



Safer Drinking Scenes (SDS)

Alcohol abuse among young people in public spaces The Binge drinking phenomenon

Introduction

The recent growth of 'binge' drinking phenomenon among youth is a fact and unfortunately it has become widespread in the major part of European Cities. By this, we mean the rapid consumption of large amounts of alcohol, especially by this population. As for Cities this issue has become a focus of acute policy concern, turning it into a local priority. However, most of the times the Cities are devoid of effective measures and therefore they can't cope with the problem in a satisfactory way. In order to face up the problem Cities are asking for new practices and positives experiences regarding this point.

The French Forum for Urban Safety has worked on this topic since many years, and as a result, a national work group called 'Binge Drinking' has been set out in 2007 and which gathers 10 cities of its network.

Though the results are presumably quite encouraging, its time now to overcome the social problematic, working on this topic at the European level and comparing situations and practices implement in European Cities.

It's commonly known that this phenomenon is manifesting in a large number of European cities. Thus, it has become a must to centralize the problem, aiming at the exchanging and sharing of best practices and consequently getting the benefits from these insights.

Thanks to its experience at this regard, and its network counting more than 100 cities, the FFUS is apparently the most appropriated organisation to lead the project. The FFSU is willing to devote time and resources to adopt meaningful actions to prevent 'binge drinking'. To maximize the results and Europeanize the project, the FFSU will count with the collaboration of the European Forum, as well as other national forums.

The problem encompasses 3 different risks. In order to get an integrated and global approach this kind of behaviour has to be considered on 3 distinct levels:

- Risk of longer and short term health implications
- Binge drinking is associated with aggressive behaviour, increasing considerably the risk of this kind of violent acts.
- Risk of victimization increased by the vulnerability resulting from the consumption of alcohol. Likewise, they are considered as potential victims.

The project will be based in three main aspects:

- The **capitalization** of both research and pragmatic experiences carry out. (Knowledge & know-how)
- **Fields visits** to the partner cities, which will enable the exchange of initiatives between cities as well as the punctual meeting of different local actors concerned such associations, Red Cross, Police Departments, cities, etc...
- The elaboration of a **final tool kit**, including theory, good practices and recommendations. This resource will have to be available and usable by local and field actors but also by elected officials.

Background

It is well known that drinking it is a common practice spread into the vast of modern societies. The relationship established between alcohol and people it's considered as a polymorph interconnection. The consumption of alcohol has been contemplated for many years as a bad habit, sign of mental illness, short of a crime frowned on as a pleasure of day to day life. Nowadays, the consumption of alcohol, especially by young people, is liable to remind us to that ritual.

Considering the large variety of consumption, it is necessary to define phenomenon and target group.

Firstly, the target group is one of the first groups to be submitted, and therefore the project is aimed at the study of the consumption in group amongst **young people**, based on the theory that this category includes young people between the ages of 13 and 25.

Next, the project will be aimed at the diversity of consumption, since the variety of it and their different shorts of appellations could make the project inefficient. Thus, the **massive consumption** causing troubles amongst young people (known as binge drinking or heavy consumption) is the succeeding target.

Finally, the third main section of the project will be focused on the 'places' where the action is taken, considering this fact extremely important also. In this case, the project will be address to the cities and local governments. The cities will be in charge of the management of the phenomenon. This is the logical reason why it would only take into account, within the framework of the ongoing project, the public spaces.

In order to get the most specific and factual approach, the project must distinguish between the different occurring of the phenomenon. In other words, from those considered as "organized" (student parties, festivals, etc...), to those thought as non-organised and uncontrolled meetings. The public urban space will be the common factor to determine the different grades.

Objectives and outcomes

The main aim of the project is directed at the management of the 'binge drinking phenomenon' amongst young people and the measures launched to prevent the risks related to this conduct.

This project will be in essence transverse both concerning actions, methods and fields (Additives conduct, public space management, health prevention, victimisation, awareness campaign,...) and involved actors (local actors, police forces, medical staff, ...)

The project is aiming also at:

- Improving and intensifying the understanding of those stakeholders committed to concrete actions in the project but also the non specialised actors such as local elected, police forces, etc...It is essential for the success of the project the tandem between “understanding the phenomenon and satisfactory action”. An exhaustive understanding will also contribute to intensify the impact as campaigning awareness regards, which means a major consciousness of the problem by those affected directly, such families, and victims.
- Providing local actors with functional resources to look on the problem more effectively.
- Enhance the relationships between local partners to reinforce the results defined. Co-operation is the key factor to achieve the project goals successfully.
- Promoting dialogue and exchanging resources between the European cities involved is the best way to optimize the expectations desired. The creation of a network will entail a permanent consciousness of the situation.

Outcomes

- On one hand, the larger **compilation of information and knowledge** resulting from the continuous researches carried out in Europe. On the other hand, the best practices implemented in European Cities
- A **report** issued from the **experiences observed** among the different partners cities.
- **Pooling of resources** between cities summing up their own experiences, their points of view, practices,...This goal will be reach in the framework of field visits organized in each partner cities.
- Production, with the support of experts, of operational recommendations usable all over in Europe
- Implementation of a perennial network open to all European Cities in which everybody will be able to benefit of the work done but also contribute with its experiences, ...

In order to concretise the results it is necessary to produce an operational and fonctionnal tool which will contain all this results and which will be available and interactive. Thus an Internet Site seems to be the most accurate option. A publication, which will contain main results of this project, will be also produce.

Methodology

Three different groups will participate in the project:

- **The network of cities**, gathering all partner cities.
- **The steering group**, composed of the FFSU's project manager, a European expert (FESU) and of the Belgian Forum for Urban Safety.
- **The Expert Committee**, composed of the steering group and of several thematic experts (health, data,...)

The project will be executed on **3 main simultaneous phases**:

- **The capitalization phase**, where practises will be selected and summarized. The research material of the 'Binge drinking' phenomenon made by partner cities will be also compiled during this phase.
- **Field visits** taking place in every partner city and in the presence of the Steering group and the network of cities will enable to share the arguments and pieces of information between the Cities. From these visits, the references and positives experiences will be drawn. Furthermore, a meeting gathering the participants is to be organized after the field visits, ensuring an efficient management of the project.
- **The finalization** of the fundamental outcomes. The final tools will contain description of the project, partners, knowledge, best practice in Europe and in partner cities, recommendations,....
- **The dissemination phase**

Partner's contribution

Partner's contribution will consist in :

Supporting the expert committee during the research phase by providing information on practices implemented in its territory ;

Taking part in field visits organized by the others partners cities;

Organizing one field visits in its city;

Taking part in the kick-off seminar as well as in the final conference;

Supporting the expert committee during the phase of finalization and production of the final tools;

Being involved in the dissemination phase by disseminating project results in its own networks.

Schedual of events

Month	Event	Phase
1		
2	Launching Seminar	
3	Developpement and launching of the website	Research and capitalization
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9	Expert committee Meeting	
10		
11	1 st city field visits	City Field Visits
12	2 nd city field visits	
13	3 rd city field visits	
14	4 th city field visits	
15	5 th city field visits	
16	6 th city field visits	
17	7 th city field visits	
18	8 th city field visits	
19		Redaction
20		
21		
22		
23	Expert committee meeting	
24		
25		
26		
27	Steering committee meeting	Dissemination
28		
29	Final conference	
30		