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## Overview

### **ABRIGADO (low threshold admission centre for drug addicts)**

### Quality level

Quality level : 1

### Executive summary

ABRIGADO aims to help marginalised drug users to cope with difficult life situations and at reducing harm related to problem drug use. ABRIGADO runs 3 different services: day care, a drug consumption room with a capacity of 7 injection tables and a night shelter with 42 beds. Since February 2012 ABRIGADO also offers a blowroom with a capacity of 3 tables.

Type of intervention	harm reduction
Sub-area	reduction of overdoses, drug consumption rooms, prevention of infectious diseases (e.g needle syringe programmes)
Setting	low threshold service, needle/syringe provision
Type of approach	
Target group (universal)	adults
Age group	
Target group (specific)	adults
Annual coverage	1000
Substances addressed	tobacco, cannabis, opiates, alcohol, ecstasy, cocaine and derivatives, amphetamines, methamphetamines, inhalants/solvents
Evaluation type	process evaluation (how far are the operational objectives achieved)
Country	Luxembourg
Start date	01/12/2003
End date	

# Overall objective

ABRIGADO aims at helping marginalised drug users to cope with difficult life situations and at reducing harm related to problem drug use.

## Abstract

The non-profit association "National Committee of Social Defence" set up in 1966 was the first to offer harm reduction measures for marginalised minorities in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The development of street work within the drug scene and among sex workers dates back to 1985. In 1993 a mobile street work service called "Camionnette-Szene Kontakt", placed near the central railway station in Luxembourg city, offered marginalised populations first aid, food, hygiene facilities, needle exchange, information and counselling. This project was extended in 1999 into a more specialised and permanent structure, called "ABRIGADO Szene-Kontakt". In 2003, ABRIGADO was integrated into a day/night admission centre called TOX-IN offering 3 different services: a low threshold service, a night shelter service (since December 2003) and a drug consumption room (since July 2005). The primary aim of TOX-IN is to reduce drug related harm and nuisance. Another aim is to identify the populations contacting the service, to promote, in a non-directive way, a human and social policy by an acceptance orientated approach, to encourage personal responsibility and social integration. A multidisciplinary team offers counselling, assistance in daily life and additional support. In February 2012 TOX-IN was renamed ABRIGADO and offers additionally a blowroom with a capacity of 3 tables. In 2011 a total of 170,226 syringes have been distributed within the TOX-IN centre and 163,295 used syringes have been returned (2010: 216,432/204,311). In 2011, the day care service of ABRIGADO registered 62,925 contacts (2010:65,307) and a majority of clients were male clients (84%). Concerning the night shelter, a total of 1,111 clients per month have been registered in 2011 and on average 37 beds have been occupied per night. A majority of clients were male clients (81%) and aged between 25 and 34 years (51%) The drug consumption room was implemented within the TOX-In structure in July 2005 and since then a total of 1,023 clients signed a user contract (in 2011: 96 new contracts signed). In 2011, 26,929 clients passed through the drug consumption room (multiple counting included) and 31,588 drug injections have been registered. A majority of clients were male clients (84%).

# Context and theory

## Initial situation

To enhance outreach drug care and to develop prevention and harm reduction measures for drug users, a 'mobile' streetwork service, named "Camionnette Szene-Kontakt" was set up in 1993. It consisted of a bus, which regularly provided, near the central train station at Luxembourg City, shelter, first aid, food, physical hygiene facilities, needle exchange, information and counselling to drug users. Because of an increasing demand and in order to improve the conditions for the staff and clients, this service mutated into a fixed container structure in June 1999 and was renamed ABRIGADO Szene-Kontakt. In the beginning of 2004, ABRIGADO was integrated into a "low threshold admission centre for drug addicts" called TOX-IN. This centre offers 3 different services: a low threshold service (day care), a night shelter with a capacity of 42 beds and a drug consumption room. In February 2012 TOX-IN was renamed ABRIGADO and offers additionally a blowroom (inhalation).

## **Basic assumptions/theory**

Increased availability of sterile drug use equipment will reduce risks of transmission of infectious diseases among drug users. Supervised injection processes enhance safer use practice and reduce fatal overdose incidence. Prevention and reduction of drug related harm. Improving physical health and psycho-social condition. Risk and nuisance minimisation for the individual and the community. Acceptance oriented drug work enables dialogue between different values and ways of living, instead of adopting exclusion policies. The drug user is considered as a person with specific needs and a particular lifestyle.

## **Objectives and indicators**

### **Process evaluation**

### **Operational objectives**

To provide sterile injecting equipment and paraphernalia, needle exchange programme, and information on the prevention of infectious diseases. To reach a marginalised population of drug users and offer them different services. To supervise drug consumption and provide help in emergency situations. To reduce public nuisance related to drug use.

### **Process indicators**

Number of exchanged and disseminated syringes. Number of drug users who contacted the service.

Age of clients. Gender distribution. Nationality.

Number of supervised drug consumptions and type and outcome of emergency interventions.

### **Instruments used**

#### **Type of quantitative instrument**

#### **Type of evaluation carried out**

## **Action**

HIV prevention kits, advice and support, access to social aid, prevention and information of HIV and hepatitis, psycho-social counselling, advice for judicial questions, advocacy, crisis intervention, food/drink provision, information and orientation, rest and protection, dissemination of preservatives, first aid, financial help, safe-use counselling, night shelter, syringe exchange, provision of sterile injection equipment, first aid in case of overdose, access to medical and therapeutical institutions, detoxification and substitution, visits in prison and hospital.

# Results

## Process evaluation

### Results

In 2011 a total of 170,226 syringes have been distributed within the TOX-IN centre and 163,295 used syringes have been returned (2010: 216,432/ 204,311). In 2011, the day care service of the TOX-IN registered 62,925 contacts (2010:65,307). On average 207 persons per day contact the service (2010: 211). A majority of clients were male clients (84%). Approximately 56% of clients were natives and 23% of clients were of Portuguese nationality (21% other nationalities: mainly French and German). Concerning the night shelter, the mean occupational proportion ran up to 87% (2010: 90%). A total of 1,111 clients per month have been registered and on average 37 beds have been occupied per night. Since the opening of this service in December 2003, 2,146 different clients (2010: 1,840) have profited from this offer. A majority of clients were male clients (81%) and a majority were aged between 25 and 34 years (51%) followed by clients aged between 35 and 44 years (30%). 9% were aged between 24 and 18 years and 10% were aged 45 years or over. The drug consumption room was implemented within the ABRIGADO structure in July 2005 and since then a total of 1,023 clients signed a user contract (in 2011: 96 new contracts signed). Currently 7 places are available. In 2011, 26,929 clients visited the drug consumption room (multiple counting included) and 31,588 drug injections have been registered. A majority of clients were male clients (84%). Heroin was the most consumed drug (87%) followed by cocaine (8%). 45% of clients were aged between 25 and 34 years, 37% aged between 35 and 44 years, 8% aged between 18 and 24 years and 10% of clients were aged 45 years or over. During 2011, the TOX-IN team prevented 283 overdoses from a fatal issue (thereof 33 overdoses with loss of conscience and 250 overdoses without loss of conscience). A total of 1,938 clients have been offered information on safer-use.

## References

Annual activity reports: [www.ms.etat.lu](http://www.ms.etat.lu)

## Contact

Responsible organisation	National Committe for Social Defense (non-profit association)
Name of organisation	National Committe for Social Defense (non-profit association)
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## **Additional information**

Number of staff involved              23 ETP (full time equivalent)  
Status/profession of staff involved      Psychologists; Nurses; Social workers / drug workers; MD  
Type of evaluator                      Internal evaluator  
Name of external institution(s)  
Full reference to evaluation report

## **Budget**

Annual budget                      Over 500 000  
Sources of funding                      National government  
Percentage from each source      National government=100%

## **Additional remarks**