

KIT FOR ASSESSMENT OF RECREATIONAL NIGHTLIFE[©]

KAReN*

2 Area

Ethnographic Questionnaire of a City Recreational Nightlife



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* This is a set of three questionnaires
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PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

This questionnaire endeavours to assess and evaluate the situation in an area (district, zone) which is popular for young people when going out clubbing. The questionnaire develops eight sets of questions:

- » A1 Area description
- » A2 nightlife in the area
- » A3 Changes in the area due to nightlife
- » A4 Transport and driving in the area
- » A5 Main problems in the area from the point of view of the neighbourhood
- » A6 Sexual behaviour in the area
- » A7 Positive elements (protective factors)
- » A8 Preventive programmes implemented in the area

The interest can be to evaluate only one area of the city. But if we want to have a more general idea of the situation in town, the questionnaire must be implemented in different areas of the city (the number will depend on the size of the town, the variety of recreational areas,...). There are cities with a great diversity of recreational areas, each with different recreational culture, location in the city, style of venues and specific conditions for nightlife. In the case that there are too many areas and some of them have similarities, then it is better to concentrate efforts in a few areas. The selection must address the most representative areas and those that are most different to each other.

A recreational area does not have to coincide with the formal division in areas made by the local council, but based on functional criteria.

Some strategies for research and acquiring data:

- » Reviewing the **local press**. What mention is made of these problems?
- » Interviewing **representatives of associations**: companies, neighbours, tradesmen
- » Interviewing **entities involved in prevention** or with preventive programmes in this area. Collecting brochures and other material.
- » Interviewing a local **government representative** responsible for this area
- » Interviewing a **local policemen** responsible for this area
- » Interviewing and collecting data from **health agencies**
- » **Observation during the busiest times of recreational life**, conversing with young people to ascertain their views. Collecting informal data from young people is most important; information about the characteristics of venues must to be done by young people - ask them how they classify the meaning of venues.

In order to ask young people for their opinion of venues you can use these questions:

- » 1. Please tell us the names of the four main pubs / nightclubs you normally visit when you go on a night out.
- » 2. We'd like to know something about some of the bar, clubs etc. you visit or you would visit if you:
 - # Want to meet potential sexual partners, which places would you go to in your city?
 - # Which places do you associate with fights or arguments?
 - # Which places do you associate with drug use?
 - # Which places do you go to when looking for good vibes and good music?

A1 Area description

The information in this block should be added to a map of the city, or used to prepare a map of the area which also shows the principal venues or leisure spaces.

The information should be oriented to show the subcultures of the area, the typology of youths who visit this area, the importance of the area in relation to the whole city, and the impact and evolution of the recreational activities in this area. Use quantitative data if they exist. Points to be answered include:

- » Basic description of the area
- » Map of the city showing the limits of the area and main recreational venues
- » Type of venues and places for clubbing. Describe different venue styles. Number of premises according the different styles
- » Position in the city: central or peripheral
- » **Identity of the nightlife in the area:** why young people choose this area, different sub areas, special structural elements that are attractive in the area (nice buildings, old city, sea, landscape, traditions, culture, etc).
- » **Day and night. Socio-economic description.** Interaction between the nocturnal and diurnal lifestyle in the area. Synthetic description of the daily style (the rhythm during the day) showing the importance of the area in the city, who lives there, what economic activities are the important etc.

A2 Nightlife in the area

- » **Description of the main collectives** of young peoples or subcultures in this area regarding clubbing (students, ethnic groups, gender, age etc.)
- » **Temporality.** How do different seasons and times affect the nightlife dynamic? Special events in the year
- » **Type and density of venues** (discos, bars, pubs, clubs, private parties, concerts, afters, etc.)

Mapping this information: use the information to develop the map/s that you have prepared. The aim is to make a graphic situation of venues in the area. This information is then used to help you to identify a sample of venues to be assessed. Make a selection of venues based on criteria such as:

Name of venues	CODE OF TYPE OF VENUE			RELATED TO SOME CHARACTERISTIC				
	1 type M-NM ¹	2 location C-NC-OC ²	3 size B-M-S ³	4 + V ⁴	5 +S ⁵	6+V ⁶	7+DU ⁷	8+GM ⁸
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
To 10-12 venues								

1. Main stream or non mainstream venues; 2. Located in the centre of the town/ non central and out of the town; 3. Big venue (more than 1000), medium (between 200 and 1000) and small (less than 200);4. Venues more often visited; 5. Venues linked to sexual activity; 6. venues linked to violence; 7. Venues linked to drug use; 8. venues linked to 'good' music.

Remember that in the sample of venues must be, if possible, at least one venue in each one of these sections.

A3 changes in the area related to nightlife

Describe changes in recent years. Main events that have affected the area.

Nightlife impact in the area. Describe the main impacts in positive and negative terms. If there are complaints among neighbours, if there have been changes in the population (for example more immigration), if the economy of the area is growing, etc.

A4 Transport and driving

Describe the situation of each item in two or three lines. To do so, you must be informed and observe the situation in the area.

The aim is to detect the main problems related to traffic in this area, if there is awareness about these problems, and solutions used in the area for these problems.

Evaluate if transport and traffic is a problem in the area.

How do people normally travel to this area - by car, bus, train, foot etc.?

What are the main problems related this transport use (explanation of any problems/difficulties using transport to travel to this area).

Description of the transport issue (facilities, problems, timetable etc).

Try to answer these questions. Show the perception of different actors (industry, neighbours, police, young people):

- » How many people use private cars to travel to and from nightlife?
- » How do people move between nightlife areas during a night out?
- » Is there enough public transport for nightlife?
- » Are there enough parking spaces for cars?
- » Is there enough control from police in the night in this area related to driving and simultaneous alcohol or drug use?
- » Are there programmes from city-hall related to the control of driving problems in the area? If there are special controls in nightlife in the area in order to reduce the problems of transport, who manage these controls (city council, local police, industry, citizens)?

A5 Main problems in this area related to nightlife activities

Description of the main problems identified by the population residing in the area and the individuals visiting the area for the nightlife.

Some items that can be explored in each area:

- » rubbish
- » street fouling
- » safety
- » fights
- » vandalism
- » noise disturbing local residents
- » evidence of drug use and drunkenness in the area
- » drug dealing
- » Adequacy of street lighting for pedestrian?
- » Parking
- » Health problems in which health professionals have had to intervene this year (drunkenness, drug overdoses, traffic accidents, injury from aggression, risky sexual partnerships).

Mention also if there are actions taken by the city or the residents to resolve identified problems.

A6 Sex in the area

Description about prostitution in the area. Number of venues with sexual activities (locals for men (topless), saunas, etc.), and perhaps public places where people practice sex or sexual activities (squares, venues, parking, beach)

A7 Positive elements (protective factors)

Which protective factors exist that from your point of view help to improve the quality of nightlife in this area and to diminish the problems.

What activities or dynamics can protect the area from risks activities?

Notes about field-work

- » Bibliography and documents used
- » Relation of people and institutions that have participated (people that you have interviewed, institutions that help you with information)
- » Institutional interest in prevention projects, and collaboration of the main institutions of the city:
 - # City-hall
 - # Police
 - # Policy makers
 - # Media
 - # Health services acting in the area
 - # Civil society, organization in the area
 - # Prevention programs
 - # Recreational industry
 - # Young people interviewed (some characteristics and context of the interview)

If it is possible try to know to what extent these people are interested to collaborate in prevention activities. Try to get also suggestions, actions, contacts, ..., that could be interesting to implement prevention activities.