

# Report from the 19th YES group Seminar at Eurosonic-Noorderslag & other YES Group Activities

Mind over Matter media production Activity

Chris Kemp



# The Best European Safety Seminar Ever-Its official-The YES Group create partnership working possibilities at Eurosonic-Noorderslag

The Eurosonic-Noorderslag Health and safety Seminar was without doubt the best of the 19 seminars held so far throughout Europe over a run lasting over ten years with over 50 people attending. Held in an entirely new venue; Het Paleis, and voted by the participants as the most conducive seminar to developing partnerships. The seminar got off to a great start. If you go back to the first ever YES Group Seminar it was a struggle to get participants to contribute to the sessions as people were unused to working with the people in the room, unsure about how to proceed and often worried that their English was shaky at best. No such problems now though as we launched in to the first session tackling problems and sharing experiences from the summer festivals.

We were worried that this session would be shorter than the hour allotted to it but in the end we struggled to fit everything in and went well over time. Andy Mestka, who last year had asked for help with an ingress problem, showed the participants how their help at the last seminar had made the ingress much more controlled and alleviated much of the pressure. Many of the issues to be discussed during the seminar were highlighted in this session, which showed that our idea of asking the festivals for issues that they wished to be included in the seminars worked well, and we will continue to use this.

**Darko Flego** and **Colin Roger** took the first session entitled: “**Thefts at Events-A new generation of issues**”. Two entirely different presentations were given exploring the cultures on the **Exit Festival** in Serbia and **T in the Park** event in Scotland. In Serbia new trends are focused on foreign festivalgoers as they are seen as less savvy and an easier target than locals. There is more of a focus on fraud outside the festival site, through tickets and credit cards. As well as this there are cases of overcharging or over valuing of services to foreign tourists and the selling of illegal drinks and narcotics. In Scotland the story was similar but focused on two different areas. The first was gangs stealing mobile phones and the second was on the policing and cost of making festivals secure. This was an important subject as everyone had seen a rise in issues in this area this year with criminals becoming harder to spot and to stop.

The second session of the day again focused on theft and was taken by **Daniel Steltenpool** and **Hans Voss** from the **Dutch Police**. Hans has worked with the group before after the police shooting of a hooligan on the beach during a beach party. The workshop focused on the Summer Festival in Holland and the way that the police worked on this. The festival has an 80% local base and no hooligan element. There are 70 police officers a day employed in two shifts. The police are deployed for activities around the festival site but only operate on it in cases of emergency or during severe incidents

The main activity is shown below

- Smartphone Theft / Pickpockets
- About 400 police reports
- 9 Suspects arrested (an organised group)
- About 280 Smartphone's found

In preparation for such events the police carry out the following activities

- Scanning, intelligence, prediction of possible suspects/groups.
- Analysing and preparing for this kind of phenomenon
- Operation:
- Supporting security – advising liaison
- Investigation – advising – gathering information, legal aid
- Europol and Romanian police
- International cooperation

After lunch the first session of the afternoon focused on an excellent presentation by **Sven Varsek** and **Markus Wiersch** from **Das Fest** looking at Guidelines for visitors and a safety concept based on “**You are safety**”. The concept is very simple but very effective as is usual with most great ideas. It is based on a series of instruction cards showing how simple reminders and a series of simple instructions can increase both the awareness of an issue and the reaction time or response to a problem. It makes everyone aware that they are working together on this type of project. During the session a workshop was delivered to show how difficult it sometimes is to work without instructions and it wastes time.

The next session was one of the most eagerly awaited as it focussed on “**Crowd Modelling**” and how it is used and what it is used for. **Jorgen Aass** showed how a simple mathematical model worked and how flow rates, ingress and egress could easily be calculated. The second session taken by **Simon Ancliffe** showed how advanced models of crowded space simulation worked and what they could be used for in the creation of an event or other crowded space delivery.

The evening meal at De Pauw went down well and everyone was pleased with the outcome of the **H&S Innovation Award** as **Martin Cramer** from **MOJO Concerts** had given an explanation of their safety concept during the first day of the workshop.

The second day started very much as the first with lots of questions and ideas relating to the first day. In the first session of the Morning **Chris Kemp** and **Henrik Nielsen** looked at a disturbing crowd behaviour video and talked about how this type of behaviour had caused the accident at **Roskilde in 2000** where 10 people died. **Chris Kemp** broke down the behaviour into constituent parts showing how it occurred, the issues with it and identified why there should be so much effort put into pre event planning and folding contingency plans into the original planning and design of a show.

The final session was an excellent exposé of working with Children at events. Ralf Zimme, Pascale Viot and the Director of ..... gave presentations of how they use best practice in health and safety when working with youngsters at events. Again the information was well received and the day could have gone on and on as there were so many questions and ideas

The seminar was an unmitigated success and in the final session we got so many sessions for future seminars that we could exist on these up until 2025.

The **YES Group** has also been involved in the further development of the Terms and Conditions for Festivals. This has meant the creation of a health and safety policy enabling all festivals to utilise a broad range of bespoke categories in which they will place their policies, licenses and documentation. **Chris Kemp** is still working on an electronic folder in which festivals can uniformly house their documents to make it easier for insurance companies, venue managers and promoters to access the relevant papers.

This year the second Health and safety Innovations award was presented at the **European Festival Awards** and was won by **MOJO Concerts** for their all-encompassing safety document alignment portfolio. Following in the footsteps of the Paleo Festival from Switzerland, the inaugural winners of the award for their tracking device and continued innovations in this area MOJOP concerts showed ingenuity, stick ability to a task and providing something that made a difference.

The **YES Group** were also represented at the Reeperbahn Festival in Hamburg where a panel was given on the aftermath of the Duisburg disaster. The beauty of this panel was that it was well managed and focussed on what we do now going forward to make events safer rather than criticising those involved in the event. This of course is all about futureproofing and not about blame.

The **Yes Group** is hoping to have their next Seminar in **Hamburg** during the **Reeperbahn Festival** and has already identified the subject areas to be taken from the following:

- Festival Terrorism, human behaviour, pickpockets and responses to this
- The Implementation of safety concepts in contracts for suppliers
- Risks/Advantages/Policies on the use of drones Europe wide
- Security uniform, visibility vs draconian looks
- Crowd monitoring and counting tools for the evaluation of density at events
- Good examples and advice on creating the crowd management plan

The **YES Group** will also be involved with the **Yourope Conference** and will present a safety panel. This is still under construction.