

**checkit!**

***Drug testing at music events -***

***A low threshold drug prevention program  
for young consumers of synthetic drugs***

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and

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[www.checkyourdrugs.at](http://www.checkyourdrugs.at)

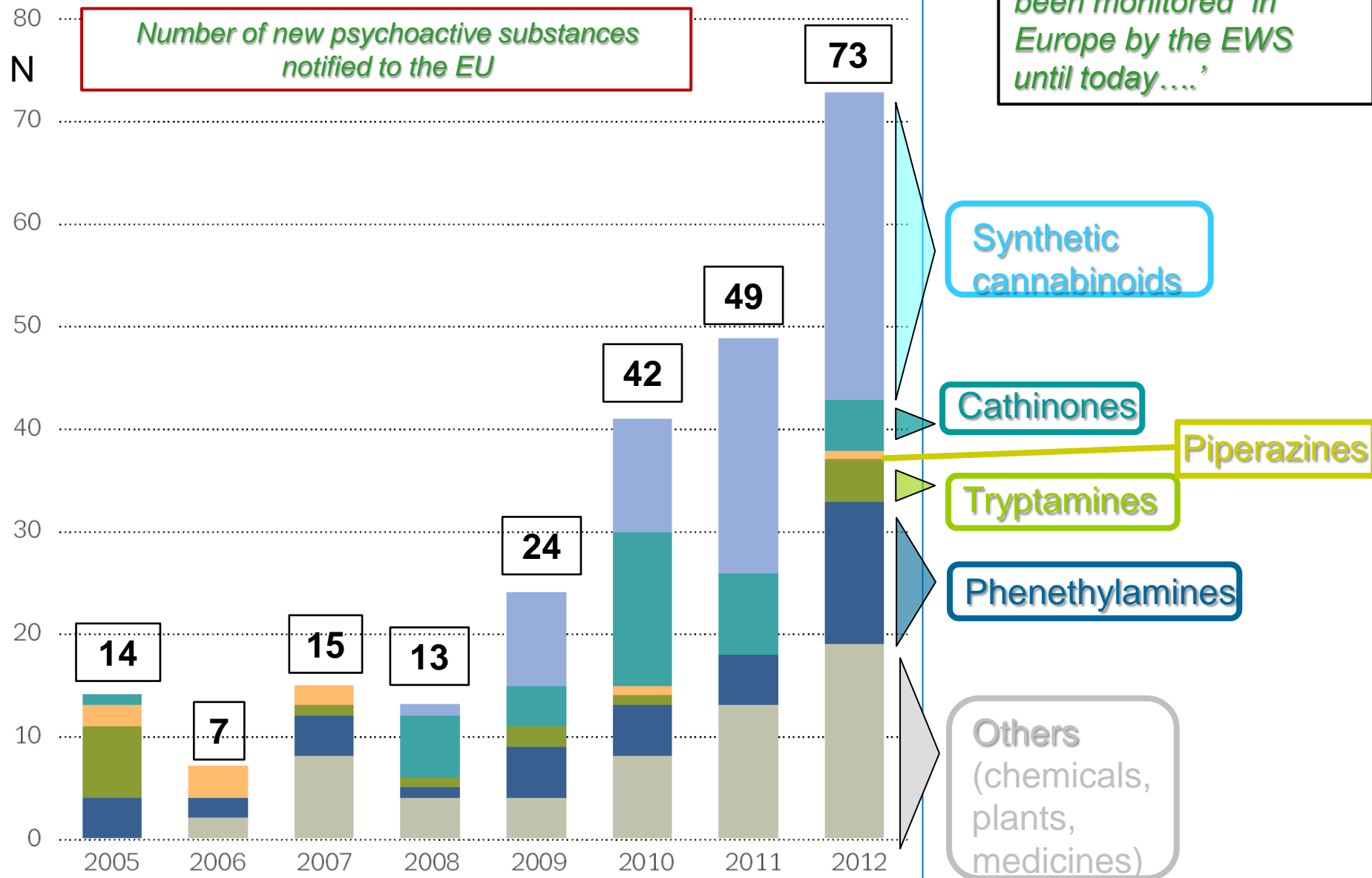
....these were the 90' ies....



# The Early Warning System (EWS)

*'Over 280 new psychoactive substances have been monitored in Europe by the EWS until today....'*

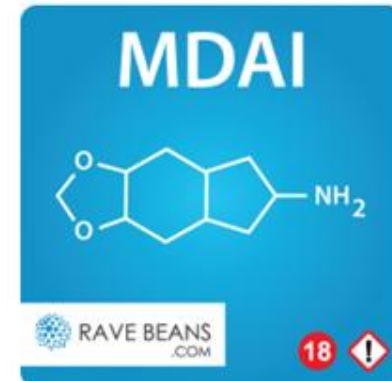
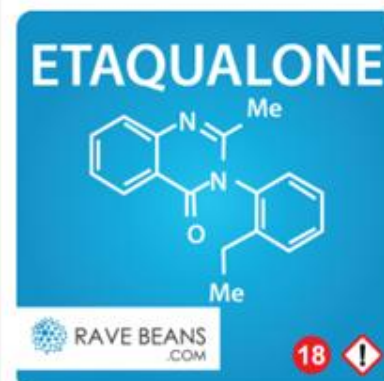
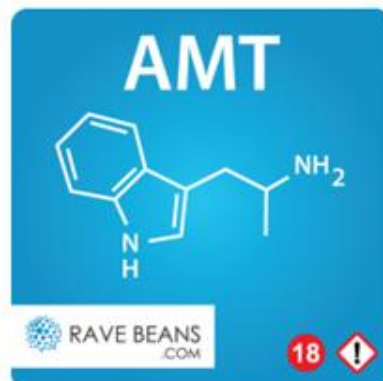
*Number of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU*



# Markets & Distribution....

... 692 internet shops have been identified 2012, which sell psychoactive substances [EMCDDA 2013].

... 80% of the market goes through the internet (EROPOL)



  
**Benzo Fury (10 pellets)**  
£80.00  
[Add to Cart](#)

**ETHYLPHENIDATE**  
CCOC(=O)C1CCC(CC1)N2CCCC2  
RAVE BEANS .COM 18 !  
**Ethylphenidate (2g)**  
£30.00  
[Add to Cart](#)

**ETIZOLAM**  
CC1=C(C(=C2C=CC(=C2)N1)C)N3C=CC(=C3)C  
RAVE BEANS .COM 18 !  
**Etizolam (1mg) x 50**  
£35.00  
[Add to Cart](#)

**5-MAPB**  
CC(N)Cc1ccc2c(c1)OCO2  
RAVE BEANS .COM 18 !  
**5-MAPB**  
£0.00  
★★★★★  
[Add to Cart](#)

**METHIOPROPAMINE**  
CNC(C)Cc1ccsc1  
RAVE BEANS .COM 18 !  
**MPA (50g)**  
~~£400.00~~ **£250.00**  
[Add to Cart](#)





## *Facts on the 'New Synthetic Drugs' ....*

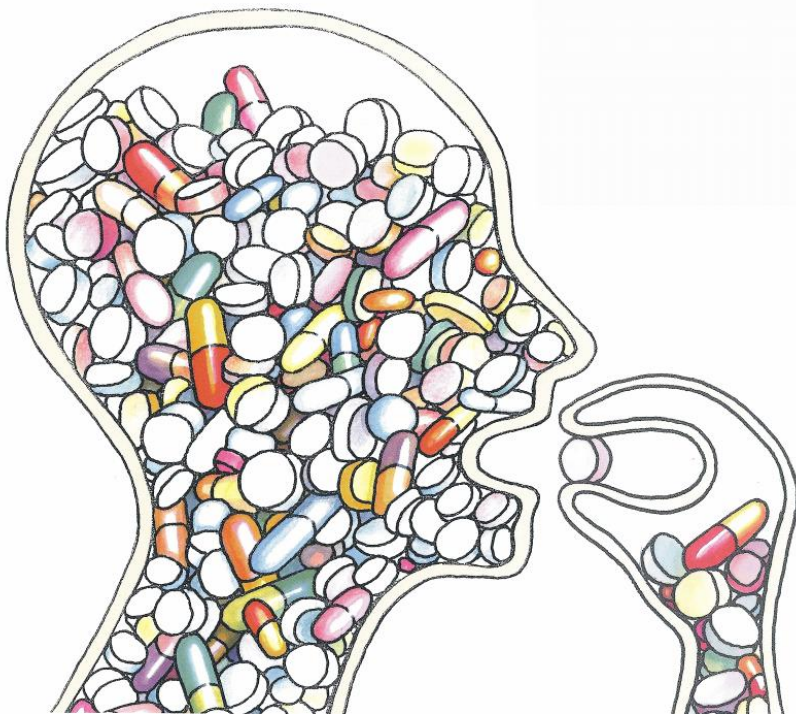
.... most substances are *non-controlled 'Research Chemicals'* which can be legally purchased (in large quantities)!



*Little to nothing* is objectively known on

- *Human Psycho-Pharmacological Effects*
- *Side-Effects*
- *Acute Toxicity*
- *Longterm-Toxicity*
- *Purity* (and biological activity of side-products)
- *Interactions with other compounds!*

*... a pharmacological and toxicological nightmare !!*



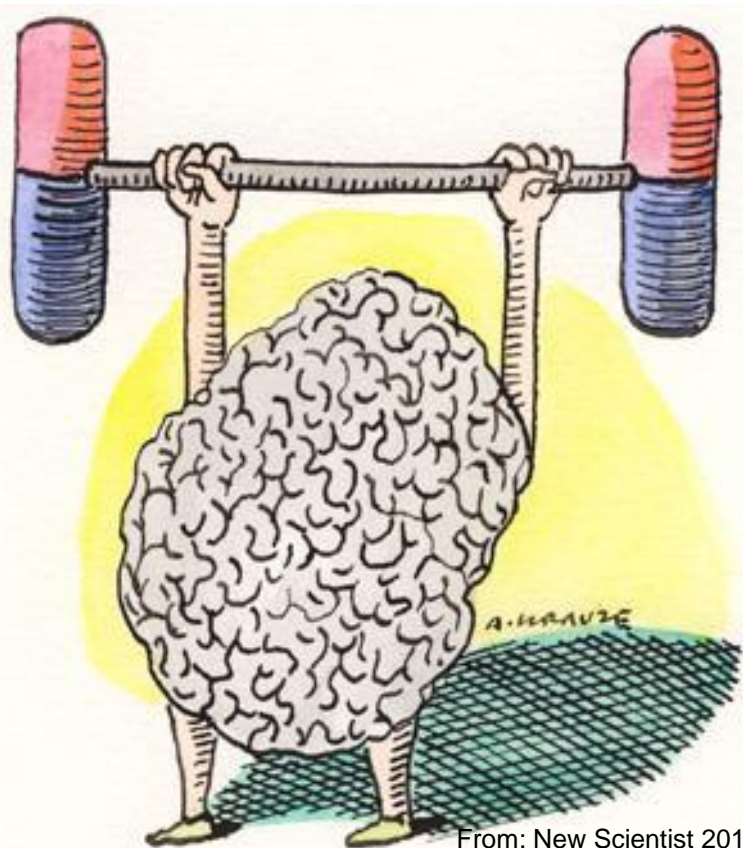
New Synthetic  
Drugs:  
***What can –  
should - be  
done??***

- ***Efficient Harm Reduction***
- ***Fast Risk Assessment***
- ***Minimizing Market Drives***

What *is needed* in a **Prevention Approach** for more efficient **,Harm Reduction‘** ??







From: New Scientist 2012

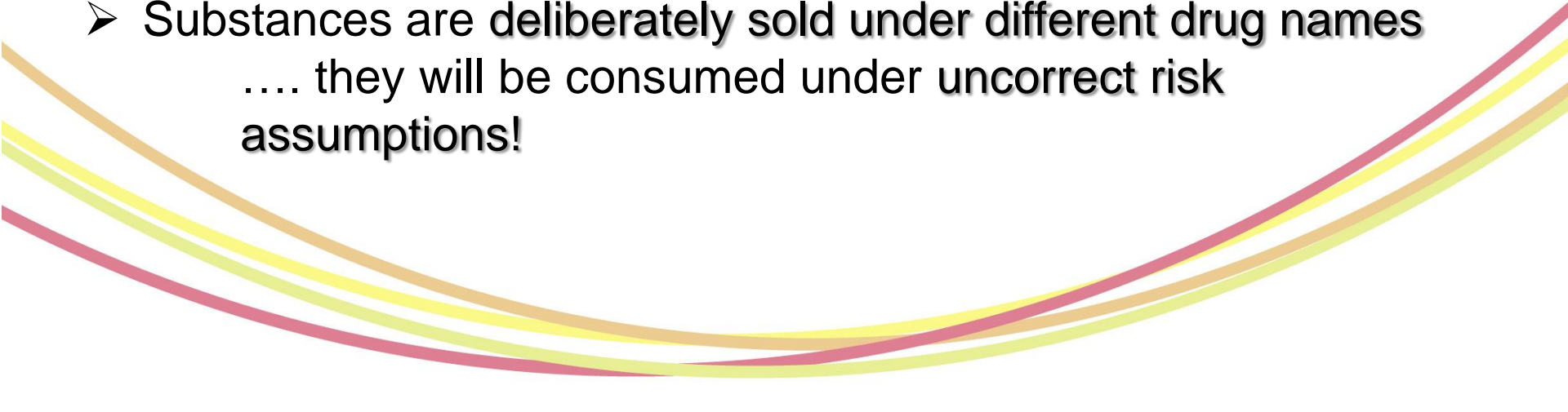
***Encouraging and  
strengthening risk  
awareness....***

„ ...But do users of NSD get the necessary and credible information they need,....

.... to reduce personal harm and strengthen their risk awareness efficiently?„



# *Is it actually possible for consumers of NSD to assess their risks (even if they try) ??*

- *Identity of a substance* most of the times *is not available* – only phantasy names –  
..... it is only allows to consume ‚blind‘ !
  - *The composition* (in drug mixtures) *is unknown* -  
.... it cannot be dosed with minimal risks !
  - Concentrations of active ingredients in drug samples are not known and
  - Substances are deliberately sold under different drug names  
.... they will be consumed under uncorrect risk assumptions!
- 

# The checkit! Project

- An institution for *recreational drug consumers*
- *Low-threshold* project , addressing drug prevention
- with *scientific aspects*

Founded by the Drug Coordination of the City of Vienna  
1997

A cooperation between Suchthilfe Wien and the Medical  
University of Vienna (General Hospital of Vienna - AKH  
Wien)

Grants by:



&



- Approaching *difficult to reach groups* through attractive 'offers'.
- *Risk reduction* through offering *credible information on psychoactive substances and their consumption risks*,
- thus avoiding *problematic consumption patterns* and
- by such prevention of *short- or long-time health damage*.
- *Promoting risk-conscious behavior and a drug-critical position*.
- *No overreaction, no deterrence*
- Gain *scientifically based information* on synthetic substances consumed and on their consumption patterns,
- *Warn* on substances with high health risks.





### The *ChEckiT!* Project

**ChEckiT!**  
Event  
Support



**ChEckiT!**  
On-site  
Drug-  
Testing



**ChEckiT!**  
Counselling



*ChEckiT!*



# Methods and Tools

- *Anonimously & voluntary*
- *A client-accepting attitude*
- Providing *,objective information‘* (through chemical analysis)
- *Psychosocial counselling* – Motivating communication (Miller & Rollnick)
- Orientation onto *individual life situation*
- *Pragmatism*

# checkit!

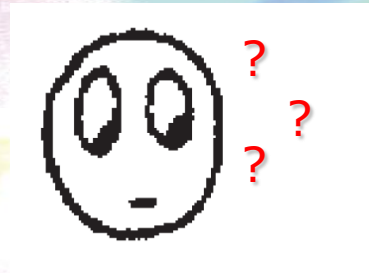
## Why ,drug-checking' ?

- To efficiently *reach targeted groups*
- To Increase *credibility* and *acceptance*
- *Information* for *actual prevention*
- Efficient measure for *risk reduction*
- *Warning of specially dangerous substances* in the sense of the European Early Warning System of the EMCDDA
- Gives overview on the *actual drug market situation*



# *The Individual 'risks assessment' (of Xtc-consumers)...*

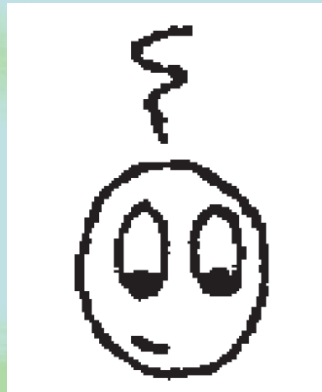
Recreational drug users generally *are interested* to obtain *more* and *reliable risk- and substance-based information*,  
....but not unconditionally!



They (generally) approach counselors  
*to test their competence....*



.... having the impression, they will obtain  
*trustful information...*



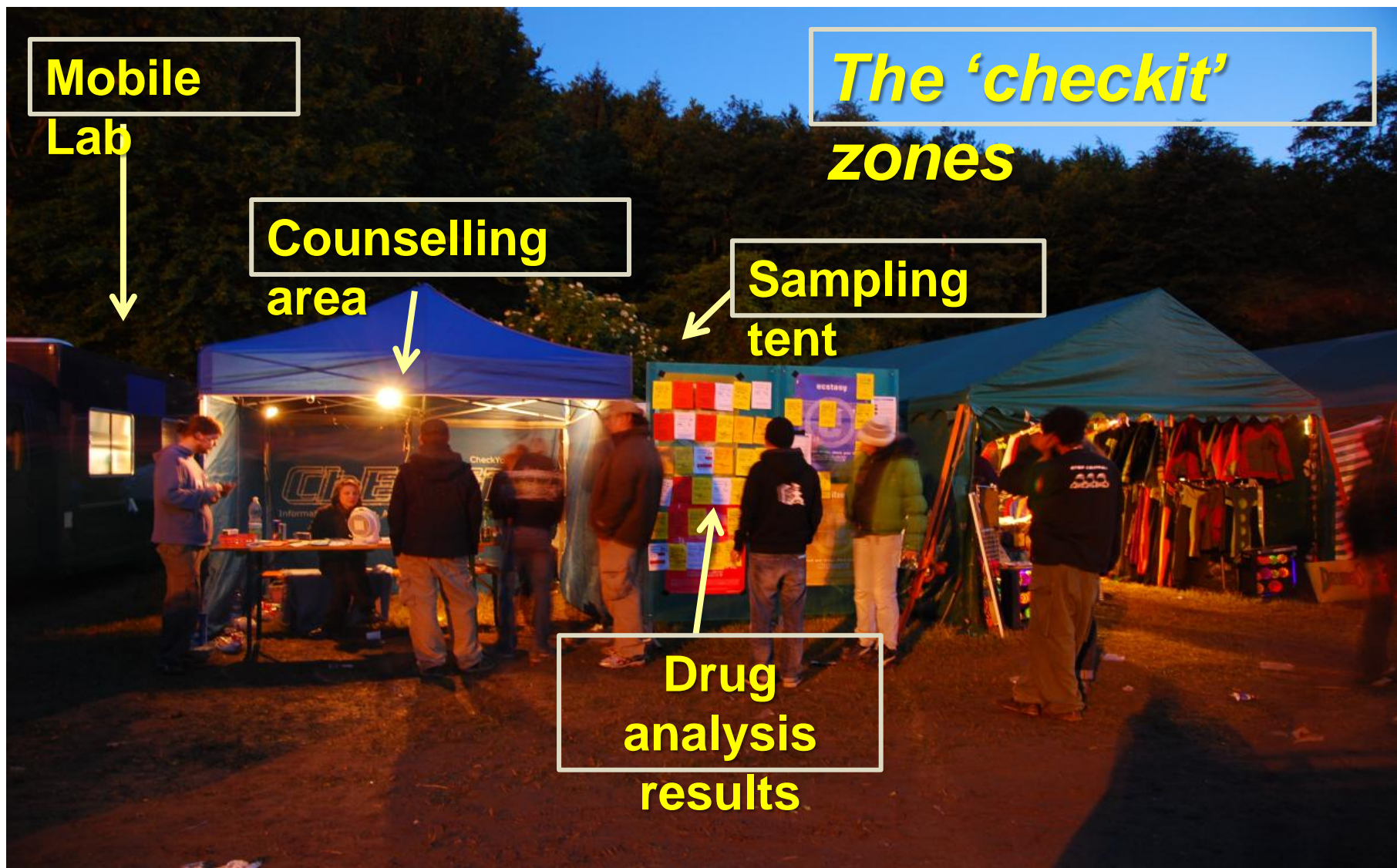
.... they are willing to *accept*  
*prevention information ...*

# checkit! **Event support:**

## **Three distinct operational zones**

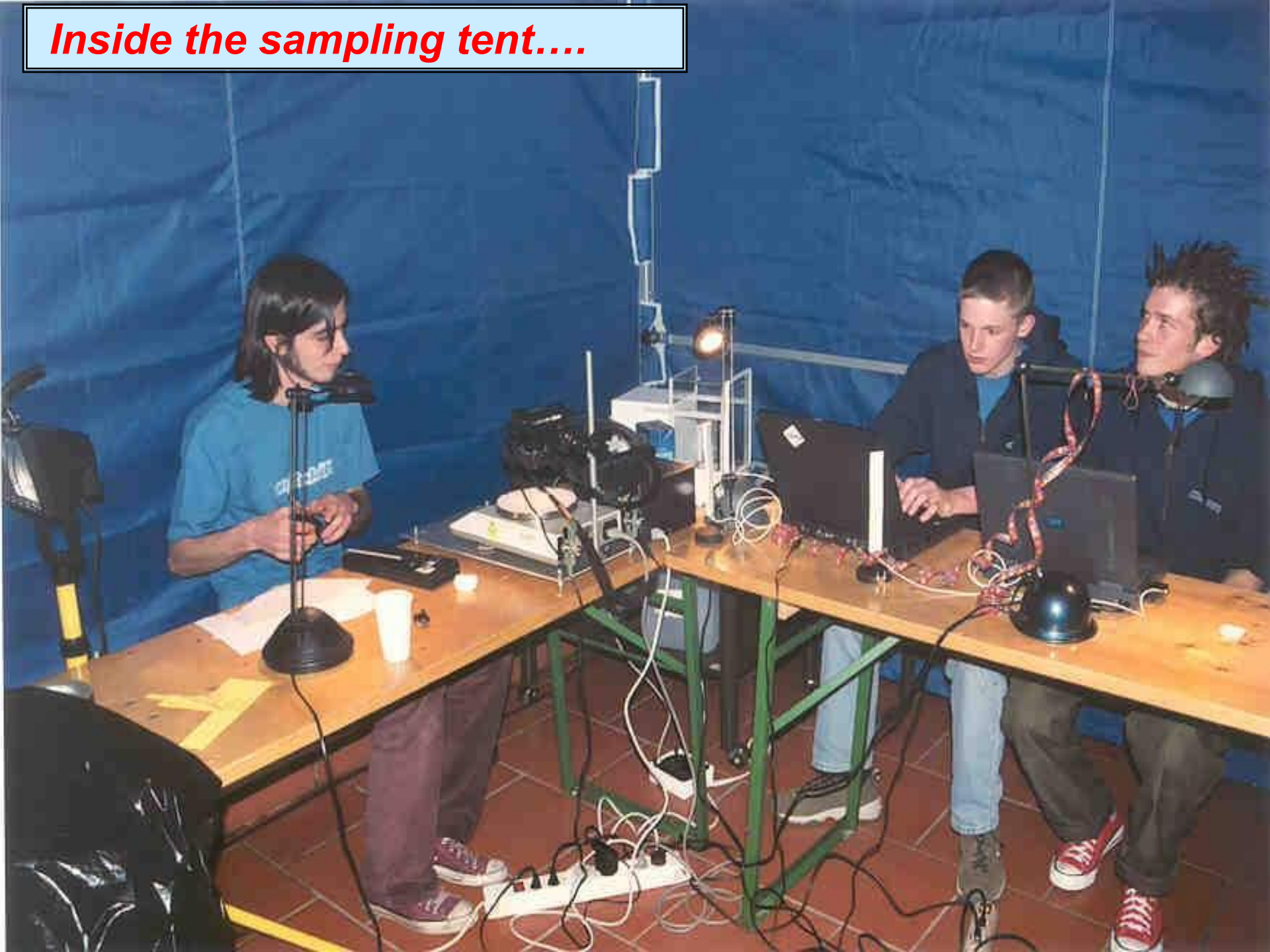
- *Information & counselling zone*  
(up to 8 psycho-socially trained counsellors)
- *Zone of accepting the drug samples (,The Tent‘)*  
(2 counsellors)
- *Zone of the analytical laboratory*  
(up to 3 trained chemists)

# checkit! Event assistance





*Inside the sampling tent....*



# **'ChEck iT!'** Sampling Device





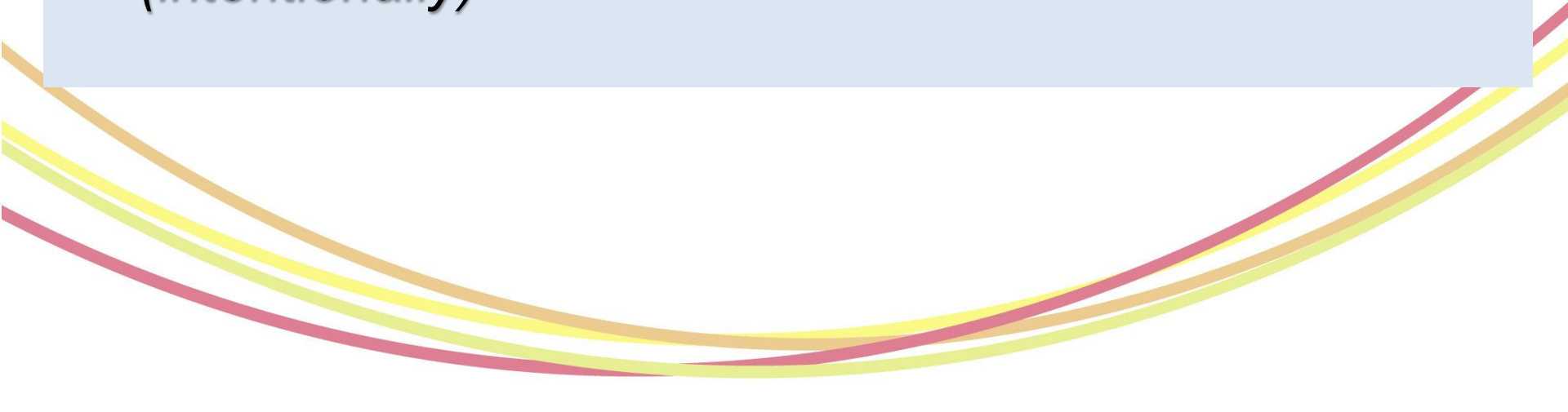


**The mobile drug testing lab:  
using 4 HPLC systems and a  
LCMS system running in parallel  
for fast results.**





## ***Presenting the analytical results....***

- All (anonymized) analytical results are *openly displayed in the counselling zone* (by number)
  - but the *identity of sample* is neutralized (no logo, only by a number)
  - *Risks* of analytical results are '*interpreted*' (*intentionally*)
- 

# Interpretating drug testing results at events...

**ChEckiT!** **12**  
sample ID

**test result** **XTC**  
bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
<b>MDMA</b>	<b>50mg</b>
other substance(s)	amount
Remark	

**This sample contains the expected substance(s).**

check your life – check your drugs

**ChEckiT!** **19**  
sample ID

**Test result** **XTC**  
bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
<b>MDMA</b>	<b>130mg</b>
other substance(s)	amount
Remark	
<b>Caution !!! high dosage</b>	

**This sample contains the expected substance(s).**

check your life – check your drugs

**ChEckiT!** **56**  
sample ID

**unexpected test result** **Speed**  
bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
<b>amphet amine</b>	<b>little</b>
other substance(s)	amount
<b>caffeine</b>	
Remark	

**Caution !!!**  
**This sample contains unexpected substance(s).**

check your life – check your drugs

**ChEckiT!** **44**  
sample ID

**Warning!** **XTC**  
bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
other substance(s)	amount
<b>PMA</b>	
Remark	
<b>+unknown substances</b>	

**Caution!!!**  
**This sample contains particularly harmful substances!**  
check your life – check your drugs



**checkit!**

# How targeted groups are reached

At events:

- - up to *600 information / counselling contacts on-site /night*
- - up to *100 samples analyzed / night*
- *www.checkyourdrugs.at* ~ 150.000 hits / year
- On-line-requests ~ 450 / year
- Telephone requests ~ 500 / year



# Results of 'On-site' Drug Testing in Vienna (End 2011): How to assess risks correctly, without a test result)??

Sample	bought as	analyzed						
1	<b>Cocain</b>	Koffein	BEG	Levamisol	Lidocain	Phenacetin	Hydroxicin	
2	<b>SPEED</b>	Koffein	Amphetamin					
4	<b>MDMA krist</b>	MDMA						
5	<b>Heroin</b>	Koffein	Paracetamol					
6	<b>??</b>	MDMA	<b>4-MEC</b>					
7	<b>SPEED</b>	Koffein	Amphetamin					
8	<b>MDA</b>	F-Phenyl-Piperazin	TFM-Piperazin					
9	<b>Xtc</b>	MDMA						
10	<b>Kokain</b>	Kokain	Levamisol	Phenacetin				
11	<b>Xtc</b>	Methylon						
12	<b>SPEED</b>	Koffein	Amphetamin					
14	<b>Xtc</b>	Koffein	F-Phenyl-Piperazin					
15	<b>SPEED</b>	<div> <div>Xtc</div> <div>Coffein, 4-MEC, Unknown, MPDV, Unknown</div> </div>						
16	<b>MDMA k</b>							
17	<b>Xtc</b>							
18	<b>Kokain</b>	Kokain	Paracetamol	Levamisol	Lidocain	Kokain	Procain	Diltiazem
19	<b>Xtc</b>	Koffein	4-MEC	unbek. S.	MPDV	unbek. S.		
20	<b>SPEED</b>	Koffein	Paracetamol	Amphetamin				
21	<b>MDMA krist</b>	Methylon						
22	<b>Kokain</b>	Koffein	BEG	Levamisol	Lidocain	Phenacetin	Hydroxicin	
23	<b>Kokain</b>	BEG	Lidocain	Phenacetin	Kokain			
24	<b>MMC</b>	4-MMC						



*Overall, the final goal is....*

....to help young individuals to build up their  
*own strong risk awareness*  
and to make the *right choices*  
during periods in their adolescent life...

.....so they leave their (sometimes turbulent)  
time of youth

*with the least damage, for a safer start into  
their further life!*

# The checkit!

## The 'Home Base' Team



## The Lab Team



# team

Visit us: [www.checkyourdrugs.at](http://www.checkyourdrugs.at)