

Options for public policy to tackle the challenge that the illegal market for drug sales on the internet represents



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DEEP WEB

A submerged world, unknown and to some extent unpunished, only a few clicks away



Internet/Clearnet – Internet known by the general population, no anonymity.

Easy access to information on the sites and information consulted and when.

Darknet – Contents present in deep web whose access is only possible through a specific software, as TOR.

Access via TOR allows for anonymity by hiding or modifying the IP.

The network also allows for the hosting of sites in a hidden way, without being in a specific server.

These characteristics make the network attractive to anyone who wants to sell illegal goods and services in a hidden way.

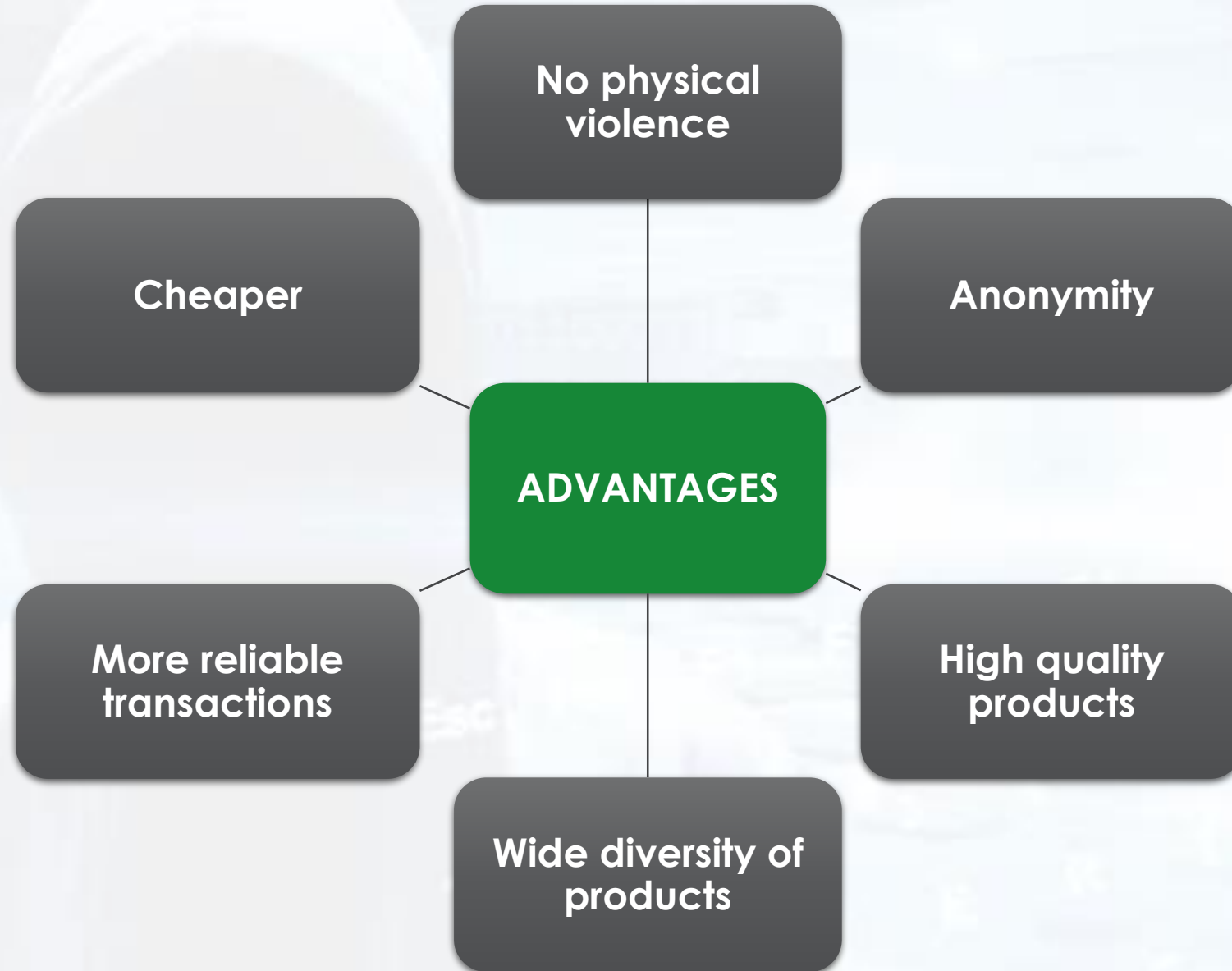


Deep Web – Most part of internet with contents not accessible by regular search engines (Google, Yahoo, etc).

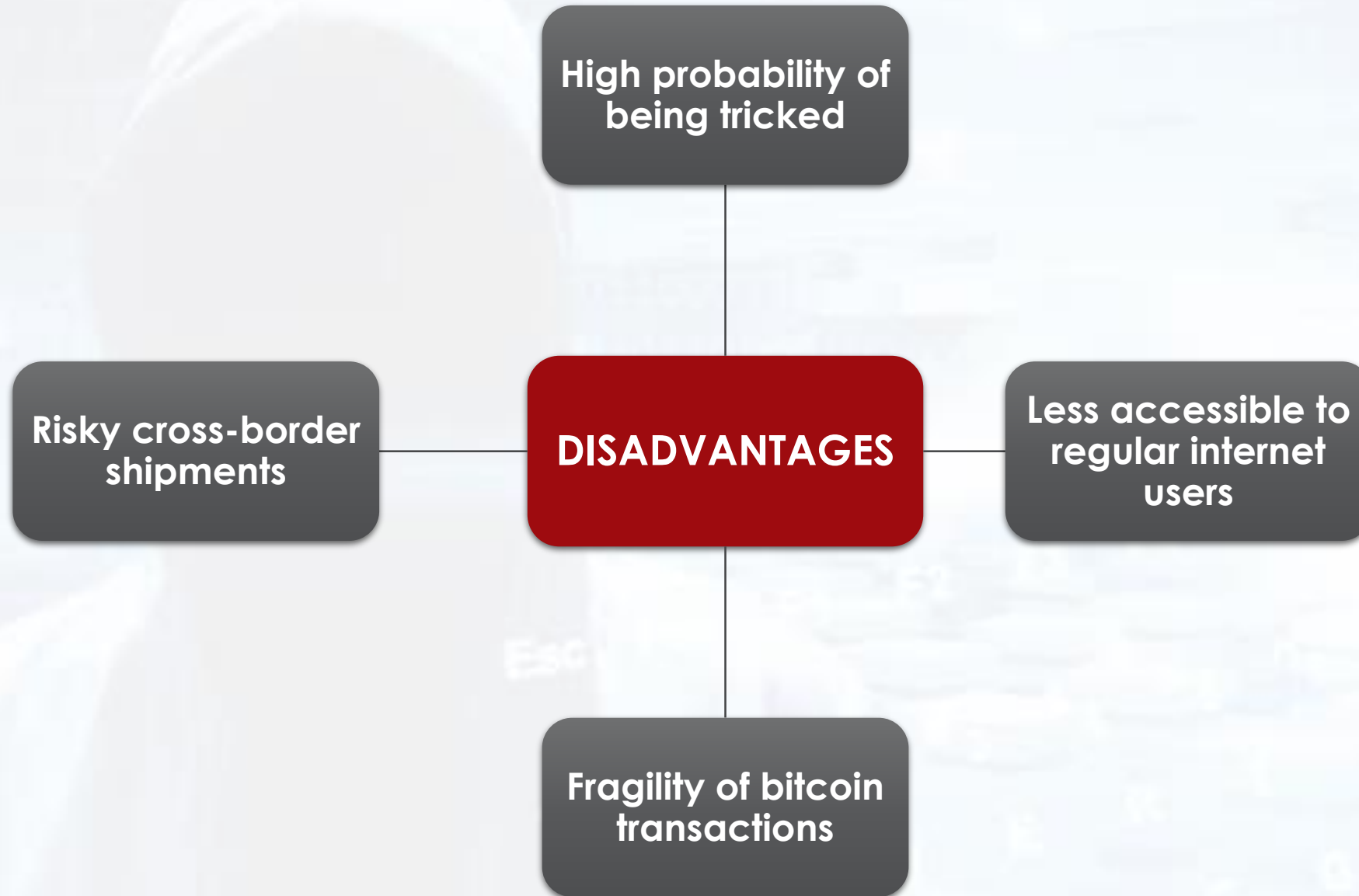
The contents of deep web are not necessary illegal.

Darknet is part of deep web.

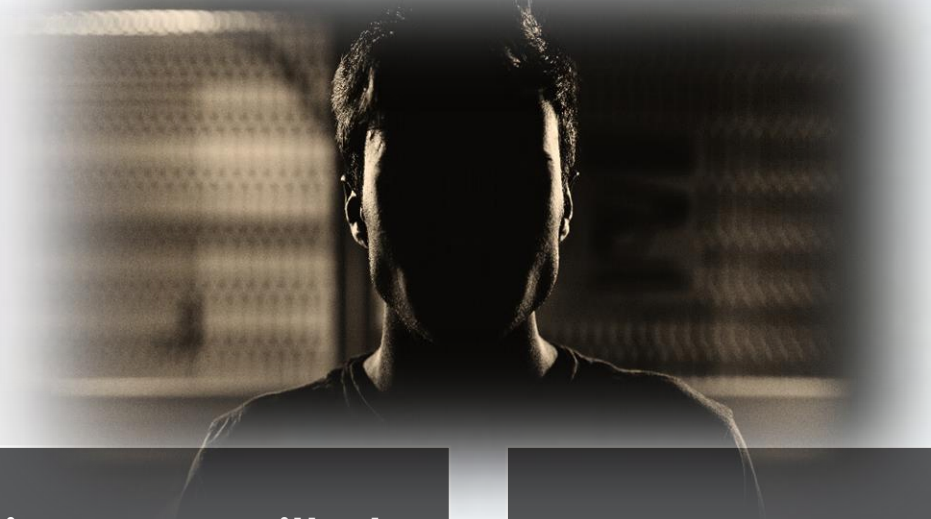
Online markets - ADVANTAGES



Online markets - DISADVANTAGES



Challenges presented by the online drug markets



High adaptability of the markets

Crimes committed remotely, making detection and prosecution more

Challenging and complex

Proxy servers, anonymizing networks, virtual currencies, alternative banking platforms

Difficult interception of communications

Online monitoring, new approach, limited experience

Gaps in intelligence and techniques



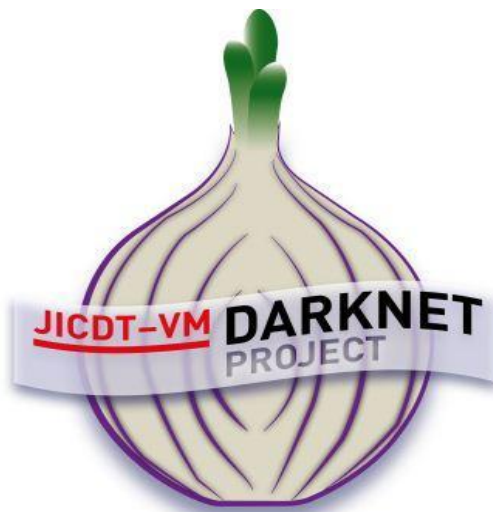
The EU approach towards drug trafficking via Darknet



DarkNet

The image displays a collage of screenshots from several DarkNet marketplaces:

- Silk Road anonymous market:** Shows a sidebar with categories like Drugs (12,072), Cannabis (2,821), Ecstasy (1,290), and a search bar. A product listing for Valium (Aparine) 10mg x 100 is visible with a price of \$1,6865.
- Utopia:** Features a logo with a globe and the text "A BRIGHT STAR IN THE SHADOWS OF THE DARKNET". It shows a "Product Highlights" section with items like "drzheng (0)", "pocketscale (0)", "Pharma Jack (0)", and "xinhal2 (0)".
- BlackMarket Reloaded:** Displays a balance of 0.00000 BTC and a pending amount of 0.00000 BTC. It includes a search bar and a grid of product listings.
- Atlantis - Virtual Black Market:** Shows a grid of product listings such as "Supersun" (1 Gram of High Quality BTH, #4 Heroin... \$143.00 USD), "Very High Grade Commercial 1 OZ (30 G... \$186.05 USD), and "CUSTOM ORDER" listings.
- Sheep:** Features a sidebar with categories like Drugs (344), Services (30), and Data (99). It shows a grid of product listings including "20 Liter - Formaldehyde - CAS # 50-00-0--Free Shipping!!" (83.04 USD) and "Indian charas ice cream 1g" (18.68 USD).



Joint investigation to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market (darknet) within and also into the EU

Criminal investigation on a Darknet vendor in Portugal



14 Bitcoins
Value
€14000,00





Conclusions

Priorities for the future

Priorities

- **The use of joint teams of criminal investigators, computer experts and undercover agents to bring to the real world those who hide in the anonymity of the internet.**
- **Analysis and detailed monitoring of darknet-markets, for a better identification of the targets under investigation, using specific tools for darknet navigation, with connection through the TOR network;**
- **Use of forensic and non-forensic tools in order to identify the bitcoins transactions generated by this type of activity (Bitcoin Chain), in fact using the old concept of "follow the money" research;**
- **Establish contact channels with the postal companies that distribute the illicit substances purchased online to the buyer. This would allow to identify the vendors, who are often the ones to go to the postal services to send the products sold online.**
- **Invest in prevention and raising awareness, using effective Internet interventions;**
- **Regular training for law enforcement forces and magistrates;**
- **Regular information sharing**
- **Prevention / monitoring.**
- **Definition of common terminology to support the development of a common understanding of the monitoring objectives.**

*Opciones de política pública
frente al reto que supone el
mercado ilegal de venta de
drogas por internet*

"Amat Victoria Curam"

Thank you for your attention!

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