

# NPS

## New Psychoactive Substances in Europe



The focus of this project is on 'new drug trends' which includes the emergent availability and use of substances new to a community, country or culture, independent of their legal status

The focus of this project is on people who experience problems related to their drug consumption or are vulnerable to such problems

## NPS in Europe

### **New Psychoactive Substances among People Who Use Drugs Heavily -Towards Effective and Comprehensive Health Responses in Europe**

**Developing innovative methodologies to identify and monitor new trends and patterns in the consumption and adverse consequences of – in particular - new psychoactive substances, and the development of targeted approaches in prevention, harm reduction and treatment.**

Reports from harm reduction services across the EU, the EU Early Warning System, EMCDDA data and different surveys suggest that use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) is no longer limited to "drug experimenters" or recreational drug users, but moving into populations of problem drug users as well.

Public health, treatment and harm reduction services across Europe are unprepared for the rapidly expanding use of NPS and lack capacity and tools for addressing the rising use of these substances among marginalized, often young, drug consumers, nor for addressing the risks and potential harms associated with these substances.

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### Activities

#### Inventory

- assess the extent, nature and consumers' perspectives on benefits and harms of NPS use in populations of PDUs in the European Union
- develop evidence-based recommendations for targeted and tailored HR interventions

#### Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR)

RAR's will be carried out in 5 countries (Portugal, Greece, Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland) to provide an in-depth, largely qualitative analysis of the NPS phenomenon.

#### RAR Implementation: From research to practice

The outcomes and results of the RAR will serve as example for other services providers in the field.

#### European Training Event

A European Training Event will be organised in the autumn of 2015 to share information, and build capacities among service providers.

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Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on its behalf is liable for any use of information contained in this publication. With financial support from the Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP) of the European Union

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