

**checkit!**

***Drug testing at music events -  
A low threshold drug prevention program  
for young consumers of synthetic drugs***

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and

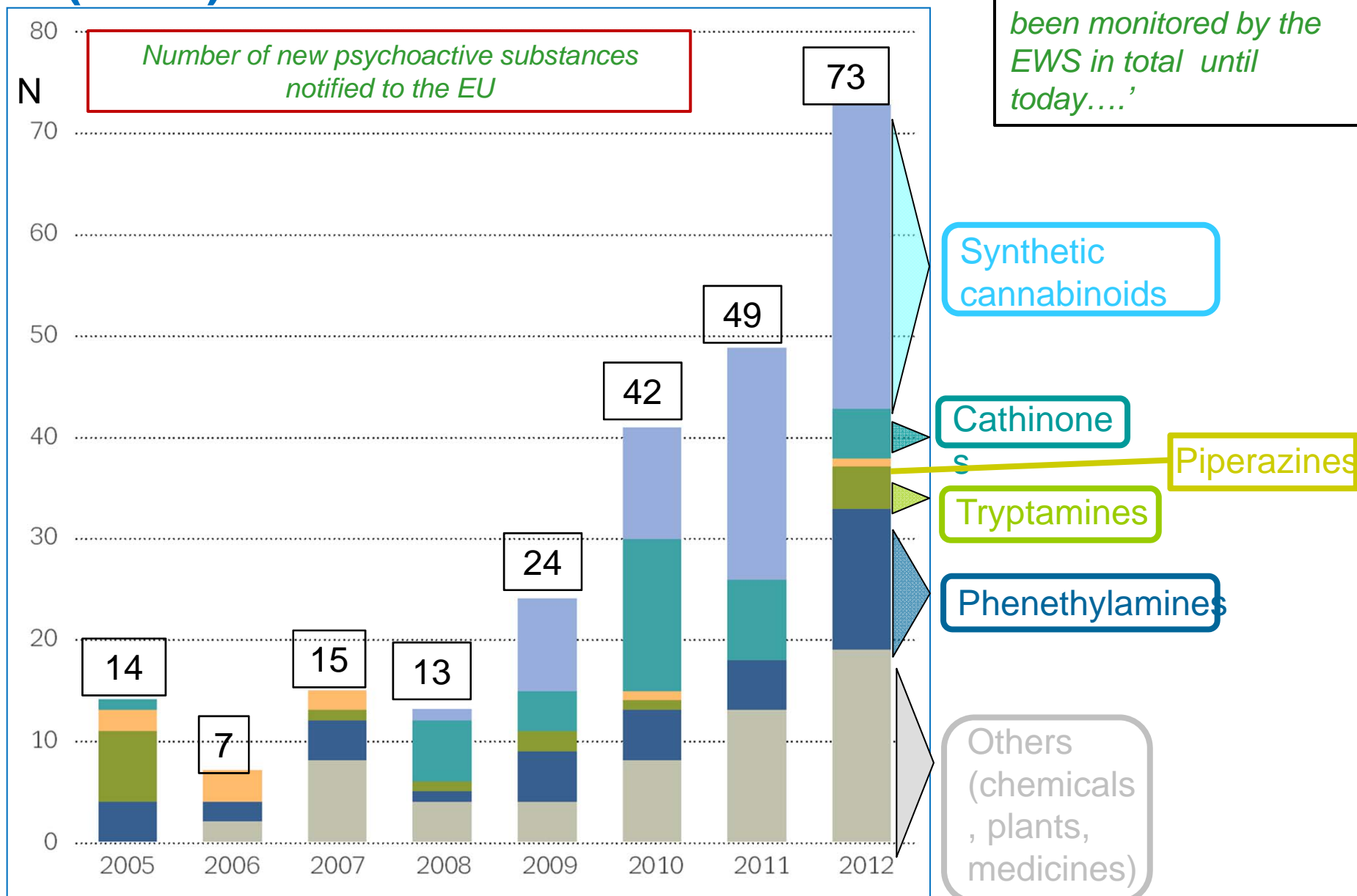
The ,checkit‘ Project, City of Vienna, Austria

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

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



# The Early Warning System (EWS)

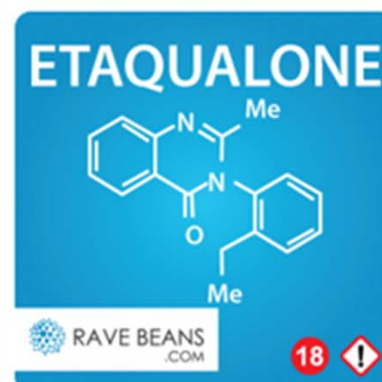
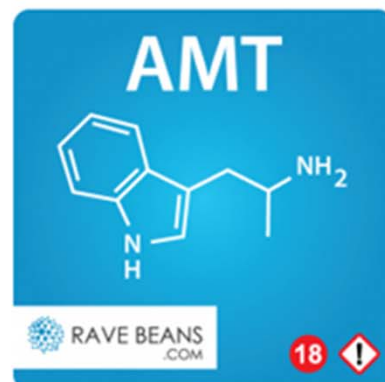
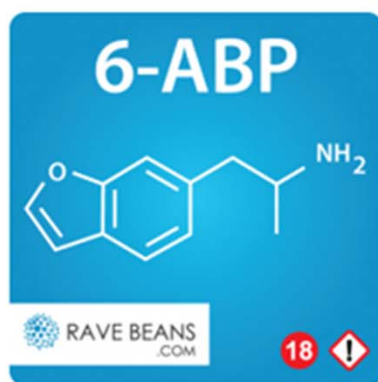





# Markets & Distribution....

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

... 80% of the market goes through the internet (EROPOL)  
– *An increasing and frightening number (?)*





Benzo Fury (10 pellets)

£80.00

Add to Cart

**ETHYLPHENIDATE**

CCOC(=O)C1CCC(CC1)N

RAVE BEANS .COM 18 ⚠

Ethylphenidate (2g)

£30.00

Add to Cart

**ETIZOLAM**

CC1=C(C(=C2C=CC(=C2)N1)C)N

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





# New & extreme marketplaces emerging:


## *Silk Road: 'Amazon for drugs'*

Welcome! | Silk Road

http://i1arxz6zefk72ulzz.onion/index.php


Most Visited ~ Learn more about Tor ~ The Tor Blog


Are you using Tor? ~ list of TOR sites silkroad - Goo... ~ TORDIR - Link List ~ Welcome! | Silk Road


 **Silk Road**  
anonymous marketplace

Welcome  
messages(0) | orders(0) | account(80) | settings | log out  
🛒(0)

**Shop by category:**  
Cannabis(203)  
Ecstasy(35)  
Psychedelics(127)  
Opioids(39)  
Stimulants(68)  
Dissociatives(9)  
Other(197)  
Benzos(43)

  
1 hit of LSD  
(blotter)  
**80.58**

  
1/8 oz high  
quality cannabis  
**82.05**

  
1 g pure MDMA  
(white)  
**81.28**

**Step-by-step:**  
1. Get **anonymous money**  
2. Buy something here  
3. Enjoy it when it arrives!

Vacation mode. Important  
info for **sellers...**

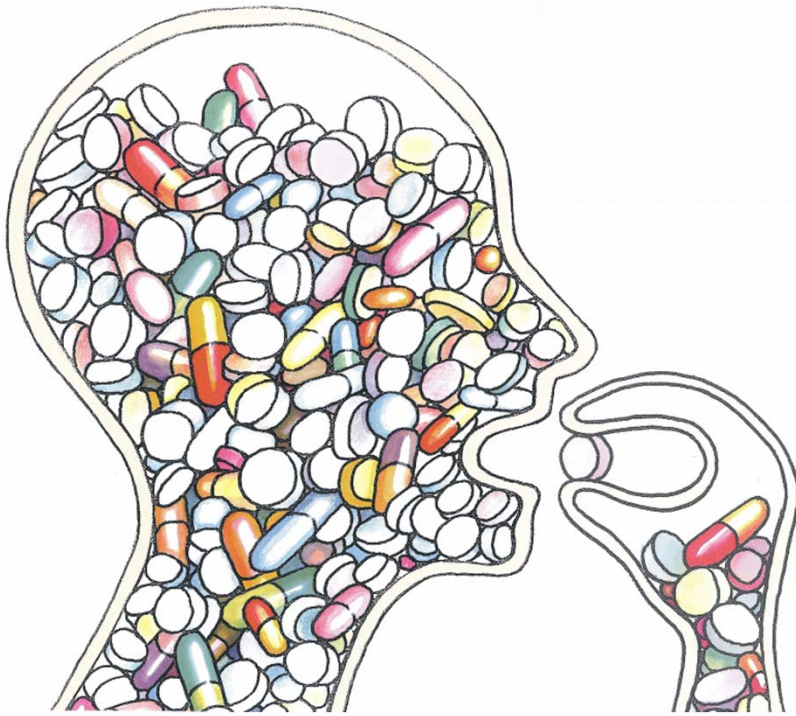
**recent feedback:**

seller	rating	feedback	
<b>1UP of Canada(97)</b>	4 of 5	amazing weed. the only reason this is not a 5 is because the package was so tightly double vaccuum sealed that the product was flattened, which I know is necessary for security but it still decreases quality	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>CaliforniaSunrise</b>	5 of 5	Fast shipping. Nice packaging. I haven't tried the chocolate yet, but it looks tasty! Smooth transaction.	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>Rook</b>	5 of 5	all good! thanks so much!	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>lily</b>	5 of 5	Very friendly. Fast Shipping. Great packaging.	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>somatik</b>	5 of 5	Order arrived quickly and as described. Thanks!	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>gamely54</b>	5 of 5	No issue at all, I officially recommend this seller. Now go forth and purchase from him!	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>mellowyellow</b>	5 of 5	Item arrived quickly and as described, good communication. This guy's legit.	<a href="#">item</a>
<b>dirtysouf(100)</b>	5 of 5	looks good	<a href="#">item</a>



*Has Pandora's Box  
already been opened  
??*





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

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



## RCs - Legal solutions (Austria)

**Since Beginning 2012: New psychoactive drugs are not controlled by the national drug law („Suchtmittel Gesetz“) but by a**

*New Psychoactive Substance Law („NPSG“)*

- New Synthetic Drugs are covered by their common basic structures (analogues).
- Goal is to suppress production and commerce
- Consumers are not criminalized

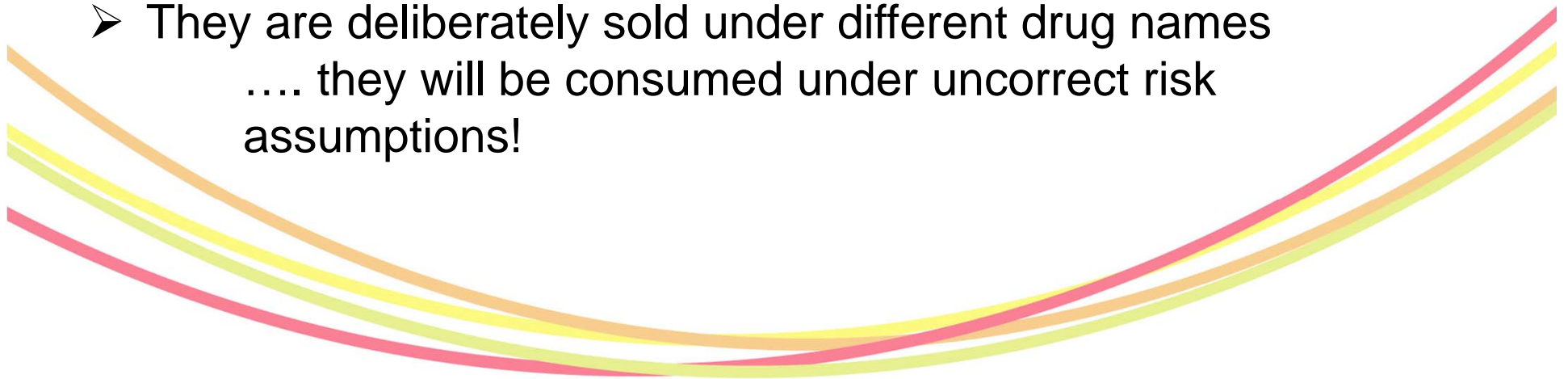
# Consumption motives for ‚Research Chemicals‘

- (ease of) availability
- legality
- distribution sites
- ‘quality’
- price
- curiosity

Source: *checkit! Study on Consumption Motives 2011/2012*

## *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
- They are deliberately sold under different drug names  
.... they will be consumed under uncorrect risk assumptions!







## Pill Testing results (1998-2011) at music events: Drugs have been bought as ‚ecstasy‘

[ˈɛkstəsi]

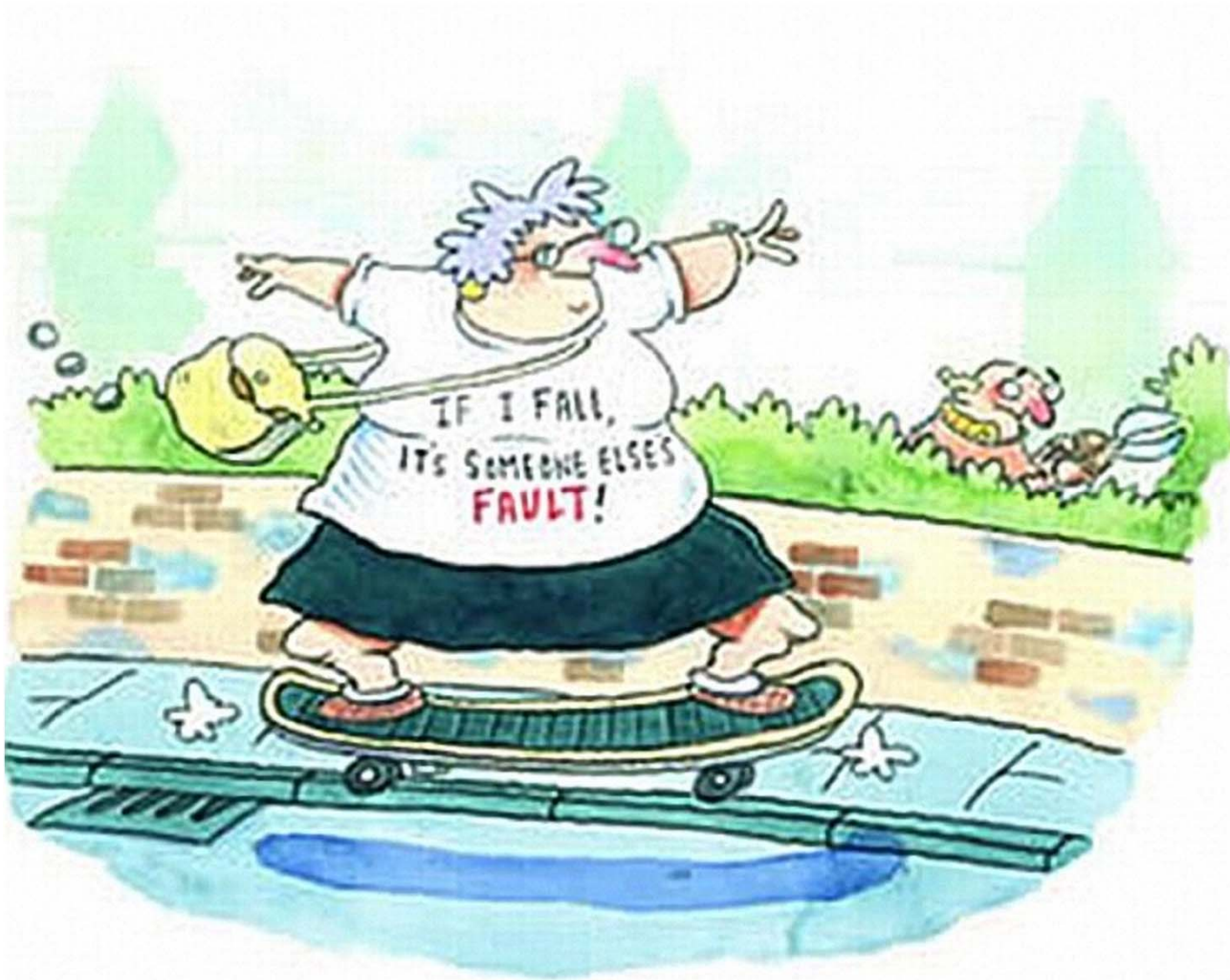
Als "Ecstasy"-Tabletten gekaufte Proben										
1999	2000	...	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011		
86,2%	83,4%	...	74,6%	60,7%	61,6%	15,2%	21,1%	29,6%		
MDMA+MDA	1,0%		0,9%	...	0,7%					
MDE und/oder MDA	0,5%	0,7%	1,3%	...		1,4%	1,0%			
MDMA+Koffein	1,0%	1,3%	1,6%	...	5,2%	0,9%	0,7%	1,0%	5,9%	
MDMA+Amphetamin	1,0%	0,7%	0,6%	...	1,5%					
MDMA+diverse Mischungen*	3,1%	3,9%	2,2%	...		7,7%	7,5%	1,9%	5,3%	18,5%
PMA/PMMA			1,3%	...				1,0%		
Amphetamin	13,3%	3,3%		...	4,5%		0,7%	1,0%	1,3%	
Methamphetamin	1,0%		0,6%	...	0,7%			1,0%		
Koffein	Piperazin/Piperazin+diverse Mischungen**					47,4%			19,3%	
Chinin/Chinidin										
Piperazin/Piperazin+diverse Mischungen**										
Research Chemicals/RCs+diverse Mischungen***						6,6%			23,0%	
Research Chemicals/RCs+diverse Mischungen***										
diverse Mischungen*	35,4%	3,9%	3,4%	...	9,0%	14,5%	8,9%	25,7%	11,8%	3,0%
N	195	152	319		134	117	146	105	76	135

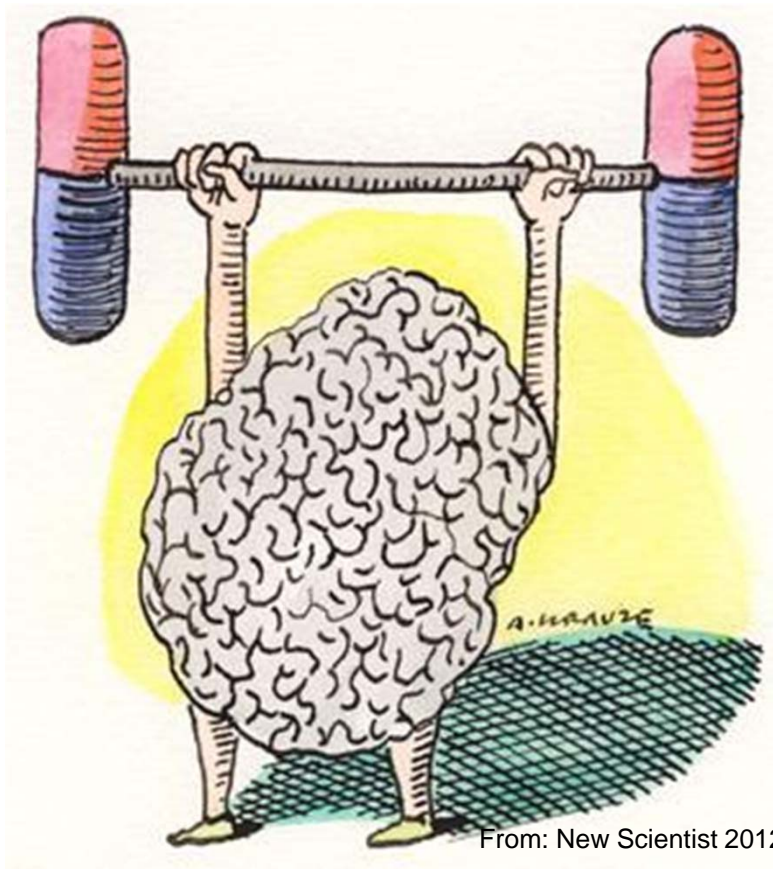
\* Diverse Mischungen heißt: Ein oder mehrere andere Inhaltsstoffe

\*\*Piperazin/Piperazin+diverse Mischungen heißt: ausschließlich Piperazin oder Piperazin und ein oder mehrere andere Inhaltsstoffe

\*\*\*Research Chemicals/RCs+diverse Mischungen heißt: ausschließlich RCs oder RCs und ein oder mehrere andere Inhaltsstoffe

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





***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? „





**Harm reduction?....**

***Credible & efficient  
prevention !!***

*„A cynical approach is  
still prevailing in many  
,prevention‘  
philosophies ...*

*Are we unwilling or are we  
unable to communicate all  
necessary evidence based  
and objective information to  
drug users?*

# The checkit! Project

- An institution for *recreational drug consumers*
- *Low-threshhold* , 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:



&



# Which drug fields ?

## *TRADITIONAL DRUGS = DOWNERS*

HEROIN

GHB

BENZODIAZEPINES

ALCOHOL

## *RECREATIONAL DRUGS*

Cannabis

NICOTINE

ECSTASY

MUSHROOMS

SPEED

RESEARCH  
CHEMICALS

LSD

COCAINE

2-CB

AMPEHTAMINE

Natural Drugs



# checkit!

## Goals

- Approaching *difficult to reach groups* through attractive 'offers'.
- *Risk reduction* through offering information on psychoactive substances and their consumption risks,
- thus avoiding *problematic consumption patterns* and
- prevention of *short- or long-time health damage*.
- *Promoting risk-conscious behavior* and a *drug-critical position*.
- Gain *scientifically based information* on synthetic substances consumed and on their consumption patterns,
- to *warn* on substances with high health risks.

# checkit! Target Groups

- *Adolescents and young adults*
- *Consumers of recreational drugs:*
  - experimental consumption
  - opportunistic consumption
  - regular consumption
- *Their relatives*
- *Multipliers*
- *All interested in this topic*

# checkit!

## Fields of Work



### The *ChEckiT!* Project

*ChEckiT!*

**ChEckiT!  
Event  
Support**



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



**ChEckiT!  
Counselling**

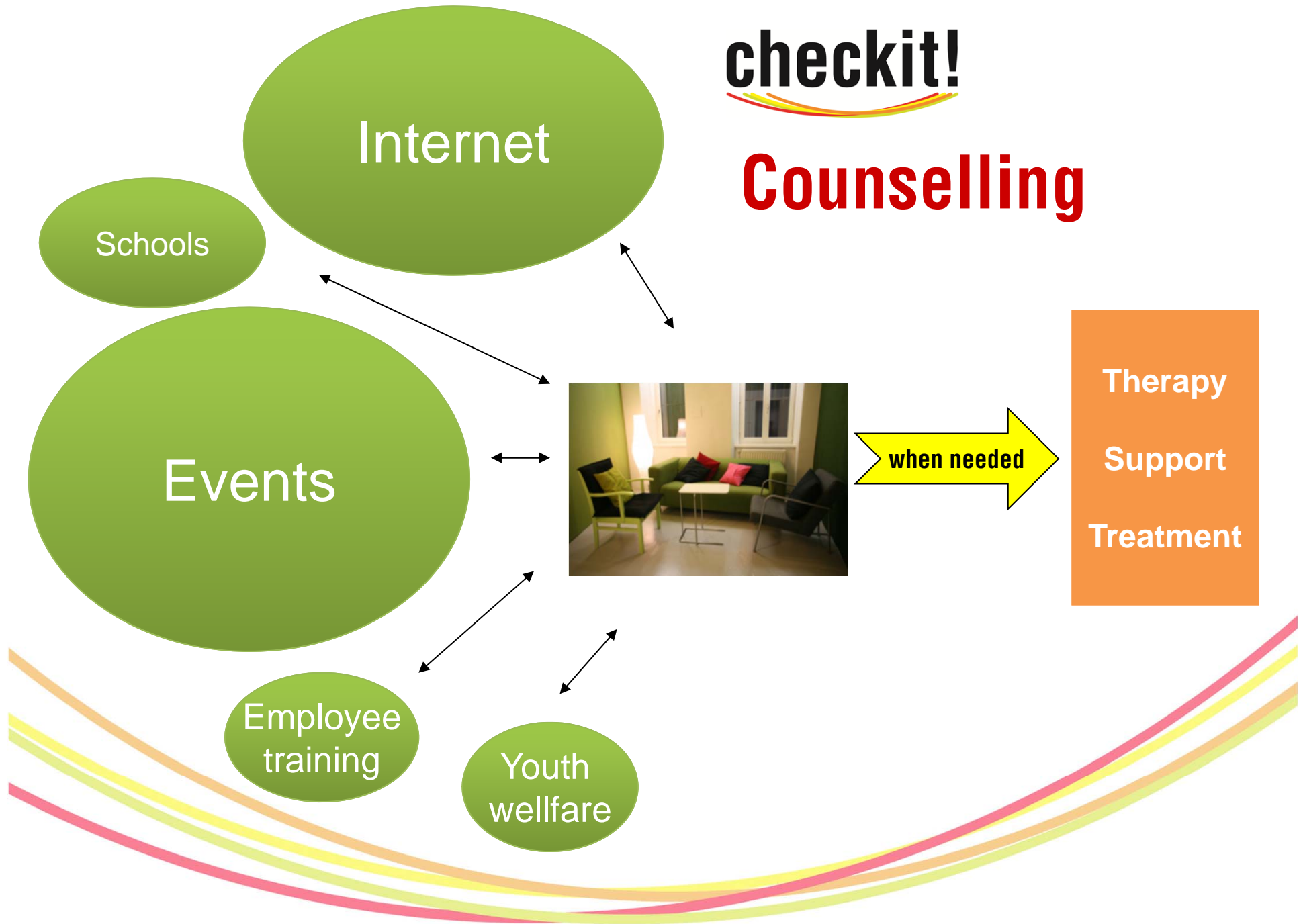


[www.CheckYourDrugs.at](http://www.CheckYourDrugs.at)



**checkit!**

# Counselling



# checkit!

## Methods and Tools

- Anonimously & voluntary
- Client-accepting attitude
- Providing 'objective information' (through chemical analysis)
- Psychosocial counselling – Motivating communication (Miller & Rollnick)
- Orientation onto individual life situation
- Pragmatism

# Comparing consumer groups ...

## *Mainly RCs*

- Little / no 'drug' conciseness
- Little / no knowledge on substances
- Little risk awareness
- No / little reflection possible

## *'Classic' party drugs*

- Drug conciseness
- knowledge on substances
- reflection possible
- Negative appraisal
- Little risk competence

Source: *checkit! Study on Consumption Motives 2011/2012*



# checkit!

## Why ,drug-checking' ?

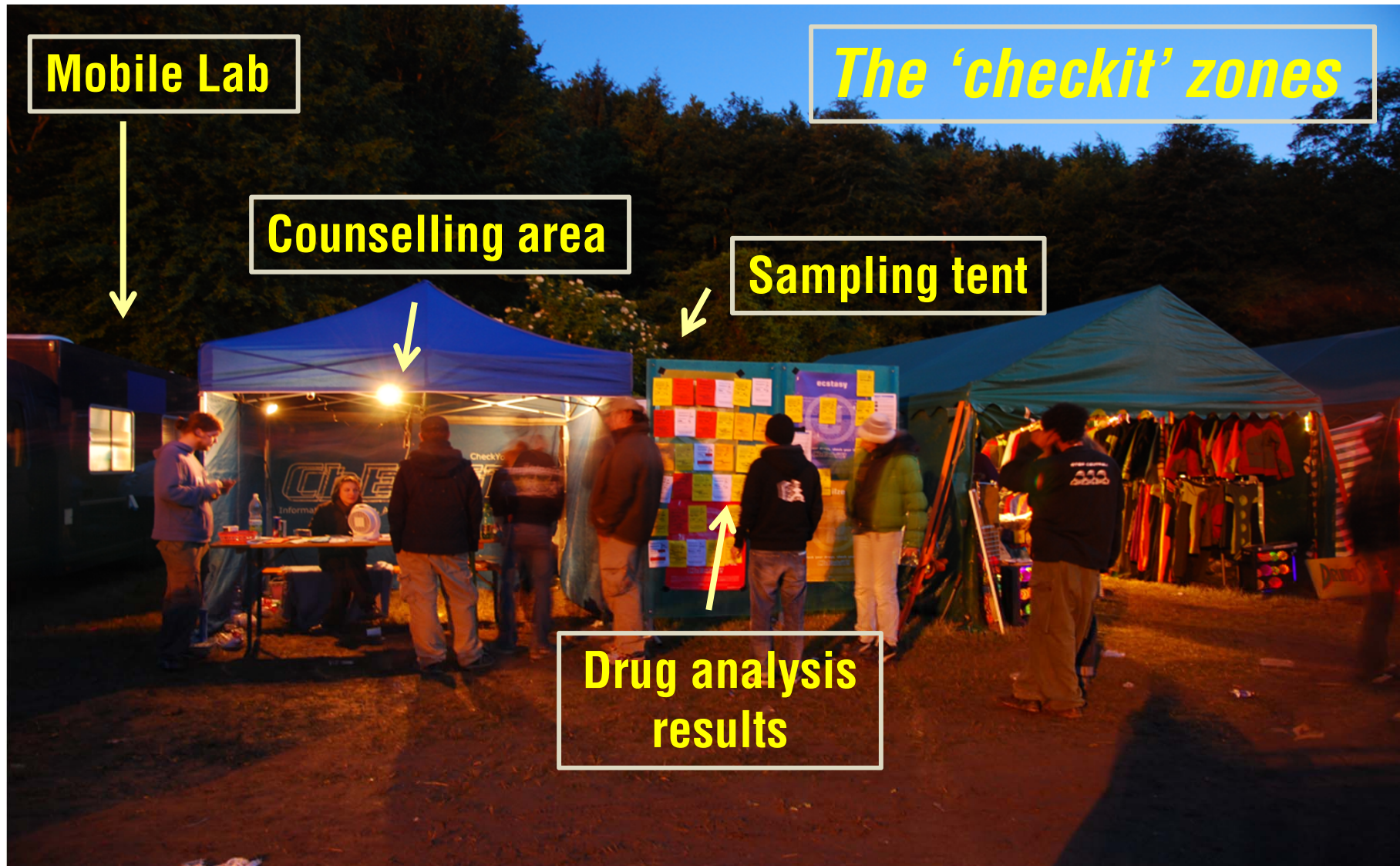
- An efficient method *to reach targeted groups*
- To Increase *acceptance* and *credibility*
- Efficient measure for *risk reduction*
- *Information* for *actual prevention*
- *Warning of specially dangerous substances* in the sense of the European Early Warning System of the EMCDDA
- Overview on the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



## Event support: 3 distinct operation zones

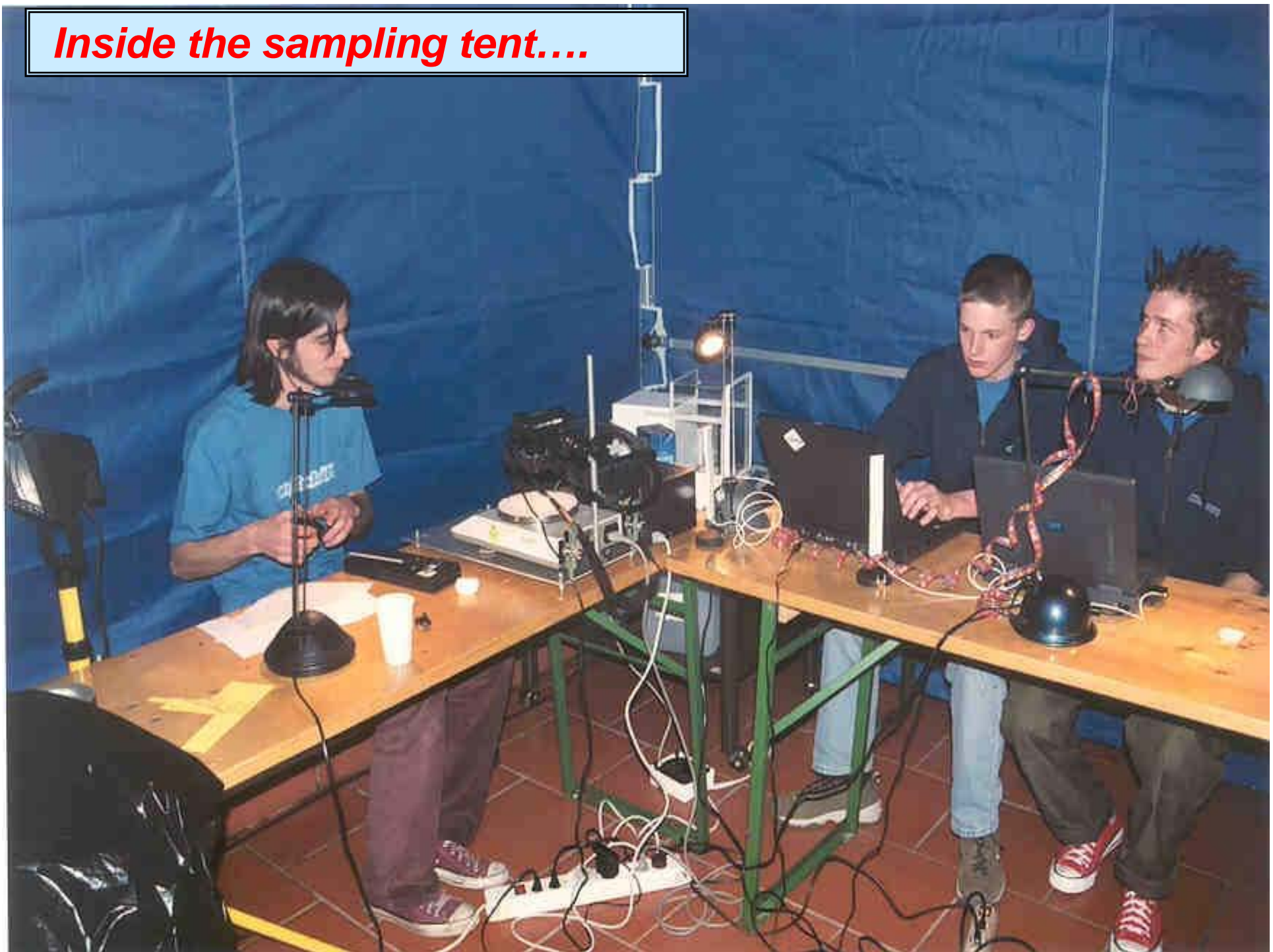
- *Information & counselling area* with up to 8 psycho-socially trained counsellors
- *Area of accepting the drug samples* („The Tent“) – 2 counsellors
- *Area of the analytical laboratory* – up to 3 trained chemists

# Event assistance





*Inside the sampling tent....*



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







**The mobile drug testing lab**



## ***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)
- Analytical results are *intentionally 'interpreted'*.



## Interpretation of of drug testing results at events....1

**ChEckiT!**

**test result**

12

sample ID

XTC

bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
MDMA	50mg
other substance(s)	amount
Remark	

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

check your life – check your drugs

**ChEckiT!**

**Test result**

19

sample ID

XTC

bought as

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

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

check your life – check your drugs

## Interpretation of of drug testing results at events....2

**ChEckiIT!**

**unexpected  
test result**

56

sample ID

Speed

bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
amphetamine	little
other substance(s)	amount
caffeine	
Remark	

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

check your life – check your drugs

**ChEckiIT!**

**Warning!**

44

sample ID

XTC

bought as

expected substance(s)	amount
other substance(s)	amount
PMA	
Remark	
+ unknown substances	

**Caution!!!**  
**This sample contains particularly  
harmful substances!**

check your life – check your drugs

# Presenting the analysis results....





# Results of 'On-site' Drug Testing during a larger music-event in Vienna (End 2011)

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	4-MEC					
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>	Xtc, Coffein, 4-MEC, Unknown, MPDV, Unknown						
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						

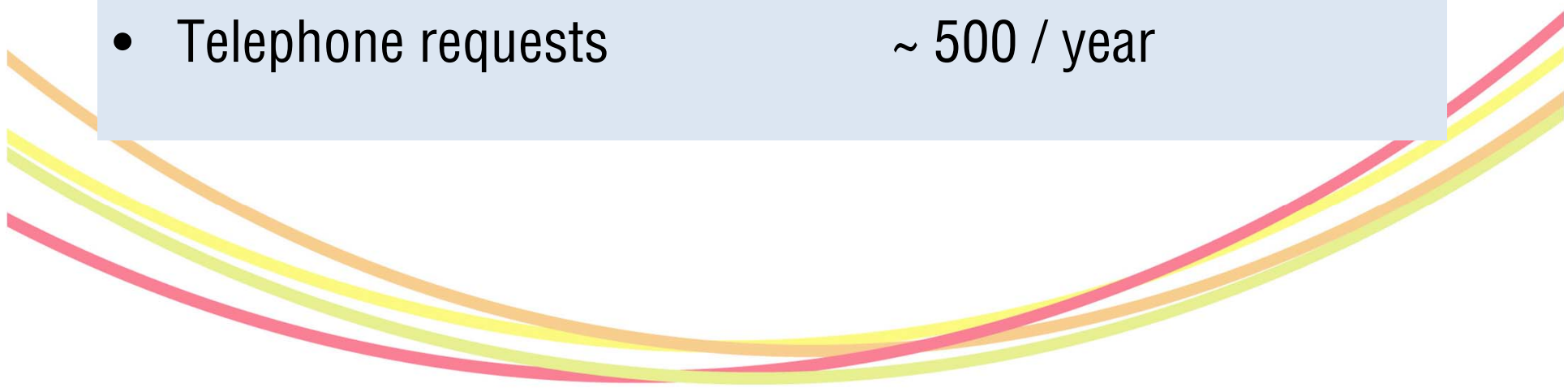
*How to assess risks correctly (without a test result)??*



# How targeted groups are reached

## At events

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

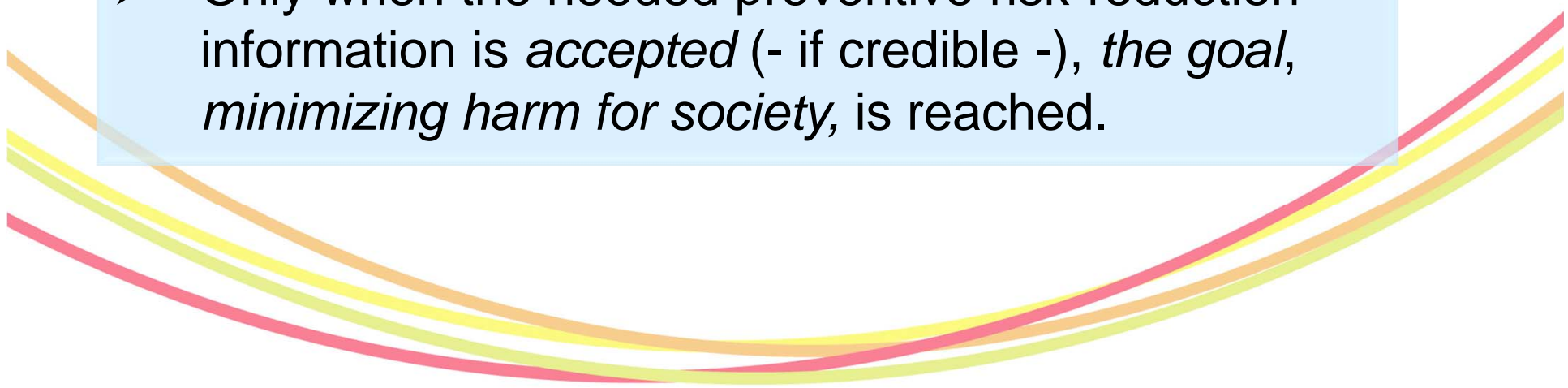




## The consequences for prevention

- *Collect & distribute drug-specific informations* with a focus on New Synthetic Drugs (,Research Chemicals‘) for consumers as well as for experts.
- *Enhance risk-competence and sensibility* of drug consumers towards
  - legality vs. risks
  - availability vs. risks
  - importance of ,Safer Use‘ – messages
- *No overreaction* (meet consumers with their observationsn)
- *No deterrence* ( -> Boumerang-effects, reactions, ,parrot‘-effects, crediability...)

## Finally....

- We should not be focused too much on the impact of *market mechanisms* in the environment of NSD.
  - In contrary, much more differentiated *information is (badly) needed about the different groups of consumers* of NSD and on their consumption motives.
  - Consumers of NSD must be approached with the *adequate respect, at eye level*, acknowledging their attitude towards drug use:
  - Only when the needed preventive risk-reduction information is *accepted* (- if credible -), *the goal, minimizing harm for society*, is reached.
- 



# checkit! Conclusions

To avoid *problematic consumption patterns* and drug dependence it is *more important* to put the focus onto...

- *Motives*

*(,What for? Why?)*

- *Social circumstances of consumption*

*(,Where, when, with whom?)*

...instead simply to focus on substances *(,What?)* !



*Overall,*

*the final goal should be ....*

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

.....so they leave their 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**

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





## TYPE OF ACTION

**SEDATING**

Sleeping pills

Sedation Drugs

Heroin

Cannabis

**EUPHORISING**

Alcohol

Ecstasy

Cocaine

Speed

Lsd

Mushrooms

Ketamine

**HALLUCINGENIC**

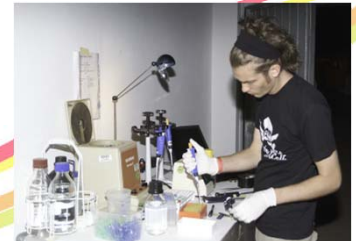
**ACTIVATING**

Nicotine



## Aktivitäten:

- **checkit!** on-site pill testing, Information und Beratung auf elektronischen Musik-Events
- **checkit!** Beratungs-Zentrum („Homebase“): Beratung und Information (persönlich, telefonisch, online) im Einzel- und im Gruppensetting
- Weitergabe von drogenbezogenen Informationen an die Zielgruppe sowie die (Fach-)Öffentlichkeit
- Risikokompetenz-WS Zielgruppe & Multiplikationen
- Herstellung und Verbreitung von Informationsmaterial
- Internet Auftritte: [checkyourdrugs.at](http://checkyourdrugs.at) / MySpace / Facebook
- Wissenschaftliche Publikationen
- Alkohol-Sucht-Präventionsprojekt Partyfit!



# Strategien

- Ausbau der Analysemethoden für das Onsite-Substanzanalyse
- Verbesserung der Datenlage:
  - Internetmonitoring (Diskussionsforen, Smart Shops, RC-Händler,...)
  - KonsumentInnen
  - Noch intensiverer Informationsaustausch mit dem europäischen Early Warning System (EWS)
  - Vernetzung

## **-> Bewertung des Gefährdungspotentials**

- Mediale Berichterstattung
- Hinwirken auf eine Entschleunigung des Marktes



# checkit! Targets I

- Avoiding *problematic consumption patterns*
- Prevention of *short- or long-time health damage*.
- *Risk reduction* through offering information on psychoactive substances and their consumption risks.
- *Promoting risk-conscious behavior and a drug-critical position.*

# checkit! Targets II

- Approaching *difficult to reach groups* through attractive 'offers'.
- Gain *scientifically based information* on synthetic substances consumed and on their consumption patterns.
- *Warning on substances* with high health risks.

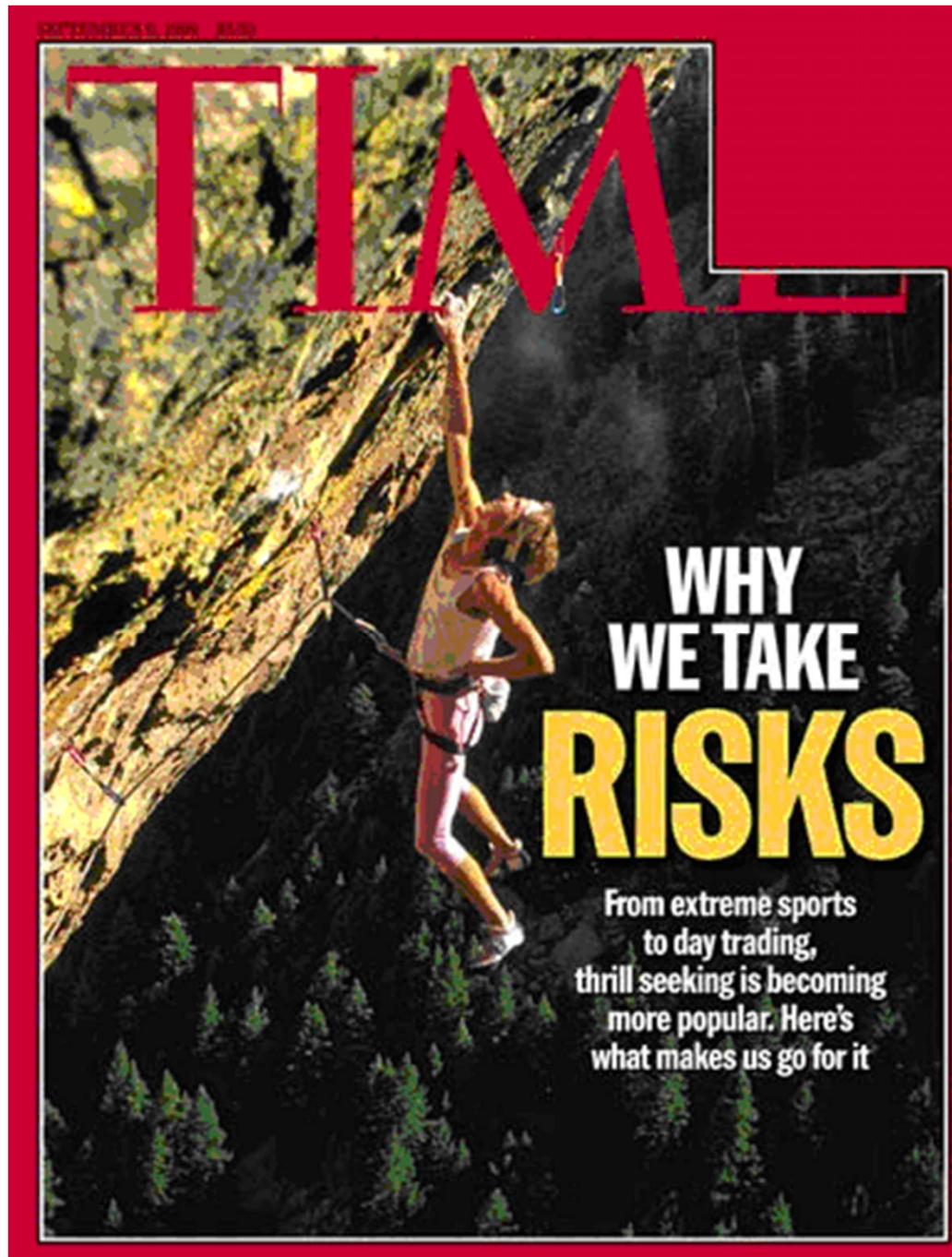


## **New Synthetic Drugs („Research Chemicals“): Classification.... (= Different classes of action)**

- **Amphetamine- und Ecstasy-Type**  
⇒ z.B. Fluoramphetamine, Mephedrone, Butylone, ...
- **Cocain-Type**  
⇒ z.B. Dimethocaine, 4-Fluorotropocaine, ...
- **Ketamine-Type**  
⇒ z.B. Methoxetamine, ...
- **Hallucinogenes**  
⇒ z.B. 4-Acetoxy-DMT, 5-MeO-DALT, Methoxetamine...
- **Cannabis / THC-Type**  
⇒ z.B. JWH-018/073/250 etc., AM-2201, CP-47,497,...

⇒⇒ different psycho-pharmacological spectra of  
action = different consumer groups !!





New Synthetic Drugs:

Remember:  
There are also other  
(well accepted) high  
risk recreational  
behavior in society

....