

KIT FOR ASSESSMENT OF RECREATIONAL NIGHTLIFE[©]

KAReN*

1 City

Ethnographic Questionnaire of a City Recreational Nightlife



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* This is a set of three questionnaires
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Some PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

The principle objective is to get to know the city through its nightlife, detect the main risks that exist in nightlife, and the actions underway to prevent these risks. This is a complex task. Depending on the time and resources we will create a more or less comprehensive report. There are twelve sets of useful questions to evaluate the situation in the city (but remember that the questionnaires on the areas and on the venues are a very important complementary source of relevant information):

- » C1. Location and city demographic data
- » C2. Recreational nightlife as an element in defining the city's identity
- » C3. Main sociological aspects of the city that affect recreational life
- » C4. Time dimension of recreational nightlife
- » C5. Space dimension (centre-peripheral-multidonal)
- » C6. Cultural dimension
- » C7. Description of the population using the city's nightlife
- » C8. Formal and informal norms in nightlife
- » C9. Drug use among young people in the city
- » C10. Main problems associated with young people in the city
- » C11. Specific risk behaviours in nightlife
- » C12. Prevention

How to acquire this information

The information can be acquired by accessing available data sources, information and reports, and contacting key professionals (health, media, police, policymakers,...), who can allow access to unpublished data. Other information can be obtained from civil organisations such as neighbourhood associations and youth associations. If the required data are not available, this is also relevant; it can help indicate the level of awareness in the city of the situation regarding nightlife and its risks.

The data collected should be used to develop a synthesis report.

The synthesis report should integrate:

- » Main data
- » Source of data
- » Difficulties in finding data, and where data does not exist
- » Other data that is relevant for the city assessment

C1. Location and city demographic data

Basic demographic data:

- » Number of residents
- » Percentage of young people
- » Percentage of immigrants or other minorities relevant to the nightlife recreational activities
- » Position of the city in relation to recreational activities:
 - # Is the city a reference place for recreational activities at region and country level?
 - # Is the city a reference place for recreational activities at international level?
 - # What are the main differences between districts related to nightlife?

C2. Nightlife in the city. Recreational nightlife as an element in defining the city's identity

Aim: To reflect the importance of the recreational context in the city. Data should be requested to provide a picture of the characteristics and importance of nightlife. The frequency that young people go out should be ascertained, in addition to the typology of young people using nightlife (tourists, students, youth, etc. from other cities). Some subjects in this section can be:

- » In general, do the young people in the city use and enjoy the city's nightlife activities?
- » Is there any recreational nightlife tourism in the city? Is nightlife a main resource to attract tourism?
- » How important is the recreational nightlife industry in the city? Include the number of venues (bars, clubs, discos, afters,...). Are there less/the same/ more venues than ten years ago?
- » How organised is the nightlife industry?
- » Mention and describe the main recreational areas in the town.
- » Frequency and intensity of going out, including all the information you have on frequencies of going out (percentage of people going out, ages, how many days a week, how many weekends a month, etc) and time spent going out (length of a clubbing session, time they start the clubbing session and that they return home,...)
- » To what extent does the public administration (Local council) promote recreational nightlife activities?
- » Task to do in this step: **mapping the nightlife in the city reflecting the main recreational areas** (this information can be complemented by the data obtained through the area and venues questionnaires).

C3. Main sociological aspects of the town that could affect recreational life

The growth of this sector over the last decade (or last two decades) should be assessed and where possible reasons for the changes. Some subjects to report include:

- » What structural changes are occurring in the city that directly or indirectly affect recreational nightlife, e.g. changes in the economy, political issues, lifestyle, formal and informal control, nightlife culture, etc.
- » How has the importance of the nightlife industry changed in the last few years and how has it expanded or evolved?
- » What is the cost of nightlife for (typical 18 years old) young people – approximately how much do they spend in recreational nightlife each month.

Others possible questions, if relevant information is available:

- » Who / what led to growth in nightlife industry (students, tourism, economy...)
- » Evolution of local permissions for organising festivals, parties, concerts, etc.
- » New types of premises/venues,
- » The evolution of the participation of young people in recreational nightlife, by ages, gender, in extension of days and hours....

C4 Time dimension of recreational nightlife in the city

- » What differences throughout the year are there in nightlife in the city (e.g. between seasons, days of week, time for going out to nightlife,...).
- » Are there any special times in the year (e.g. carnival, love parade, festivals, etc.) where recreational activities are intensive or particular problems arise?
- » Opening and closing hours of different sort of venues.
- » Description of typical going out 'sessions' for young people

C5 Space dimension

- » What are the main differences between nightlife areas in the city? What are their characteristics and the connections between these areas?
- » How are the nightlife areas distributed in the city (concentrated in a very few points of the town, placed in the centre of the town, outskirts...)?
- » Are there specific circuits for clubbers (first they go to a specific place, then to others, etc)
- » Are there specific venues for certain groups (e.g. gay men, after parties, specific subcultures)?
- » How do you define a 'risk venue' in your city? Ask young people for their perceptions.
- » Ask young people about venues that they identify as being related to easy drug use, easy access to sexual activity, violence etc.

Use this information for the mapping you have started in C2.

C6 Cultural dimension

- » The most popular music style
- » The type of dancing
- » Aesthetic of nightlife (fashion)
- » Identity and nightlife culture for young people. How the nightlife style contributes to the identity of young people. If the venues, the fashion, the car, the aesthetical things used in nightlife contribute to define some subculture or membership link.

C7 Description of the population using the city's nightlife

Main characteristics of the population who are participating in nightlife recreational activities

- » What are the main characteristics of people using nightlife venues:
 - # Age
 - # Subcultures
 - # Main music adscription (similar from C6)
 - # Dominant aesthetic (similar from C6)
 - # Behaviour
 - # Risks
- » Sort of people who tend to go out until later or description of groups having special nightlife behaviour.

- » Subcultures and syncretism
- » Do you think the people are segregated by subcultures or are there different sorts of people participating in the same venue?
- » What are the main criteria for segregating people by venues (or areas); age, gender, social economics, race, other?
- » In what kind of venue is segregation most apparent (in mainstream or risk venues)?

C8 Formal and informal norms related to nightlife

Norms that regulate nightlife (opening hours, safety and security measures, staff training, regulation of alcohol consumption in the streets, etc). Who is responsible for these regulations? How well are they enforced? Other measures to regulate the nightlife, including social (or informal) norms that are assumed by the population and affect recreational nightlife.

- » Are there licences for alcohol administration?
- » Are there any health and safety regulations placed on venues?
- » How are these regulations enforced?
- » How are breaches of regulations punished?
- » What time do nightlife venues typically open and close at night?
- » Is there any requirement for venue staff to be trained?

C9. Drug use by adolescents and young people

This section should include relevant information about drug use amongst young people in your city. Specify the age group, and the kind of population (general, clubbing, scholars etc). If you have no data on young people and substance use in your city you can use data from the country. If the data exists, include the following questions:

- » drunk/binge drinking last month
- » alcohol use in the last month
- » cannabis use (prevalence in lifetime, last year or last month)
- » cocaine use (prevalence in lifetime, last year or last month)
- » ecstasy use (prevalence in lifetime, last year or last month)
- » ketamine (or similar drugs) (prevalence in lifetime or last month).

Other useful information for comparison:

- » Drug use of adolescents
- » Age of first use
- » Emerging new drugs used in the city
- » Gender differences in drug use
- » Main trends in the last years

C 10. Main problems of young people in the city

Collect data about young people and describe the main points related to changes in lifestyle. Take into account specifically subjects that can be connected (directly or indirectly) with recreational nightlife or free time. Mention the age range of young people affected. Also include information on the main social problems that affect young people. What demands are in the city from youth organizations, from families, from society related young people?

Some answers can be:

- » Percentage of young people in the city (this question is in C1 too)
- » Sexuality and sexual health (i.e. abortion, age of first sex)
- » Economy and work: rate of unemployment, rate of average salary for young people.
- » Percentage of young people that left full time education aged 16 (In the last year).
- » Rate of school failure (rate of exclusion, drop out, exam failures)
- » Percentage of young people living with parents
- » Young people working as volunteers in organizations (difference between sport, religion, social, political organization).

