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EUROPEAN UNION

# SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME THREAT ASSESSMENT

Crime in the age of technology

2017

# ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS



**5,000**  
international groups  
currently under  
investigation



**>180**  
nationalities  
involved

## STRUCTURE



## COMPOSITION

**76%**  
six or more  
members



**24%**  
up to five  
members



**60%** of the suspects involved in serious and organised crime in the EU are EU nationals.

## INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION AND MOBILITY

**7 out of 10**

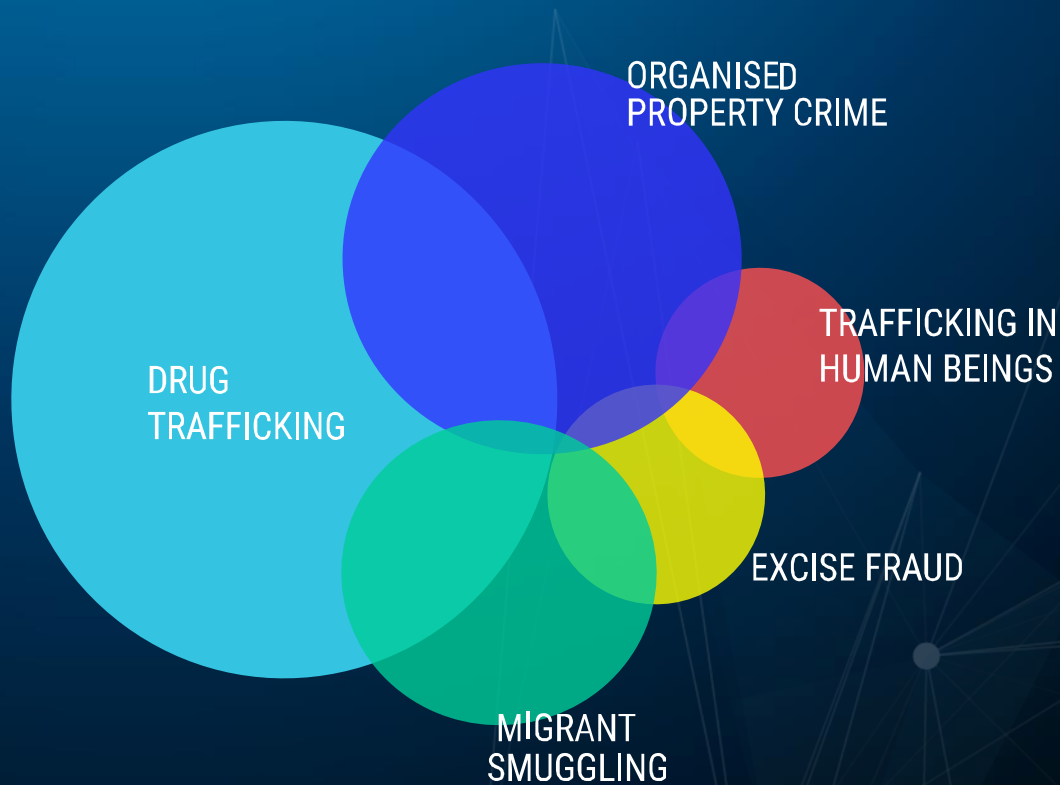
OCGs are typically active in  
more than three countries



# ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS

## ▲ Poly-criminality

**45%** of the OCGs reported for the SOCTA 2017 are involved in more than one criminal activity



# ONLINE TRADE IN ILLICIT GOODS AND SERVICES



**85%** of internet users feel the risk to become a victim of cybercrime

**SURFACE WEB**

**DARKNET**

**HIDDEN MARKETS**

Stolen goods

Counterfeit medicines

Illicit drugs

Child Sexual Exploitation Material

Malware and cybercriminal services

Trafficking of firearms



**CRIME-AS-A-SERVICE (CaaS)**

 = increasing

# DRUG TRAFFICKING

## THE LARGEST CRIMINAL MARKET IN THE EU



Drug market generates  
**~24 EUR** billion/year  
in profits



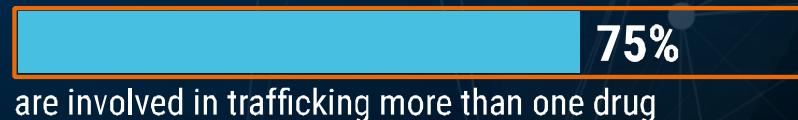
**>35%**  
of the criminal groups active in  
the EU are involved in the drug  
market



**419**  
previously undetected New  
Psychoactive Substances reported in  
the EU for the first time over the past  
five years.



OCGs linked to drugs



# DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING and DISTRIBUTION

▲ **SYNTHETIC DRUGS**



▲ **TOXIC WASTE**



▲ **CUTTING - EDGE  
TECHNOLOGY**



▲ **LYBIA**



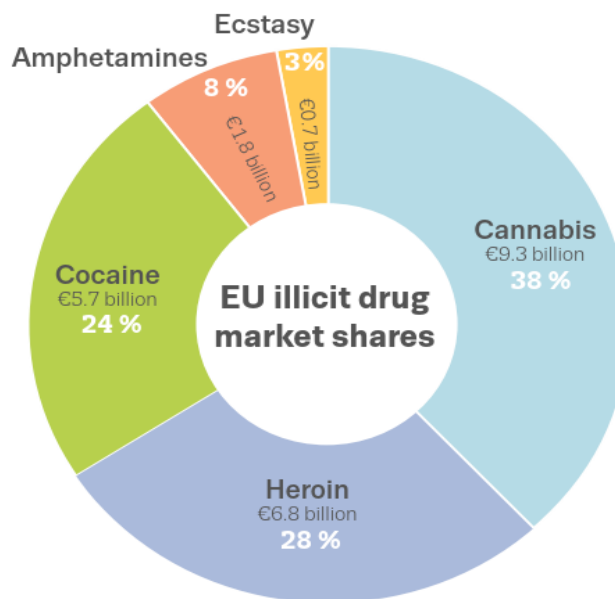
▲ **ONLINE TRADE**



▲ = increasing

	TRANSCRIME report (data range from 2004 to 2012) EUR billion	EU Drug market report (statistical data 2014>)  EUR billion
Cannabis resin/herb	6.7 - 9.8	8.4 – 13
Heroin	6.4 – 10.7	6 – 7.8
Cocaine	5 – 7.5	4.5 – 7
ATS	1.1 – 5	1.8 – 3.2
NPS	No data	No data

Estimated retail value of the illicit market for the main drugs in the EU





## CANNABIS HERB

Production, trafficking and distribution

- ▲ The **indoor cultivation** of herbal cannabis in the EU is expected to further expand over the coming years with new growing techniques and increasingly sophisticated growing technologies being used by OCGs.



## CANNABIS RESIN

Cannabis resin continues to be trafficked in large quantities from Morocco to the EU.

- ▲ **Libya** is emerging as a new distribution hub for cannabis resin trafficked to the EU across the Mediterranean Sea.







# Operation – Rose of the Winds





## COCAINE

Production, trafficking and distribution



PROFITS

**5.7**

BILLION EUR / YEAR

Significant increase in production in **Colombia** may result in intensified trafficking activity to the EU.

PERU

Main producers

COLOMBIA

BOLIVIA

Main entry points in the EU

NETHERLANDS  
BELGIUM

SPAIN

## Means of transportation

### Trafficking to EU



COURIER



PLEASURE BOAT



CONTAINER

### Trafficking within EU



PARCEL



CONTAINER



LORRY



SMALL AIRCRAFT



- Large drug maritime trafficking organisation operating between South America and Spain.
- **Spanish** and **Ecuadorian** authorities have conducted an operation resulting in the seizure of **5.5 tonnes** of cocaine on board a cargo vessel.
- Supported by the **UK's** National Crime Agency (NCA) and **Europol** - one of the largest seizures of cocaine to date.
- 20 crew members of different nationalities (Colombian, Peruvian, Panamanian, Venezuelan, Cuban, Honduran and Spanish) were arrested.
- Four criminal members have also been arrested in Spain.
- Investigation that is still ongoing.
- **Cocaine retail price EU – 60-70 EUR/gram**

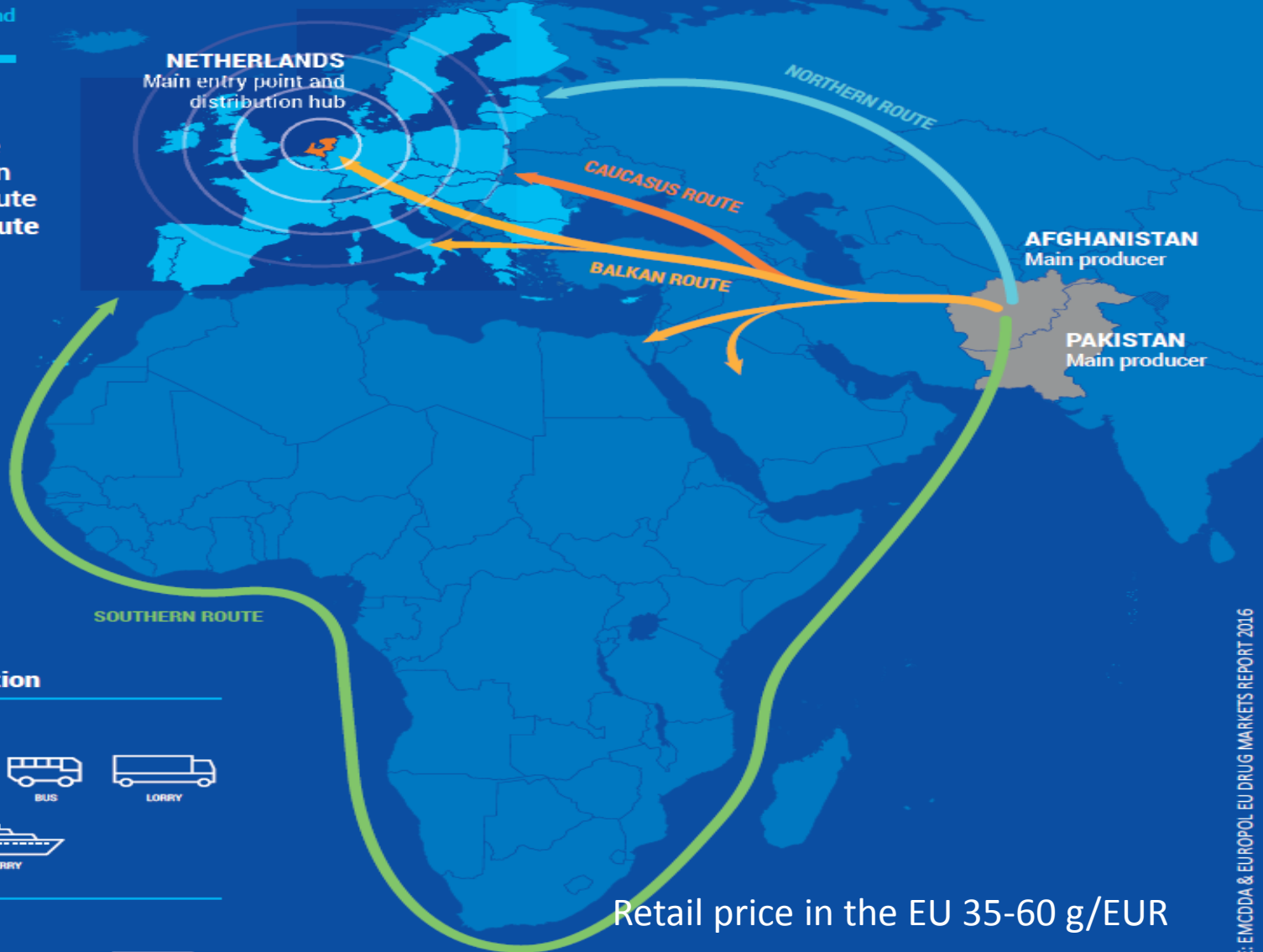




## HEROIN

Production, trafficking and distribution

Partial shift for the trafficking of heroin from the Balkan route to the Caucasus route



## Means of transportation

### Trafficking to EU



### Trafficking within EU



## Main producers

## Export / Main destinations

- Methamphetamine
- Amphetamine
- MDMA



## Means of transportation

### Trafficking to EU



### Trafficking within EU





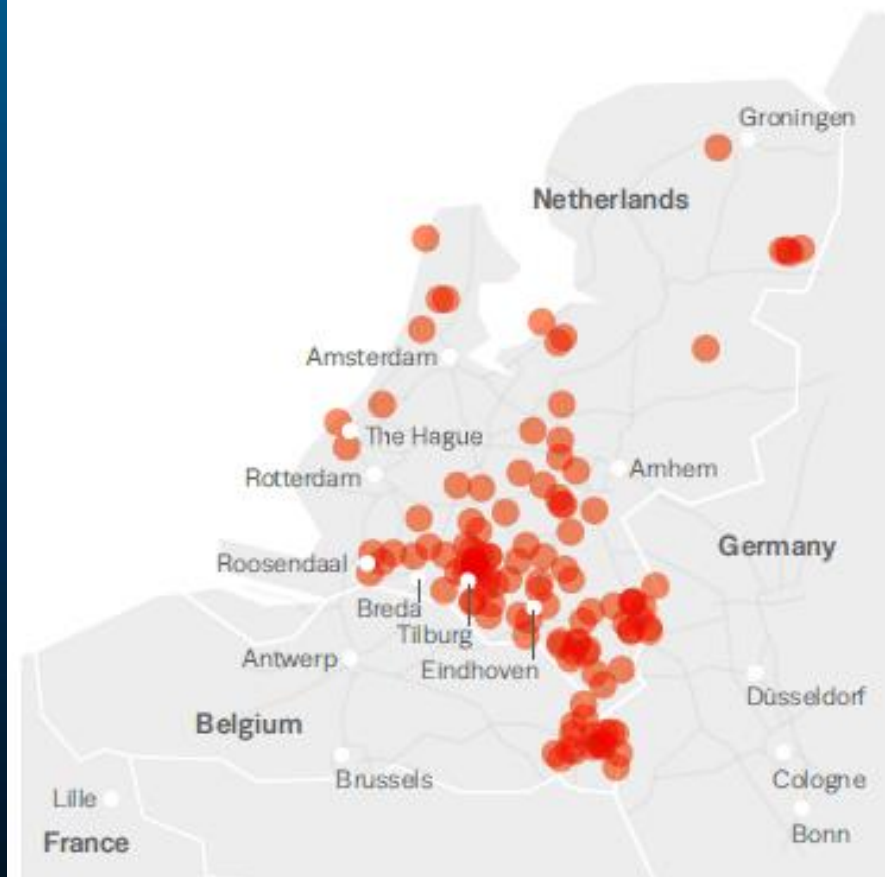






- 1 kg of MDMA via reductive amination results in 6-10 kg waste
- 1 kg of amphetamine by Leuckart synthesis produces 20-30 kgs waste
- Rough calculation: 6.7 tonnes of amphetamine seized in the EU in 2013 generated between 134 and 201 tonnes of toxic waste

Dump sites of waste from synthetic drugs production in the Netherlands and Belgium, 2013-14





- The average dumping quantity is 800 kg. (figures of NL : 2013 → 787 litre)
- Costs varies from 12.500 – 20.000 €/dumping
- 2013 : 1.900.00 – 3.000.00 €/year
- 2014 : 3.750.000 – 6.000.000 €/year
- 2015/2016 : ???



- **Market for illicit drugs – significant rise of NPS**
  - Major boost since 2010
  - Demand for and seizures of NPS
  - Online sale, distribution using postal services
  - Increasing evidence of the involvement of OCGs in NPS
  - Substantial profits from the NPS trade
- **Criminals aim to remain ahead of the law inventing ‘new NPS’**
  - Legislative gaps

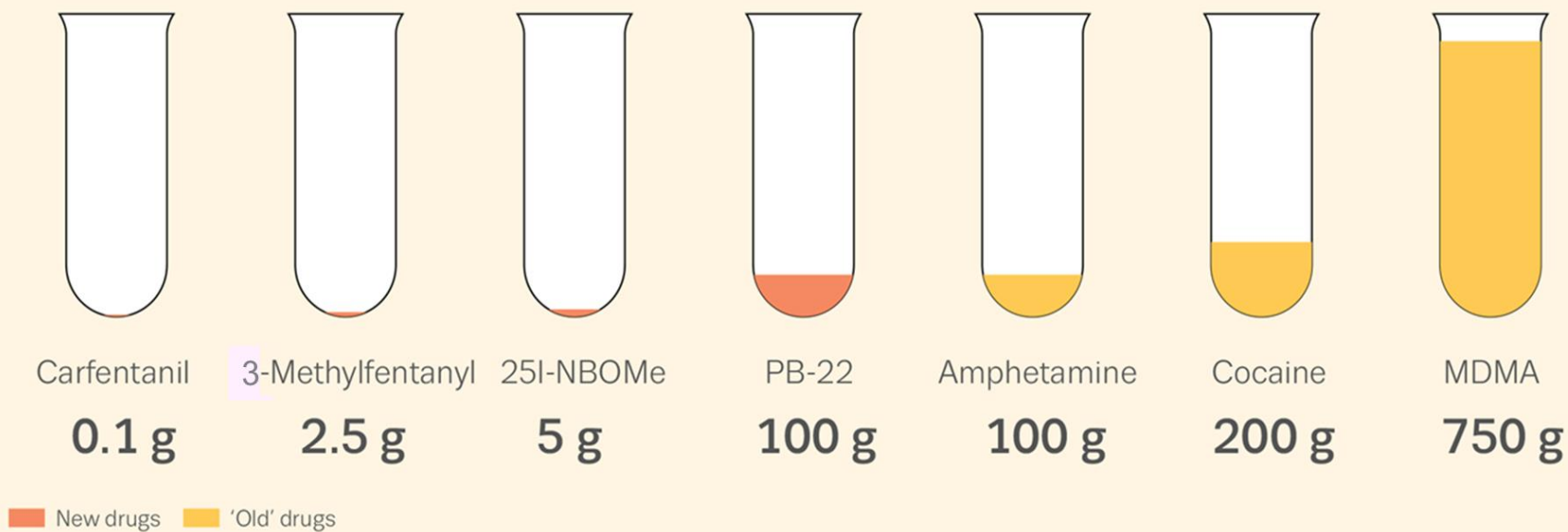




# High potency products – reflection on seizures

**New synthetic opioids and hallucinogens**  
**Very small amount can produce many 'doses'**

HOW MUCH PURE DRUG IS NEEDED TO MAKE 10 000 DOSES?



## Case in Belgium



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## Case in Belgium



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## Tableting in Slovakia

~ 16 kg  
(tablets and powder):

MPA  
3-MMC  
3,4-DMMC  
AMT  
PVP  
MPA  
4-MEC  
6-APB  
3,4-MMC  
PMMC



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## Tableting in Hungary 1

- 1 tableting machine
- Powders and tablets 4-MEC, 3-DMMC, MDMA and pentedrone
- 20 kg of cutting agent microcrystalline cellulose
- 2 suspects arrested



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## Tableting in Hungary 2

- 3 tableting machines
- 60 kg of cutting agent (cellulose)
- Different powders and tablets
- 2 suspects arrested



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## Tableting in Hungary 3

- Seizure of 66,000 tablets
  - Mainly pentedrone and alpha-PVP
- Large amount of cutting agents
- 2 tableting machines
- 3 suspects arrested



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# The EU's priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime between 2018 and 2021

- ✓ To (1) disrupt the activities of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved in the **wholesale trafficking of cannabis, cocaine and heroin to the EU**,
- ✓ To (2) tackle the criminal networks involved in the **trafficking and distribution of multiple types of drugs on EU markets**,
- ✓ To (3) reduce the **production of synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the EU** and to dismantle OCGs involved in their production, trafficking and distribution.
- ✓ To (8) disrupt OCGs involved in environmental crime, more particularly wildlife and **illicit waste trafficking**.



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