

#### **Drug Checking in Switzerland**

Lausanne, 24.09.2015 M.A., Alexander Bücheli Safer Nightlie Switzerland, Safer Dance Swiss President of the European NEW Net



## What is a Drug Checking service?

The term "**Drug Checking**" refers to an integrated service that basically enables drug users to have their synthetic drugs chemically analysed as well as receiving advice, consultation and, if necessary, counselling.

Drug Checking exists in Europe since over thirty years and represents an essential aspect of public health policy as recommended by the World Health Organization.



### Main objectives

- Getting in touch with a group of user how was difficult to reach until now.
- Drug checking service are an educational, prevention and harm/risk-reduction tool.
- Providing individual and personalized information about the substance they may consume
- Monitoring the illegal market detecting new trends of drugs and drugs use and transforming this information to other stakeholders involved in this issue.



### **Target group**

#### Recreational drug use

- Switch off from everyday life
- Relaxation
- Expansion of consciouseness

### Party drug use Main target group on

- Enhancement
- Symbiosis & trance

#### "Full time" drug use

- Drug addiction
- Physical symptoms & withdrawal
- Comorbidity of mental disorders

#### **Drug** use for enhancement

- Doping the brain
- Neuroenhancement
- Mood enhancement



## Nearly tweenty years of Drug Checking experience

- 1996 first Drug Checking offer in Zurich, due to the reason of a legal uncertainty the program stops after some weeks
- 1997 two different legal opinions, shows that the analyse of illegal substance for harm reduction purposes is legal
- 1998 1999 Eve&Rave Switzerland collects substances at raves for analysing them in a back laboratory
- 1998 the first mobile Drug Checking service was established in Bern
- 2001 the city of Zurich starts under the umbrella of saferparty.ch to provide DC at party's
- 2006 the First Drug Information centre is opened in Zurich



## Two types of Drug Checking services

**Mobile (on site):** Drug Checking facility at raves, clubs, festivals or public spaces. The chemical analyse is done directly on place. Mostly together with an information stand or chill-out and a consultation services.

Regular in a Centre: Drug Checking office for collecting substances witch will be analyzed in a external laboratory. Open regularly one day a week. Mostly integrated in a Drug Information Centre together with a consultation and counselling services.



## **Mobile Drug Checking services – process**



Explanation of the procedure



Short consultation session based on a questionnaire as risk assessment instrument



Personal explanation of the analysing result

Handling out of the substances:

- Which substances
- Where they have brought it
- Personal experience with this substance before

Chemical analyse of the substance (HPLC, etc.)

Documentation



Sample preparation

Analysing result, qualitative and quantitative or unknown substances



## 1998 until 1999, Eve&Rave Switzerland



#### MDMA (Adam)

Delphin Dicke: 4,6 mm / bikonvex Durchmesser: 12,1 mm Juni 1996

\*/\* Prägung: Delphin, Seitenans. Farbe: gelb

< 6,3% Gesamtgewicht: 592 mg Wirkstoff: 160 mg MDMA

160 mg MDMA ist eine große Dosis "Entaktogen", die zu Irritationen und Unwohlsein führen kann.

No Name Dicke: ca. 4mm Durchmesser: ca. 8 mm 1995
Prägung: — Farbe: weiß

< 4% Gesamtgewicht: 290 mg Wirkstoff: 157 mg MDMA

157 mg MDMA ist eine große Dosis "Entaktogen", die zu Irritationen und Unwohlsein führen kann.

Engel	Dicke: 4,2 mm / bikonvex	Durchmesser: 9,15 mm	Juli 1996
*/*	Prägung: Engel mit Trompete	Farbe: weiß-gräulich	
< 0,1%	Gesamtgewicht: 309 mg	Wirkstoff: 149 mg MDMA	
Rouge < 0,1%	Dicke: 3,7 mm / bikonvex Prägung: — Gesamtgewicht: 182 mg	Durchmesser: 8,05 mm Farbe: rot Wirkstoff: 144 mg MDMA	März 1996
No Name	Dicke: 5,0 mm / bikonvex	Durchmesser: 9,1 mm	Mai 1996
*/*	Prägung: —	Farbe: weiß-gräulich	
< 0,01%	Gesamtgewicht: 360 mg	Wirkstoff: 144 mg MDMA	
Champagne < 0,01%	Dicke: 3,1 mm / beids. facet. Prägung: Sektflasche / Cham. Gesamtgewicht: 188 mg		Juni 1996



## 1998 until 2000 Contact Bern, Pilot-E







# Since 2001, City of Zurich, Saferparty.ch



- Part of the Youth Counselling Streetwork
- Social Welfare
   Department of
   the City of Zurich



## Since 2006, Rave it Safe Berne



- Focused mainly on the canton
   Bern
- Under the umbrella of Safer Dance Swiss, also active in Basel and other region

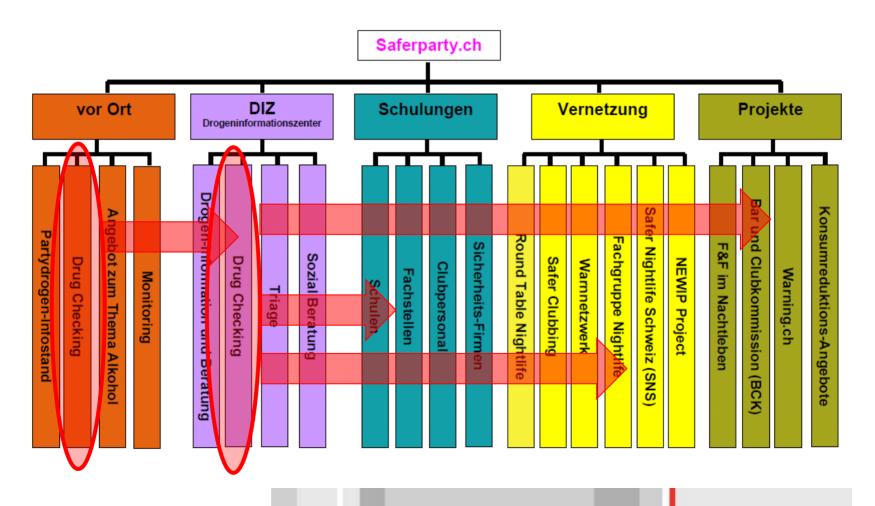


# Since 2012, warning.ch to display the results



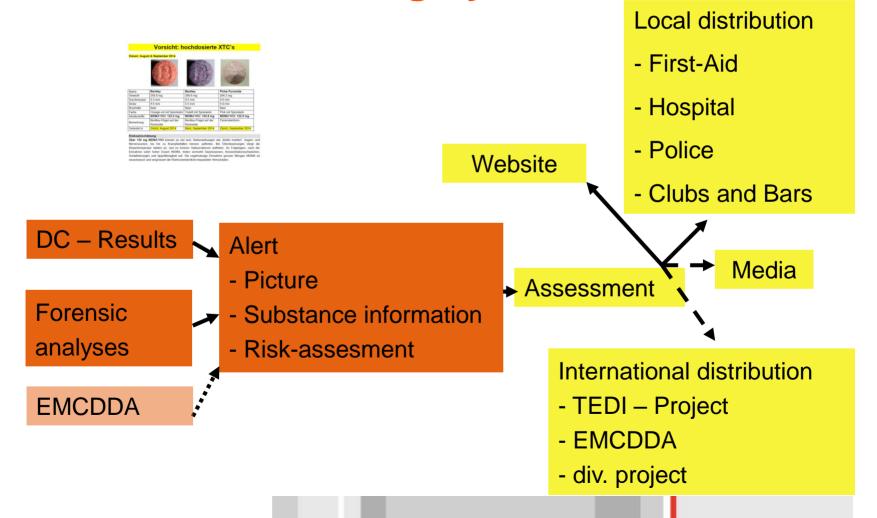


# Zurich's integrated approach





# Saferparty.ch alert warning system





### **Drug Checking:**

- saves live
- creates awareness
- helps to monitor de reality



### **Drug Checking saves live**

#### Warnung: NBOMe verkauft als LSD!

#### **Datum: September 2015**

Name	Unbekannt
Gewicht	21.1 mg
Breite&Höhe	8.9 mm x 8.0 mm
Farbe	Schwarz/Braun/Weiss
Inhaltsstoff	25C-NBOMe*HCI, 438.2 μg
	25B-NBOMe*HCI, 691.1 μg
Bemerkungen	Bitterer Geschmack im Unterschied zu LSD!
Getestet in	Zürich, September 2015



#### Risikoeinschätzung

Dieser Filz enthält kein LSD, sondern 25C-NBOMe\*HCI und 25B-NBOMe\*HCI! Die beiden Substanzen stehen im Zusammenhang mit einigen Todesfällen in Europa. Besonders gefährlich ist, dass die Aufnahme und der Abbau dieser Substanzen von Person zu Person sehr unterschiedlich ausfallen. Beide Substanzen wirken direkter und schneller, wenn sie über die Schleimhäute aufgenommen werden. Wenn die Substanz nun oral eingenommen wird, kann es zu einer sehr schwachen oder zeitlich verzögerten Wirkung führen, und es wird möglicherweise nachgespickt. Diese unsachgemässe, sehr gefährliche Einnahme der Substanz kann nicht nur zu einer starken Wirkung führen, sondern sie erhöht auch das Risiko lebensbedrohlicher Durchblutungsstörungen. Aufgrund der schwierigen Handhabung und des Risikopotentials raten wir vom Konsum ab!



## **Drug Checking creates awareness**

An integrated Drug Checking service creates awareness about drug's effects and side effects, educates users about harm reduction strategy's, and reduces the risks for drug users.

#### References:

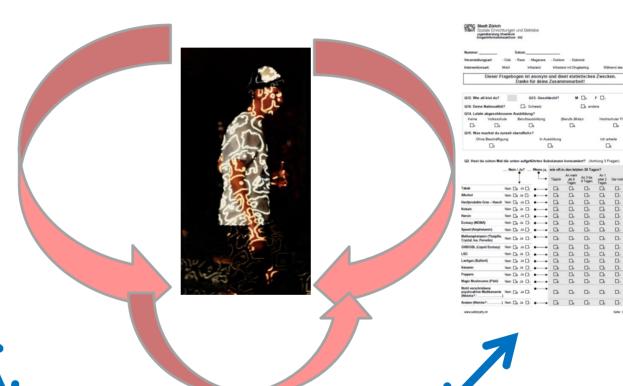
- Evaluation of Zurich's Drug Checking service
- European Pill-Testing study
- Severl evaluation and study reports
- Over thirteen years of practice experience!



# DC supports reflection processes

#### Probenlaufzettel DIZ

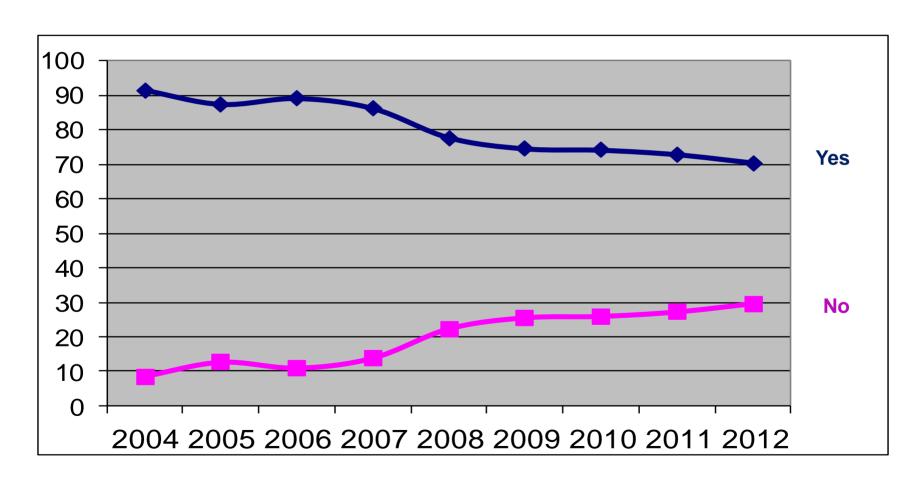
Etikette mit Probenlaufnummer			Code:				
hier aufkleben							
Abgabedatum:							
Logo/Gassennamen:							
Deklarierter Inhaltsstoff:							
Galenische Form:		□ Кар	sel	□ Filz □ Flüssigkeit			
Bezug:		☐ Party ☐ Privat ev.URL:					
Wann und wo gekauft:							
Kosten/Einheit:							
Bereits gemachte Erfah	nrungen:	□ Ja		□ Nein			
Visum Streetwork:							



Result, personal explanation of the potential risks

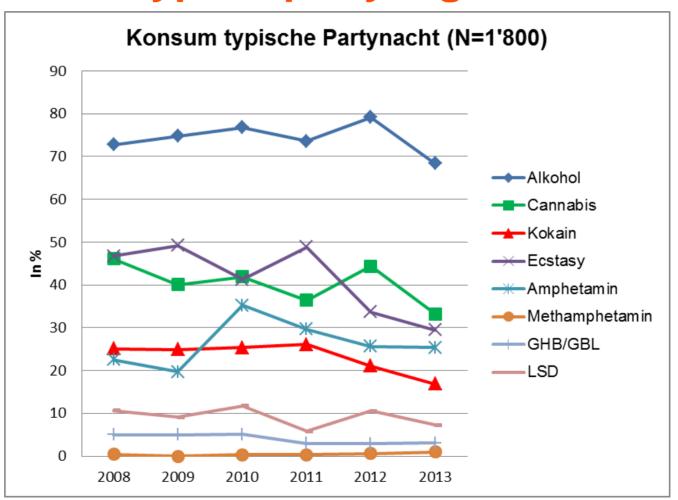


### Less poly-drug-use



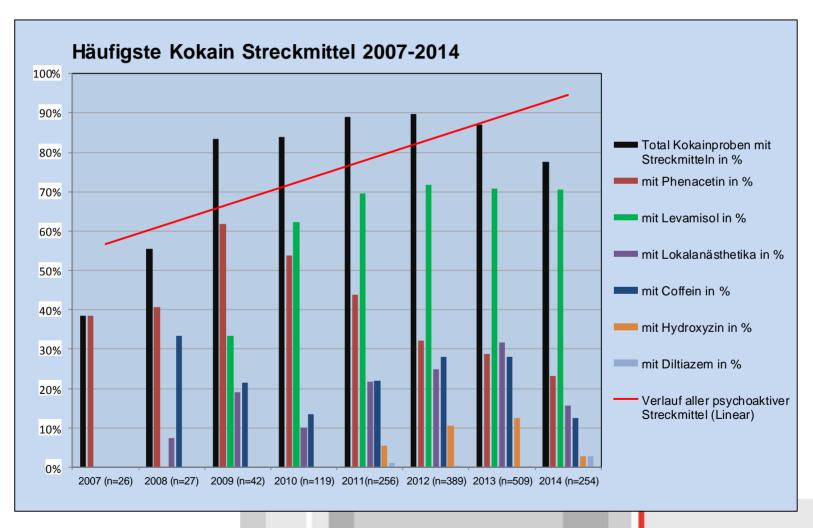


# Monitoring: trend during a typical party night



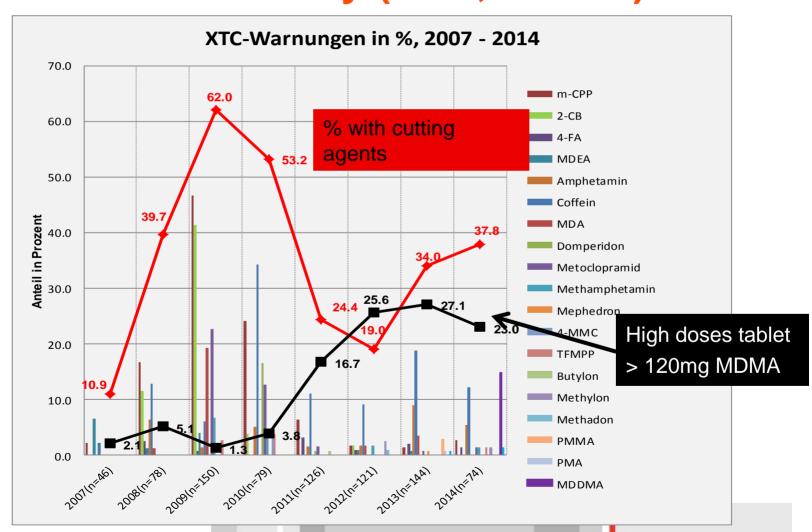


## **Substance trend on Cocaine**





# Substance trend on Ecstasy (XTC, MDMA)





## Swiss Drug Checking Fact-sheet

#### Contents:

- Legal information
- Practical information and advices
- Exerience and achieved results

#### Goal:

- Creating clearness about the legal frame wor
- Working.paper for implementing a Drug Checking service on a local level
- Supporting new region or citys to do Drug Checking



### **Future perspective**

- Supporting the implementation of new Drug Checking services in other Swiss City's and Regions.
- Collecting data's on structural level, to develop a national monitoring and early warning system.
- Partnership with European DC-Services (TEDI-Project)
- The chemical analyse of substances is user neutral, get in touch with new user group by providing drug checking for poly-drug and steroid users.



## THANK YOU FOR LISTENING alex@a-buecheli.ch

