

DRUGS AT THE FESTIVALS:

Perceptions of prevention-, harm reduction-, care-, and law enforcement strategies (POPHARS-project)

Follow up committee - 6th of June 2019

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Collaboration between ...

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Agenda

- Tour de table
- Introduction to the project
- ESM study
- Timing
- Varia



Background

- Music festivals around the globe: more and more festivals, bigger festivals attracting larger audiences, etc. (cf. Tomorrowland)
- Festivals as an interruption from daily activities (cf. escapism): archetypal settings for alcohol and other drugs use
- Different forms of drug related strategies implemented at festivals have not always demonstrated to be effective or uninvestigated in terms of impact
- Implementation of several drug related interventions already occurs in Belgium:
 - Implemented strategies targeted at venues (e.g. bar staff training, glassware policy, ...)
 - Multicomponent interventions
 - Peer education (e.g. Safe 'n Sound, Modus Fiesta)
 - Emergency rooms, medical, and first-aid services
 - Licensing, law enforcement, and underage checks
 - Environments and neighborhood
 - Policing and collaborations with the industry

Objectives

The aim of the POPHARS project is to build further on the knowledge and findings of the ongoing ALAMA-nightlife project which kicked-off in September 2016 and runs until the end of August 2019. The ALAMA-nightlife project focuses on the dynamics and consequences of young adults' substance use pathways in a European nightlife context and is funded by BELSPO (cf. ERANID network).

General aim

- To obtain a comprehensive understanding of how festival attendees and festival stakeholders perceive drug related interventions implemented at music festivals, and to provide knowledge on the users' perspective, facilitating well considered interventions.

Objectives & research questions

Part 1: Gaining insight in the perceptions of prevention, harm reduction, and law enforcement strategies and perceptions of substance use (norms) by festival attendees.

- RQ1a: How do festival attendees perceive the implemented drug related interventions (health care, policing, peer-to-peer support, law enforcement, prevention) at music festivals?
- RQ1b: How do festival attendees perceive the possible impact of these interventions on their use of substances and related behavior?
- RQ2: How do festival attendees perceive substance use (norms) present at music festivals?

Objectives & research questions

Part 2: Gaining insight in the perceptions of the implemented drug related interventions and perceptions of substance use (norms) by stakeholders from prevention, harm reduction, care, and law enforcement strategies, and other festival stakeholders.

- RQ3a: How do festival stakeholders perceive their efforts in a context of drug use at music festivals (e.g., how does a police officer perceive his/her presence and actions at music festivals)?
- RQ3b: How do festival stakeholders perceive the efforts of other drug related interventions at music festivals (e.g., how does a festival organizer perceive the presence and actions of a prevention service at his/her music festival)?
- RQ4: How do these professionals perceive substance use (norms) present at festivals?

Methods

- **Part 1: Perceptions of prevention, harm reduction, care, and law enforcement strategies and perceptions of substance use (norms) by festival attendees**
 - Experience-Sampling Method (ESM)
 - In-depth interviews
 - On-the-spot observations
- **Part 2: Perceptions of the implemented drug related interventions and perceptions of substance use (norms) at festivals by stakeholders from prevention, harm reduction, care, and law enforcement strategies**
 - In-depth interviews
- **Part 3: Conclusions and recommendations**

Ethical protocol & data management plan

- Ethical protocol:
 - Ethical approval will be requested from the ethical commission of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences (Ghent University) asap
- Data management:
 - Data gathering and handling will be in accordance with the GDPR and Ghent University regulations
 - A data management plan is archived at dmponline.be

Timing (March 2019 – September 2021)

- WP 2: ESM study and interview design (HoGent)
 - March-June 2019: Identification of the different strategies & implementation of the strategies in the experience sampling
- WP 3: Mobile application testing (Ugent)
 - April-July 2019: Design of the mobile survey & pilot study to test the mobile survey and implementation of RQ
- WP 4: Data collection (HoGent, Ugent & Modus Vivendi)
 - Summer 2019 - Summer 2020: ESM-study of festival attendees' perceptions and experience & on-the-spot observations
 - Autumn 2019 - Autumn 2020: In-depth interviews of festival attendees' perceptions and experience
 - Winter 2019 - Spring 2020: In-depth interviews of stakeholders' perceptions and experiences
- WP 5: Data analysis (Ugent & Modus Vivendi)
 - September 2019 - November 2020: Data analysis of the experience sample & on-the-spot observations
 - December 2019 - February 2021: Data analysis of the interviews of the festival attendees
 - February - May 2020: Data analysis of the interviews of the stakeholders
- WP 6: Dissemination (Ugent)
 - 2020-2021

ESM Study (Experience Sampling Method)

Perceptions of prevention, harm reduction, care, and law enforcement strategies and perceptions of substance use (norms) by festival attendees

Objective & method

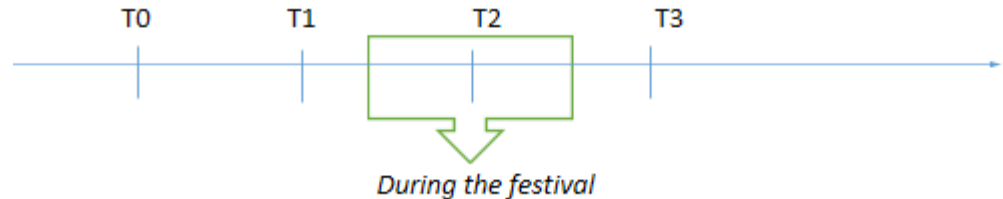
- Gaining insight in the perceptions of prevention, harm reduction, and law enforcement strategies and perceptions of substance use (norms) by festival attendees
- Research questions:
 - RQ1a: How do festival attendees perceive the implemented drug related interventions (health care, policing, peer-to-peer support, law enforcement, prevention) at music festivals?
 - RQ1b: How do festival attendees perceive the possible impact of these interventions on their use of substances and related behavior?
 - RQ2: How do festival attendees perceive substance use (norms) present at music festivals?
- Experience sampling method (ESM): a reliable instrument collecting self-reported data in a real-world environment. The method is used to measure accurate information on the daily behavior, experiences, and perceptions of respondents in a timely manner

Drug related interventions at festivals

Control at the entrance by security staff	Drug information stand (e.g. SnS or MF)
Control at the entrance by police without sniffer dogs	Relax zone / area for non-medical care (e.g. bad trip management)
Control at the entrance by the police with sniffer dogs	Flying team ('Maraud')
Mercy bin (bin to drop your illicit drugs before the entrance of the festival)	Drug testing service (to test the quality of your drugs)
Look for information on alcohol and drugs (guidelines, policy) on the website of the festival	Safer party campaign (e.g. Quality Nights) ???
Festival stewards	Police in plainclothes at the festival area ???
First aid service or mobile first aid team (e.g. Red Cross)	Enforcing a conciliation ???
Free water service	...

Research design

- Selection criteria:
 - Minimum 18 years old
 - Currently living in Belgium
 - Planning to attend a festival in Belgium in the next 6 months
 - Mobile internet (data)
- SMS 'push' messages → mobile survey
 - T1: before the festival
 - T2: during the festival
 - T3: after the festival



Recruitment strategy of festival attendees

- Mainly through social media:
 - Festival organizers' Facebook page (collaboration with festival promoters)
 - Facebook ads & Instagram → target audience can be selected out of the location, age, gender and interest (e.g. festival)
 - Ugent & HoGent communication channels
 - Direct partners (Safe 'n Sound, Modus Fiesta, Quality Nights, ...)
 - Other channels (online music magazines, party fora, ...)
- Two moments of recruitment:
- June/July – September 2019
 - May – September 2020
- Incentives: prize draw for the completers of the online survey + vouchers for every respondent who has been interviewed

List of (potential) festivals 2019 & 2020

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| • 17-21 april | Listen! Festival | Electro & Dance Music | Brussels | • 2-4 Aug | Dranouter festival | Rock, folk | Flanders |
| • 3-5 may | Inc'Rock | ? | Wallonia | • 2-4 Aug | Cirque Magique | Electronic music | Flanders |
| • 18 May | Pride | Different music styles | Brussels | • 2-4 Aug | Esperanzah | Different music styles | Wallonia |
| • 7-9 June | Xtrema Outdoor | Electronic music | Flanders | • 2-4 Aug | Micro festival (Liège) | Rock | Wallonia |
| • 21-23 June | Graspop | Metal | Flanders | • 3-4 Aug | Colline electro | Electronic music | Wallonia |
| • 21-23 June | La Nature Festival | Different music styles | Wallonia | • 9-10 Aug | Zeverrock Festival | Rock | Flanders |
| • 27-30 June | Rock Werchter | Different music styles | Flanders | • 9-11 Aug | Alcatraz | Metal | Flanders |
| • 28-30 June | Couleur Café | World, southern music | Brussels | • 10-11 Aug | Voltage Festival | Electronic music | Flanders |
| • 4-7 July | Les Ardentes | Different music styles | Wallonia | • 10-11 Aug | We Can Dance | Electronic music | Flanders |
| • 5-7 July | Paradise City Festival | Electronic music | Flanders | • 10-11 Aug | The Qontinent | Electronic music (hard style) | Flanders |
| • 5-7 July | Cactus Festival | Different music styles | Flanders | • 15-18 Aug | Pukkelpop | Different music styles | Flanders |
| • 10-14 July | Dour Festival | Different music styles | Wallonia | • 23-24 Aug | Bomboclat Festival | World, southern music | Flanders |
| • 12-14 July | Lasemo | Different | Wallonia | • 24 Aug | Fire is Gold | Urban | Flanders |
| • 12-14 July | Ostend Beach | Electronic music | Flanders | • 30 Aug - 2 Sep | Space Safari | Electronic music | Wallonia |
| • 13-14 July | So Wappy | Electronic music (hard tech) | Wallonia | • 31 Aug | Land Of Love | Electronic music | Flanders |
| • 19-20 July | Irie Vibes Festival | Reggae | Flanders | • 6-8 sep | Meakusma (Eupen) | ? | Wallonia |
| • 19-21 July | Tomorrowland (we1) | Electronic music | Flanders | • 13-15 Sep | Leffingeleuren | Rock, different music styles | Flanders |
| • 26-28 July | Tomorrowland (we2) | Electronic music | Flanders | • 10-14 oct | BEM | Electronic music | Brussels |
| • 26-28 July | Supervue | Different music styles | Wallonia | • ... | | | |
| • 2-3 Aug | Reggae Geel | Reggae | Flanders | | | | |

Questionnaire (T1)

- Screening questions (T0)
- Festival information (T1)
- Socio-demographics (T1)
- Nightlife profile (T1)
- Substance use (T1) – last 12 months & intentional use
- Attitudes & subjective norms & perceived behavioral control & prototype similarity & willingness (T1)
- Drug related interventions (T1) – intentional use & perceptions & impact

Questionnaire (T2 – T3)

- Substance use norms (T2)
- Substance use at the festival (T3)
- Perception & impact of drug related interventions at the festival (T3)
 - Visibility (Did you notice ...)
 - Encounters
 - Perceptions (usefulness)
 - Impact (increase-decrease) in terms of ...
 - ✓ Substance use (dose? frequency?)
 - ✓ Health (safer substance use)
 - ✓ Awareness

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