

Check your DUCK!

Implementing Drug Checking in a (very) small country.

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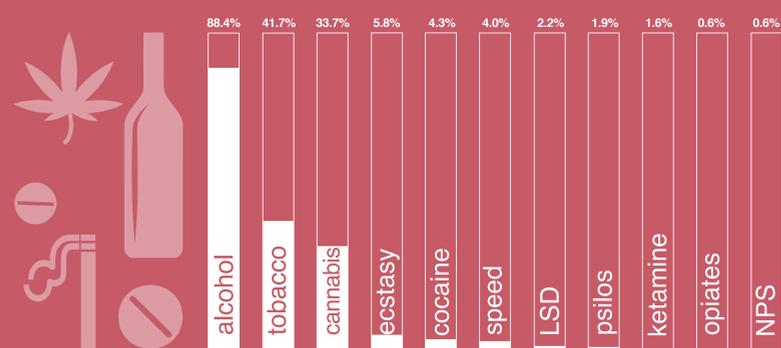


PIPAPPO - sex, drogen & rock'n roll

is an outreach project implemented in the Luxembourgish party and festival scene. Using a peer based approach, a booth is set up at the main festivals in the country. Both, main stream and alternative music and art festivals are covered. For smaller events, a mobile team can be present. Within the framework of addiction prevention and harm reduction, information about drug consumption and associated health risks are provided.

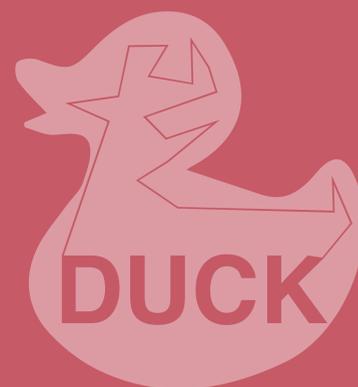
In addition to information about party related issues, earplugs and condoms are distributed. A survey on recent drug consumption habits, allows us to characterize the partygoers. Since 2010, the consumption patterns of the encountered population are stable showing alcohol (90%), tobacco (45%) and cannabis (22%) as the culturally implemented recreational drugs. In 2016, 1786 partygoers described their recent consumption as showed in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Drugs consumed in the last two weeks.



Focusing on synthetic drugs and the novel psychoactive substances (NPS) phenomenon a drug checking service, called **DUCK**, is offered among the **PIPAPPO** intervention. A joint venture with the National Health Laboratory (LNS) with support of the Ministry of Health enables us to monitor the present substances among the partygoers. Legal and juridical clearance is assured by the prosecutor's office. The police services are informed about the agenda of the interventions.

In 2016, the Drug Checking Service was present at 6 interventions. 21 samples were collected and analyzed using GC/MS. In 3 samples (14%), the results of the analysis didn't match with the expectations of the users.



The main objectives are to depict the actually consumed synthetic psychoactive substances and to contribute to the monitoring of the NPS emergence in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. An informal information feedback of the analysis is provided to the user. If necessary, a health alert can be disseminated at the level of the single user and the event organizers. All these informations are transmitted to the competent authorities providing input for public health responses and prevention strategies.

