



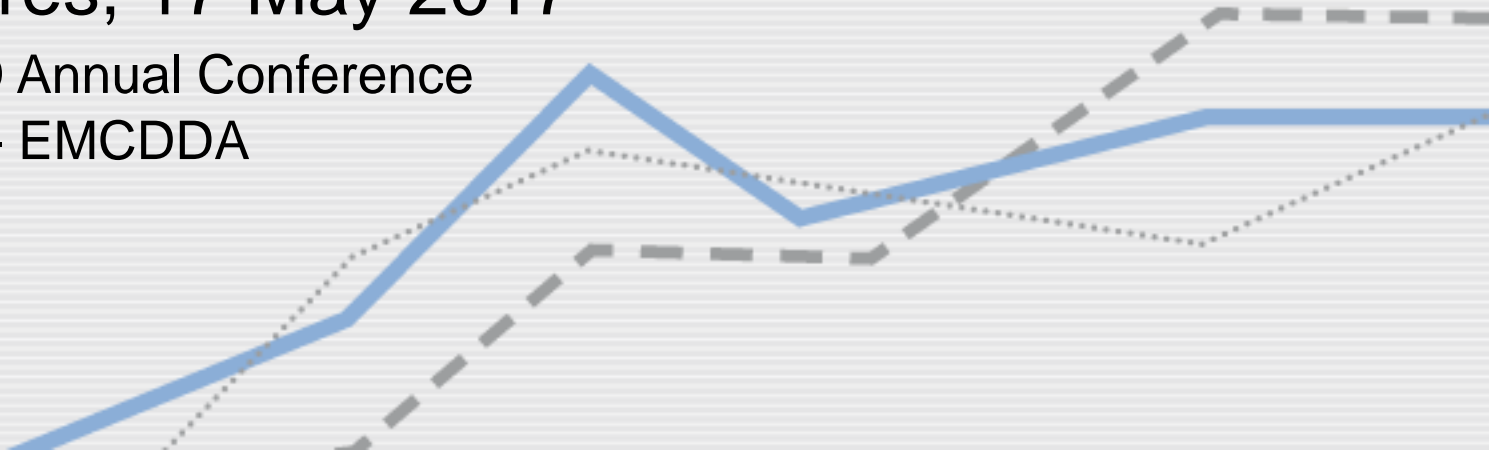
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Synthetic Drugs: strategies and policies – EMCDDA views

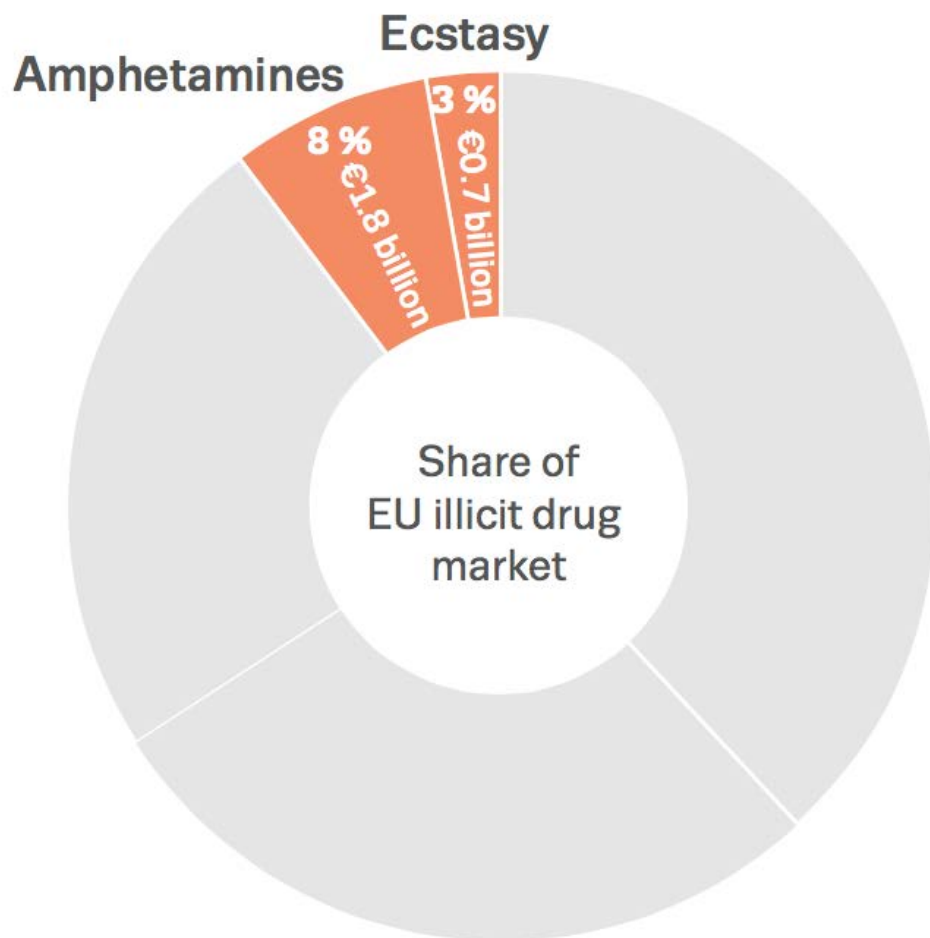
Buenos Aires, 17 May 2017

2nd COPOLAD Annual Conference

Cécile Martel - EMCDDA



Synthetic drugs market share: EUR 2.5 billion

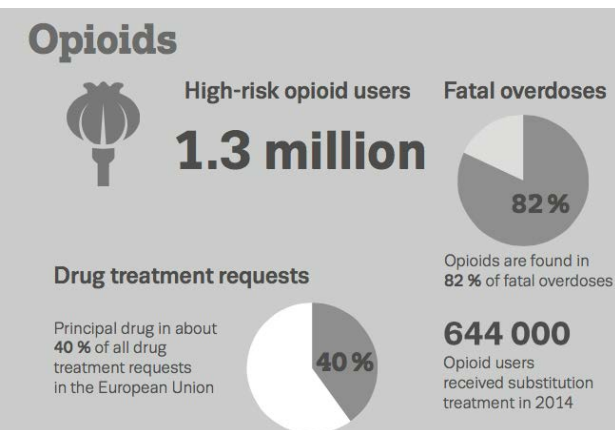
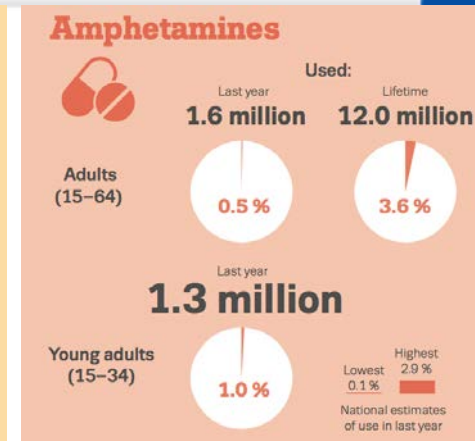
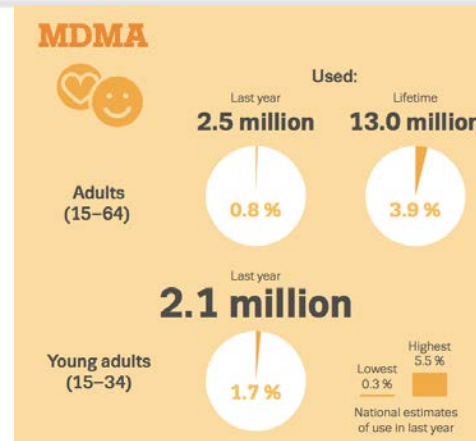
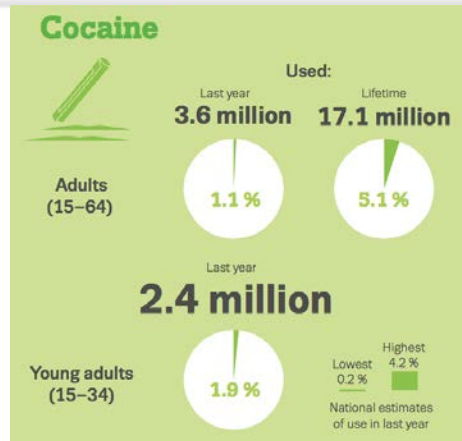
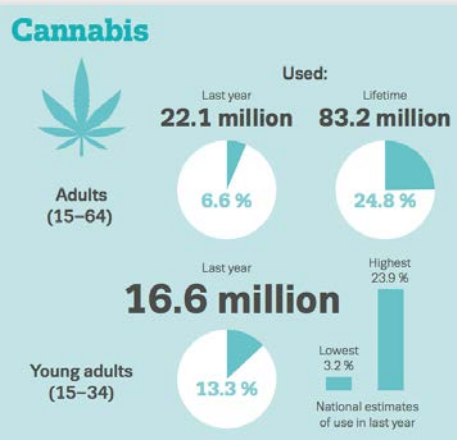


Key figures 2014

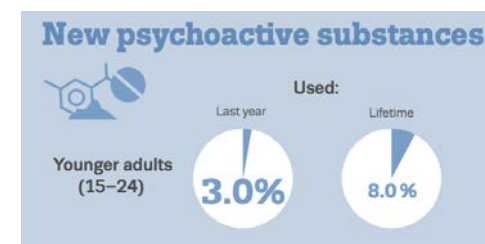
It is estimated that:

- 1.6 million used amphetamines and 2.5 million used ecstasy last year
- 76 tonnes amphetamines and 87 tonnes ecstasy consumed (2013)
- 32 000 entered treatment for amphetamines and 1 200 for ecstasy
- 84 400 amphetamines and 18 000 ecstasy offences
- 21 900 amphetamines and 5 000 ecstasy supply offences

Illicit drug use in Europe



- **Cannabis:** most commonly used
- **Cocaine:** most common stimulant
- **MDMA:** most common synthetic stimulant
- **Heroin and other opioids:** use relatively rare but associated with most harms
- **NPS:** little prevalence data



Outline

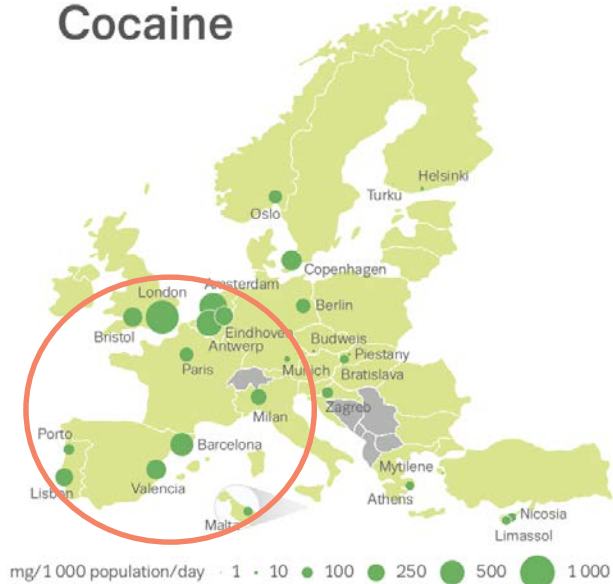


Amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA

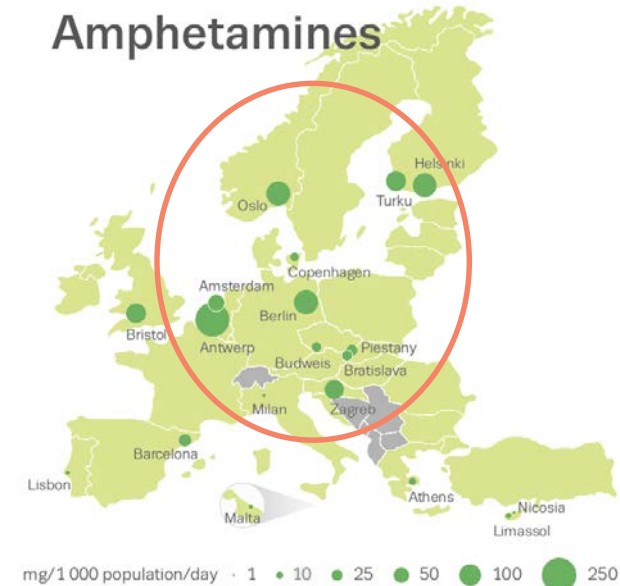


Stimulants use: wastewater analysis highlights geographical spread

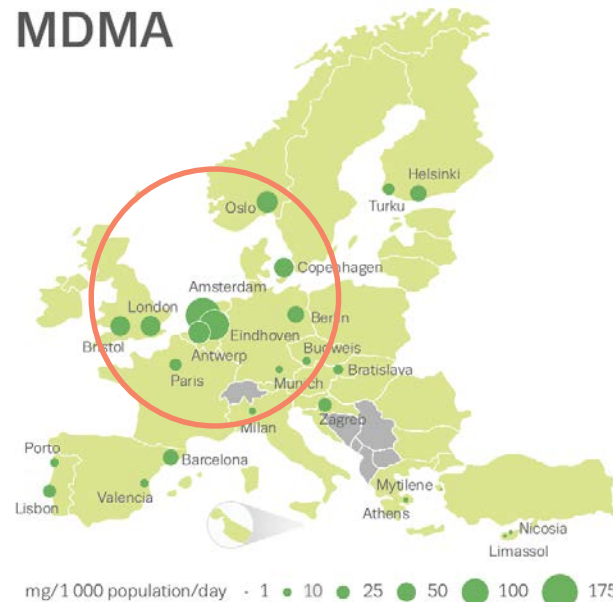
Cocaine



Amphetamines



MDMA



Source: Sewage Analysis Core Group Europe (SCORE).



Stimulants use: different national trends

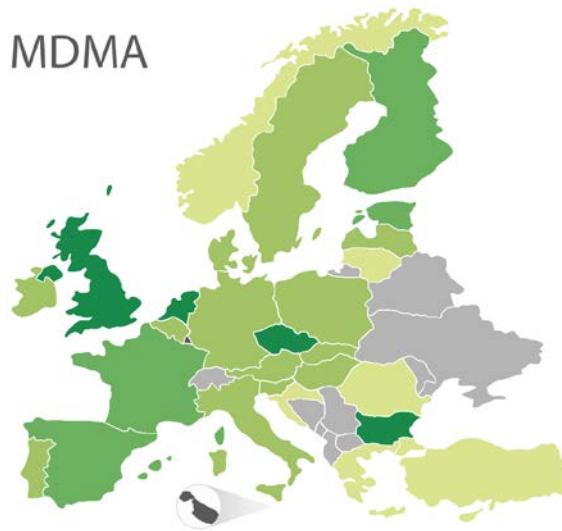
Last year prevalence among young adults: most recent data

Cocaine



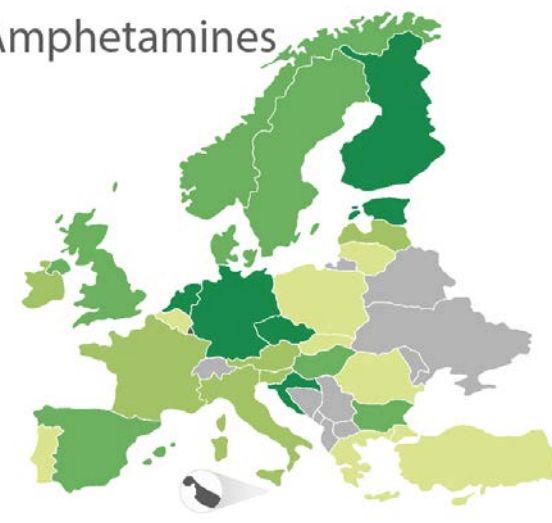
Percent 0.1-1.0 1.1-2.0 2.1-3.0 >3.0 No data

MDMA



Percent 0-0.5 0.6-1.0 1.1-2.5 >2.5 No data

Amphetamines



Percent 0-0.5 0.6-1.0 1.1-1.5 >1.5 No data

Recent trends



6 higher estimates



2 stable



4 lower estimates



9 higher estimates

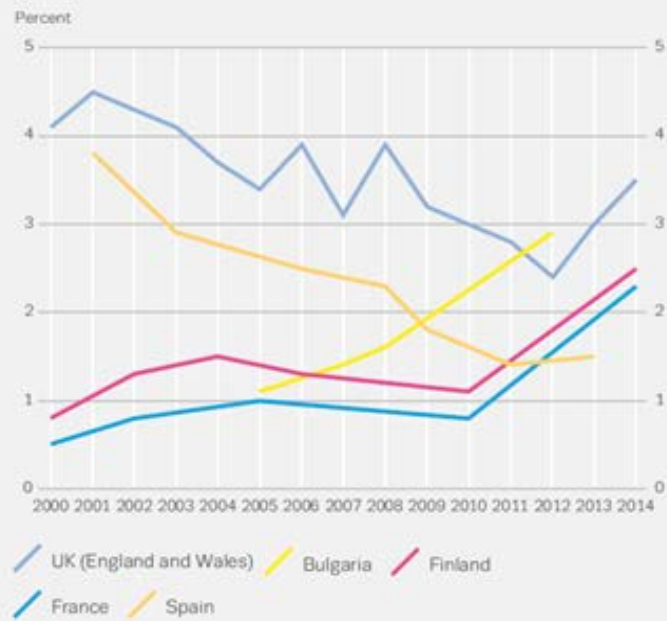
3 lower estimates

7 higher estimates

1 stable

4 lower estimates

Last year prevalence of MDMA use among young adults (15–34): statistically significant trends and most recent data

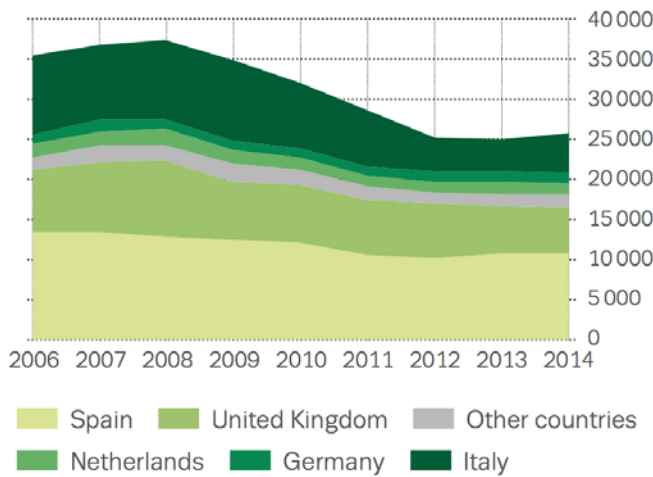


Percent 0-0.5 0.6-1.0 1.1-2.5 >2.5 No data

Problem stimulant use: increase treatment demand for amphetamines

Cocaine

Trends in first-time entrants

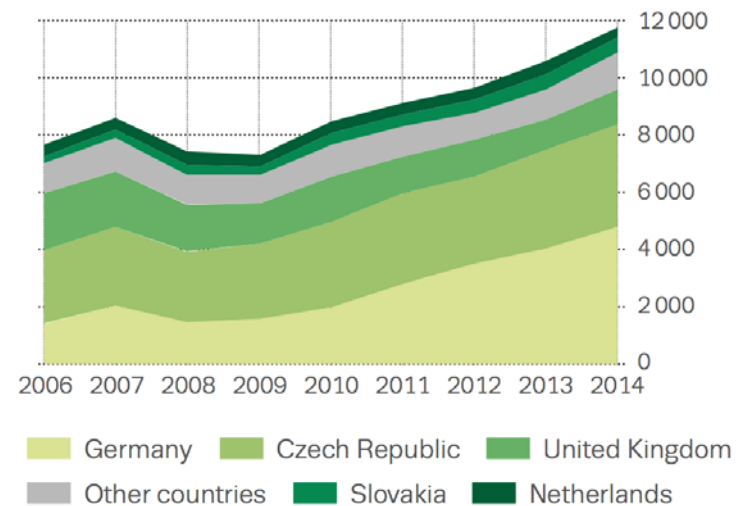


MDMA

- rarely reported
- 1 % of first-time entrants in 2014

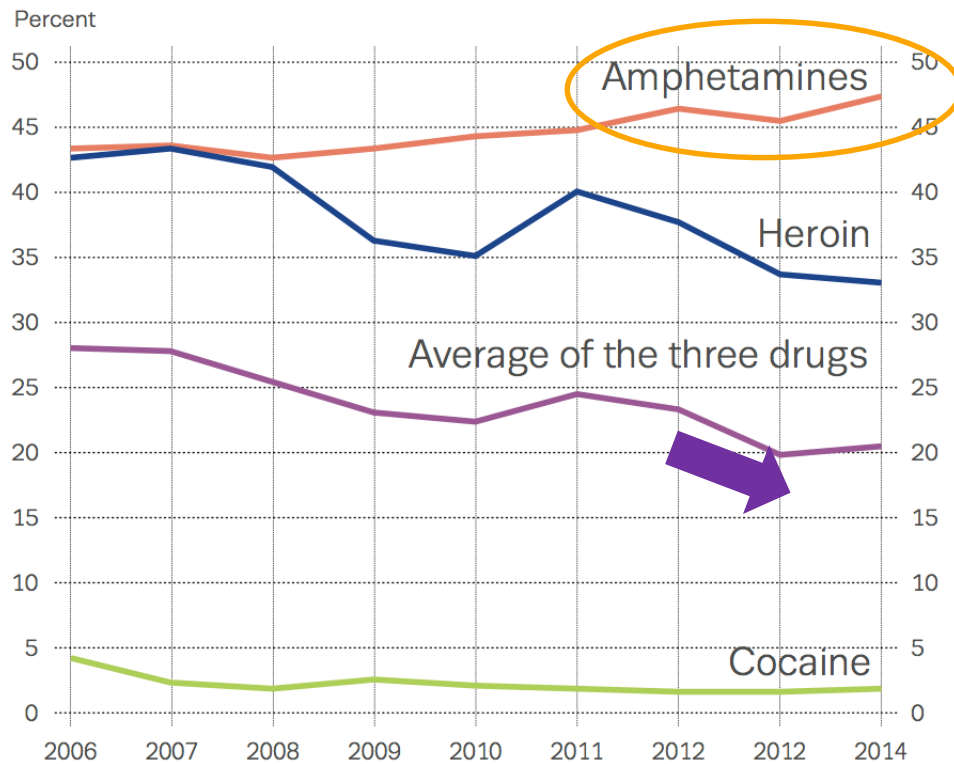
Amphetamines

Trends in first-time entrants



Overall injecting drug use in decline

First-time treatment entrants reporting injecting as the main route of administration of their primary drug

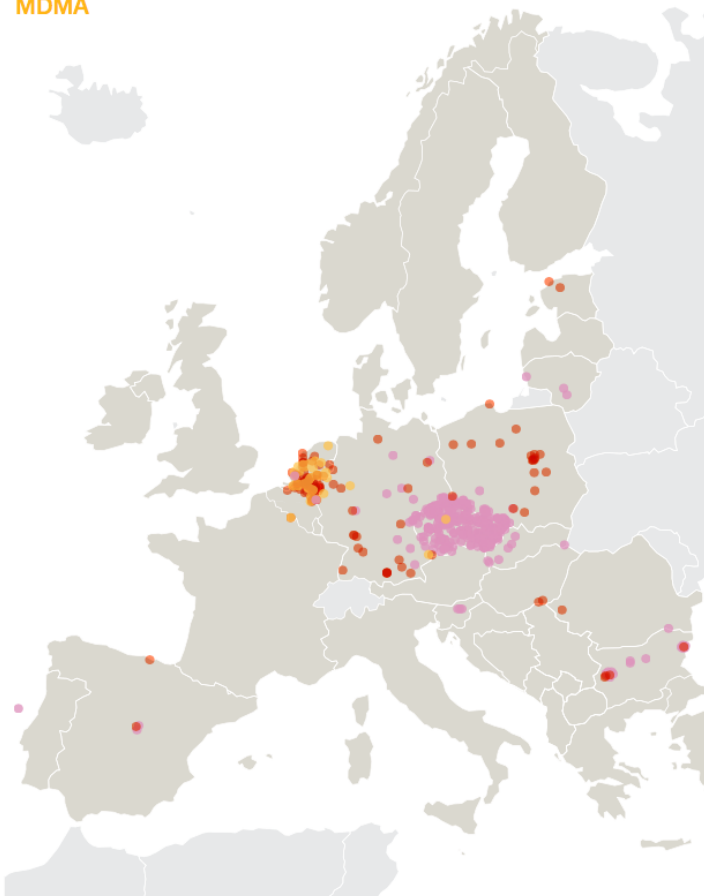


..but small rise in injecting among new amphetamines clients

Where are synthetic drugs produced?

Amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA
production sites in the EU, 2013–15

Amphetamine
Methamphetamine
MDMA



MDMA

- Netherlands and Belgium

Amphetamine

- Large-scale: Netherlands, Belgium
- Mid-scale: Poland, Baltic states, Bulgaria
- Smaller-scale: Germany, Turkey

Methamphetamine

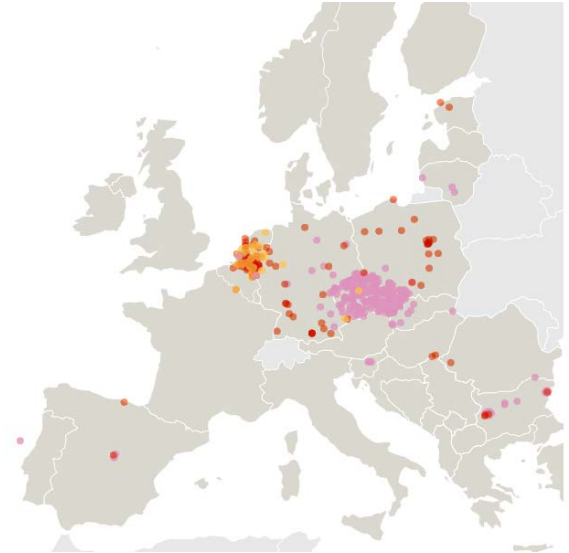
- Czech Republic
- Baltic States
- Bulgaria
- Netherlands (occasionally)

Note: Data reported to Europol by national authorities using the ERISSP tool.

Source: Europol.

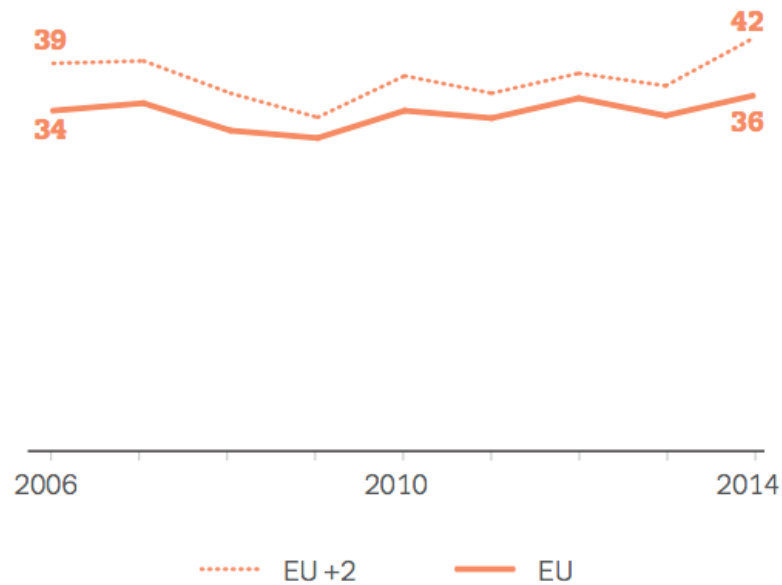
Markets for European synthetic drugs

- European consumer market supplied by European production
- Europe: a global MDMA producer and exporter
- Some amphetamine and methamphetamine also exported to Mid-East, Far East and Australia
- Europe is also a transit area for methamphetamine from Iran and West Africa (also Mexico) to Asia

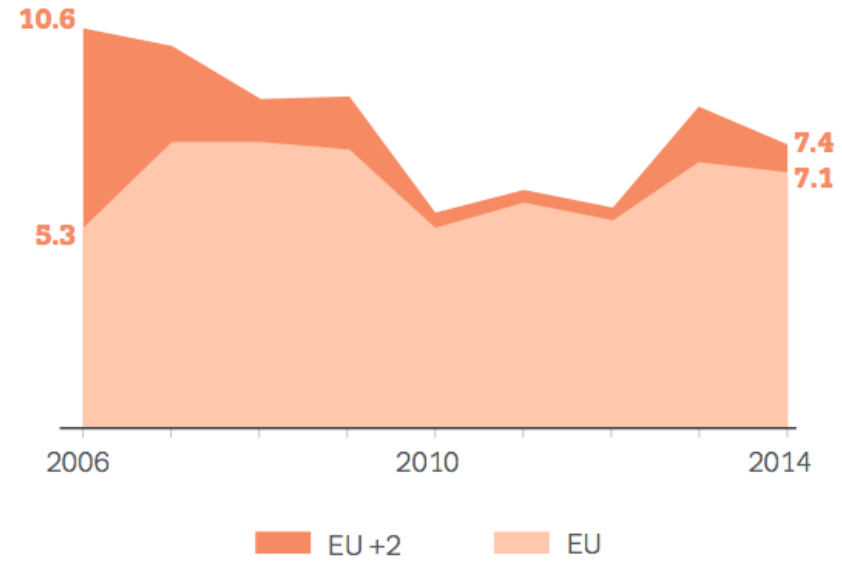


Amphetamine: seizures

Amphetamine: Number of seizures (thousands)



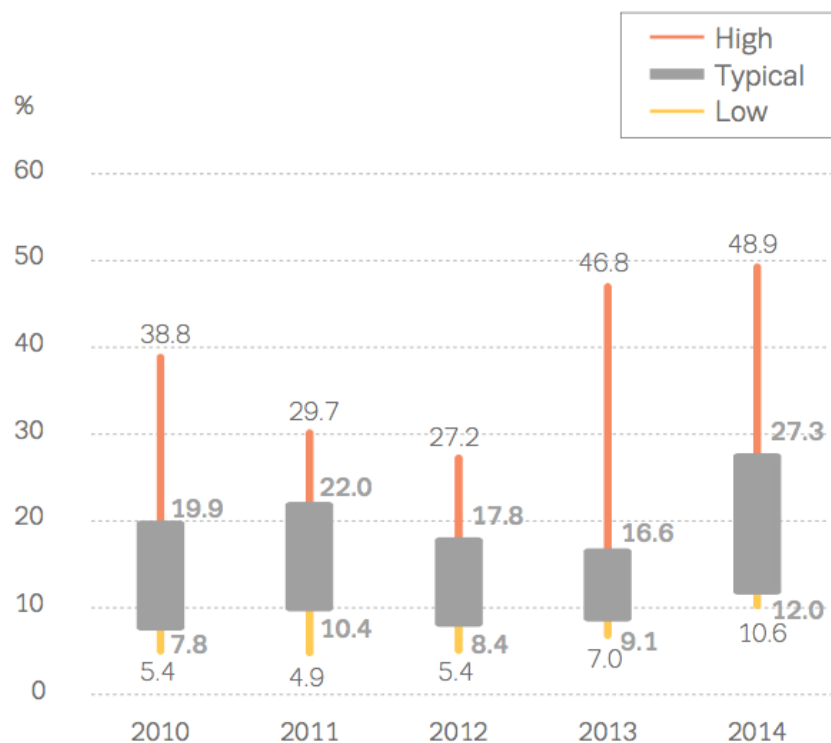
Amphetamine: Quantities seized (tonnes)



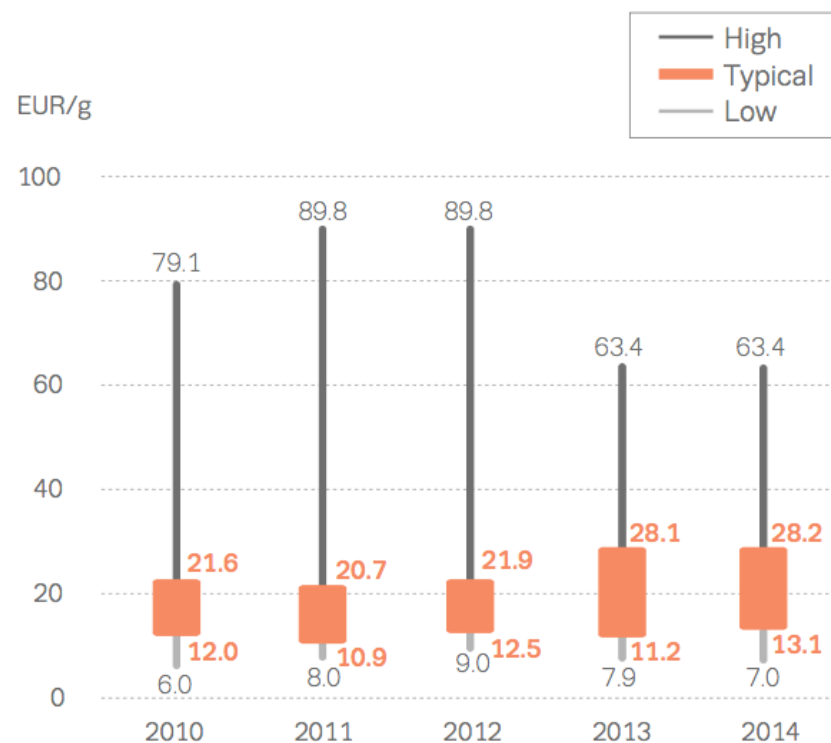
Amphetamine: purity and retail price

Trends in amphetamine purity and retail price in the EU, 2010–14

Amphetamine purity



Amphetamine price



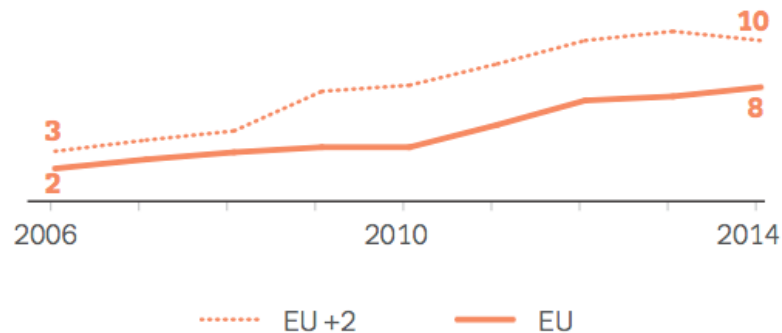
Note: Trends are based only on data from those EU countries that have submitted data consistently since 2010. Trends are not available for methamphetamine. Typical values shown are the interquartile range (IQR) of the country average values, with high and low values showing the range.

Source: EMCDDA/Reitox national focal points.

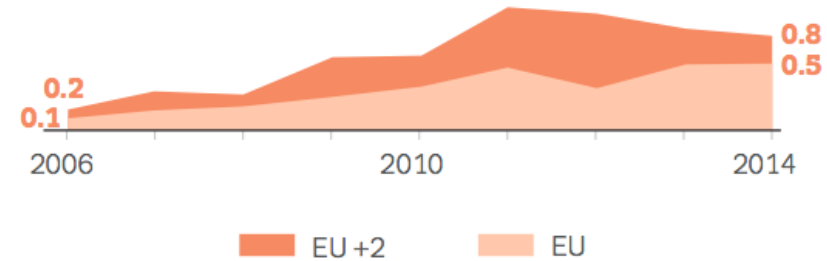


Methamphetamine: seizures

Methamphetamine: Number of seizures (thousands)

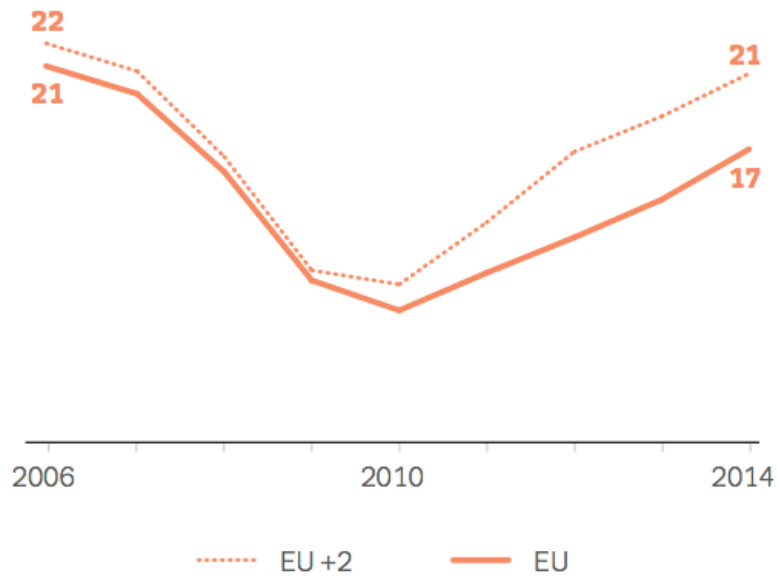


Methamphetamine: Quantities seized (tonnes)

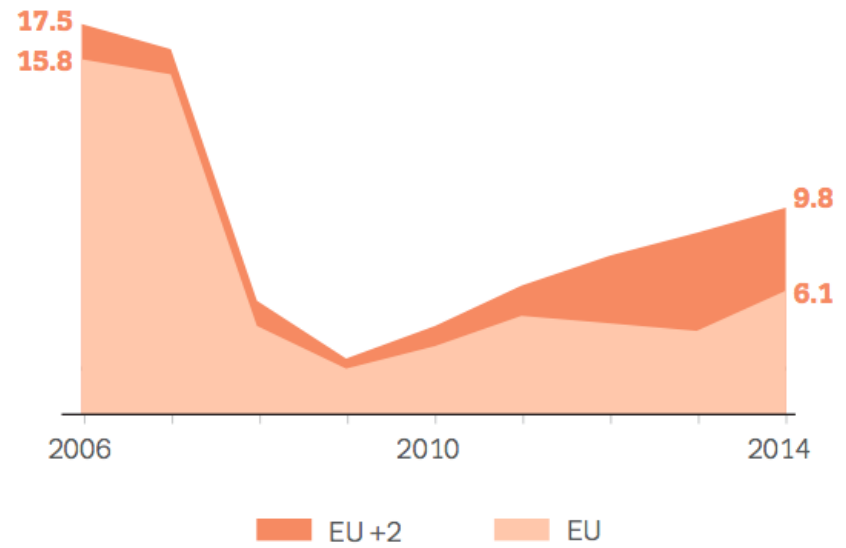


MDMA: seizures

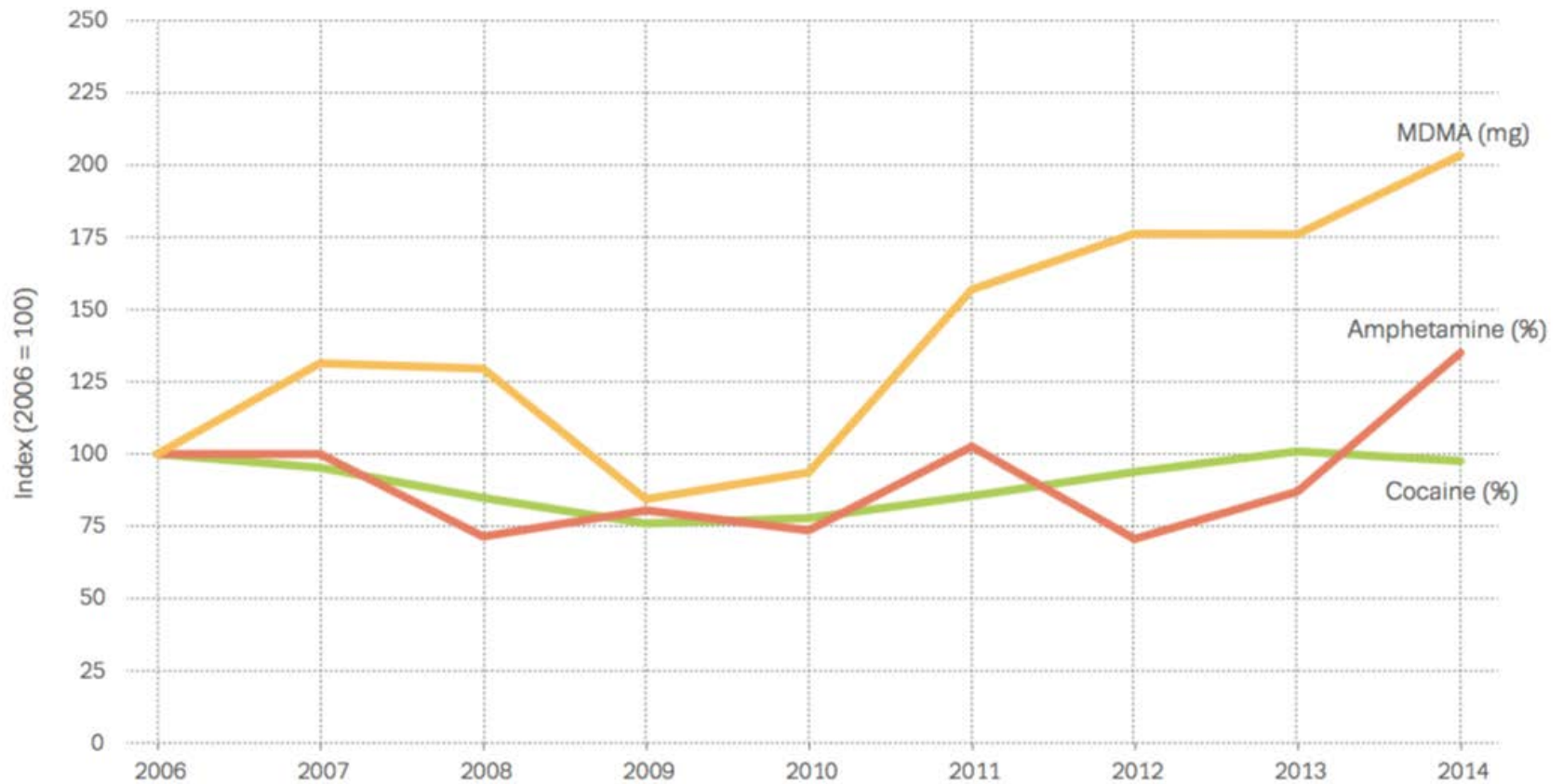
MDMA: Number of seizures (thousands)



MDMA: Quantities seized (million tablets)



Stimulants purity: increase in high-dose MDMA



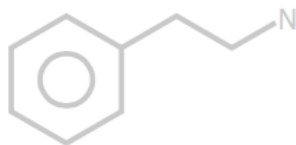
Key issues

- Complex, overlapping market
- High-dose ecstasy and more methamphetamine
- Production hotspots
- Innovation in production and marketing
- Environmental impact
- EU: export and transit zone

Synthetic drugs with phenethylamine at their core

Synthetic drugs with phenethylamine at their core

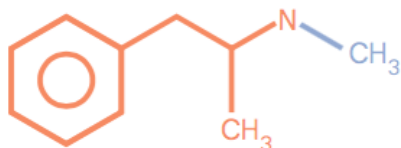
Phenethylamine scaffold



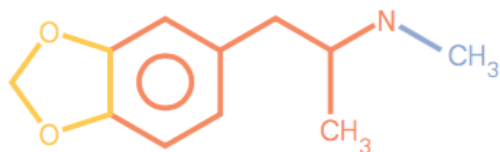
Amphetamine



Methamphetamine



Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA)



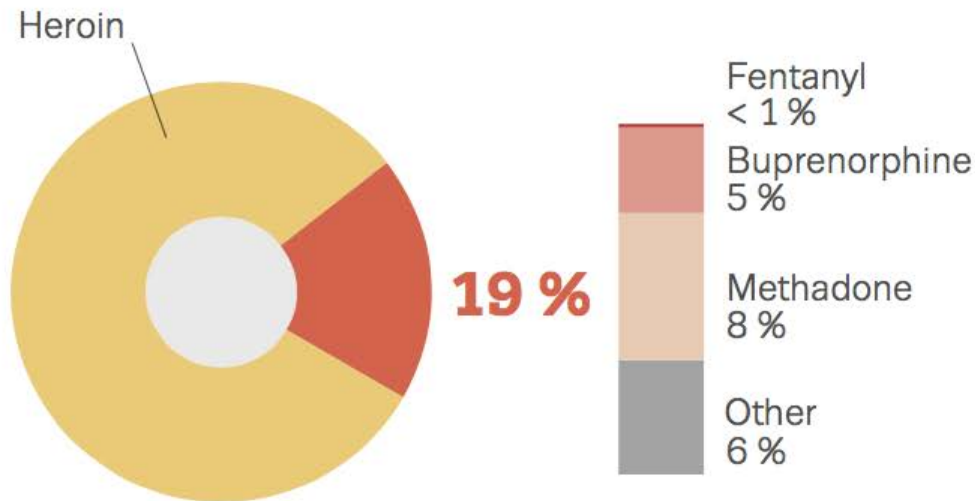
Note: The phenethylamine scaffold comprises a six-carbon ring separated from a nitrogen atom (N) by a further two carbon atoms. 'O' represents oxygen and 'CH₃' represents a carbon bonded to three hydrogen atoms (a methyl group).

Source: EMCDDA.

- Amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA ('ecstasy') are the most popular synthetic drugs in a crowded stimulant market in Europe
- Competing with cocaine and a range of new psychoactive substances (NPS)

Synthetic opioids: an increasing concern

Treatment entrants citing opioids as primary drug: by type of opioid (left) and percentage reporting opioids other than heroin (right)



18 countries report >10 % opioids other than heroin



Synthetic fentanyls - developments since 2015

- 25 synthetic opioids under monitoring, of whom 18 – synthetic fentanyls
- 8 new reported in 2016
- 5 health alerts on synthetic fentanyls in 2016
- Joint report on the acetylfenanyl in 2015 (under UN assessment)
- Risk assessment for two (at the moment):

Acrolylfentanyl (47 deaths associated with acryloylfentanyl in 3 EU Member States, 20 acute intoxications, proposed by the EC to control)

Furanylfentanil (associated with almost 20 deaths during 2016)



Drug supply reduction policies and responses



EU drugs strategy 2013–20

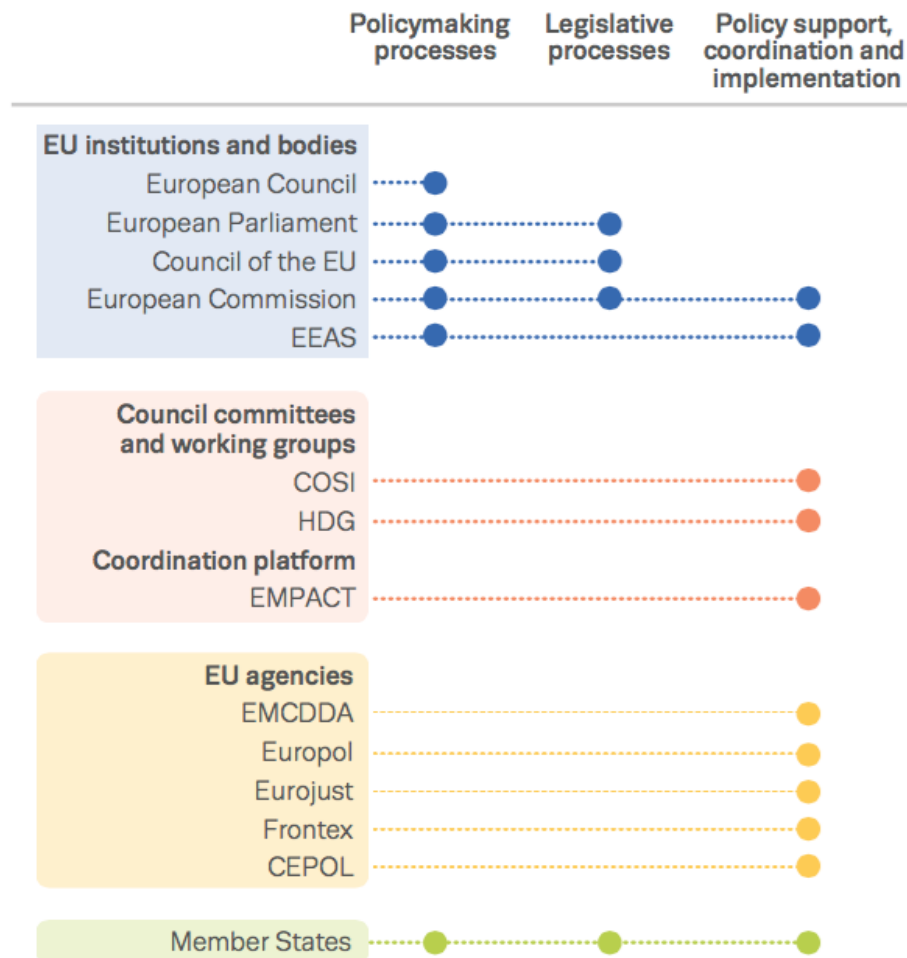


Overarching objectives

- Disruption of illicit drug trafficking
- Dismantling of organised crime groups that are involved in drug production and trafficking
- Efficient use of the criminal justice system
- Effective intelligence-led law enforcement and increased intelligence sharing
- An EU-level emphasis on large-scale, cross-border and organised drug-related crime

Main EU structures addressing drug supply

Main EU structures addressing drug supply reduction issues

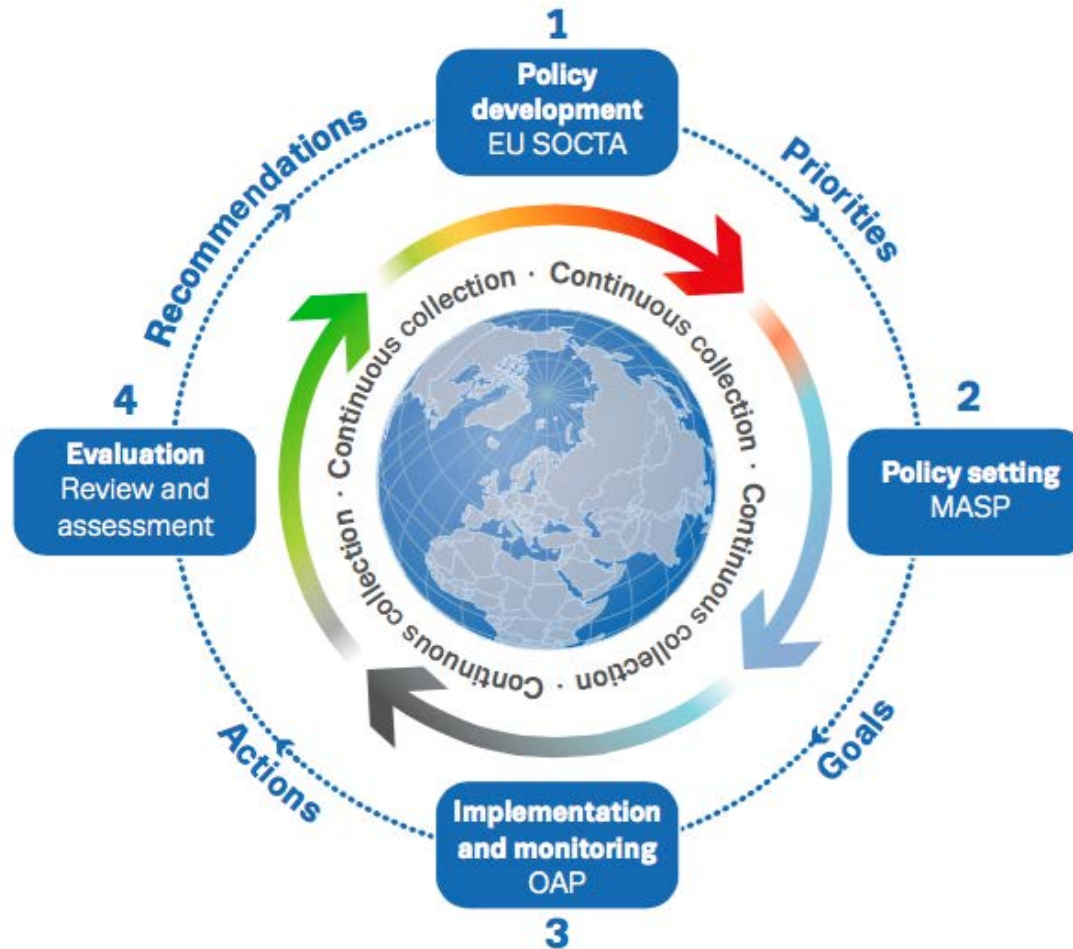


Source: EMCDDA.



Policy cycle on organised and serious crime

The policy cycle on organised and serious crime



Source: Europol.



Operational actions and initiatives

- Directly targeting drug markets and trafficking, e.g. EMPACT, MAOC-N, Cocaine and Heroin route programmes
- Targeting the facilitators of production and supply, e.g. precursor control, action against money laundering (FATF, CARIN), anti-corruption measures
- Tackling the conditions that drive drug market involvement, e.g. sustainable development initiatives, addressing trafficking in human beings, gang involvement prevention programmes



Directions for action — synthetic drugs

Targeting key locations and modus operandi

Improving health and policing responses to market for stimulants

Applying forensic science

Building capacity to respond to production and environmental harms in the EU




European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

emcdda.europa.eu

| emcdda.europa.eu

 twitter.com/emcdda

 facebook.com/emcdda

 youtube.com/emcddatube

 flickr.com/photos/emcdda