

Local Action Plans



Společnost Podané ruce o.p.s.



Description of the situation

Brno is second largest city in Czech Republic

Universities, Academics, Tourism, Investments, “Czech Silicon Valley”

Drug & PN Public Nuisance (PN) problems:

- Nightlife scene, incidents related to alcohol and meth
- Drug users' scene (semiopen),

Description of the situation – Nightlife scene

- **Alcohol** related problems - alcohol is cheap and available, aggression, alcohol overdoses, mixing with other substances etc.
- Main illegal substance is **cannabis**
- **Party drug scene** – drugs aren't used in excessive manner currently (15 years ago has been situation different with rise of techno scene – few overdoses and fake MDMA tablets) – subcultures x mainstream use of party drugs (different risks and awareness of related harms)
- Low scale programs to tackle the nightlife related problems
 - Safer Party
 - Hard & Smart (now operating)

Description of the situation – Drug users' scene

Similar situation as in other Czech cities

Stable group of meth users/smaller group opioid scene (plus substitution therapy programme) - 1 500 – 2 000 Problem drug users (PDU) in Brno

Semi-open drug scene - city centre and closed neighbourhood, social excluded areas (poor Roma families etc.)

- non-representative survey amongs PDU:

- 58 % basic education, 42 % collage.
- 44 % at least once in a prison (of wich 2/3 used drugs in prison)
- Stable legal income - 28 %
- 58 % respondents instable housing (1000 PDU), 12 % rough sleeper (app. 200 PDU), in 2014 arround 2000 homeless people (1/3 women, 1/3 drug related homelessness)
- 38% crimes in Brno related to drug users, 22% were clarified 80% users of services in the field of homelessness have drug related problems (mainly excessive alcohol consumption)

- PN problems

- Shoplifting
- Injection material in the public
- Aggression, public use of alcohol and drugs (main railway station), homelessness
- Difficult mental condition of some users, social exclusion

Aims of intervention – Problem

- Both groups are significantly underestimated in terms of an involvement in the decision-making process and participation in service provision organisations
- PDU usually carries multiple stigma (mental health, homeless, ethnic issues) that exclude this group from community planning processes
- Nightlife scene problems (mainly related to alcohol) are often underestimated as a part of the culture

Aims of intervention – Solution

Process part of interventions

- to scale up involvement of both groups (PDU and Nightlife scene) in the decision-making process and participation in service provision org. (solving PN problems)
- to establish stable participatory mechanism for these target groups

Content part of interventions

- to tackle mainly the challenges like shoplifting, the usage and injections in the public, rough sleeping and crisis situation
- to tackle aggression and conflicts related to extensive alcohol use in nightlife settings

Specific objectives of the intervention

- 1) Create and stabilize 3 participatory groups from two main target groups
 - one group will be consist of members of nightlife scene (party people, club owners, security employees, bartenders, dj's etc.)
 - other two groups will be consist of a) active drug users and b) PDU in recovery
- 2) Discussion on specific and most problematic PN areas with various actors
- 3) Identify leaders in this groups and involve them in preparing and running pilot interventions
- 4) Normalize participatory process in context of decision-making processes in social/health services and city council

Specific activities – Participatory groups (PDU/PDU in recovery/Nightlife)

- 1) Forming of the groups (2017, March – August)
- 2) Identification of the leaders (2017, June-August)
- 3) Identification of the PN problem; basic terrain assessment (2017, April – June)
- 4) Development, implementation and monitoring of activity plan (2017, June – August)

Specific activities – Networking/policy making

- 1) Education of drug users/politicians/professionals about participation (2017, March – June)
- 2) Initiation of mutual collaboration – setting goals and meetings schedule (2017, July – December)
- 3) Stabilization of participatory process (2017, December - ?)

Specific activities – Pilot intervention Documentation

1) Preparation (2017, March – August)

2) Action (2017, September - ?)

3) Evaluation (2018)

Specific activities – Evaluation of the participatory process

1) Evaluation (2018)

2) Including participatory process in standard procedures and decision-making mechanism related to drug issues in the city (2018)

Indicators (measurable)

Participatory groups:

- 2-3 meetings/7 or more members in each group
- 2-3 leaders in each group
- Detailed description of PN case for intervention
- List of activities – monitored

Networking/policy making

- Texts/workshop on drug user participation
- Introduction of group leaders – joint meeting with policy makers
- Identifying of common PN topic for all three groups
- Development of future collaboration agreement

Indicators (measurable)

Pilot intervention Documentation

- Clearly described and monitored action plan and activity list
- Evaluation of activities

Evaluation of the participatory process

- Satisfaction of involved stakeholders about participation process and activities
- Forming of stabilized participatory groups based on the process of the project

Potential bottlenecks + solutions

Participatory groups:

- Time-money-coordination issues/Motivation of participants/Existential changes/Acute intoxications -> finding relatively stable and motivated leaders/choosing useful incentives
- Keeping the target area relatively small for pilot intervention -> group consent about the area of interest
- Planning is too ambitious -> development of realistic action plan

Potential bottlenecks + solutions

Networking and policy-making:

- No interest from professionals and politicians -> make workshop/texts attractive
- No motivation from stakeholders -> create added value for all stakeholders;
- Prejudices towards PDUs -> showing PDUs as a crucial part of (effective) solution
- Stakeholder loose interest -> SPR takes lead in organizing the cooperation
- Political climate at Municipality -> finding open-minded politicians as ambassadors

Involved partners and stakeholders

City council – department for social inclusion, department for prevention of crime and drug policy – they are responsible for bringing solutions and offering strategies regarding drug policy, social services and drug/crime prevention.

Community planning group - City is involved in community planning and has to create platforms where policy makers, service providers and users meet. PWUD are not yet involved

Local self-help groups – AA, AN – some of their members are already active in recovery group – their contribution could be in mobilization of larger group of peers

Involved partners and stakeholders

SPR services

- Low-threshold services – Drop-in centre and Outreach team – responsible for active PDU group
- Hard and Smart – outreach program in Nightlife settings – responsible for nightlife group
- Educational centre IES – responsible for coordination and networking/policy making with the city, delivers the workshops

Shops, bars, clubs – depends on small intervention plans

Faculty of social studies, Masaryk University, Brno

National anti-drug coordinator

Rational Drug Regulation Conference



Czech Republic, Brno, 4.-6. September 2017

Conference aims

How is drug policy reform reflected at the local level?

How does the general-public understand and interpret drug policy?

What are the real-life and every-day experiences of drug policy reform in villages, towns, neighbourhoods and streets?

How are the various; local governments, relevant organizations, activist groups, police forces, schools or aid services networks dealing with the changing situation around drug regulation?

Language:

The language of the conference: Czech + English

We will provide simultaneous translation for all talks and submissions in the main hall as well as consecutive translations for all talks and submissions presented at secondary venues.

Main Conference Topics

- Harm reduction and decriminalization
- Changes of the drug policy and questions of its financing
- Legalization - an example of cannabis
- Psychedelics among drugs
- Night life, recreational use and harm reduction
- Addiction and recovery in the changing society

Keynote speakers

Bruce Alexander

Psychologist, Emeritus Professor, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada.

Working in addiction research since 1970, he is the author of the famous Rat Park experiment that managed to fundamentally challenge the biomedical dependency theory and successfully paved the way to exploring the historical, cultural and social aspects of drug abuse and addictions. In 2008, he published an extensive and groundbreaking publication titled *Globalization of Addiction: A Study in Poverty of the Spirit*.

Keynote speakers

Matt Southwell

is an experienced practitioner and manager in the field of drugs and drug organizations. He founded the "Healthy options Tea" (HOT) organization, a pioneering community-based harm reduction programme. After, HOT, he led the drug services of the National Health Service (NHS) in London. In a 1999 BBC documentary, Matt openly admitted being a drug user. In the last two decades, he initiated a large number of various user groups and networks at the local, national and international level, acting as a consultant and civil society representative in the various offshoots of the UN that are responsible for the area of drugs and harm reduction.

The conference is intended to

Representatives of local governments

Workers at drug & addiction services

Health workers

Activists on the issues of drug policy

Implementers of prevention programs

Academics

Workers at the child protection services

Representatives of police forces

Teachers, counselors

Workers in an environment of nightlife

Konference

RACIONÁLNÍ DROGOVÁ REGULACE

Brno, 4. - 6. 10. 2017, Sál Břetislava Bakaly

- harm reduction a dekriminalizace drog
- změny drogové politiky a otázky jejího financování
- legalizace na příkladu konopí
- psychedelika mezi drogami
- noční život, rekreační užívání a harm reduction
- závislost a zotavení v měnící se společnosti

Konference je určena pro široké spektrum zájemců o oblast užívání drog a závislostí a drogovou politiku, zejména pro zástupce místních samospráv, pracovníky drogových a adiktologických služeb, výzkumníky, pracovníky sociálně právní ochrany dětí, zástupce policejních sborů, učitele, právníky, a další.

Jazyk konference: čeština + angličtina

Hlavní hosté:

Bruce Alexander (CAN),
Simon Fraser University, Vancouver

Matt Southwell (UK),
International Drug Policy Consortium

Danilo Ballotta (PT),
EMCDDA, Lisboa

Pořádají:



Evropská unie
Evropský sociální fond
Operační program Zaměstnanost

Thank You!



Jakub Cerny, Martin Boxan, Marketa Cvrteckova

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Společnost Podané ruce o.p.s., 2017