PIN – Night Itinerant Project
Turin experience

Club Health, Dublin May 2017

Angelo Giglio
Margherita Scarafiotti
Augusto Consoli

Dipartimento Patologia delle dipendenze
Asl Città di Torino

The PIN project of Turin (Night Itinerant Project), operative since 2009, is part of a well-structured system of social and sanitary activities directed to the entire population, to the occasional and socially integrated consumers and also to those who have pathological dependence problems.

PIN is a prevention   work tool. It is in continuity with the universal prevention in schools and the harm reduction services, such as "drop-in" and "Cango" which are street services for active drug addicted people.

Why a public health project in nightlife places?

Nightlife represents a feature of modern society - connected with entertainment - and, at the same time, one of the main challenges for public health.

Researches and observations point out the high consumption of alcohol and other substances either in recreational places of the city (squares, nightclubs and bars), either in the institutional events (Movement, Kappa Future Festival, Club to Club, etc.).

As a result, it becomes necessary promoting health, by making the night a place and a time safe enough to live with pleasure.

Constant presence

The project is characterized by the constant professional's presence (social workers, expert operators, psychologists, volunteers and trainees) in city's recreational places during some weekdays and the weekend in the evening and at night.

The group is composed by a supervising medical doctor and four healthcare professionals, 23 young people (volunteers and trainees) helped professional educators working in PIN project.
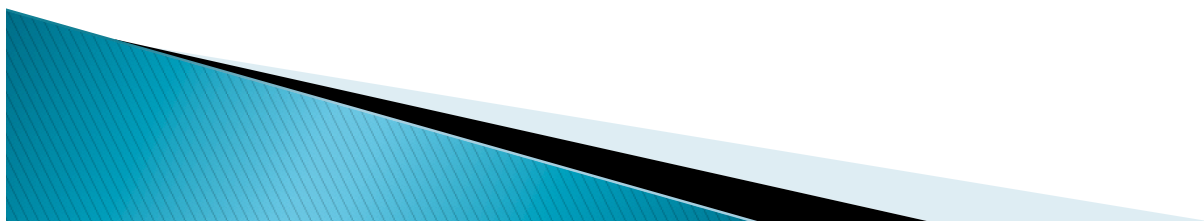
2016 data

- Missions: 59

- Condoms provided: 5.232

- Number of breath tests: 1.054

- Informative material provided: 3.835

- Disposable breath tests delivered: 1.261

- Self filled-out forms about substances use: 54

- Pill testing, in collaboration with «Baomps» project: 14

- Contacts: 12.461

Health promotion and risk reduction

Talking with people, operators promote the awareness of risks and damages caused by substances 'use. The substances involved may be legal (alcohol and tobacco) or illegal (cannabis, cocaine, ketamine, ecstasy, etc.)
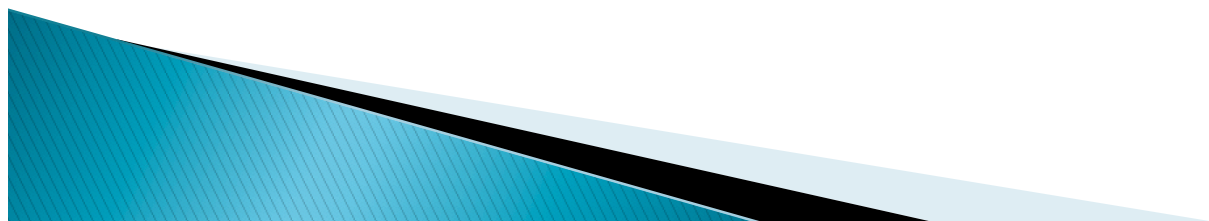
Actions

The service offers:

- information about risks of substances misuse

- counseling

- breath test analysis

- city services information

- "chill out" activities during big events

 Moreover, operators provide informative flyers about each drug, condoms, sexuality information, together with drinking water and food supplies, and disposable breath test.
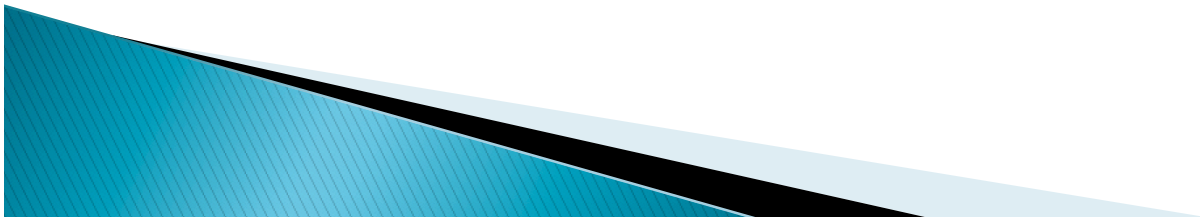
Purpose, background and peculiarity

The aim of the project is to supply preventive and educational services, to stimulate thoughts about behaviour and to promote empowerment concept's sensibility between citizens in recreational events.

During outdoor activity, professionals get in contact with socially integrated consumers of different age, who hang out at nightclubs, bars and city squares at night and over the weekend.
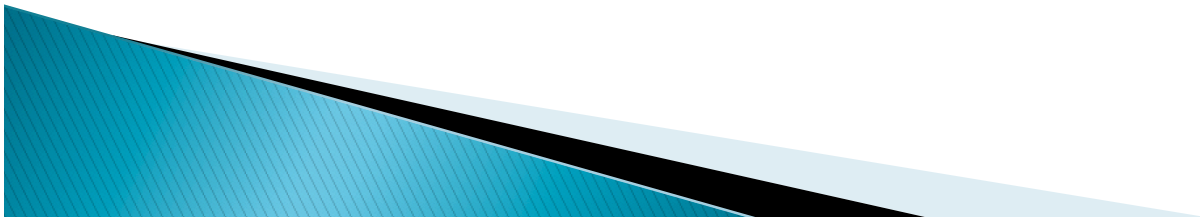
Background and peculiarity
- Turin squares
- Bars and nightclubs
- Music events/concerts/festivals
- City events

In Turin, electronic music festival are increasing in number, the main of which are: Kappa FuturFestival, Movement, Club2Club, Reload, Holi Fusion Festival and also Oktoberfest.
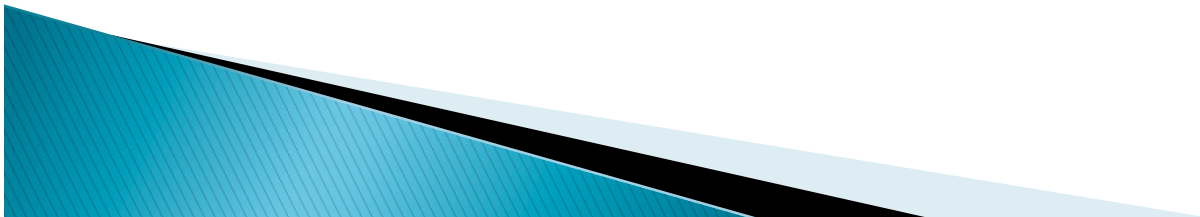
Collaborations

In these years PIN project worked in collaboration with "Neutravel" and "SommerAgibile", setting up informational stands and "chill-out" areas during regional, national or international events. Since 2015 also "Drop-in" operators participate to some of the Project actions.
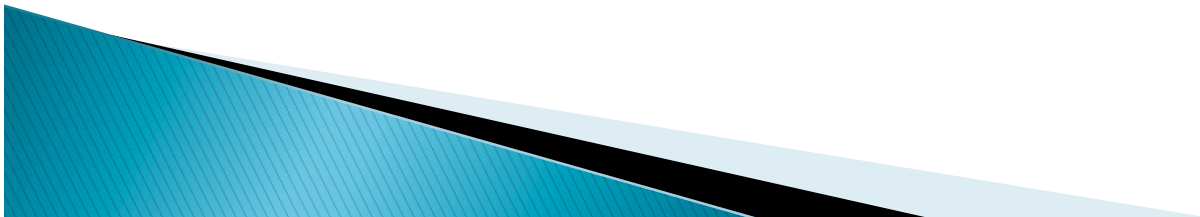
Qualifying features: strengths/key-factors

- Constant territory presence and the resulting impact over target population.

- Preferential observation post to study the phenomenon's evolution and its mutations.

- Flexibility: context adaptation, concurrent health promotion, risk and harm reduction

Qualifying features: strengths/key-factors

- Volunteers and trainees collaboration.

- Integration with other colleagues that works at the same events (emergency services, drug addiction services, etc.).

- Collaboration with bar and club managers and with event organizers.

- Target population and stakeholders interest and appreciation for the activity.
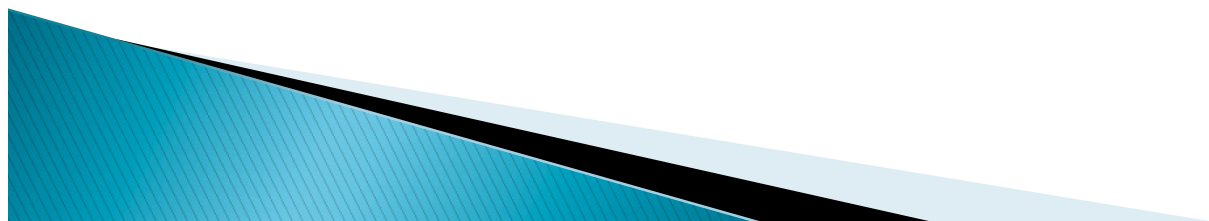
Problems/critical issues

- Operators stress: night schedule, cold in winter, music high volume, frequency of outdoor activities (once or twice a week).

- Context complexity and variability.

- Fluctuation and variability of substances consumption.

- Interaction modes: the interaction with clients is occasionally too short or problematic.

- Volunteers and trainees require training sessions to operate properly; they do not guarantee continuative service.

Problems/critical issues

- Opinions of bars and clubs managers and event's organizers in contrast with public health's thematic.

- Security service planning.

- Difficult cooperation with healthcare services that operate in festivals and concerts.
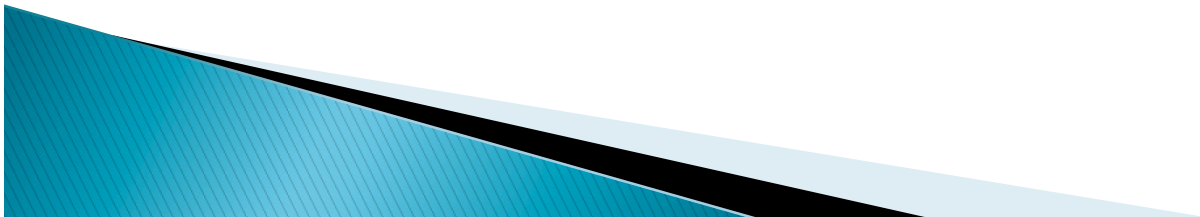
Conclusions

Prevention activities, that take place specially during night leisure in Turin, can't satisfy current needs, even if they are applied in an intensive way.

Even if prevention activities do not fully satisfy the current needs, they contribute to create a network among nightlife events' organizers, attendees, and health support services that progressively involves also the subjects that were initially reluctant about the project (clubs and bars managers, events' organizers, law enforcement agents, etc.).

Conclusions

Applying prevention continuously and engaging contacts with stakeholders can help reducing isolation and self-referentiality of institutional and non-institutional subjects.

The self-managed mode presently used to run health protection network is appropriate only at the initial stages of the Project, but requires an institutional mandate to ensure a stable service and simultaneous presence of all the different partners. Currently, the institutional mandate is only partially managed in Turin.