

Drinking alcohol in public spaces, disruptive behaviour and public reactions: A pilot study

Summary:

A pilot project will develop the methodology for a larger study in Switzerland to examine drinking alcohol in public spaces, disruptive behaviour and public reactions. The methodology will consist of the following parts:

- a methodology for ethnographic observations in two cities: Zurich and Lausanne;
- a classification system for the physical environment of public spaces in which drinking occurs;
- a survey of people drinking alcohol in public spaces regarding substance use, mental problems and victimization;
- a survey of the general population frequenting public spaces with regards to its perception of public drinking and disruptive behaviour.

The ISF and the SFA will each develop key methodological elements and pilot test them with small samples. In the following, the rationale for a subsequent larger study and the steps for methodological development are both outlined.