THE XTC-EXPO

An immersive experience and public research on XTC regulation in Ghent (Belgium)

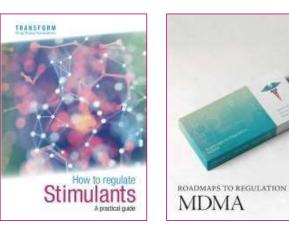
> TOM DECORTE CIS DEWAELE STEVEN DEBBAUT FRÉDÉRIQUE BAWIN











From inspirational sources

To an artistic design with 3 imaginary settings







SMARTSHOP



PHARMACY

AIMS

- To generate social and political dialogue and to depolarise the conversation around regulation by offering visitors and policy makers concrete future scenarios in artistic design;
- 2. To **increase awareness** among the general public about the societal challenges around MDMA use, sale and production, and **possible solutions**;
- 3. To **provide information** about MDMA and its **risks** in a creative manner;
- 4. To collect data to answer the following research question: Under what conditions do visitors to the XTC-EXPO find regulated sales of XTC acceptable in our society?

ADAPTING THE CONCEPT TO THE BELGIAN CONTEXT









INSTITUT [VOOR] SCIETAL DRUGSONDERZOEK





NOT AN "XTC-SHOP", BUT AN XTC-EXPOSITION













INFORMATION













In 2023 maar liefst 24,6 procent van de onderzoekscapaciteit van de federale politie werd ingezet op drugscriminaliteit? Het overgrote deel waren onderzoeken naar drugsbendes.



jaar gevangenisstraf uitgesproken hebben, en 45 procent daarvan (2.130 jaar) betrekking had op straffen na drugsonderzoeken?



SMART ON DRUGS

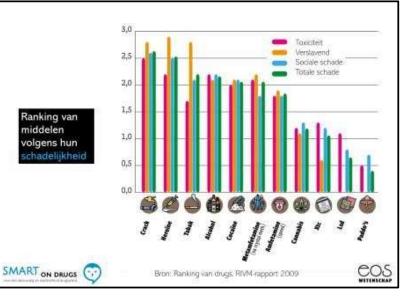
In 2008 van de totale overheidsuitgaven inzake illegale drugs, ongeveer 62% naar repressie en handhaving ging, en slechts 3% naar preventie? Recentere cijfers daarover zijn er (helaas) niet.





INFORMATION















THE ILLEGAL SETTING













THE PHARMACY SETTING











THE SMARTSHOP SETTING





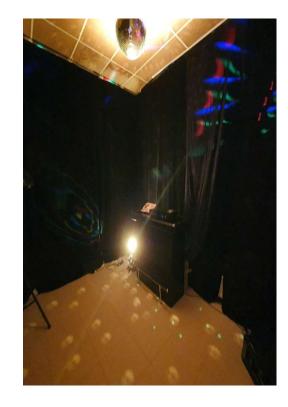






THE CLUB SETTING













STAKEHOLDER VISITS AND DEBATES





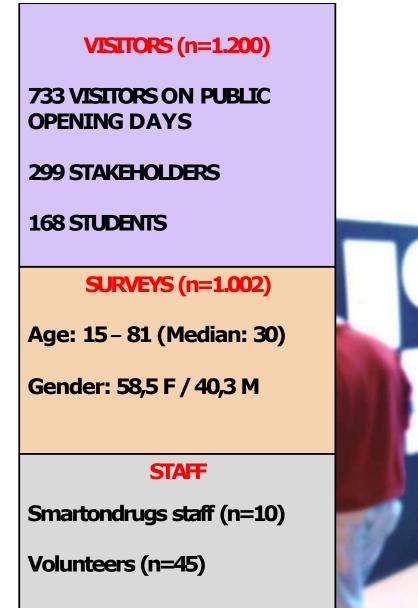








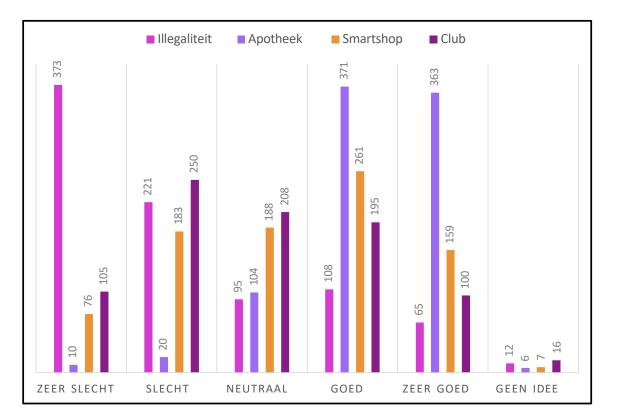
INSTITUUT [VOOR] SIGETAAL DRUGSONDERZOEK





PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Sample biased in many ways;
- Visitors supported legal regulation with various levels of restrictions and controls, rejecting unlicensed sales and to a large extent licences for consumption in premises (club);
- What do you think about the four models we showed?









CONCLUSIONS

- Initiative resulted in mature, detailed and nuanced conversations among visitors and experts, avoiding polarised, sterile black/white debates;
- A great tool for both discussing and informing about the many choices possible within legal regulation (often presented or understood as free availability);
- Combi science / public pop-up event / art excellent to get attention of media, politicians and policy makers;
- Costly and time consuming project.

CREDITS TO



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With the support of the City of Ghent



And all the volunteers at



our cen deskanolg en dettrenend ar ogseten

http://smartondrugs.be

THANK YOU!

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