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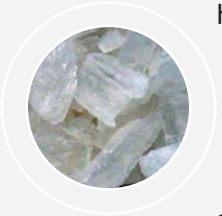
GLOBAL SMART UPDATE 2013

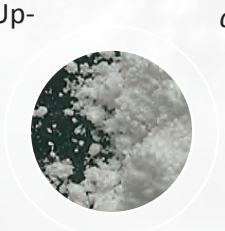
About the SMART Update

The threat of synthetic drugs is one of the most significant drug problems worldwide. After cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are the second most widely used drugs across the globe, outstripping the use of cocaine and heroin. Since 1990 the illicit manufacture of ATS has been reported from more than 70 countries and the figure keeps rising. Along with ATS, the continued growth of the *new psychoactive substances* (NPS) market over the last years has become a policy challenge and a major international concern. A growing interplay between the new substances and illicit drug markets is being observed. By June 2013, the emergence of NPS had been reported in more than 80 countries. Trends on the synthetic drug market evolve quickly each year.



The UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme enhances the capacity of Member States in priority regions to generate, manage, analyse, report and use synthetic drug information to design effective policy and programme interventions. Launched in September 2008, Global SMART provides capacity-building in East and South-East Asia, the Pacific and Latin America and regularly reviews the ATS situation in the Pacific region. Features of UNODC Global SMART are online data collection, situation reports and regional assessments. The first global situation assessment on NPS "*The challenge of new psychoactive substances*" was published in March 2013, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 55/1 (2012).

The Global SMART Update is designed to provide regular brief reporting on emerging patterns and trends of the global synthetic drug situation. Given the speed at which changes in the ATS and NPS markets occur, it is especially important to have a simple sustainable mechanism for frequent information sharing from different parts of the world. The Global SMART Update is published twice a year and is available in English and Spanish.



The Update reports various synthetic drug information, such as significant or unusual drug or precursor seizures, new locations, methods and chemicals used for clandestine manufacture, new trafficking groups or routes, changes in legislation to address the problem of synthetic drugs, emerging substances or user groups, and health implications related to their use.*

In this issue

Each issue of the Update contains special coverage and thematic segments. Since October 2010, the special segment of the Update has been expanded to provide a more in-depth review of an issue of current interest. In addition, short regional overviews have been added to provide snapshots of the situation in the regions of the world.

Issues highlighted previously include the increasing dimension of ATS trafficking from Africa to East and South-East Asia; the ATS situation in South Asia; *new psychoactive substances*; the changing faces of illicit ATS manufacture; and the spread of *new psychoactive substances* across the globe.

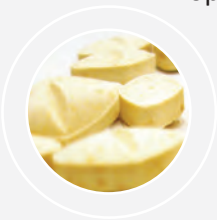
The special segment of the current issue provides a brief overview of the mechanisms provided under the international drug control conventions to place new substances under international control, as well as an overview of the several legislative/regulatory approaches that have been taken so far to regulate the unauthorized supply and distribution of *new psychoactive substances* at the regional and national level. This includes the use of analogue and generic legislation, the use of temporary bans and rapid procedures, specific *new psychoactive substances* legislation and the use of other rather limited regulatory frameworks. It also highlights the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on *new psychoactive substances*, as an international initiative that has been put in place, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/4, to monitor *new psychoactive substances* at the global level. This constitutes the first step in informing the process of control of *new psychoactive substances* at the international level.

While data on ATS seizures is often easy to obtain, information about the demand for ATS and *new psychoactive substances* remains scarce and anecdotal in nature. Nevertheless, the Update continues to make a determined effort to highlight the human toll of ATS and *new psychoactive substances* use. Various drug demand-related subjects are covered in this issue, including facts that have come to light about the use of synthetic drugs and *new psychoactive substances* and their impact in selected countries. The Update also covers the results of the first study on drug use in Pakistan as well as highlights of EMCDDA reports.

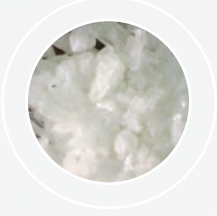
*The information and data contained within this report are from official Government reports, press releases, scientific journals or incidents confirmed by UNODC Field Offices. Additional or updated information from previously reported incidents may also be included where appropriate. Information denoted with an asterisk (*) are from 'open sources' where UNODC is waiting for official confirmation and therefore should be considered only preliminary. This report has not been formally edited. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNODC or contributory organizations and neither do they imply any endorsement. Suggested citation: Global SMART Update Volume 10, September 2013.

Regional overviews

Oceania. Australia and New Zealand continue to be significant markets for ATS. Illicit manufacture and trafficking of ATS have been reported from both countries. In February 2013, a major seizure of methamphetamine (585 kg) was made in Australia, where there are also signs that point to increasing use of crystalline methamphetamine. Over the past few years, a market for *new psychoactive substances* has developed in Australia and New Zealand and the emergence of synthetic cannabinoids has been reported in some Pacific Island States, notably in Vanuatu. Temporary bans on *new psychoactive substances* have been issued in both Australia and New Zealand.



East and South-East Asia. The region has some of the largest and most established ATS markets in the world. Illicit ATS manufacture is reported from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand. Trafficking of methamphetamine from Myanmar into Bangladesh is also reported. Increasing seizures of crystalline methamphetamine are an indication of a more diversified ATS market in the region. Organized criminal groups from West Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to target the region for methamphetamine trafficking. Most countries in East and South-East Asia, including China, Japan and Viet Nam have also reported increasing use of methamphetamine and the emergence of *new psychoactive substances*.



South Asia. South Asian countries remain vulnerable to illicit ATS trafficking and manufacture, due to the geographical proximity to important source countries of ATS in East and South-East Asia and the continued availability of precursor chemicals required to manufacture illicit synthetic drugs, particularly ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have reported seizures of methamphetamine. The diversion of precursor chemicals from this region to East and South-East Asia, continues to be reported. Data on ATS use and manufacture is scarce.

West Asia and the Middle East. Amphetamine, commonly sold as *Captagon*, continues to be the most frequently seized substance in this region. Significant increases in amphetamine seizures (mostly *Captagon*) have been reported from Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates. Apart from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lebanon, no reports of illicit manufacture have been received from the region to date, a fact which is inconsistent with both the quantity of seizures and the availability of key ATS precursors in the region. Data on ATS use is rarely reported from the region. Trafficking of *new psychoactive substances* has been reported by Israel, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Europe. The region continues to be an important market for amphetamine in terms of both manufacture and use. However, methamphetamine appears to be the drug of choice in some countries in Northern Europe. The availability of crystalline methamphetamine is reported in the Baltic States and Germany and methamphetamine manufacture is reported from Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland and the Russia Federation. The ecstasy market is beginning to recover in the region, probably because of the resurgence of high MDMA content in ecstasy pills. *New psychoactive substances* are available in most European countries. While *new psychoactive substances* prevalence levels remain low, there may be potential for rapid increase in its use among certain subpopulations.

Africa. Increased trafficking of methamphetamine from countries in West Africa, notably Nigeria, Benin and Mali, continues to be reported by several countries in East and South-East Asia as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Kenya has recently emerged as a transit point for ATS trafficked to East and South-East Asia. Methamphetamine manufacturing facilities have been dismantled in Nigeria, and air cargo is increasingly being used to traffic methamphetamine out of the country. The low level of awareness of ATS , combined with limited law enforcement capacity and infrastructure, and inappropriate legislation observed in some countries remains an obstacle in counteracting the activities of drug trafficking organizations in the region.

North America. North America remains a significant market for ATS, particularly methamphetamine and ecstasy. Seizures of methamphetamine have increased, particularly in Mexico and in the United States. ATS manufacture is reported from Canada, Mexico and the United States. *New psychoactive substances* are available in Canada and the United States, and possibly in Mexico. Major seizures of these substances in the United States have unveiled a major flow of drug-related proceeds back to Middle East countries.

Central and South America. Increased seizures of ATS precursors are reported from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay. Guatemala, Nicaragua and more recently Argentina have reported ATS manufacture. ATS seizures are reported from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru. The emergence of *new psychoactive substances* is reported from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Uruguay.

Legal situation and responses to the challenge of *new psychoactive substances* and the road ahead

New psychoactive substances (NPS)[1] continue to be sold across the world. At the global level, there has been an increase in the availability and use of NPS: the number of NPS reported by Member States to UNODC increased from 166 at the end of 2009 to 251 by mid-2012, outstripping the total number of psychoactive substances under international control (WDR 2013). However, there is currently no international legal response to counteract this phenomenon. Individual countries or specific regions in the world have advanced efforts to regulate the unauthorized supply and distribution of NPS, either as individual or groups of substances, but a comprehensive international response is needed to counter this phenomenon that threatens the health and welfare of mankind, whose protection serve as the basis of the international drug control system.

While the incredible swiftness of emerging NPS in the market makes this a very challenging undertaking, it should be noted that not all the 251 NPS (including ketamine) identified by Member States up to mid-2012 continue to circulate on the market. Some of these have disappeared from the markets while some new NPS have been reported in 2013. Global monitoring of NPS is subsequently imperative to provide stakeholders with an understanding of this flux, especially considering that several NPS have become consumer goods with serious health and social risks to society.

On this basis, a brief overview of the provisions under the international Conventions to handle emerging substances; the legal situation and regulatory responses that have been taken so far at regional and national level to tackle the pervasive use and availability of NPS; and the first global monitoring advisory system on NPS established by UNODC through its Global SMART Programme, is provided hereafter.

Control of substances posing a public health threat

The procedure for control of new substances that are considered to pose a threat to public health, in the majority of drug control systems, including the international one, follows a three-stage structure consisting of: an initiative/notification to submit a new substance for consideration; an expert assessment of health risks and dependence potential of the substance and the issuance of drug control measures, should this be deemed necessary. In some cases, notably in the European Union, the initiative referred to in the first stage of this structure is the result of regional monitoring through an early warning system.

The International Drug Control Conventions

Both the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances provide a mechanism for placing new substances under control by including them in one of the schedules,[2] transferring a drug from one schedule to the other, and deleting a drug from any of the schedules of the relevant convention, if desired. Any amendment to the scope of control of substances under the international drug control treaties follows this three-stage structure:

Initiative/Notification

As provided for in the 1961 Single Convention (article 3(1)) and the 1971 Convention (article 2 (1)), whenever a Party[3] or the World Health Organization has information relating to a substance not yet under international control which in its opinion requires an amendment to any of the schedules of the Conventions, "it shall notify the Secretary-General and furnish him with the information in support of that notification". This notification is subsequently transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Parties, to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, hereafter referred to as the Commission, and to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Risk assessment

WHO carries out an assessment of the substance under review. The procedure for this medical and scientific evaluation is carried out by the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence and described in detail in the Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control. NPS that have been reviewed by WHO include BZP, ketamine and khat.

Control measures

Under the 1961 Single Convention, the Commission may, in accordance with the recommendation of WHO, decide that the substance shall be added to the schedule indicated by WHO. It is suggested that the Commission should in principle accept the pharmacological and chemical findings of WHO, and when it does not accept the recommendation of WHO, it should be guided by other considerations such as those of an administrative or social nature.[4]

Under the 1971 Convention, the Commission may decide that the substance shall be added to, transferred from one schedule to another, or removed from any of the schedules of the respective Convention.[5] This decision is based on the results of the assessment by WHO (which are determinative as to medical and scientific matters under the 1971 Convention) and the recommendations on control measures, if any, bearing in mind the economic, social, legal, administrative and other factors, it may consider relevant.

1 Substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat .

2 Schedule means the correspondingly numbered list of drugs or preparations and psychotropic substances annexed to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

3 The term "Parties" refers to States and other entities with treaty-making capacity which have expressed their consent to be bound by a treaty and where the treaty is in force for such States and entities. United Nations Treaty Collection (http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Overview.aspx?path=overview/definition/page1_en.xml).

4 Commentary on the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, paragraph 18, page 90.

5 Article 3 (3) (iii), (4) (5) Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961; Article 2 (5) Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971.

Where a notification refers to a substance not already in Schedule I or in Schedule II of the respective convention, both the 1961 and the 1971 Conventions foresee the possibility of the provisional application of control measures. Under the 1961 Single Convention (article 3 (3) (i) (ii)), the Parties examine the possibility of the provisional application to the substance of all measures of control applicable to drugs in Schedule I; or pending the final decision of the Commission on changes in the scope of control with respect to a notification, the Commission may decide that the Parties apply provisionally to that substance all measures of control applicable to drugs in Schedule I, in which case the Parties shall apply such measures provisionally to the substance in question. Under the 1971 Convention (article 2 (3)), the Parties examine the possibility of the provisional application to the substance of all measures of control applicable to substances in Schedule I or Schedule II, as appropriate.

Any decision of the Commission on changes in the scope of control becomes effective with respect to each Party on the date of the receipt of the communication sent by the Secretary-General to all States Members of the United Nations, to non-member State Parties to the conventions, to WHO and to the International Narcotics Control Board, in the case of the 1961 Single Convention (article 3 (7)), or 180 days after the date of such communication, in the case of the 1971 Convention (article 2 (7)). The decisions of the Commission are subject to review by the Economic and Social Council upon the request of a Party.

Regional responses

The European Union

Europe, within the framework of the European Union, is the only region in the world that has a drug control system that allows the monitoring and control of NPS. This system is based on a three-stage structure similar to that existing under the international system. However, the initiative to place a substance under control is in this case the result of regional monitoring on new substances through the European Early Warning System. Council Decision 2005/387/JHA[6] allows for the **monitoring** (article 4) of NPS through the European Early Warning System (EWS), for an **assessment of their risks** (article 6) and for the application of existing **control measures** (articles 8-9) in the EU Member States for the control of narcotic and psychotropic substances. Up to June 2013, twelve NPS have been subject to a risk assessment in the framework of the Council Decision 2005/387/JHA and the Joint Action 97/396/JHA, and nine of them have been placed under EU control measures by the Council of the European Union.[7]

National Responses

Several legislative and regulatory approaches have been introduced at the national level to address the challenge of NPS. Some countries have adapted their main drug control legislation to control NPS by introducing some degree of flexibility to the individual listing system for example through analogue/generic legislation and temporary bans/rapid procedures. Others have issued NPS specific legislation or have applied other regulatory frameworks that offer greater flexibility and swiftness, but which may be rather limited in scope, focusing primarily on control of sale of NPS. This is in line with the international drug control regime that allows countries to apply stricter national control measures than those required under the Conventions.[8]

The individual listing system and associated procedures

In most countries, an individual listing system to control narcotic or psychotropic substances is used. This means that controlled substances are individually included in several schedules (classifications) that are often included as an annex to the main piece of legislation on drug control. The different schedules contain varying qualifications for a substance to be included in each and are usually based on criteria including potential for abuse, medical use and control under the international drug conventions. For some of the substances included in these schedules, control measures extend to a substance's isomers, esters and ethers, and salts, including the salts of esters, ethers and isomers. In addition to the foregoing, several countries use analogue/generic legislation and/or temporary bans/rapid procedures as complementary procedures to the individual listing system, as explained below.

Analogue and Generic legislation

In a number of countries, the drug control system relies for control purposes, not only on an individual list of substances, as provided under the international drug control system, but on complementary legislation. Drug control measures foreseen under the individual listing system are extended to other substances (analogues) or defined group of substances (generic) not explicitly mentioned in the legislation but which share some similarities with the controlled substances, in terms of structure and/or effects (see table 1).

Temporary bans and rapid procedure

Considering the lengthy process that is required to introduce any amendment to the list of individual substances controlled at the national level, which in most cases encompasses a health risk assessment (based on scientific data which in the case of NPS is often not available), the legislative procedure which may take several months, and the rapid emergence of NPS, a number of countries are using alternative ways to speed up their normal legislative process. These include the introduction of temporary bans or rapid procedures. Temporary (emergency) bans allow for timely introduction of restrictions on NPS for a limited period of time (usually for a year) while the legislative process is completed/or a rigorous assessment of the risks is conducted and a final decision to control the substance is made. If there is no decision to control the substance, the temporary ban expires. Rapid procedures are also used to speed the legislative process, but in this case restrictions are permanent, i.e. they do not expire after a certain period of time (see table 1).

6 Council of the European Union, Council Decision 2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005 on the information exchange, risk-assessment and control of new psychoactive substances.

7 4-MA, 4-MTA, PMMA, 2C-I, 2C-T-2, 2C-T-7, TMA-2, BZP and mephedrone.

8 Article 39 and 23 of the 1961(as amended) and 1971 Conventions respectively.

Table 1. Worldwide examples of NPS legal responses

Country	System in place	Legislation/Bills
Canada	Analogue control	The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)
United States	Analogue control	Controlled Substances Analogue Enforcement Act (CSA) of 1986: Section 802 (32) (A)
United Kingdom	Generic control	Home Office circular 010/2010. A change to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 : Control of mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives
Other countries	Generic control	From 2009-2013 this approach has been used to ban in several european countries to ban NPS.[9]
Denmark	Temporary bans	Consolidated Act no. 748 of 1 July 2008 on Euphoriant Substances (para. 1, 2)
Hungary	Temporary bans	Government Decree 66/2012
New Zealand	Temporary bans	Misuse of Drugs Act (Section 4 (C))
United Kingdom	Temporary bans	Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Section 151, Schedule 17)
United States	Temporary bans	US Controlled Substances Act, 1986, Part B § 811 (h)
Singapore	Temporary bans	Bill No. 27/2012 (Section 58A, in force since 01.05.2013)
Luxembourg	Rapid procedure	Act of 12 July 1996 on the Reform of the Council of State (lasts between 1-2 months); Grand-Ducal Regulation of 7 October 2004
Norway	Rapid procedure	Regulation of 30 June 1978 No. 8 on narcotics section 3.
Poland	Rapid procedure	Act 29 July 2005
Slovakia	Rapid procedure	Act 139/1998 Collection of 2 April on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
Sweden	Rapid procedure	The Narcotic Drugs (Punishments) Act (SFS 1968:64) or the Act on the Prohibition of Certain Goods Dangerous to Health (SFS 1999:42); the Narcotic Drugs Control Ordinance (SFS 1994:1554); Ordinance regarding the Prohibition of Certain Goods Dangerous to Health (SFS 1999:58)
Austria	Specific NPS legislation	Federal Act on the Protection against health hazards in connection with *new psychoactive substances* (2011)
Ireland	Specific NPS legislation	The Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010
New Zealand	Specific NPSlegislation	The Psychoactive Substances Bill
Romania	Specific NPS legislation	Law 194/2011 of 10 November 2011

Specific NPS-related legislation

Some countries have issued specific NPS legislation to control these substances. These include Austria, Ireland, New Zealand and Romania (see table 1).

Other regulatory frameworks

Medicine legislation, poison acts and consumer safety regulations are also being used in some countries to partially control NPS. At least eight European countries have used medicine legislation to control NPS, including Austria,[10] Finland and the Netherlands.[11]

The road ahead: "Early Warning Advisory", towards international control of NPS

The three-stage structure upon which the European Union system to control *new psychoactive substances* is built (Council Decision 2005/387/JHA) shows the essential role that monitoring plays in informing any initiative to control NPS at the regional level.

Building upon this successful experience, the existing structure provided under the international drug conventions to place new substances under control, and bearing in mind that so far there are no structured global approaches to counteract the threat of NPS, UNODC, under the umbrella of its Global SMART Programme, and pursuant to CND resolution 56/4 (2013) "Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of *new psychoactive substances*", is leading the development of the first international monitoring system on NPS. The UNODC/NPS Early Warning Advisory (EWA), seeks to provide specific NPS information to Member States and to WHO, in support of the notification referred to in Article 3 (1) of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Article 2 (1) of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

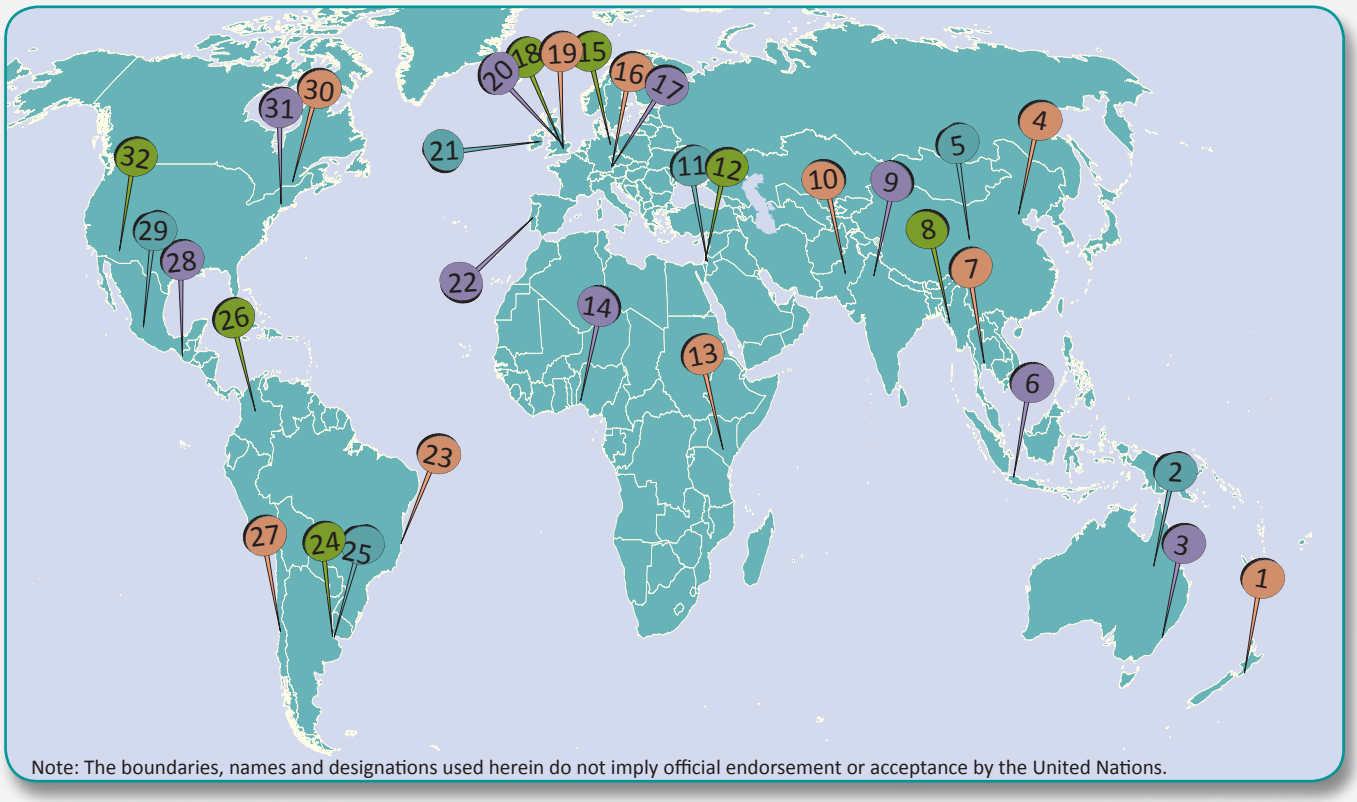
The EWA is the result of the continued development of the voluntary electronic portal of the UNODC International Collaborative Exercises, with the aim of providing timely reporting on the emergence of NPS and serving as a global reference point on these substances. In addition, this system seeks to contribute to an improved understanding of the patterns of distribution and use of NPS, as a basis for evidence-based policies (see https://www.unodc.org/NPS).

9 Synthetic cannabinoids have been banned in Cyprus, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Norway; synthetic cathinones in Cyprus, France, Italy, Lithuania, Norway; phenethylamines in Cyprus, Lithuania and Norway and tryptamines in Lithuania and Norway. EMCDDA, Perspectives on drugs, controlling new psychoactive substances, 2013

10 The Austrian Medicinal Products Act

11 In the Netherlands, mephedrone is classified as a medicine and is therefore controlled under medicinal products legislation. In Finland, mephedrone is classified as a medicine since September 2008 under the Medicines Act (395/87).

Regions covered in this issue



Note: The boundaries, names and designations used herein do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Global SMART segments are arranged based on regional threat. Oceania has among the highest prevalence rates for ATS use in the world, while the number of ATS users is greatest in East Asia. Therefore, the map and corresponding index of segments begins with recent events from Oceania and East Asia and then moves geographically westward. The numbered pins on the map above correspond with the index of segments below.

Index of segments

1

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration

New Zealand: NPS BB-22 and 5F-AKB48 banned

WELLINGTON, New Zealand – 20 April 2013. A new Temporary Class Drug Notice that bans two synthetic cannabinoids BB-22 and 5F-AKB48 (an analogue of AKB48) became effective on 9 May 2013. The substances were found in products sold as '*K2*', which often contain other synthetic cannabinoids and had been previously connected to a number of health incidents in the Lower South Island. This brings to 35 the number of substances banned under temporary notices. The ban makes it illegal to import, manufacture, sell or supply the substances, with penalties of up to eight years imprisonment. Temporary Notices had been used in New Zealand to counteract the challenge of *new psychoactive substances* before the *Psychoactive Substances Bill* became a law in July 2013.

2

Australia: MDMA (117 kg) seized in Australia


Source: Australian Federal Police

QUEENSLAND, Australia – 22 March 2013. An international organized crime group spanning Australia and four European countries has been dismantled by the Australian Federal Police (AFP). MDMA base (117 kg), concealed in bottles of olive oil, was seized. It is estimated that the material could produce up to 1.37 million ecstasy tablets, with an estimated street value of USD 47 million. The eighteen months investigation resulted in three arrests in Australia and one in the United Kingdom, with search warrants being executed in Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. Two Australian nationals arrested in Melbourne and Sidney were alleged to have conspired to import the drugs from Spain. An Irish national (resident in Australia) was also arrested in New South Wales in connection with the seizure. The investigation remains open.

3

Australia: record methamphetamine seizure (585 kg)

SYDNEY, Australia – 22 February 2013. Methamphetamine (585 kg) with an estimated value of USD 433 million was seized in Sydney during a joint operation between the Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, New South Wales Police Force, the NSW Crime Commission and the Australian Crime Commission. This is currently the largest seizure of methamphetamine in Australia since July 2012, when 300 kg of methamphetamine had been seized. (See Global SMART Update Vol. 8, segment 2). Three nationals from Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore were arrested. Investigations started in September 2012, and in February 2013 four sea cargo consignments linked to the investigation were identified by Customs and Border Protection. On 22 February, 38 plastic bags containing crystalline methamphetamine were discovered concealed in six one ton bags marked as cleaning chemicals. Suspects were charged with offenses related to possession of a commercial quantity of a border controlled drug which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

4

China: regulations on methamphetamine precursor ephedra strengthened

BEIJING, China – 26 June 2013. The Supreme People's Court has announced the strengthening of the regulations concerning ephedra, a natural source of the ATS precursor ephedrine. Under the new regulation, the harvesting and purchasing of ephedra for the purposes of drug manufacturing will be punished as a drug related crime. According to the Supreme People's Court, the number of drug related crimes handled by China's Courts is on the rise: more suspects are reported to be turning to modern synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine and ketamine, which have overtaken heroin as the primary drug used in some parts of China. The diversion of medicines containing ephedrine and of ephedra plants has also been reported. In 2012, the number of concluded cases involving the illegal harvest and sale of ephedra plants for the illicit manufacture of drugs was reported to be five times higher than in 2009, and the amount of ephedra plants involved was ten times higher than in 2009, according to the statistics of the Supreme People's Court.

China: over 700 kg of ketamine seized in May


Source: Hong Kong Customs

CHINA – May 2013. Taiwanese Police reported earlier this month the seizure of 450 kg of ketamine smuggled from mainland China, in what is considered as one of the island's major drug seizures in recent years. The drugs, valued at USD 10 million, were discovered in a cargo container at a harbour in central Taiwan, following a tip-off received by the police. Under Taiwan's drug control laws, manufacturing, transporting and selling of ketamine is punishable by a minimum of five years in prison. In a separate incident, nearly 300 kg of ketamine were seized by Police in central China's Hubei Province, on May 29. The three month operation led to the dismantling of a drug ring that manufactured the drug in a deserted poultry farm and to the arrest of twelve suspects. In 2012, 4.7 tons of ketamine were seized in China.

Indonesia: ecstasy pills and manufacturing equipment seized in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Indonesia – 11 April 2013. National Police has dismantled an international drug ring operating in Bekasi (a city located on the eastern border of Jakarta) who smuggled 125,000 ecstasy pills into the country. The drugs were reportedly smuggled by boat from Malaysia into Medan, Sumatra (northern coast of Indonesia) before being transported by car to Jakarta. The car was intercepted by police in Tangerang, Banten (25 km west of Jakarta) and three suspects were arrested. A follow-up search of a house in Medan Satria, Bekasi (city located in West Java, eastern border of Jakarta) led to a seizure of 1,236 ecstasy pills, along with equipment and precursor chemicals for ecstasy manufacture. It is estimated that the facility could manufacture up to 5,000 ecstasy pills per day. Ecstasy pills are reportedly being mixed with '*koplo*' pills (local name for commonly abused antidepressant medicines) and produced in a capsule form.*

Thailand: record methamphetamine pills seizure in Bangkok (4.5 million pills)


Source: Chiang Rai Times

BANGKOK, Thailand – 21 May 2013. Methamphetamine pills (4.5 million), with an estimated value of USD 50 million, have been seized by Thai Police, in what is considered to be the largest ever methamphetamine seizure in Bangkok. The Government reported that the pills and 60 kg of crystal methamphetamine, smuggled from Myanmar, were destined to be sold in Bangkok and nearby provinces. The drugs were found in an apartment in Bangkok. In a separate incident, on May 14, Thai Police recovered 1.6 million methamphetamine pills and 43 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, with an estimated value of more than USD 19 million, while these were being smuggled across the Mae Sai River (a major border crossing between Thailand and Myanmar) to Chiang Rai (northern Thailand).

Bangladesh: methamphetamine pills are trafficked from Myanmar to Bangladesh across the Naf river

TEKNAF, Bangladesh – 27 March 2013. The Naf river has been identified as an important route for the increasing inflows of methamphetamine pills (locally known as 'yaba') from Myanmar into Bangladesh. Since January 2013, at least 81,000 methamphetamine pills have been seized by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) from boats on the Naf river crossing the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Seizures of methamphetamine pills in Bangladesh have shown an increasing upward trend since 2008, with a major increase from 812,716 methamphetamine pills in 2010 to 1,4 million pills in 2011. In June 2013, 30,000 methamphetamine pills were recovered in Dhaka, in what is considered as one of the largest-ever single seizures in recent times in the country.*

9

India: diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from licit trade

DELHI, India – 27 June 2013. Law enforcement authorities in Delhi seized 370 kg of ephedrine, with an estimated value of over USD 21 million, trafficked by a drug cartel of Indian pharmacists and Nigerian nationals, managed from Dubai. Two of the suspects are reportedly traders of wholesale chemicals in Bhagirath Palace in Delhi, India's biggest market for medicinal drugs. The ephedrine is allegedly supplied to Nigerians located in Delhi, who use couriers to smuggle the methamphetamine precursor to other countries. In April 2013, pseudoephedrine tablets (140 kg), with an estimated street value of USD 2.5 million, and pseudoephedrine powder (50 kg) were seized by Delhi police from a suspected international drug trafficking group. The preparations were reportedly sourced from registered pharmaceutical factories in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh (north India), Punjab and Haryana (north India) through local distributors in Delhi. The consignment was reported to be en-route to Manipur/Mizoram (northeast India) for onward smuggling into Myanmar.

10

Pakistan: ATS use data revealed for the first time in the country

PAKISTAN – March 2013. The 2013 collaborative report of UNODC and the Government of Pakistan 'Drug Use in Pakistan' (2013) reveals for the first time ATS prevalence data in the country. It is estimated that 6.45 million of the Pakistani population aged 15-64 used drugs in the last 12 months. Of those, 134,000 (0.1%) are ATS users (83% of amphetamine and 16.4% of methamphetamine). Use of methamphetamine has been reported in certain areas of the country and figures show that around 22,000 people used methamphetamine last year. This finding sheds light on ATS prevalence in the country, as previous law enforcement reports indicating increases in seizures of manufacture and trafficking of ATS were uncertain if this increase was due to local demand or whether ATS were intended for users in other countries. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (northwest Pakistan) is the province with the highest annual prevalence of ATS use in the country, with an estimated 30,000 ATS users.

11

Lebanon: increasing seizures of outward-bound *captagon* pills point to possible amphetamine manufacture in the country

BEIRUT, Lebanon – 10 April 2013. Over 180 kg of amphetamine (commonly sold as '*captagon*') pills have been seized within two months: an attempt to smuggle nearly 16 kg of *captagon* pills out of Lebanon was foiled at the Beirut International Airport. A Syrian national heading towards a Middle East country was also arrested with 10.3 kg of '*captagon*' pills packed inside pastries; on the same day, another Syrian attempted to leave the country with 5.6 kg of '*captagon*' pills hidden inside coffee packages. In March 2013, over 170 kg of '*captagon*' pills with an estimated value of up to USD 5 million were seized in the Bekaa region (east Lebanon). In January 2011, Syrian authorities seized 4 million '*captagon*' pills smuggled from, and apparently made, in Lebanon. Lebanese authorities reported in 2011 the seizure of three laboratories manufacturing amphetamine base and two *captagon* laboratories.*

12

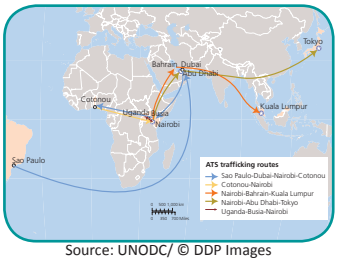
Israel: synthetic drugs, a 'growing concern' for Israel

Source: UNODC/ © DDP Images

TEL AVIV, Israel – July 2013. Seizures of methamphetamine increased 19% in 2012 (66,560 pills) compared with the previous year (55,620 pills in 2011), according to the Israeli national law enforcement authorities. Methamphetamine pills, known as "yaba", continue to be trafficked into the country, via postal services, mainly from South-East Asia. There is also a growing concern on the market for *new psychoactive substances*, which are reported to be available in about 3,500 'convenience' stores across the country. To counteract the threat of NPS, the Dangerous Drug Ordinance was amended in 2010 to place analogues of amphetamine, methamphetamine, cathinone, methcathinone and 2-aminoindane (2-AI) under control. In May 2013, a new amendment to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance was introduced to ban groups of substances such as the synthetic cannabinoids.

13

Kenya: a transit point of ATS trafficked to East and South-East Asia



Source: UNODC/ © DDP Images

NAIROBI, Kenya – April 2013. Kenya is increasingly being used as a transit point for ATS trafficked to East and South-East Asia. In February 2013, 3 kg of methamphetamine were seized at the Nairobi international airport from a passenger travelling from Nairobi, via Abu-Dhabi, to Tokyo. In 2012, 10 kg of amphetamine were seized while being transported by road from Uganda via Busia (a Ugandan town on the border with Kenya) to Nairobi. Amphetamine and methamphetamine were also seized at the Nairobi international airport in 2012: 3 kg of amphetamine were seized from a passenger flying from Nairobi, via Bahrain, to Kuala Lumpur; another 3 kg of methamphetamine were seized from a passenger while in transit from Sao Paulo, via Dubai-Nairobi, to Cotonou (Benin) and 1 kg of methamphetamine was seized from a passenger arriving from Cotonou to Nairobi.

14

Nigeria: air cargo is increasingly being used to traffic methamphetamine out of the country

LAGOS, Nigeria – 3 May 2013. Air cargo at the Lagos international airport is increasingly being used to traffic methamphetamine out of the country. In May 2013, a customs clearing agent was arrested over the attempted trafficking of more than 72 kg of methamphetamine concealed in 36 parcels hidden inside industrial filters, bound for Mozambique. This is reported to be the single largest seizure made at the airport since January 2013. In March 2013, 40 kg of methamphetamine, concealed in 41 parcels hidden inside grinded melon, and bound for South Africa, were intercepted at the cargo section. In February 2013, three clearing agents were arrested for attempting to smuggle 36 kg of methamphetamine on a flight bound for Malaysia. A combination of illicit methamphetamine manufacture in the country, continuous outgoing seizures of the drug and an increasing involvement of Nigerian nationals in the trafficking signalled by European and South-East asian countries point to Nigeria as an important source country for methamphetamine shipments.

15

Germany: several NPS to be controlled under the Narcotics Act

Source: Buchoffizin.de

BERLIN, Germany – 23 May 2013. *New psychoactive substances* represent a growing problem in Germany. Since 2012, the Government has responded to this threat by supporting financially projects aimed at developing prevention approaches for synthetic cannabinoids users, and by modifying its drug control legislation. In May 2013, the German Government submitted to the Parliament an amendment to include several *new psychoactive substances* in the Narcotics Act: 3,4-dimethoxymethamphetamine (DMMA), methiopropamine (MPA), methoxetamine (MXE) were to be included in Schedule I, where heroin, LSD and cannabis are scheduled. *New psychoactive substances* to be added to Schedule II, where methamphetamine and BZP are listed, include synthetic cannabinoids (JWH-307), synthetic cathinones (buphedron; pentedron; α-PVP) and phenethylamines (5-(2-Aminopropyl)benzofuran (5-APB)).

16

Europe: methamphetamine use is on the increase

EUROPE – August 2013. While cannabis remains the most commonly used illicit substance in Europe, with an annual prevalence of 5.6 per cent, there is concern about the increasing use of amphetamine-type stimulants and the partial replacement of amphetamine by methamphetamine, particularly in the north of Europe. Methamphetamine use was until recently restricted to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. However, sporadic reports of methamphetamine smoking and availability of crystal methamphetamine have been reported, notably in the Baltic States, Germany and northern Europe. In 2012, the number of first time crystalline methamphetamine users in Germany increased 51% (from 1,693 to 2,556) overtaking for the first time heroin users, according to the 2013 Drugs and Addiction Report of the German Federal Government. Methamphetamine manufacture in Europe also seems to be spreading: in 2011, new locations were uncovered, inter alia, in Belgium, Poland and the Russian Federation (World Drug Report 2013).

17

Source: The Journal.ie

Europe: ecstasy market show signs of recovery

EUROPE – June 2013. While ecstasy use has been declining globally, there are indications that its use in Europe is increasing. This trend is closely related to a surge in the manufacture of high-purity MDMA in Europe. Availability of ecstasy pills with a high content of MDMA has been reported to the EU Drugs Agency by Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany and Netherlands. Increasing ecstasy seizures have also been reported in recent years. In France, seizures increased from 180 kg in 2010 to 409 kg in 2011, and in the Netherlands from 343 kg in 2010 to 583 kg in 2011. In June 2013, Irish Police and Custom Officers reported having made the largest seizure of ecstasy in nine years after seizing 350,000 pills in Dublin. This haul follows other significant seizures of around 100,000 ecstasy pills in May and 40,000 pills in April 2013, both in northern Dublin.

18

United Kingdom: Khat to be controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

LONDON, United Kingdom – 03 July 2013. The United Kingdom has announced a decision to control khat as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, thus placing it in the same category as its active constituents cathine and cathinone. The announcement follows the scientific review that the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) undertook on the medical and social harms of khat consumption. With this decision, the United Kingdom will align itself with most of other European countries, Canada and the United States where khat is controlled. Seizures of khat transiting the UK *en-route* to the Netherlands have increased in size and frequency since the Netherlands banned khat early in 2012. The ACMD report recognized the likelihood that some khat is being re-exported to countries where it is illegal. However, it also acknowledged the lack of sufficient evidence to advise if khat use was a cause or a symptom of social harms.

19

United Kingdom: G8 intensifies efforts to address *new psychoactive substances*

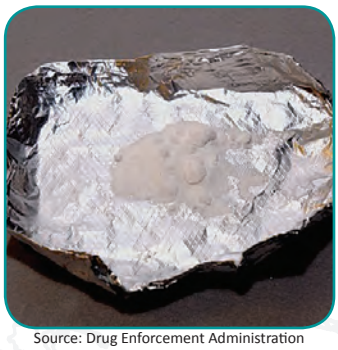
LONDON, United Kingdom – 25 June 2013. Following the G8 Roma-Lyon expert group in London in April 2013, the representatives of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, endorsed a *statement of intent on collection and sharing of data on new psychoactive substances* (NPS), in which they commit themselves to develop comprehensive, coordinated and integrated approaches to the detection, analysis and identification of NPS. Information on prevalence and health risks associated with NPS, and on pharmacological data and related research on NPS, will be collected and shared, as a basis for evidence-based measures. The countries agreed to share this information with one another and through, inter alia, the UNODC/SMART Programme and the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) Portal, using, where appropriate, existing national and regional early warning systems and networks. There is also a commitment to work together, through such programmes as UNODC Global SMART, to provide for an international repository of information on NPS.

20

United Kingdom: Temporary class drug orders for 'benzofury' and NBOMe compounds

Source: United Kingdom Government News

LONDON, United Kingdom – 30 May 2013. Following a recommendation by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), the UK Government announced an upcoming temporary class order to control four 'benzofury' substances (including 5-and-6-APB) and four "NBOMe" compounds (including 25I-NBOMe) of the phenethylamines group. The order was presented to the Parliament and came into effect on 10 June. Those caught making, supplying or importing the drugs will face up to 14 years in prison and an unlimited fine under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. NBOMe substances are described by the ACMD as highly potent hallucinogens with the associated risk of overdose. The Government requested a full assessment of harms of these substances for consideration in relation to permanent control.


Source: Drug Enforcement Administration

Ireland: increased availability of methamphetamine in the country

DUBLIN, Ireland - 19 May 2013. A significant increase in the availability of methamphetamine in Ireland has been reported in the last few months. West African, mainly Nigerian, drug groups are reported to be using seemingly legitimate businesses in Dublin as a front to supply the growing methamphetamine market in the city. In April 2013, an attempt to traffic 660 grams of methamphetamine powder out from the country was foiled at Dublin airport by customs authorities. The drugs were bound to Malaysia but it is not known whether the methamphetamine was manufactured within the country. In 2011, the seizure of 2.5 kg of methamphetamine from an African national at Dublin Airport raised, for the first time, an alarm over the circulation of the drug in the country.*

21

Portugal: EMCCDA – Europe's Drug Problem in 'state of flux'

LISBON, Portugal – 28 May 2013. Amphetamine and ecstasy remain the most commonly used illicit synthetic drugs in Europe, but there are signs of increasing availability and use of methamphetamine, according to the EMCDDA 2013 European Drug Report. The European drug market has become 'more fluid and dynamic', with globalization and information technologies as drivers of change and with the internet creating new connections in drug use and supply. *New psychoactive substances* are emerging in Europe at an unprecedented rate. Since 2008, the number of *new psychoactive substances* reported to the Early Warning System of the European Union has shown an upward trend, with the highest increase between 2011-2012. In 2012, 73 NPS were reported for the first time, showing an increase of 78% compared to 2011 (49 NPS were reported) and an increase of over 200% compared to 2009 (24 NPS reported). Synthetic cannabinoids continue to be the largest group of NPS reported (30), followed by phenethylamines (14).

22

Source: Policia Civil, Brazil

Brazil: mephedrone seized for the first time

VITORIA, Brazil – 06 May 2013. Mephedrone pills have been seized for the first time in the city of Vitoria (southeast Brazil). The drugs were seized in January during a military police operation in Principe Island in Vitoria, and first thought to be ecstasy, but later confirmed by forensic analysis to be mephedrone. According to official reports, mephedrone was first identified in the country in 2011. In the same year, the National Agency of Sanitary Inspection included mephedrone in the list of controlled drugs in the same category as cocaine and ecstasy. Mephedrone has been reported as a substitute for MDMA in tablets sold as ecstasy in a number of countries. The challenge of forensic identification means that the emergence of mephedrone, a *new psychoactive substance*, associated with a number of deaths, may be under-reported.*

23

Argentina: 15 kg of methamphetamine impregnated in clothes seized

Source: Airport Security Police

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – 05 June 2013. More than 15 kg of methamphetamine has been seized by Airport Security Police at the International Airport of Ezeiza (Buenos Aires). A Paraguayan national was detained following detection of an organic substance in his suitcases. Upon further examination, 32 pieces of cloth and a hammock impregnated with methamphetamine were found. Thirteen out of the 32 pieces were impregnated with methamphetamine and cocaine. Another 11 pieces of clothes were found in the hand luggage of the suspect. The extracted methamphetamine weighed 15 kg while the mixture of methamphetamine and cocaine extracted amounted to 6 kg. The suspect is reported to have travelled from Asuncion *en-route* to Barcelona.

24

25

Argentina: ATS clandestine laboratory dismantled and ecstasy pills seized


Source: La Nacion.com

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – 12 April 2013. National Police has dismantled a laboratory for the manufacture of synthetic drugs in Buenos Aires. Ecstasy pills (4,000) with an estimated street value of USD 111,000 were found along with precursor chemicals for the manufacture of another 800,000 pills, and pill pressing machines. The drugs were allegedly transported in a double bottomed loudspeaker and destined to be sold at rave parties. In December 2012, Buenos Aires National Police seized 10,000 ecstasy pills, reported to be for local consumption. This incident resulted in the arrest of at least ten persons from different nationalities. Recent seizures point towards an increase in availability of ecstasy pills in the country, compared with 2011, when approximately 18,000 pills were seized in the country.*

26

Colombia: ketamine and NBOMe sold as 2C-B and LSD respectively, warns the Colombian Drug Observatory

BOGOTA, Colombia – June 2013. Following the recent seizures of over 7000 pills sold as 2C-B (an internationally controlled drug) in Valle del Cauca (west Colombia), with an estimated value of USD 504,000, the Colombian Drug Observatory, who recently set up an early warning system, alerted that these pills did not contain 2C-B but rather ketamine and a small quantity of other unidentified substances. In a separate incident, forensic experts of the Attorney General's Office analyzed samples of substances sold as LSD, following a reported increase in its use and unusual health effects reported by users. The results from samples obtained in three major Colombian cities revealed that these did not contain LSD but rather the synthetic phenethylamines 25B-NBOMe and 25C-NBOMe. Deaths associated with the use of synthetic phenethylamines "NBOMe" have been reported in Australia and the United States (see Global SMART Update Vol.9, seg. 30).

27

Chile: 25I-NBOMe reaches the Southern Cone


Source: Chilean National Police

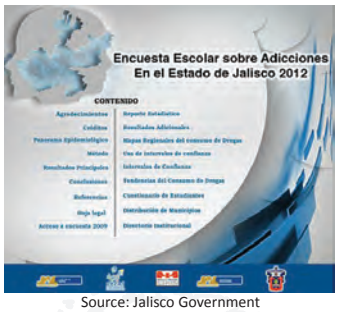
SANTIAGO, Chile – 10 May 2013. The *new psychoactive substance* 25I-NBOMe has reached the Southern Cone, according to the Chilean National Police. The synthetic phenethylamine was discovered after a consignment of 800 stamps believed to contain LSD from Spain was intercepted by National Police. Four detainees who received the drugs in Santiago were freed as the synthetic drug is not yet under national control. The Anti-drug Association of Argentina has also warned about the health risks associated with the use of 25I-NBOMe, also known as "*La Bomba*". Several reports on the toxicity of 25I-NBOMe following its recreational use are available in the scientific literature. In June 2013, a study of seven patients in the United Kingdom revealed that severe clinical toxicity may occur following recreational use of 25I-NBOMe, with stimulant and serotonergic features predominating.

28


Source: Guatemalan National Police

Guatemala: amphetamines laboratory dismantled in San Marcos

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala – 23 March 2013. A laboratory for the illicit manufacture of amphetamines in the village of Las Delicias, Tecun Uman (border city between Guatemala and Mexico) has been dismantled. Following a search order issued by a Court in Guatemala, counter-narcotic agents seized 21 containers with more than 1000 litres of phenylacetic acid (a "pre-precursor" for the amphetamine/methamphetamine precursor phenyl-2-propanone (BMK)), three buckets and a bag full of amphetamine/methamphetamine. In 2012, at least three ATS laboratories were dismantled, one of them reportedly the largest clandestine laboratory ever found in the country (see Global SMART Update Vol. 9, seg. 25). The continued seizure of ATS laboratories in Guatemala points to a shift of ATS manufacturing operations from Mexico to this country.



Source: Jalisco Government

Mexico: ATS use among adolescents in Jalisco increases

GUADALAJARA, Mexico – 15 April 2013. According to the 2012 School Addictions Survey, last-year use of ATS (crystalline methamphetamine, ecstasy) in Jalisco (a State in central western Mexico) stood at 1.7%, a significant increase compared to 2009 (1.3%). Last year prevalence of ATS is reportedly significantly higher among students aged 17 to 19 or over than among students aged 13 to 16. The study is based on a sample of 21,710 secondary school students from Jalisco and was conducted by the State Council Against Addictions. About one-fifth of ATS manufacturing laboratories dismantled in Mexico within the last six years have been found in the State of Jalisco, including the largest laboratory found in 2012 (see Global SMART Update Vol. 7, seg. 28).

29

Canada: ATS and synthetic opiates seized by Montreal Police

Source: Montreal Police Service

MONTREAL, Canada – 13 May 2013. More than 300,000 pills of synthetic substances, including methamphetamine, synthetic cathinones and ecstasy were seized following raids by the Montreal Police in April. Oxycodone, a narcotic drug controlled under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, was seized as well as desmethylfentanyl, a synthetic opiate and a chemically modified derivative of the internationally controlled drug fentanyl. Desmethylfentanyl is reported to be 40 times stronger than heroin and 80 times stronger than morphine. This is the first time that police have come across this substance on Montreal's illicit drug market. During the operation, 1,500 kg of precursor chemicals for the manufacture of synthetic drugs were also seized. Two persons were arrested in connection with the seizure

30

United States: largest-ever synthetic drug operation "Project Synergy" announces results

WASHINGTON, United States – 26 June 2013. The Drug Enforcement Administration and its law enforcement partner agencies have announced the results of the largest-ever operation targeting synthetic drugs. The operation, known as "Project Synergy", resulted in the seizure of 9,945 kg of synthetic drugs, including 299 kg of synthetic cathinones, 1,252 kg of synthetic cannabinoids and 783 kg of plant-based substances. The operation started in December 2012 and was conducted in 35 states, 49 cities and 5 countries (Australia, Barbados, Canada, Panama and the United States). Retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers were targeted and as a result, more than 227 arrests were made and over USD 51 million were seized. The operation unveiled a major flow of drug-related proceeds back to countries in the Middle East.

31

United States: continuous influx of methamphetamine from Mexico

PHOENIX, United States – 06 April 2013. Methamphetamine trafficking across the Mexican-US border is increasing, especially in San Ysidro port of entry (southwest United States). In 2012, San Ysidro accounted for 40% of methamphetamine seizures made at the U.S.-Mexico southwest border, with 2,355 kg seized, more than double the seizures in 2010 (970kg). Between October 2012 and March 2013, 1,064 kg of methamphetamine were reportedly seized in San Ysidro and 605 kg at Otay Mesa, giving San Diego 58% of the 2,895 kg of methamphetamine seized at the U.S.-Mexico border crossings. Most of the remaining amount was seized in Laredo, Texas; Nogales; and Calexico, California. Children are increasingly being used as couriers to traffic methamphetamine strapped to their bodies across the border. Crystalline methamphetamine is increasingly being dissolved in water and transported in liquid form until its distribution point. In 2012, 267 methamphetamine manufacturing facilities were dismantled in Mexico, an increase of 17% with respect to 2011 (227).

32

Global SMART accomplishments for 2013

Since 2008, the Global SMART (Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends) Programme has been working towards improving the capacity of targeted Member States to generate, manage, analyse, report and use information on illicit synthetic drugs. In 2013, the Global SMART Programme accomplished the following:

- Prepared and launched Global SMART Updates Volume 9 and 10 (in English and Spanish);
- Provided substantive input to the 2013 World Drug Report;
- Prepared the national situation assessment on the ATS situation in Indonesia;
- Organized the international expert consultations on *new psychoactive substances* in Vienna;
- Launched the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on *new psychoactive substances* (https://www.unodc.org/NPS);
- Organized a side event on "*new psychoactive substances*: regional approaches and challenges" at the 56th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
- Briefed its stakeholders during the SMART Advisory Group Meeting in Vienna;
- Conducted the second SMART regional workshop on synthetic drugs in Latin America and the fifth SMART annual regional workshop on synthetic drugs in East and South-East Asia;
- Contributed to the 53rd regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD);
- Disseminated information related to the synthetic drug situation at targeted conferences and events, e.g. the G8 Roma-Lyon subgroup Experts Meeting on *new psychoactive substances*, World Customs Organization RILO Regional Seminar for Asia and the Pacific and the EMCDDA and Europol third international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs.

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United Kingdom 

United States 

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If you have comments on this report, or would like to contribute information that should be considered for future reports, please contact the Global SMART Programme at **globalsmart@unodc.org.** Information on the Global SMART Programme can be found via the internet at www.unodc.org and www.apaic.org or by contacting UNODC at the Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.