including Saferparty.ch, Raveitsafe.ch, checkit!, Energy Control, and BANOPS.

The program costs USD \$93,000 per annum, and is funded by the Erowid Center, along with co-payments from the service users. Free testing is conducted on certain pre-approved samples when doing so serves a research or strong harm-reduction purpose.

The program was originally designed to monitor the composition of street ecstasy. With an increase in the number of psychoactive substances available to the public, more than half of the submissions received by the service are now non-MDMA submissions. The rebranding of the project is part of an effort to reflect the changing scope, and testing capabilities of the project.

For more information, see the following publications:

Erowid, E. (2016, August). Less Ecstasy, More Data: 15 Years of the EcstasyData Program. *Erowid Extracts*, 29, 4-5. Online edition: http://www.erowid.org/chemicals/chemicals_testing2.shtml

Erowid, E, & Erowid, F. (2013, December). Analytical Glimpses of 'Molly' and Research Chemicals. *Erowid Extracts*, 25, 18-19. Online edition: http://www.erowid.org/chemicals/chemicals_testing1.shtml

The service maintains two publicly accessible websites: www.drugsdata.org & www.ecstasydata.org

For more information, please contact Erowid Center, [info\[at\]ecstasydata.org](mailto:info[at]ecstasydata.org)

ANKORS Festival Harm Reduction, Canada



ANKORS are a long-term community-led harm reduction organisation, which added drug checking to their other services in 2002. ANKORS operate a fixed-site which is open to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-4pm; as well as on-site at festivals. ANKORS facilitates qualitative test results, utilising TLC, Raman spectroscopy, Fentanyl test strips, and reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, Liebermann, Froehde, Folin, Ehrlich, Scott, and cocaine cuts). Service staff never actually

handle the drugs themselves. However, harm reduction materials and support are made available to individual service users.

Testing requires a scraping or a few grains of a substance, and results are available on the spot (5-minute wait times). Individual service users can access their results in person or over the phone. Reports using aggregate data are available to the public at large. A historical database is maintained, and is accessible upon request.

ANKORS are fully sanctioned and supported by the local health authority. However, there are no official agreements in place with local police authorities. Large festival operations cost approximately CDN \$15,000, for which ANKORS previously received national funding which has now ended.

Whilst evaluations are not built into the service, ANKORS has published a substance analysis guide which is available for free at ankorsvolunteer.com. ANKORS are currently crowdsourcing funds via a go fund me campaign for a mass spectrometer to enable greater testing capabilities.

For more information see:

Sage, C. & Michelow, W. (2016) *Drug Checking at Music Festivals: A How to Guide*. Nelson, BC, Canada: ANKORS. <http://michelow.ca/doc/drug-checking-guide-online-v1.pdf>

For more information, please contact Chloe Sage, drug checking harm reduction program, [hrankors\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:hrankors[at]gmail.com)

Testing Project; Lonja Laket Project; Punto Fijo, Spain



These testing projects started in 2002, in the Basque region. They work in coordination with public health organisations, providing qualitative and quantitative substance analysis results. The organisation operates a fixed-site office as well as on-site drug checking at nightclubs, festivals and other events. Analysis facilities include GC-MS, TLC, NMR, Hemp test, and reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, RobaTest, Folin, Ehrlich). Results from reagent testing kits and Hemp tests are available within 5 minutes, TLC results take between 15-30 minutes, while NMR or GC-MS results are available within 30 days.

Individual service users receive the results in person, telephone, text message, email or via an app. Harm reduction materials and brief interventions with staff members are also available. The analysis uses a scraping or 5mg of powder.

Part of the testing service includes a short survey, recording service users' age; sex; if they have taken the substance they are having analysed; if they have used a substance analysis service before; if they intend to use a substance analysis service again; and if their sample is found to not contain the intended active ingredient, what will they do with it?

The service maintains an open access historical database of testing results. The service is anonymous and confidential.

The service receives state-level and city-level funding, and in 2016, they analysed 1,305 samples, over the course of 350 hours. They attended approximately 45 events, during which 1,000 samples were collected. Lonja Laket operated in 40 different locations and collected 80 samples; Punto Fijo was open for 45 days of the year, and collected approximately 300 samples.

For further information please see the annual activity report from 2015, available at: <https://www.slideshare.net/Ailaket/memoria-anual-2016-ai-laket>

As well as this publicly available information:

https://www.slideshare.net/Ailaket?utm_campaign=profiletracking&utm_medium=sss&utm_source=ssslideview
http://www.ailaket.com/?page_id=1098

For more information, please contact Ricardo Caparrós Casado (Riki), Ai Laket!, ailaket[at]ailaket.com

Kosmicare Association – Integrated Drug Checking Service at Boom Festival, Portugal



The integrated drug checking service at Boom festival started in 2006 and operates on-site at the BOOM festival offering qualitative substance analysis results. The service has a specific government permit to offer a substance analysis service to individual users, and is part of a larger health infrastructure in place at the festival which includes: a medical team, firefighters, Kosmicare's psychological crisis intervention, and a harm reduction information hub. The service offers TLC testing, which requires a small amount of the sample in the form of a pill, powder or blotter; and they only ask for the amount consumed during the test. Service users receive the results in person, and waiting times run between 30-60 minutes. Brief interventions with staff members are also available.

Event managers and promoters, and researchers receive a report using aggregate data. The service has enjoyed co-funding from the Boom organisers, and a partnership with Energy Control/ABD, and CHECKIN/APDES since 2016.

In 2016 the service carried out 756 tests. A restricted-access historical database of test results is maintained. The costs of the operation are as follows: 3,500 euros for materials to set up the TLC system; 1,000 euros to rent an air-conditioned container; 5,500 euros for labour costs, food, flights, and training.

For more information about the service, see the following publication:

Martins, D. et al. (2017). The detection and prevention of unintentional consumption of DOx and 25x-NBOMe at Boom Festival. *Human Psychopharmacology: Clinical and Experimental*, 32(3), doi: 10.1002/hup.2608

For more information please contact: Helena Valente, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the Porto University/Kosmicare Association, helenamvalente[at]gmail.com or Daniel Martins, Faculty of Sciences of the Porto University/Kosmicare Association, danieljosemmartins[at]gmail.com

Jugendberatung Streetwork/ saferparty.ch, Switzerland



Saferparty.ch started with on-site drug checking at nightclubs in 2001. It currently visits 8 events per year, collecting 35 samples per event. In 2006 it opened a fixed-site office with additional facilities (DIZ) on a weekly basis. Their fixed-site office is open to the public on Tuesdays (17:30-20:30) and Fridays (17:30-19:30) collecting up to 55 samples each week or about 1800 samples per year. Saferparty.ch offers qualitative and quantitative substance analysis results, harm reduction materials, and brief one-on-one interventions with staff members; as well as organising roundtables for nightlife stakeholders. Testing capabilities include HPLC, GC-MS, and LC-MS. Testing uses a quarter of a pill or 5-10mg of powder. However, the fixed-site service collects whole pills or 50mg of powder from the service users to be forwarded to the laboratory. Remaining samples are not returned. Results are delivered to the individual service user in person, over the phone, or via email, with wait times running between 15-29 minutes on-site, and 1-3 days for fixed-site results. Health and welfare organisations, law enforcement, event managers and promoters, and researchers all receive results via email. The public at large is also welcome to visit the public website at www.saferparty.ch

The service receives city-level funding. A restricted-access historical database of test results is maintained.

The service has been described in the following two publications:

Hungerbuehler et al. (2011). Drug Checking: A prevention measure for a heterogeneous group with high consumption frequency and polydrug use - evaluation of Zurich's drug checking services. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 8(16). <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/8/1/16>

Maier et al. (2014). *Erarbeitung Instrumente zur Früherkennung und Frühintervention von problematischem Substanzkonsum im Schweizer Nachtleben (2011-2013)*. Bulletin. Swiss Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction

For more information, please contact Christian Kobel, Jugendberatung Streetwork, christian.kobel[at]zuerich.ch;

saferparty at info[at]saferparty.ch

XBT program, France



The XBT program was founded in 2009 as a program of Médecins du Monde, connecting a network of 40 partnering harm reduction services. These services fall under two categories of services: CSAPA (harm reduction, prevention, and medical services) and CAARUD (harm reduction). Through the network, the program operates on-site at festivals and events, at street activations, and at a range of fixed-site harm reduction locations. Of the 40 partners, five fixed-site services (Sida Paroles, Médecins du Monde Mission Squat, AddictoCentre, Bus 31/32, and Médecins du Monde Toulouse) and two on-site services (Association Charonne/Sida Paroles, and Bus 31/32) currently offer in-house substance analysis. The remaining services act as intermediaries, collecting samples for submission to the testing services. (For further information please refer to the Appendix, and the Association Bus 31/32 profile).

The collection of samples is coupled with a brief counselling intervention. Harm reduction workers do not handle the samples themselves, instead inviting service users to place their sample into a toxitube. The network offers qualitative results via TLC analysis, which requires a scraping of product. When testing on-site, results are available after 30-59 minutes, and results are provided to the service user in person, or over the phone. When tests are submitted through partnering harm reduction organisations, results are available within 4-7 days, and can be accessed via the website by the collector, using a secure access code.

If the sample cannot be identified by TLC, or the individual service user has reported serious secondary effects, the sample is sent to SINTES (part of the French monitoring centre for drugs and drug addiction – see profile), who are able to conduct both qualitative and quantitative substance analysis.

A historical database of analysis results is maintained and is accessible upon request.

In 2016, the XBT network analysed over 600 samples, and they have seen a significant rise in the number of sample submissions since the beginning of 2017. The XBT program infrastructure does not receive government funding. The partnered services receive state-level funding for harm reduction activities. However, substance analysis is not recognised as a funded activity.

The XBT coordination team at Médecins du Monde is committed to advocating for official national recognition of drug checking services as harm reduction interventions.

A poster about the service was presented at the International Harm Reduction Conference in Montreal in May of 2017.

For more information, please contact Grégory Pfau, Médecins du Monde, [gregory.pfau\[at\]medecinsdumonde.net](mailto:gregory.pfau[at]medecinsdumonde.net)

DÁT2 Psy Help, Hungary



DÁT2 Psy Help is a community-based self-organised harm reduction effort for people who use psychedelic drugs. The service grew out of the Hungarian Psychedelic Community website, which established an Ecstasy Pill database in 2004, hosted at Daath.hu. Activists started sharing reagent testing kits to members of a local online forum group free of charge. In 2013 this peer group activation evolved into the formation of a harm reduction team which attends parties and festivals and distributes reagent testing kits on-site.

Members of the service photograph the individual service users' pills, without handling the substances, and provide colorimetric reagents (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, Robadope, Froehde, Ehrlich) in Eppendorf tubes. They provide instructions on how to use the tests and on how to interpret the results. Organisation members are unable to handle the drugs, as in Hungary this would legally amount to trafficking. Harm reduction materials are also provided as well as brief interventions.

Researchers can access reports based on aggregate data, and the general public are welcome to visit the public website. The photographs of the pills are uploaded into a searchable online database along with service user's commentaries and, or, warnings.

DÁT2 Psy Help attend between 20 and 30 events per year, and facilitate up to 2 tests per event, resulting in approximately 25 tests per annum. The service runs on a completely voluntary basis, reagent testing kits and Eppendorf tubes are donated by volunteers, and the website is maintained by volunteers who donate their time and skills.

Given the legal and social environment in Hungary, DÁT2 Psy Help does not anticipate formalising the provision of their drug checking service anytime soon. The legal environment also prohibits the service from conducting TLC testing.

For more information, see the following publication: Móró, L., & Rácz, J. (2013). Online drug user-led harm reduction in Hungary: a review of "Daath". *Harm Reduction Journal*, 10(18). doi: 10.1186/1477-7517-10-18

For more information, please contact Levente Móró, DÁT2 Psy Help, [leve\[at\]utu.fi](mailto:leve[at]utu.fi)

The Loop, United Kingdom



The Loop was founded in 2013 as a drug checking service which obtained samples from agencies on site at festivals and nightclubs; and reported the results back to the collecting agencies. The loop termed this model of operation as 'halfway house' drug testing. In 2016, the Loop launched the UK's first 'front of house' drug safety testing, coining the term Multi Agency Safety Testing (MAST). Offering both qualitative and quantitative testing results. The Loop also provides harm reduction materials, brief interventions with service users, event staff training, safe drug disposal facilities on site, medical assistance, and welfare assistance as needed.

Testing facilities include UV/Vis, FTIR, reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, Robadope, Liebermann, Froehde, Folin, Ehrlich), and wet extraction. Results are usually available within 30-59 minutes and provided to the individual service user in person as part of a brief intervention with a trained healthcare professional. Quantification is currently only available for pills, and submissions ideally include 1 whole pill, although FTIR

testing is possible on 0.25 pill. Testing of powder samples of approximately 5mg is also available.

The Loop engages with a variety of stakeholders, including the police, health and welfare organisations, event managers and promoters, researchers, and politicians and media at all stages of the interventions. Police are very supportive of the service, and view testing as a useful action before the lawful disposal of the drugs. A historical database of the testing results is maintained and currently being compared with others around Europe.

Since 2016, the service has tested 100-200 samples per day, reaching a maximum testing capacity in 2017, of 500 tests per day, up to 1/minute, with 'front of house' drug safety testing at 3 UK summer festivals. The Loop is a non-profit social enterprise run by volunteers and receives donations from event organisers and police. The Loop owns 2 FTIR spectrometers and 2 UV spectrometers.

A cross disciplinary programme of evaluation including forensic testing, behavioural outcomes, impact on event emergency services and wider drug policy is ongoing.

The Loop is currently negotiating a planned expansion into multiple venues, such as drug treatment centres, city centre night time economy booths, and on-site testing at nightclubs. The service also aims to expand its testing capabilities, including a public-private partnership with Durham University to develop on-site bespoke GCMS.

For more information, please see the following publication:

Royal Society for Public Health. (2017). *Drug safety testing at festivals and night clubs*.
<https://www.rsph.org.uk/asset/1E18B0A5-37CD-4F05-A89AF0AD694569EA.6D961466-6CED-4889-AD22D628DFAFC7BB/>

Website: www.wearetheloop.org

Or please contact Fiona Measham, Durham University, The Loop, [info\[at\]wearetheloop.org](mailto:info[at]wearetheloop.org)

ACT Investigation of Novel Substances Project, Australia



The ACT Investigation of Novel Substances (ACTINOS) Project started performing qualitative and quantitative drug checking in an emergency department, or hospital setting, in 2013. The aim of their service is to identify the most acutely harmful of NPS, as evidenced by emergency department presentation.

Analysis capabilities include HPLC, UHPLC, GC-MS, LC-MS, FTIR, NMR confirmation of 'unknown unknowns'. Results are available after 1-3 days, and safe drug disposal facilities are available on site. The service users are patients who present to emergency departments, as a consequence of over-dosing (OD). The testing of the samples occurs after the OD episode. Any quantity can be tested, however the larger the sample, the greater the result. Hospital patients are advised that they may not bring illicit drugs into the hospital, and are offered two options when they do: 1. To surrender the drugs to law enforcement, or 2. To surrender the drugs for analysis and confidential individual feedback to the service users. Results are provided in person, or over the phone. Police, health and welfare organisations, politicians and the media, can access information over the phone. A restricted-access historical database of testing results is maintained.

The service receives funding from a number of stake holders: state-level funding, in-kind support from involved agencies, as well as philanthropic donations. In terms of costs, the service is cost neutral.

In the future, provided with sufficient increases in funding, the service plans to expand to interstate jurisdictions, as well as establishing on-site drug checking facilities within the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

The ACTINOS Project & plan to provide drug checking at music festival(s) in the ACT during the 2017/2018 summer festival season, as part of Australia's only local government-sanctioned pilot.

For more information, please contact Dr David Caldicott, Australian Drug Observatory, Australian National University, David.Caldicott[at]calvary-act.com.au

Servicio de Analisis de Sustancias (Substance Analysis Service), Colombia



This service has offered qualitative and quantitative substance analysis since 2013, operating on-site at nightclubs, festivals, and events, as well as at a fixed-site location. Testing facilities include GC-MS, UV/Vis, TLC, reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, Folin, Scott's). Results are available to service users after 5-15 minutes, and brief interventions with staff members are also available.

The testing requires a scraping, and the results are communicated back to the service users in person. Police, health and welfare organisations, event managers and promoters, politicians and media, and the public at large are all welcome to access the service's website, as well as reports using aggregate data.

The service was formed by Energy Control, Spain (see profile), and is part of a project aimed at promoting a culture of harm reduction regarding the consumption of legal and illegal psychoactive substances, operating at nightclubs, festivals and raves.

The project publishes early warnings for health care consumers, as well as reviews about all the new substances which are detected at each intervention. The project also reports data of concern to the Colombian Observatory of Drugs, which works with the Health Ministry, and Justice Ministry.

The service currently visits an average of 25 events per year. The largest set of samples collected at an event was in 2017, at a 3 day event, 444 samples in total. Funding is provided by event promoters, alongside contributions from service users. Costs are \$4,000 USD per month: this covers the salaries for a sociologist and a pharmacist, as well as the intervention costs at festivals, and basic expenses for volunteers.

In the future, the service plans to purchase the equipment for HPLC, and GC-MS testing.

The service has published data based on an evaluative survey: www.echelecabeza.com/informe-de-resultados-encuesta-de-satisfaccion-y-cambio-de-comportamiento-echele-cabeza-2016/

In 2014, the service published a book in Spanish called *Échele cabeza*, outlining all of the activities.

For more information, please contact Vannesa Morris Silva, *Échele cabeza cuando se de en la cabeza*, watashimorris[at]hotmail.com

Programa de Análisis de Sustancias (PAS), Mexico



Based in Mexico City, the Substance Analysis Program (P.A.S.) was founded in 2014 as a community-based and peer-driven multi-sectorial partnership between local health authorities and 3 non-governmental organisations (ReverdeSer Colectivo, Espolea and CUPiHD), under the tutelage of Energy Control, Spain (see profile). P.A.S. offers qualitative and semi-quantitative identification of several substances. On-site testing facilities utilise

reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, and Ehrlich) and UV testing for LSD. Fixed-site locations offer TLC testing, and Precipitation testing for cocaine. Only the amount of sample which will be consumed during testing (a scraping) is collected.

Individual service users receive results on-site in person after an average of 15-30 minutes, or on the following day if the substance was submitted for TLC testing, along with harm reduction materials, and brief one-on-one interventions with staff members.

Health and Welfare organisations, community outreach organisations, event managers and promoters, politicians and media, and the public at large can access a report based on aggregate data.

P.A.S. has collaborative agreements with the Institute for Attention and Prevention of Addictions, the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City, the Youth Institute, and additional regional and international networks, as well as having worked with the [Mexican] National Psychiatry Institute, providing education for mental health professionals on New Psychoactive Substances and Market trends.

P.A.S. visits roughly 10 events each year, analysing between 50 and 300 samples per event. Over 500 on-site tests were carried out in the first half of 2017. A restricted access historical database of all test results is maintained, and P.A.S. is currently developing their first bi-annual report.

Funding is provided by event promoters, voluntary contributions from service users (the service use is always free), and international funding. Each test costs roughly USD\$3.5, with P.A.S. spending approximately USD\$900 per event.

P.A.S., are currently involved with an educational full-spectrum harm reduction campaign which is developing a night-life program focused on alcohol harm reduction; as well as working in collaboration with local authorities towards generating a legal platform to roll-out substance analysis as a public service at the city, state, and federal level.

For more information, please contact Brun González, ReverdeSer Colectivo, [brun.gonzalez\[at\]jespolea.org](mailto:brun.gonzalez[at]jespolea.org) or [P.A.S.analisis.sustancias\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:P.A.S.analisis.sustancias[at]gmail.com)

dib+, raveitsafe.ch by Contact – Stiftung für Suchthilfe, Switzerland



dib+ was founded in 2014 as a fixed-site booth in Berne and is open to the public on Wednesdays (18:00-20:00). The service offers qualitative and quantitative substance analysis, as well as harm reduction materials and brief interventions. Analysis facilities at the laboratory include HPLC, GC-MS, and LC-MS. Results are available after 1-3 days and are provided to the individual service user in person or over the phone. Drug checking requires either a quarter of a pill, or 20-30 mg of powder. Reports using aggregate data are publicly available, and a restricted access historical database of test results is maintained.

The service receives local government funding and collects up to 15 substances per week. The costs are 116,000 CHF per annum. dib+ would like to see a proliferation of professional drug checking services in every large Swiss city. Due to the Swiss political federal system, expansion into other cantons takes time.

A poster about the service, and other Swiss services, can be accessed here:

[http://www.gef.be.ch/gef/de/index/gesundheitspartysubstanztestung.assetref/dam/documents/GEF/KAPA/de/Poster_Party_drugs_testing_on_the_dance_floor_Jan_2017.pdf](http://www.gef.be.ch/gef/de/index/gesundheit/gesundheitspartysubstanztestung.assetref/dam/documents/GEF/KAPA/de/Poster_Party_drugs_testing_on_the_dance_floor_Jan_2017.pdf)

For more information, please contact Roman Brunner, Rave it Safe, [Roman.Brunner\[at\]contactmail.ch](mailto:Roman.Brunner[at]contactmail.ch)

Drogenarbeit Z6 Drug Checking, Austria



Drogenarbeit Z6 in was founded in 2014 in Innsbruck as a drug checking service, accepting drug samples from Western Austria, Germany, and Italy, and analysing them at the forensics institute of Innsbruck. The service offers qualitative and quantitative results, and tests on average 11 samples per week. Analysis facilities include GC-MS, and LC-MS; harm reduction materials, and brief interventions with staff members are also available. Testing requires the submission of a scraping of a pill, or 10mg of powder. Submissions are made by individual service members on Mondays, and they receive their results 4 days later, on Fridays; either in person, or via website (with a secure code). Every submission includes a brief intervention, when samples are submitted, and when results are communicated. The interventions also include a brief survey about harm reduction, and a reflection on personal consumption practices. every time an individual uses the service.

An evaluation was carried out for the pilot phase of the intervention (the first 100 samples), and reports based on aggregate data are prepared every year and can be retrieved from Drogenarbeit Z6's website. A historical database of testing results is maintained and is accessible upon request.

The service receives local government funding from the state of Tirol; each analysis costs about 70 euros. Police do not interfere with the operations of the service, and results are shared with the Health Ministry, and are the focal point of the European Early Warning System (EWS).

For more information please see: www.drogenarbeitz6.at

For more information please contact: Manuel Hochenegger, Drogenarbeit Z6 Drug Checking, mobile[at]drogenarbeitz6.at

KnowYourStuffNZ, New Zealand



KnowYourStuffNZ opened in 2015, offering qualitative substance analysis on-site at festivals. Testing facilities include FTIR spectrometry and reagent testing (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Simon, Liebermann, Folin, and Ehrlich). Testing takes place in the presence of the service user and results are available after 5-10 minutes, delivered in person along with harm reduction information about the identified substance. Testing requires a scraping from a pill, or 5mg of powder. Staff do not handle the samples during testing, and safe drug disposal is available on site. All samples are destroyed.

A report based on aggregate data is made available to event managers and promoters, as well as politicians and the media. A historical database of testing results is maintained and accessible upon request.

In 2016, KnowYourStuffNZ reached out to government and police officials seeking active support. These bodies were unable to endorse the service or provide protection from prosecution. Despite this, since publicising the service, KnowYourStuffNZ have met with a range of stakeholders to discuss their findings, and continue to be open to collaboration and communication with authorities.

The service is self-funded by volunteers, and indirect national funding. Costs run at an average of \$35 NZD per test. This cost is largely related to fixed costs such as the initial cost of the spectrometer, and will likely drop as more samples are tested. Capital investment in the service was approximately \$65,000. In 2016, the service attended 8 festivals, testing a total of 330 samples. At the larger events, they received around 50 samples per day.

One of the key messages the service has been able to deliver since going public in 2017, was that the intervention has reduced drug use of samples that are found to be not as presumed.

The service aims to visit more festivals next year, and are looking to open a fixed-site location as well. They are currently hoping to crowdfund a second spectrometer, and are working with chemists from The Loop, United Kingdom (see profile) regarding the technical limitations of FTIR testing. KnowYourStuffNZ also liaises closely with DanceSafe, United States (see profile) regarding advances in reagent testing protocols and technology.

Initial data can be found on the service's website: <https://knowyourstuff.nz/>

For more information, contact Wendy Allison, KnowYourStuffNZ, info@knowyourstuff.nz or Samuel Andrews, NZ Drug Foundation, samuel.andrews@drugfoundation.org.nz

Association Bus 31/32, France



Association Bus 31/32 was founded in 2015, as a harm reduction initiative, offering on-site and fixed-site qualitative substance analysis, a mobile methadone unit, and a needle exchange program. Testing utilises TLC and requires a scraping of a pill or 50mg of a powder. Staff do not handle the samples for analysis themselves, instead inviting service users to place their sample into a toxitube. Samples are collected through the substance analysis program as well as via the methadone program, and the needle exchange program. Results are returned to the individual service user in person or via email, after 1-2 weeks. Testing is carried out by a pharmacologist on a fortnightly basis, which explains the wait time for the results. Harm reduction materials and brief interventions with service staff are also available, as are safe drug-disposal facilities. A historical database of analysis results is maintained and is accessible upon request.

The service receives 18,000 euros a year from national funding sources, to cover the pharmacologist's costs. In 2016, the service tested 180 samples. The service aims to expand its testing capabilities to include a more discriminate HPLC-UV instrument on site, and to offer weekly substance analysis at a fixed-site location.

For more information, please contact Yann Granger, CAARUD, caarud@bus3132.org

Be Aware on Night Pleasure Safety (BAONPS), Italy



BAONPS started in October 2015 and was funded by the European Commission. The project operated in three different European Union countries (Italy, Portugal, and Slovenia), and involved organisations working in harm and risk reduction in nightlife settings; and is scheduled to end in November 2017. The service is currently funded by ASL TO4, under the Regional Health System. BAONPS was founded as a response to an increase in reports of suspected new NPS, received by outreach workers. The project was the first formalised drug checking service in Italy. The service's predecessors carried out informal peer group colorimetric testing at raves.

In Italy, BAONPS offered qualitative substance analysis on-site at nightclubs, festivals, and events, using Raman spectroscopy. Results were available within 5 minutes and delivered to individual service users in person, or via website using a secure access code. Harm reduction materials, brief one-on-one interventions, and group counselling services were

also available. The testing process is non-destructive, and staff did not handle the drug samples.

Local government was regularly informed about the testing results and counselling initiatives, and the regional health system drug addiction service provider was involved in the project. A restricted access historical database of testing results is maintained.

Service users were asked to fill out a short evaluation form about the service they received, the survey can be found here: http://coopalice.net/baonps/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Drug-Checking-evaluation-form_Results-from-Italy.pdf

BAONPS attended 33 events in Italy, and drug checking was conducted at 27 of those during the last 18 months. 472 samples were tested; a conclusive result was obtained for 344 of those samples.

For more information, please see the following publication:

Coop. Sociale Alice Onlus (Applicant), APDES, ASL TO4, Centro Antidoping "A. Bertinaria", CNCA, DrogArt, Eclectica, FederSerD, Fixpunkt

BANOPS' methodology and preliminary results were presented at NIGHT 2016, and The Club Health Conference of 2017.

For more information, please contact: Alberto Salomone, Centro Regionale Antidoping e di Tossicologia [alberto.salomone\[at\]antidoping.piemonte.it](mailto:alberto.salomone@antidoping.piemonte.it) or Elisa Fornero, Cooperative Sociale Alice Onlus [neutravel\[at\]coopalice.net](mailto:neutravel@coopalice.net)

DUCK, Luxembourg



DUCK (Drug Checking service) re-opened as part of the PIPAPO outreach project, with the support of the Ministry of Health in 2016. The service offers qualitative and quantitative substance analysis on-site at nightclubs, festivals and other events. Harm reduction materials and brief interventions with staff members are also available. Testing facilities include GC-MS and LC-MS. Testing requires a scraping or 5-10 mg of powder, and results are available within 1-2 working days. Results are provided back to the individual service users via website, using a secure access code. Health and welfare organisations, and researchers receive reports based on aggregate data.

The DUCK interventions have been granted clearance by the prosecutor's office, and police are informed ahead of time about the dates and locations of interventions. A restricted-access historical database of test results is maintained. The service runs up to 20 interventions per annum, with an average of 5 analyses per event.

The intervention initially operated as a pilot from 2014-2015, and currently has clearance to run until April 2018. The service receives national funding, and costs are around 150,000 euros per year.

DUCK would like to establish a fixed-site drug checking service which would operate on week days, in the near future.

For more information please see <http://pipapo.lu/>

For more information, please contact Carlos Paulos, 4motion, [carlos\[at\]4motion.lu](mailto:carlos@4motion.lu)

SIN Lab, Poland



The SIN Lab (Social Drug Policy Initiative) is a grassroots initiative, founded by partygoers, harm reduction workers, and event organisers in 2016, offering drug checking on-site at nightclubs, festivals, and other events. The SIN lab operates with the collaboration and support of the Foundation for Social Policy PREKURSOR, a coalition of third sector non-governmental organisations and individuals working in the field of public health and social policy. SIN The service has received guidance and assistance from Energy Control, Spain (see profile).

The SIN Lab offers qualitative substance analysis: Staff do not handle the drug samples themselves, rather they provide counselling and hand out reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, Liebermann, Froehde, Ehrlich, Hofmann, Simon's, Robadope, and Scott). This process uses a scraping of the sample. Results are available after a few seconds and are communicated to the service users in person together with the provided results guide. The service also purchases NPS samples independently from web shops and test the content of those with the help of affiliated laboratories. A historical database of testing results is maintained.

Funding is a composite of funding from event promoters, collections via webshops, and donations. The costs to the service can be as low as 50 cents (euro) per analysis. The service attends 4 events per month, and hands out roughly 20 reagent testing kits per night.

In July 2017 SIN and PREKURSOR collected samples for the first ever Polish government-funded pilot LC/MS-NMR substance analysis project.

SIN Lab is currently designing an app to improve on reagent testing, as well as developing a 'design your own test kit' website. The service aims to become a formalised service, with a full pharmacological laboratory.

For more information, please contact Magdalena Bartnik, PREKURSOR Foundation for Social Policy m.bartnik@prekursor.org or Jerzy Afanasjew, SIN (Social Drug Policy Initiative) j.afanasjew@sin.org.pl

Imaginario 9, Uruguay



Founded in 2016, Imaginario 9, formerly known as Proderechos, offers qualitative substance analysis on-site at festivals utilising: TLC and reagent testing kits (Marquis, Mecke, Mandelin, and a solution for testing Cocaine).

Testing results are available after 30-59 minutes and are returned to the individual service user in person. Harm reduction materials and brief one-on-one interventions are also available, as are safe drug disposal facilities on-site. Testing requires either a scraping from a pill, or 10mg of powder. The service maintains a restricted-access historical database of test results.

Imaginario 9 is funded by event promoters. The service was present at two events as of writing and analysed 120 samples per event.

Imaginario 9 aims to contribute to the design of harm reduction policies implemented in Uruguay and produce key data for the early warning system. The service is quite new, and maintains a productive dialogue with government institutions.

For more information, please contact: Hernán Delgado, Imaginario 9: hdelgadovivas@gmail.com or Paula Mussio, Imaginario 9: pau mussio@gmail.com

Appendix

Swiss Services

Safer Dance Basel is a cooperation between the “Suchthilfe Region Basel” and the association SubsDance. They have received funding for prevention work at ten events in 2016/2017, five of which were combined with on-site drug checking. Funding was provided by the “Stiftung für Drogenarbeit”, and was supported by the canton Basel Stadt, and the canton Basel Land. To date, there has been no confirmation of continued funding.

For more information, please contact Elisabeth Schätti, [saferdance.basel\[at\]suchthilfe.ch](mailto:saferdance.basel[at]suchthilfe.ch)

Nuit Blanche? is a collective of seven organizations in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

For more information, please contact Roxanne Mégevand, [contact\[at\]nuit-blanche.ch](mailto:contact[at]nuit-blanche.ch)

French Services

The following table lists all the harm reduction services involved with the XBT program. In the left column we have listed the services that offer substance analysis, and to the right the corresponding services whose authorization only covers collecting samples. Two of the harm reduction services mentioned here (Technoplus and Association Bus 31/32) are profiled in greater detail in this catalogue, as they both participated in this survey as individual services.

Substance Analysis Service	Partner
Sida Paroles (Colombes) – Paris & suburbs	110 Les Halles (Paris): CSAPA
	Association Charonne (Paris): CSAPA
	Association Charonne B10 (Paris): CAARUD
	Association Charonne B18 (Paris): CAARUD
	CAARUD Aulnay (Aulnay Sous Bois): CAARUD
	CSAPA Horizons (Paris): CSAPA
	EGO (Paris): CSAPA/CAARUD
	Essonne Accueil (Etampes, Evry, Massy-Palaiseau): CSAPA
	Freesonne (Juvisy Sur Orge): CAARUD
	Gaïa (Paris): CSAPA/CAARUD
	Interl’UD 77 (Melun): CAARUD
	La Mosaïque (Montreuil): CSAPA
	Marmottan (Paris): CSAPA
	Nova Dona (Paris): CSAPA/CAARUD
	Pierre Nicole (Paris): CSAPA
	Proses (Montreuil & St Denis): CAARUD
	SIDA Paroles 78 (Mantes La Jolie): CAARUD
	Spiritek (Lille): CAARUD
	Step (Paris): CAARUD
	Technoplus (Paris): Party Initiative
Trait d’Union (Villeneuve La Garenne): CSAPA	
Médecins Du Monde Mission Squat (Paris) – for all partners without local analysis offers	16 Kay (Chalon Sur Saone): CAARUD
	AIDES Vendée (La Roche Sur Yon): CAARUD
	CEID Addiction (Bordeaux): CSAPA/CAARUD
	Keep Smiling (Lyon): Party & LGBT Initiative
	La Case (Bordeaux): CAARUD
	Le GREID (Tarmac) : CAARUD
	Orange Bleue (Rennes): Party Initiative
	Pause Diabolo (Lyon): CAARUD
	Rimbaud (St Etienne): CSAPA/CAARUD
	Ruptures (Lyon): CAARUD
	Technoplus (Bordeaux): Party Initiative
	Technoplus (Nantes): Party Initiative
	Tempo (Valenciennes): CSAPA
AddictoCentre APLEAT (Orléans) – for Central France	Addicto Centre ACEP (Bourges): CSAPA
	Addicto Centre CAET (Bourges): CAARUD
	Addicto Centre CICAT (Chartres): CSAPA
	Addicto Centre VRS (Blois): CSAPA/CAARUD
Association Bus 31/32 (Marseille) – for South East France	
Médecins Du Monde (Toulouse) – South West France	

Glossary

Fentanyl Test Strips	A single substance qualitative test; responds to fentanyl, butyrylfentanyl, acetylfentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl, thiofentanyl, furanylfentanyl, 4-flourofentanyl, sufentanil.
Fixed-site	Refers to drug checking at a fixed venue (e.g., an office, a drop-in centre).
Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)	Offers qualitative and semi-quantitative test results for several substances by identifying chemical bonds in a molecule based on their infrared absorption.
Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)	Offers quantitative (if reference standards are known) and qualitative testing for several substances.
High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. It is a technique in analytical chemistry used to separate, identify, and quantify each component in a mixture.
High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. Allows for the separation of signals that are close together and therefore discrimination of structurally closely related compounds.
Ion Trap-Mass Spectrometry (IT-MS)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. Any type of mass spectrometry where the mass-to-charge ratio of the sample ions is measured whilst the ions are held in a stable orbit by an electric or magnetic field.
Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. Liquid chromatography (LC) is a widely used method for the separation of different compounds in mixtures prior to analysis and is frequently coupled with mass spectrometry (MS).
Liquid Chromatography-Quadrupole Time-of-Flight-Mass Spectrometry (LC-QToF-MS)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. Similar to LC-MS, with the addition of a quadrupole ion guide, and using the time-of-flight (ToF) principle to determine mass-to-charge ratio of particles based on their velocity.
Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization (MALDI-IT-MS/MS)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. New instrument for high resolution substance analysis at the molecular level to minimize fragmentation and allow for the molecules being analysed to remain intact.
New Psychoactive Substance (NPS)	NPS are drugs which were designed to replicate the effects of existing illegal substances like cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy whilst being legal until control efforts are taken.
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. NMR is an analytical chemistry technique used in quality control and research for determining the content and purity of a sample. It provides information about the molecular composition of a sample, and atom connectivity of those molecules.
On-site	Refers to drug checking at the site of consumption, including at festivals, parties in nightclubs, and other events.
Raman Spectroscopy	Offers identification of some known substances in provided samples, but no quantification. An optical technique based on the inelastic scattering of photons after they interact with matter.
Reagent tests	Offers identification of some known substances, but no quantification. A reagent is combined with a drug sample producing a colour reaction. Colour charts are consulted to determine the presence or absence of a substance or substance category. It is not possible to identify the presence of multiple psychoactive substances with a single reagent test.
Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)	Offers identification of some known substances in provided samples, but no quantification. TLC is a chromatography technique used to separate non-volatile mixtures.
Ultra High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (UHPLC)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. Shorter analysis time, higher resolution and quicker column equilibration when compared to HPLC.
UltraViolet-Visible Spectroscopy (UV/Vis)	Offers quantitative and qualitative testing for several substances. Refers to absorption spectroscopy or reflectance spectroscopy in the ultraviolet-visible spectral region.

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Please see [matching bulletin](#) for acknowledgements.