

# BACKGROUND REPORT

PRAGUE **PRAŽSKÝ**  
STUDENT **STUDENTSKÝ**  
SUMMIT



## V4+

**Illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking  
in the region of Central Europe**



**Illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking  
in the region of Central Europe**

Author: Andrea Lančová  
Imprimatur: Vojtěch Bahenský, Šimon Presser, Tomáš Jungwirth  
Graphics: Jan Hlaváček

Model V4+

Published by Association for International Affairs for Prague Student Summit.  
© AMO 2015

Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky  
Žitná 27, 110 00 Praha 1  
Tel./fax: +420 224 813 460, e-mail: summit@amo.cz  
IČ: 65 99 95 33

[www.amo.cz](http://www.amo.cz)

[www.studentsummit.cz](http://www.studentsummit.cz)



## 1 Introduction

It is estimated that about 243 million of people worldwide consume illicit drugs.<sup>1</sup> When it comes to drug issues, one immediately thinks of Mexico or Afghanistan. However, Central European region is not issue-free in this respect. Many of the drug-related problems in the region are long-standing: heavy cannabis use, methamphetamine use and trafficking or heroin trafficking. Others, such as trade in new psychoactive substances, are relatively new.

The aim of this background report is to introduce readers to drug related issues in the region and highlight the position of individual countries regarding drug-related problems.

The paper proceeds as follows: first there is a brief introduction to drugs in general, then the drug use in the Visegrad countries and Germany is outlined, more attention is then paid to the drug markets in the region and national drug strategies are introduced. In the end, the most pressing issues, that are methamphetamine trafficking, trade in drug precursors and new psychoactive substances, are presented.

## 2 Drugs

According to the United Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), drugs are all chemical substances that affect normal functioning of the body or brain. They can be divided into many categories but for our purposes the main distinction is between two categories: legal and illegal. Legal drugs are for example caffeine, nicotine, alcohol or any medicine prescribed by doctor, illegal drugs are those, which are so harmful that countries around the world have decided to control their use. However, there is no worldwide consensus on which drugs are legal. Thus, illegal or illicit drugs<sup>2</sup> are under international control and are produced, trafficked and/or consumed illicitly.<sup>3</sup> There have been several international laws and conventions passed that specify, which drugs are controlled. The international drug control system is based on three UN conventions: Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

---

<sup>1</sup> Global drug use prevalence stable, says UNODC World Drug Report 2014. In: *UNODC* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-02-14]. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/June/global-drug-use-prevalence-stable-says-unodc-world-drug-report-2014.html>

<sup>2</sup> Illicit and illegal are two words often considered a synonym. However, there is a difference: illicit acts are illegal as well but a person committing illicit acts knows they are doing something illegal.

<sup>3</sup> Information about drugs. In: *UNODC* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/illicit-drugs/definitions/>



and United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic In Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances of 1988.<sup>4</sup>

Drugs can be divided into groups based on their origin. They can be either natural, semi synthetic (chemical manipulations of substances extracted from natural materials) or synthetic (created entirely by laboratory manipulation). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) lists following main categories of drugs: opiates (such as heroine), other central nervous system depressants (such as diazepam), central nervous system stimulants (such as cocaine or ecstasy), hallucinogens (such as LSD) and cannabis (such as marijuana or hashish).<sup>5</sup> Each of these types of drugs gets to the Visegrad countries in a different way: some of them, such as heroine, are being imported, whereas others, such as methamphetamine, are made in the Visegrad countries and Germany.

## 2.1 Smuggling routes

When it comes to drug trafficking in the Central European region, the most frequently used smuggling route is the so-called Balkan route, sometimes called also the Silk route.<sup>6</sup> The route starts in Afghanistan and goes via Iran and Turkey as the following map shows. Another route is called the Northern route, which leads through Russia. It is used mainly for heroine trafficking from Central Asia and is long-established. Precise number regarding drug trade are unknown, however, the UNODC has gathered data about heroine seizures and they are presented in the following graphics.

---

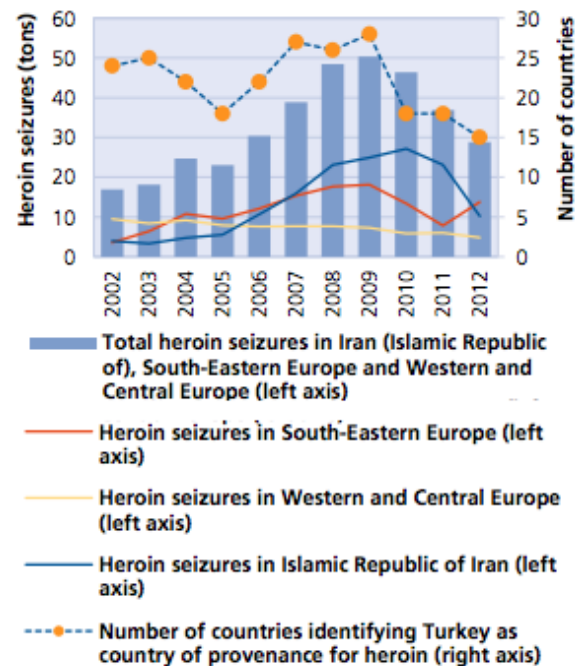
<sup>4</sup> UNODC. *Drug policy provisions from the international drug control Conventions*. Vienna. Available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr//Drug\\_policy\\_provisions\\_from\\_the\\_international\\_drug\\_control\\_Conventions.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr//Drug_policy_provisions_from_the_international_drug_control_Conventions.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Information about drugs. In: *UNODC* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/illicit-drugs/definitions/>

<sup>6</sup> UNODC. *World Drug Report 2014*. Vienna, 2014, p. 23. Available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World\\_Drug\\_Report\\_2014\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World_Drug_Report_2014_web.pdf)

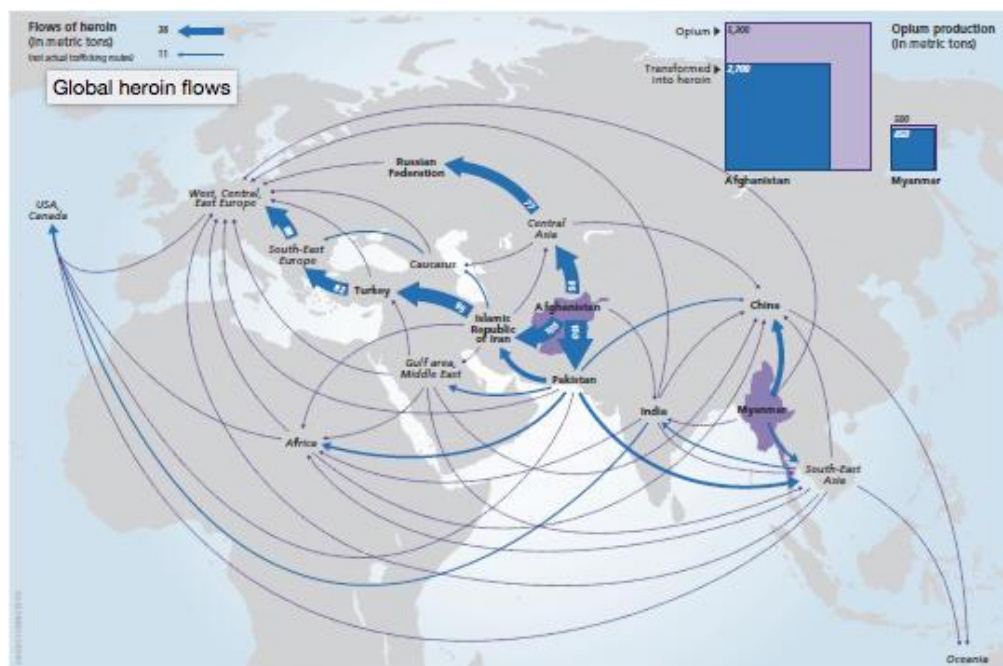


**Figure 1: Heroin seizures in key locations along the Balkan route**



Source: UNODC

**Figure 2: Global heroine flows**



Source: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/>

Apart from that, other drugs are smuggled via this route as well, mainly in its European part.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> UNODC. *World Drug Report 2014*. Vienna, 2014, p. 23. Available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World\\_Drug\\_Report\\_2014\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World_Drug_Report_2014_web.pdf)



### 3 Drug use in the Visegrad countries and Germany

In the region, cannabis is by far the most popular illicit drug. The highest prevalence rates of illicit drug use were noted among respondents from the age group 18-24 in all countries from the region.<sup>8</sup>

Cannabis is followed by a wide range of other drugs such as methamphetamine, ecstasy, LSD, amphetamine, cocaine and heroin. Generally, there has been a decrease in heroin addiction in all the countries, however, methamphetamine addiction still poses a threat in the region as the trade in methamphetamine is on the rise.<sup>9</sup>

### 4 Drug market in the Visegrad countries and Germany

The following section contains information about drug markets in the Visegrad countries and Germany. Cannabis, heroine, methamphetamine and cocaine were selected as the most important drugs since they are most frequently used. For each drug there is a table including information about import and export and existing domestic production. Where needed, additional facts are stated.

#### 4.1 Cannabis

Cannabis is grown both in natural and artificial conditions. Cannabis grown in artificial conditions is produced on a large scale and is also used for export. Organized criminal groups from the Czech Republic and Slovakia are becoming more involved in growing and distribution of cannabis in the last years. The following table shows where it is exported.

---

<sup>8</sup> Country overviews. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews>.

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem





**Figure 3: Cannabis trade**

	Import/Export	From where/Where to	Domestic production
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Export	Predominantly to Germany	Yes
<b>Hungary</b>	Import	From the Czech Republic and Slovakia	Yes
<b>Poland</b>	Import	From the Netherlands	Yes
<b>Slovakia</b>	Import/Export	From the Czech Republic / To Hungary	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Import	From Morocco	Yes

Source: Country overviews. In *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews/>

## 4.2 Heroine

**Czech Republic:** Heroine gets to the Czech Republic mainly through the Balkan route and is imported in small shipments.

**Hungary:** Hungary has been a “traditional” transit country for heroin trafficking from the Central Asia via the Balkan route to Western Europe (Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Italy and France).

**Poland:** Heroine from Afghanistan reaches Poland through the Balkan route and then goes to Germany and the United Kingdom. There is also homemade type of heroin, called “kompot”, which is used in the national market.



**Figure 4: Heroin Trade**

	<b>Import/Export</b>	<b>From where/Where to</b>	<b>Domestic production</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Import	From the Central Asia	No
<b>Hungary</b>	Import	From the Central Asia	No
<b>Poland</b>	Import	From the Central Asia	Yes
<b>Slovakia</b>	Import	From the Central Asia	No
<b>Germany</b>	Import	From the Central Asia	No

Source: Country overviews. In *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews/>





### 4.3 Methamphetamine

**Czech Republic:** It is estimated that around 6.5 tons of methamphetamine were made in 2013 and around 6 % of it was exported.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 5: Methamphetamine Trade**

	Import/Export	From where/Where to	Domestic production
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Export	To Germany, Poland and Austria	Yes
<b>Hungary</b>	Import	From the Czech Republic and Slovakia	Yes
<b>Poland</b>	Import/Export	From the Czech Republic To the Western Europe	Yes
<b>Slovakia</b>	Export	To Poland and Hungary	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Import	From the Czech Republic	

Source: Country overviews. In *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews/>

<sup>10</sup> Country overview: Czech Republic. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews/cz>



## 4.4 Cocaine

	Import/Export	From where/Where to	Domestic production
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Import	To Germany, Poland and Austria	Yes
<b>Hungary</b>	Import	From the Czech Republic and Slovakia	Yes
<b>Poland</b>	Import	From the Czech Republic To the Western Europe	Yes
<b>Slovakia</b>	Import	To Poland and Hungary	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Import	From the Czech Republic	Yes

Source: Country overviews. In *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews/>



## 5 Visegrad group and drug policies

There were not any measures taken in the regard of drug use or drug trafficking on the Visegrad level. However, it is an important issue for member countries. Possibilities of enhanced cooperation in combating organised crime, including drug trafficking, has regularly been a part of Visegrad presidency programs of individual countries.

### 5.1 National drug strategies

#### 5.1.1 Czech Republic

Czech Republic Action Plan 2013-2015<sup>11</sup> identifies the most problematic issues in the area of drug use. The Action Plan is based on Czech National Drug Policy Strategy for the Period 2010-2018.<sup>12</sup> Aside from alcohol use, the Czech Republic strives to reduce heavy cannabis use among young people as well as to address the high levels of problem pervitin use by 2018 (pervitin is a Czech expression for methamphetamine). To accomplish that, the country relies on regional international cooperation as well. One of Czech aims is to strengthen cooperation with Poland, Austria and Germany in the area of prevention and repression regional “epidemy” of pervitin use.<sup>13</sup>

The goals of Czech national drug policy are stated only vaguely: the Action plan nor National drug policy strategy do not specify any precise numbers.

#### 5.1.2 Hungary

Hungary’s current National Anti-Drug Strategy 2013-2020<sup>14</sup> aims at three intervention areas: (1) health development, drug prevention; (2) treatment, care, recovery and (3) supply reduction.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> *Action plan for implementation of the National Drug Policy Strategy 2013-2015*. Prague, 2013.

Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/czech-republic>

<sup>12</sup> *National Drug Policy Strategy for the Period 2010-2018*. Prague, 2010. Available at:

<http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/protidrogova-politika/National-Drug-Policy-Strategy-for-the-Period-2010---2018.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> *Action plan for implementation of the National Drug Policy Strategy 2013-2015*. Prague, 2013.

Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/czech-republic>

<sup>14</sup> Hungary. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/hungary>

<sup>15</sup> Hungary. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/hungary>



Objectives of the strategy aim at drug use among young people. The strategy states that current lifetime prevalence values of cannabis use shall be decreased by 10 % by 2020.<sup>16</sup>

On the international level, Hungary seeks to strengthen cooperation on the basis of EU initiatives as well as to make cross-border information exchange more frequent.<sup>17</sup>

Hungarian drug policy has been criticised for being too punitive. Hungary has some of the harshest drug laws in the EU and according to experts it is going to get worse. Harm reduction programs across the country have been closing down due to government cuts, risking increased HIV transmission and higher numbers of overdoses.<sup>18</sup>

### 5.1.3 Poland

The latest National Programme for Counteracting Drug Addiction<sup>19</sup> identifies five priorities: (1) prevention, (2) treatment, rehabilitation, harm reduction and social reintegration, (3) supply reduction, (4) international cooperation and (5) research and monitoring.

The Programme also addresses changes in the drug market such as domestic cannabis cultivation, the online sale of new psychoactive substances and the illicit trade in chemical precursors of drugs, such as above-mentioned pseudoephedrine.<sup>20</sup>

The drug strategy is not very effective according to experts. Therefore Poland eyes alternative strategy for policing drugs, finding inspiration in a ground-breaking model pioneered in Seattle. The model involves steering low-level drug arrestees into community-based treatment and support services, instead of imprisoning them.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Hungary. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/hungary>

<sup>17</sup> Hungary. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/hungary>

<sup>18</sup> Hungarian Drug Strategy: Punitive and Undemocratic. In: *Open society foundations* [online]. 2012 [cit. 2015-02-14]. Available at: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/hungarian-drug-strategy-punitive-and-undemocratic>

<sup>19</sup> Poland. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/poland>

<sup>20</sup> Poland. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/poland>

<sup>21</sup> Poland Eyes Alternative Strategy for Policing Drugs. In: *Open society foundations* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-02-14]. Available at: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/poland-eyes-alternative-strategy-policing-drugs>



#### 5.1.4 Slovakia

The National Drug Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Period 2013-20<sup>22</sup> is built around two pillars, which address demand and supply reduction. The Strategy also takes account of coordination, international cooperation and research, information, monitoring and evaluation. The document identifies current issues including poly-substance use, methamphetamine use, the need to control medication containing psychoactive or drug precursor ingredients or the changing dynamics of the drug markets.

On the international level, it mainly focuses on strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the European Union and third countries and international organisations in the field of drug demand and supply reduction.<sup>23</sup>

#### 5.1.5 Germany

German National strategy on drugs and addiction policy from 2012<sup>24</sup> focuses on traditional illegal drugs as well as on new psychoactive substances (NPS). In case of NPS, it mainly seeks to expand early warning systems as it is difficult to regulate these drugs by law. However, the strategy does not develop on the idea of early warning systems and therefore it is not clear what it shall look like.<sup>25</sup>

Germany has many prevention programmes such as “Quit the shit”, CANDIS, CANstop and so forth, which shall be further promoted and expanded according to the strategy.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> *National anti-drugs strategy of the Slovak Republic 2013-2020*. Bratislava, 2013. Available at: [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_229784\\_EN\\_SK\\_National%20anti-drugs%20strategy%20of%20the%20Slovak%20Republic%202013-2020.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_229784_EN_SK_National%20anti-drugs%20strategy%20of%20the%20Slovak%20Republic%202013-2020.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> *National anti-drugs strategy of the Slovak Republic 2013-2020*. Bratislava, 2013. Available at: [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_229784\\_EN\\_SK\\_National%20anti-drugs%20strategy%20of%20the%20Slovak%20Republic%202013-2020.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_229784_EN_SK_National%20anti-drugs%20strategy%20of%20the%20Slovak%20Republic%202013-2020.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> *National strategy on drug and addiction policy*. Berlin, 2012. Available at: [http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Druckfassung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale_Strategie_Druckfassung_EN.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> *National strategy on drug and addiction policy*. Berlin, 2012. Available at: [http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Druckfassung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale_Strategie_Druckfassung_EN.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> *National strategy on drug and addiction policy*. Berlin, 2012. Available at: [http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Druckfassung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale_Strategie_Druckfassung_EN.pdf)



The strategy also mentions international cooperation, but is not precise in this regard, stating that the cooperation shall be enhanced on different levels.<sup>27</sup>

## 6 Drug trade in the Central European countries

After the fall of communist regimes, there was a rapid increase of international criminal activity in the region – criminal groups used the opportunity for newly opened market in these countries, which were in transition at the time. Another important factor in the growth of organized crime is the geographic position of Central European countries. The region is a strategic crossroad: drugs are transited through the area from the East to the West or from the South to the West.<sup>28</sup>

**Figure 6: Drug route map**



Source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/64/Drugroutemap.gif>

<sup>27</sup> *National strategy on drug and addiction policy*. Berlin, 2012. Available at:

[http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Druckfassung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale_Strategie_Druckfassung_EN.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> International Crime Threat Assessment. In: *FAS* [online]. 2000 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://fas.org/irp/threat/pub45270chap3.html#r4>



Intra-regional methamphetamine drug trade poses a real problem in the area. Methamphetamine is produced mainly in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and is then imported to neighbouring countries, predominantly to Germany.<sup>29</sup>

This map illustrates the production and trafficking of methamphetamine in Europe. The following table summarizes the key information presented:

Category	Location(s)
Main methamphetamine producer countries	Lithuania (LT), Slovakia (SK), Czech Republic (CZ)
Seized methamphetamine production facility	Amsterdam (NL), Düsseldorf (DE), Brussels (BE), Mainz (DE), Nuremberg (DE), Warsaw (PL), Banská Bystrica (SK), Bratislava (SK), Vienna (AT), Budapest (HU)
Main trafficking flows	From Lithuania to Stockholm (SE), Helsinki (FI), Tallinn (EE), Riga (LV), Vilnius (LT), and Copenhagen (DK). From the Czech/Slovak region to Berlin (DE), Paris (FR), Bern (CH), Vienna (AT), Bratislava (SK), and Budapest (HU).

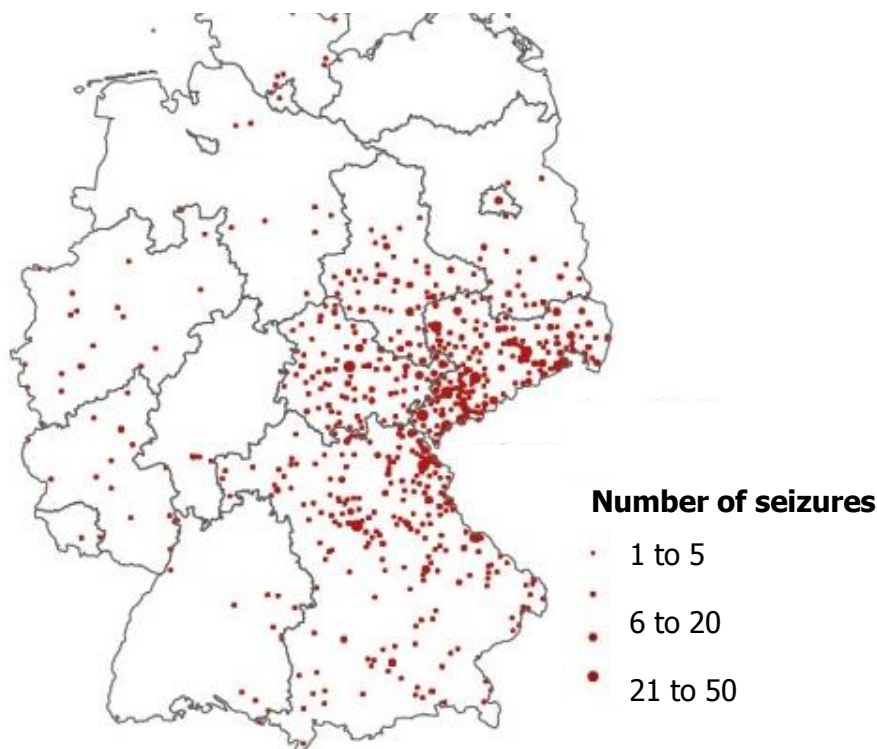
<sup>29</sup> EMCDDA-EUROPOL. *Methamphetamine*. Spain, 2009. Available at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/emcdda-europol-methamphetamine.pdf>.





The latest data indicate that methamphetamine trade in Germany is on the rise.<sup>30</sup> Although the majority of methamphetamine smuggled there comes from the Netherlands, the trade on German-Czech border is becoming more significant as well.<sup>31</sup> Methamphetamine from the Czech Republic gets mainly to the German states of Bavaria and Saxony. It is quite easy to purchase for German drug addicts, as it is cheap. This fact has also come to the attention of German officials, who met with their Czech counterparts last year to discuss how to combat spread of the drug.<sup>32</sup> However, there are no official conclusions made from this meeting.

**Figure 8: Number of seizures**



Source: <http://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article134620734/Crystal-Meth-ist-die-Droge-der-Generation-Selfie.html>

<sup>30</sup> The High Before the Crash: Germany's Crystal Meth Pandemic. In: *Spiegel* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/crystal-meth-becoming-more-popular-in-germany-a-958215.html>

<sup>31</sup> Methamphetamine trade on rise at German-Czech border. In: *Drug reporter* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: [http://drogriporter.hu/en/meth-amphetamine\\_Germany\\_Czech\\_republic](http://drogriporter.hu/en/meth-amphetamine_Germany_Czech_republic)

<sup>32</sup> Politicians aim to end spread of crystal meth. In: *DW.DE* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.dw.de/politicians-aim-to-end-spread-of-crystal-meth/a-16600854>



## 7 Drug precursors

Problem that is closely linked to the methamphetamine trafficking is illicit trade in chemical, or drug, precursors.<sup>33</sup> Precursors are substances used for drug production. In case of methamphetamine production, precursors are over-the-counter medication containing pseudoephedrine – most frequently painkillers.

As there were restrictions on the sale of medication including pseudoephedrine introduced in the Czech Republic in 2009, there has been a rapid decrease in sale of this kind of medication since then.<sup>34</sup> Thus, the methamphetamine producers had to look elsewhere and as data indicate, they did. There has been an increase in the illicit trade in chemical precursors in the region in recent years: mainly in Poland but also in other neighbouring countries including Hungary.<sup>35</sup> Thus, drug producers buy medication in Poland or Hungary, bring it to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where they make methamphetamine which is then smuggled to Germany. It is also common for German drug addicts to come to the Czech border, where they buy the drug.<sup>36</sup>

## 8 New psychoactive substances

A category per se is so-called new psychoactive substances (NPS) that are becoming more and more popular. They are also known as “designer drugs” or “legal highs”. Although some of them may have attractive names such as “Clockwork Orange”, in general they do not have popular names.<sup>37</sup> Users of NPS have frequently been hospitalized with intoxications. Their use is also linked to severe health problems and according to the report by the Centre for Social Justice, deaths related to legal highs could surpass those caused by heroin use.<sup>38</sup> According to

---

<sup>33</sup> Drug precursor control. In: *European Commission* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/customs\\_controls/drugs\\_precursors/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_controls/drugs_precursors/index_en.htm)

<sup>34</sup> Annual Report: The Czech Republic Drug Situation - 2013. Prague, 2014. Available at: [http://www.drogy-info.cz/index.php/publikace/vyrocní\\_zpravy/vyrocní\\_zprava\\_o\\_stavu\\_ve\\_vecech\\_drog\\_v\\_cr\\_v\\_r\\_2013](http://www.drogy-info.cz/index.php/publikace/vyrocní_zpravy/vyrocní_zprava_o_stavu_ve_vecech_drog_v_cr_v_r_2013)

<sup>35</sup> Poland. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/poland>.

<sup>36</sup> Politicians aim to end spread of crystal meth. In: *DW.DE* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.dw.de/politicians-aim-to-end-spread-of-crystal-meth/a-16600854>

<sup>37</sup> Legal highs. In: *FRANK* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-01-21]. Available at: <http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/legal-highs>

<sup>38</sup> Legal highs 'deadlier than heroin'. In: *The Telegraph* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-01-21]. Available at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11039399/Legal-highs-deadlier-than-heroin.html>



UNODC, NPS have become a global phenomenon<sup>39</sup> and Central European region is no exception as national drug strategies of Visegrad countries indicate. Unlike traditional drugs, NPS are not under international control yet.<sup>40</sup>

Nevertheless, as NPS became more spread, some countries reacted to this new threat. Some kind of measure was taken in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia: In the Czech Republic, an amendment to the drug laws should reduce the time required to add new substances on the list of illicit drugs.<sup>41</sup>

In Hungary, Government Decree 66/2012 created a Schedule C to existing legislation listing illicit drugs. To be included on the schedule, the substance now undergoes a formalised rapid assessment, which must reach two conclusions: firstly, the substance can affect the central nervous system and therefore pose a serious threat to public health, and secondly, the substance has no therapeutic use. According to the decree, possession of NPS was not punishable, however, in 2014 it was criminalised as well.<sup>42</sup>

In Poland, the drug law was modified, changing legal definition of a “substitute drug” in order to eliminate the open sale of psychoactive substances.<sup>43</sup>

In Slovakia, an amendment to the drug law allows the Health Minister to add a substance to a new list for up to 3 years if reasonable suspicion exists that there are harmful reactions. Unauthorised distribution of NPS will result in an administrative fine.<sup>44</sup>

---

<sup>39</sup> *New psychoactive substances*. Vienna, 2012. Available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/drugs/printmaterials2013/NPS\\_leaflet/WDC13\\_NPS\\_leaflet\\_EN\\_LORES.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/drugs/printmaterials2013/NPS_leaflet/WDC13_NPS_leaflet_EN_LORES.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> Ibidem

<sup>41</sup> Legal approaches to controlling new psychoactive substances. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/controlling-new-psychoactive-substances>

<sup>42</sup> EMCDDA. *Perspectives on drugs: Controlling new psychoactive substances*. 2014. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/controlling-new-psychoactive-substances>

<sup>43</sup> Poland passes new law to control 'head shops' and 'legal highs'. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2011 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/online/2011/73/article12>

<sup>44</sup> Legal approaches to controlling new psychoactive substances. In: *EMCDDA* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/controlling-new-psychoactive-substances>



Germany has no legislation on new psychoactive substances. They are not subject to regulation by the Narcotics Act as they are hitherto unknown substances and their chemical structure changes.<sup>45</sup>

As for NPS, continuing problem is its open online sale. According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) many such shops are based in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland as well.<sup>46</sup>

## 9 Conclusion

Central European region has to deal with many drug related problems. The most pressing one is the increase in production and drug trade in methamphetamine. All the countries from the region are somehow involved in it. Firstly, drug producers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia buy over-the-counter medication in neighbouring countries – mainly in Poland but also in Hungary, which is later used for methamphetamine production exported predominantly to Germany.

While methamphetamine-related issues are long-standing, a new threat has been emerging in the recent years: new psychoactive substances. Although they are not as dangerous as methamphetamine, they can cause severe health problems. It is also much more difficult to control them as new types of NPS are produced all the time.

### Questions:

- How can the Visegrad countries and Germany address the problem of methamphetamine production and trade?
  - Should be put any restrictions on the sale of over-the-counter medication in all 5 countries?
  - Shall more attention be paid to the prevention or to restriction measures? Which ones?
- What the Visegrad countries and Germany do together against the spread of new psychoactive substances?

---

<sup>45</sup> *National strategy on drug and addiction policy*. Berlin, 2012. Available at:

[http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Druckfassung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale_Strategie_Druckfassung_EN.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> EMCDDA. *Briefing paper: Online sale of new psychoactive substances*. 2011. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/scientific-studies/2011/snapshot>



## Sources

Action plan for implementation of the National Drug Policy Strategy 2013-2015. Prague, 2013. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/czech-republic>

Annual Report: The Czech Republic Drug Situation - 2013. Prague, 2014. Available at: [http://www.drogy-info.cz/index.php/publikace/vyrocní\\_zpravy/vyrocní\\_zprava\\_o\\_stavu\\_ve\\_vecech\\_drog\\_v\\_cr\\_v\\_r\\_2013](http://www.drogy-info.cz/index.php/publikace/vyrocní_zpravy/vyrocní_zprava_o_stavu_ve_vecech_drog_v_cr_v_r_2013)

Country overviews. In: EMCDDA [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews>.

Crystal Meth ist die Droge der Generation Selfie. In: Die Welt [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article134620734/Crystal-Meth-ist-die-Droge-der-Generation-Selfie.html>

Difference Between Illicit and Illegal. In: Difference Between [online]. 2011 [cit. 2015-02-14]. Available at: <http://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-illicit-and-vs-illegal/>

Drug precursor control. In: European Commission [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/customs\\_controls/drugs\\_precursors/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_controls/drugs_precursors/index_en.htm)

Global drug use prevalence stable, says UNODC World Drug Report 2014. In: *UNODC* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-02-14]. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/June/global-drug-use-prevalence-stable-says-unodc-world-drug-report-2014.html>

Hungary. In: EMCDDA [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/hungary>

Information about drugs. In: UNODC [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/illicit-drugs/definitions/>

International Crime Threat Assessment. In: FAS [online]. 2000 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://fas.org/irp/threat/pub45270chap3.html#r4>



Legal highs. In: FRANK [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-01-21]. Available at:

<http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/legal-highs>

Legal highs 'deadlier than heroin'. In: *The Telegraph* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2015-01-21].

Dostupné z: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11039399/Legal-highs-deadlier-than-heroin.html>

Our drug culture. In: Drug-Free World [online]. 2006-2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/the-truth-about-drugs.html>

EMCDDA. Briefing paper: Online sale of new psychoactive substances. 2011. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/scientific-studies/2011/snapshot>

EMCDDA. Perspectives on drugs: Controlling new psychoactive substances. 2014. Available

at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/controlling-new-psychoactive-substances>

EMCDDA-EUROPOL. Methamphetamine. Spain, 2009. Available at:

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/emcdda-europol-methamphetamine.pdf>

Legal approaches to controlling new psychoactive substances. In: EMCDDA [online]. 2014

[cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/controlling-new-psychoactive-substances>

Methamphetamine trade on rise at German-Czech border. In: Drug reporter [online]. 2013

[cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: [http://drogriporter.hu/en/methamphetamine\\_Germany\\_Czech\\_republic](http://drogriporter.hu/en/methamphetamine_Germany_Czech_republic)

National anti-drugs strategy of the Slovak Republic 2013-2020. Bratislava, 2013. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/slovakia>

*National strategy on drug and addiction policy*. Berlin, 2012. Available at:

[http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale\\_Strategie\\_Druckfassung\\_EN.pdf](http://www.drogenbeauftragte.de/fileadmin/dateien-dba/Presse/Downloads/Nationale_Strategie_Druckfassung_EN.pdf)

New psychoactive substances. Vienna, 2012. Available at:

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/drugs/printmaterials2013/NPS\\_leaflet/WDC13\\_NPS\\_leaflet\\_EN\\_LORES.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/drugs/printmaterials2013/NPS_leaflet/WDC13_NPS_leaflet_EN_LORES.pdf)

Poland. In: EMCDDA [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/national-drug-strategies/poland>



Poland passes new law to control 'head shops' and 'legal highs'. In: EMCDDA [online]. 2011 [cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/online/2011/73/article12>

Politicians aim to end spread of crystal meth. In: DW.DE [online]. 2013 [cit. 2014-12-31].

Available at: <http://www.dw.de/politicians-aim-to-end-spread-of-crystal-meth/a-16600854>

The High Before the Crash: Germany's Crystal Meth Pandemic. In: *Spiegel* [online]. 2014

[cit. 2014-12-31]. Available at: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/crystal-meth-becoming-more-popular-in-germany-a-958215.html>

UNODC. Get the facts about drugs. Vienna, 2008. Available at:

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/drugs/getthefacts\\_E.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/drugs/getthefacts_E.pdf)



# Top partneři

Generální partner  
Modelu OSN



Hlavní partner  
Modelu OSN



Hlavní partner Modelu NATO



Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí  
České republiky

Model NATO is co-sponsored by  
the North Atlantic Treaty Organization



Hlavní partner Modelu EU



Partner konference



Univerzitní  
partner



Partner zahájení



Partner jednání



---

## Partneři Modelů



---

## Mediální partneři

Hlavní mediální partner



Hlavní mediální partner



Partner Chronicle





**Asociace  
pro mezinárodní  
otázky**  
Association  
for International  
Affairs

Pražský studentský summit  
projekt Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky