

Infoshock, Turin, Italy

“I’m part of an Italian initiative in Turin called Infoshock, located in the northern part of Italy. The organisation is partly activist, and an anti drug prohibition initiative which provides information and health services at parties in our region.

We are part of a larger movement, the free festival movement, we urge for ‘free parties’ and are present at raves; in squats and other self managed places. We are on the edge of political activism, anti-drug war and pro-harm reduction. We are inspired by Hakim Bey, an American anarchist author who wrote on Temporary Autonomous Zones that exist outside regular social and legal control and regulation systems. ‘There can be no change without culture.’

Infoshock is part of a network of social/health structures in the region of Piemonte.

We started our political movement committed to the anti prohibition and we recognised the lack of proper policies and support for other people who where using drugs. Personally I work at Csoa Gabrio, a self-managed social centre in a squat in Turin, where I am involved in the substance-related part of the work. Our service is self-managed and self-supported; we receive funds from a sound system that supports us. There is a similar organisation like ours in Bologna, Lab57.



“There can be no change without culture.”

The substances used at the parties we go to are cannabis, alcohol, little heroin, some cocaine, but also widespread ketamine and stimulants. There is no proper harm reduction for people at the parties. The organisation with which we collaborate with is Neutravel. They are the regional specialists sticking to the regulations that do not provide them permission to deliver hands-on services on the spot. So Infoshock provides the services at the parties. We organise pill testing and give out prevention materials and provide a chill out room where we can offer advice and provide medical support if needed.

People at parties like our work because we are part of the party atmosphere and culture, and because we provide honest and fair information. For instance our friends at Lab57 were the first who alerted people on methoxetamina intoxication whereas the formal channels of the national anti-drug agency preferred to follow the international flashy news alerts regarding incidents on substances that were never seen Italy.”

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