

PARALLEL SESSION 1C

Safer clubs, safer streets

Safer Clubbing Switzerland - more than just a successful prevention tool!

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The development of Zurich's party culture over the past ten years was the main catalyst to form the Safer Clubbing Association. Actually, Zurich is considered to be one of the most important party metropolises in Europe. Approximately 100 clubs and bars with dancing floors, four times as many as in 1995, attract close to 50,000 people every weekend.

This development also entails some problems. For this reason Streetwork Zurich invited several club owners and managers to a meeting and presented the idea of establishing a quality label for these clubs. The intention of the quality label was not only to give guidelines for technical measures but also to provide a framework for prevention and Harm Reduction in Zurich's club and techno scene. These guidelines were developed during 2003 in a collective process in which Streetwork Zurich, club owners and managers, AIDS Help Zurich, the Emergency Medical Services Zurich and – selectively – Zurich's city police actively participated. This process resulted in the formation of the Safer Clubbing Association in the beginning of 2004 and in the registration of the quality label 'Safer Clubbing' as a protected trademark at the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property in Berne.

Since 2005 the Safer Clubbing Association understands itself and acts not only as a prevention and Harm Reduction instrument in the clubs and bars but also as a community of interest for the club culture. The lively club scene boosts the attractiveness of a city, but also results in problems with residents, trendy neighbourhoods, politics, and police. In these areas of conflict the Safer Clubbing Association acts as intermediary and tries to promote coexistence.

This new form of structural prevention has gained a lot of recognition among experts. Supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health the Safer Clubbing Association aims to expand its activities into the six largest Swiss cities. One local section of Safer Clubbing has already been established in the city of Berne.

This contribution describes the Safer Clubbing Association's history, identifies its current challenges, points out who does and may benefit from its activities, and discusses the above mentioned interventions.

Safer Clubbing Switzerland

- More than just a successful prevention tool!

Club Health 2006
Piran Slovenia
21 September 2006

Social Services of the City of Zurich
Youth counselling Streetwork

Alexander Bücheli



Stadt Zürich
Soziale Einrichtungen und Betriebe

Brief information about Streetwork Zurich

- Doing Drug- and HIV/Aids-prevention during the last 10 years.
- On-site information offer with drug checking.
- www.saferparty.ch with the possibility to get personal anonymous support per E-Mail.
- Opening of new Drug-Information-Centre (DIZ), with drug-checking facilities and to fixed personal therapeutic sessions.
- (Co-)production of user-oriented information material (flyers, brochures etc.) like 'Drugs - just say know'.

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Reasons for Safer Clubbing

- The nightlife of Zurich is constantly expanding, gaining more importance for the city of Zurich.
- In the last the years more then 400% of Clubs (From 25 to 100)
- More problem-related on nightlife activity.
- To reach the target group (drug users) was difficult.
- Different qualities of club infrastructure and at special (i.e. larger) events:
 - No seats, no chill out sections, no Water
 - Aggressive security staff

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Beginning of Safer Clubbing

Summer 2003

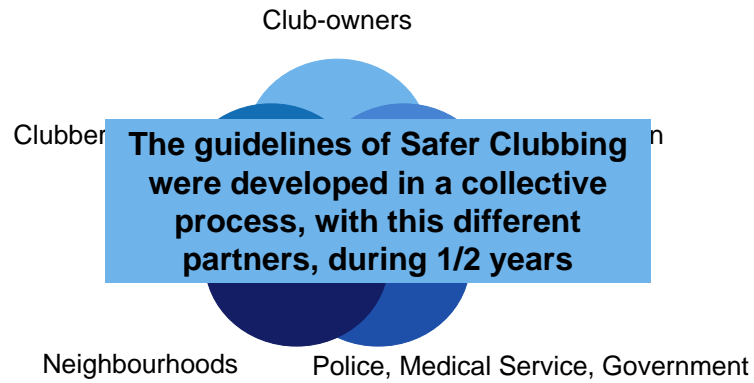
- Streetwork Zurich has presented the idea for an award for the safest club in the city during the round table meetings
- The club-owners don't want more competition between the clubs
- The club-owners decided to develop a quality label in a collective process



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The Collective process

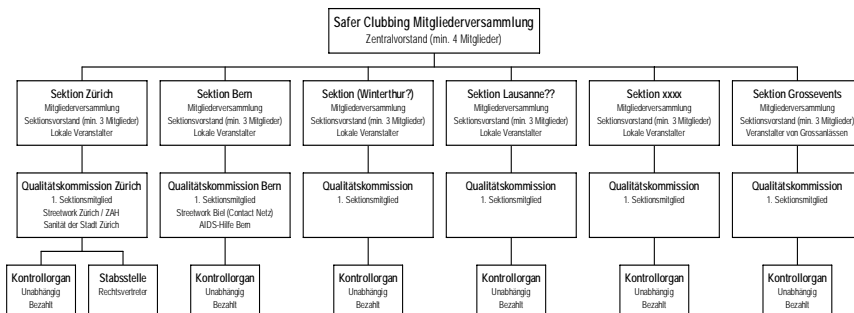


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Safer Clubbing structure

Safer Clubbing Organigramm (April 2006)



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Safer Clubbing basics

Safer Clubbing = Clubbing with know-how!

- Establishing a quality label for clubs and events, this label guarantees a high-quality standard of nightlife events
- 'Safer Clubbing' is a protected trademark of the 'Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property' in Berne
- Safer Clubbing is an association, the members are club-owners exclusively
- No subsidy by the city of Zurich, excepted my paid

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Safer Clubbing Guidelines

Infrastructure

- First Aid room and Chill Out section

Collaboration

- Other prevention-institutions

- Police

Harm Red

- Free water to drink
- Drug-checking must be possible

Training Staff

- First Aid, Substance information and non-aggressive communication

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Guidelines must be open and flexible,
because from time to time new problems
occur.

Other topics of Safer Clubbing

- Give children a safe place to sleep
- Develop safe neighborhoods for children
- Two safe neighborhoods for children
- Even if you are not a parent, to show
- Special Safer Clubbing Events in all member clubs



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The Expansion of the SC-Label

- This new form of structural prevention has gained a lot of recognition among experts
- The expansion is supported by the 'Swiss Federal Office of Public Health' (BAG)
- The Safer Clubbing Association aims to expand its activities into the six largest Swiss cities
- At the moment, three Safer Clubbing sections are established
- Section on the French part of Switzerland want to be invent this winter

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Safer Clubbing outcomes

Club-owners

- Strong lobby system
- Direct contact with the prevention, police and the government
- Have training session for the staff

Prevention institution

- Direct access to clubbers
- Possibility to gain scene-relevant information
- Close contact to the scene to do adequate prevention (harm reduction)

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Safer Clubbing Outcomes 2

Police

- One respondent system
- Less problems around the club area

Clubbers

- They can be sure that the staff is trained
- A high quality of clubs and events
- Access to information-material at any time

Government

- One partner to talk to about the nightlife problems
- A lively and high-quality club-scene boosts the attraction of a city

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Problems related to Safer Clubbing

- The discipline of the club-owners
- Safer Clubbing is not a system to win money
- A member Club must be closed because they have problem with drug consumption
- Mass medias see Safer Clubbing as a guaranty for drug free clubs
- The difference between underground scene and commercial events
- The cost of Safer Clubbing for a club (300 Euro/year)

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The future of Safer Clubbing

Club Syndicate

- To be a strong lobby for club-culture, all over Switzerland

Prevention

- Alcohol (special youth and alcohol)
- Tobacco

More cooperation with

- 'The Club Commission', Berlin/Hamburg
- 'Clubs against Drugs', Stuttgart
- Basic Network?

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Thanks for your attention to this presentation and have a nice day.

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