Study Tour St Gallen

Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, USA

3rd June 2016

A very warm welcome
Growing drug problems
beginning in the 70’s

› Stationary drug withdrawal

› The only possible therapeutic intervention at this time

› Largely missing follow-up concepts

› Unverified growth in the number of heroin addicted people, despite increasing stationary program locations
Public drug scene / «Needleparc»

[Quelle: SCHWEIZERISCHE BETÄUBUNGSMITTELSTATISTIK 2008, BS keine Angaben aus den Jahren 06/07/08/GE 08]

Stiftung Suchthilfe St. Gallen

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No extremist solutions

› Unbounded tolerance or total repression are neither feasible nor suitable

Think different:
› The necessity and desire to respond to an urgent social problem is by taking on responsibility and working practically.
Drug Related Politics and Addiction Counselling in the city of St Gallen

The beginning:

› Foundation founded in 1990
  «Hilfe für Drogenabhängige»

› First Project:
  › “Bienehüsli” (bee hive) and
  › Injecting Room
The «Bienehüsli»: Providing a Day-time Structure

1990

1991
Drug Related Politics and Addiction Counselling in the city of St Gallen

The St Gallen Way

› No extremist solutions
› Working together is indispensable
› Professionalism
› Pragmatism
› Dividing the work
The Four-Pillar-Model

Prevention
Therapy
Repressdution
Harm reduction

› Room for injecting (MSH1: 1995)
› Structured days with food
› Low pressure program (night shelter for the homeless, Street Kitchen, ...)
› Creation of employment opportunities, protected jobs
› Access to methadone for heroin addicts, under less restrictive conditions
MSH 1 und 2
Medical and Social Aid Dept. 1 and 2

› 1993: Beginning of the Methadone Project (MSH 2)
› 1995: Beginning of the Heroin Program (MSH 1)
Harm reduction

„Wir verfolgten die „Harm reduction-Strategie: Wenn schon, dann sollte man den intravenösen Drogenkonsum gleich richtig machen, d.h. unter hygienischen Bedingungen“

«We’re tracking the strategy of harm reduction: if there’s a need the intravenous drug consume should be done correctly – under hygienic conditions»

Dr. med. Christian Herzog
Kantonsarzt, Kanton Basel-Stadt bis 1992
Reduction in crime

„Insgesamt darf die Behandlung mit Heroin als eine der erfolgreichsten je erprobten Einzelmassnahmen im Bereich der Kriminalitätsprävention bezeichnet werden“

«Overall the Heroin-assisted treatment is one of the most successful proved individual measure in the field of crime prevention.»

Prof. iur. Martin Killias
Ordinarius für Straf- und Strafprozessrecht der Universität Zürich

June 2016
The efficiency of methadone supply treatment: Patients, programs, services and outcome
Ball, John C. & Ross, Alan, 1991

Fundamental reduction:
- Consum of illegal drugs
- The risks in context with intravenous drug consum
- Of morbidity and mortality general
- Of criminal behaivor

The program-retention rate and the social (re)integration inclusive professional activity are also able to improve significantly by the treatment.
HIV in Switzerland

Number of newly diagnosed HIV infections by transmission route and year of test (statistical estimation based on laboratory and physicians’ notifications)

- Sex between man and woman
- Sex between men
- Injecting drug use
- Other or unknown transmission route

Year of test:
- 1988
- 1990
- 1992
- 1994
- 1996
- 1998
- 2000
- 2002
- 2004
- 2006
- 2008
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014
- 2016
Foundation: Offer and operating numbers 2015

› 171 clients substitution program
› 6 domicile
› 282 clients Addiction Counselling Agency
› 13’425 mediated work hours
› 2’628 street contacts
› 88’051 clean needles
› 11’000 prepared meals
Thank you very much for your attention

Any questions?