

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
PRESIDIUM OF THE POLICE FORCE  
National Crime Agency  
Drug Headquarters**



**REPORT ON DRUG SCENE STATUS AND  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
FOR 2020**

**Bratislava 2021**

## **LIST OF USED ABBREVIATIONS**

4 fluoro-MDMB-BINACA	chem. methyl 2-[[1-(4-fluorobutyl)indazole-3-carbonyl]amino]-3,3-dimethyl-butanoate
5-fluro-ADB	chem. N-[[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazol-3-yl]carbonyl]-3-methyl-D-valine methyl ester
APAAN	chem. alpha-phenylacetoacetonitrile
COREPER	Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Council of the European Union
CND	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EU	European Union
HaZZ	Fire and Rescue Corps
HDG	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs at the Council of the EU
IFS	Institute of Forensic Science
KCHL CO	Civil Protection Chemical Laboratory
KR PZ	Regional Headquarters of the Police Force
LSD	chem. D-lysergic acid diethylamide
MSM	chem. methylsulfonylmethane
MoI SR	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MZJ OHCP	Mobile Intervention Unit of the Department of Border and Foreign Police
NAKA	National Crime Agency
UN	United Nations
OR PZ	District Headquarters of the Police Force
P2NP	chem. phenyl-2-nitropropene
PIU	Police Intervention Unit
PPF	Presidium of the Police Force
PF	Police Force
STU	Slovak University of Technology
THC	delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
OUU	Unit of Special Assignment

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

<b>1 DRUG SCENE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INDIVIDUAL TYPES OF NARCOTIC AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Cannabis and Its Products .....	7
1.2 Methamphetamine.....	13
1.3 Heroin, Opiates and Opioids .....	19
1.4 Cocaine .....	21
1.5 Synthetic Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances.....	23
1.6 Medicinal Products and Substances with Anabolic and Other Hormonal Effects .....	27
1.7 Precursors.....	31
1.8 Organised Crime Groups .....	32
<b>2 DRUG SCENE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC BY REGIONS.....</b>	<b>36</b>
2.1 Bratislava and Surroundings .....	36
2.2 Western Slovakia Region .....	40
2.3 Central Slovakia Region.....	43
2.4 Eastern Slovakia Region .....	48
<b>3 INTERDEPARTMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION .....</b>	<b>52</b>
3.1 Horizontal Working Party on Drugs of the Council of the European Union .....	52
3.2 Standing Committee on Precursors of the EC.....	53
3.3 International Cooperation with Law Enforcement Authorities .....	53
3.3.1 EUROPOL and INTERPOL .....	53
3.3.2 EUROJUST .....	54
3.3.3 International Cooperation.....	54
3.4 Other Legislative Activities .....	55
3.4.1 Interdepartmental Expert Coordination Body .....	55
3.5 Projects.....	56
3.5.1 System Project.....	56
3.5.2 CO3DIL Project .....	57
3.5.3 “Introduction of Tools and Methods for Fight Against Drug and Pharmaceutical Criminality” Project.....	57
3.6 Operational Protection of International Airports .....	57
3.7 Preventive Activities .....	58
3.8 Other .....	58
3.8.1 Expert Opinions.....	58

3.8.2 Questionnaires and Other Statistical Data.....	59
--	----

## **CONCLUSION**

## **ANNEXES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Covid-19 disease has significantly affected the society's condition at individual, national, as well as global level not only with regard to the health protection, but also in the area of economy, human interactions and communication, science and education, transport, etc. The course of the disease in the individual countries, as well as the measures taken have substantially affected the whole society in all aspects of public life.

At the end of 2020, addiction experts warned about the sharply growing increase in the number of addicts. In addition to an increasing consumption of alcohol and tobacco products, there has been an increase in the number of addicts within the non-substance group, e.g. addicted to PC games, etc. What is alarming is the fact that already children and young people suffer from this type of addiction.

According to the EMCDDA, changes related to the use of alcohol have mainly concerned more frequent drinking, drinking more and drinking alone. In some cases, the excessive use of alcohol has been connected with the excessive use of prescription medicinal products. Motivations for increased use of these two substances have included coping with anxiety, depression and withdrawal symptoms associated with reduced availability of other drugs.<sup>1</sup>

Although measures taken in relation to the Covid-19 disease during the first phase have reduced the availability of narcotic and psychotropic substances, the consumers and offenders changed their behaviour in the second half of the year. In ensuring the prohibited substances, many consumers focused on various communication technologies, courier and postal services.

In particular, activities of the law enforcement authorities, as well as the speed and power of the legislation pushed forward have significantly contributed to the fight against this phenomenon. It should be borne in mind that in relation to any commodity or service the so-called “black market” is much more flexible than its legal counterpart, namely because it is not limited by trade legal regulations or, despite various measures, not even by state borders,

---

<sup>1</sup> EMCDDA:2020. *Impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use and drug-related harms in Europe*. Lisbon: EMCDDA, 2020. 27 p. ISBN: 978-92-9497-494-5

it is not burdened with tax or other levies and is not subject to any direct supervision of state bodies.

To illustrate the size of the “black market for drugs” in the EU, please refer to the EMCDDA statistics included in the EU Drug Markets Report for 2019. The report clearly shows that for that year, only organised groups alone traded in drugs in a total minimum value of EUR 30 billion (!).<sup>2</sup> By way of comparison, the budget of the European Union for 2019 was approved at EUR 165.8 billion. Illegal trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors in the European Union alone represents at least 18% of the total EU budget per year.

The following chapters will analyse the drug scene in the Slovak Republic in 2020 both in terms of the abuse of individual types of narcotic and psychotropic substances, medicinal products, anabolic substances and precursors, as well as in terms of regions, where criminal activities were committed. The issue of activities of organised and criminal groups in the territory of the Slovak Republic will also be addressed and measures taken by the Police Force units at national and international level will be analysed.

---

<sup>2</sup> Europol: 2019. EU Drug Market Report 2019. Haag: 2019. p. 260. ISBN: TD-04-19-774-EN-C

# **1 DRUG SCENE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INDIVIDUAL TYPES OF NARCOTIC AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES**

Although there were no major changes in the preferences of users of narcotic and psychotropic substances in 2020 in Slovakia in comparison to previous period, the drug scene was significantly affected by the Covid-19 disease and measures taken in order to slow down its spread.

A high demand for cannabis and its products among the consumers has continued. The demand for methamphetamine has also increased. Some consumers, in particular the ones having higher and more stable financial income, have focused themselves on cocaine, as well. Although there has been recorded a decrease in the demand for heroine due to a low quality of substance available to users, the demand of drug addicts for synthetic opiates and opioids was growing in 2020. Illegal activities connected with new psychoactive substances, anabolic steroids, substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects, as well as medicinal products, have also occurred in the offer of substances available on the drug scene.

## **1.1 Cannabis and Its Products**

Long-term drug scene monitoring in the past and in 2020 confirmed the fact that cannabis was, and despite all measures remained to be, the most popular narcotic and psychotropic substance in terms of consumption in Slovakia. In the Slovak market for narcotic and psychotropic substances, it comes from the following two sources:

- Import from abroad,
- Indoor or outdoor growing by offenders in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

As in the past, also in 2020 several cases of cannabis import from abroad, in particular from the Czech Republic, were detected and documented. In the first quarter and when the borders were open, especially in summer, cannabis was imported to Slovakia by persons studying, working or living in the Czech Republic, where they secured the drug and subsequently

imported it to Slovakia. The quantity of the substance imported varies from the quantity for one's own consumption to larger quantities intended for sale to a higher number of people.

The closure of border crossings between the two countries and more strict control measures in relation to the Covid-19 disease when entering and leaving both countries have made it more complicated to import cannabis to the Slovak territory. Thus, the so-called "cross-border workers", i.e., persons residing in the Slovak Republic, but employed and working in the Czech Republic, also participated in importing cannabis to our country.

According to the operational information found, for such purpose, some offenders ensured false certificates from employers active in the Czech Republic and other documents confirming that they were "cross-border workers". Information has also been obtained that drivers providing supplies from abroad also dealt with imports to the Slovak Republic.

As the border crossings were closed during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter rather suddenly, the consumers were not prepared for a longer unavailability of cannabis imported from abroad. However, subsequently they started to misuse information and communication technologies, through which they were ordering the drug. Import to our territory was ensured by the already mentioned "cross-border workers" or courier and postal services.

Offenders, as well as drug addicts have prepared themselves for another wave of measures and eventual closure of borders and have focused on growing cannabis directly within the Slovak territory.

Indoor cannabis growing has most frequently occurred in flats (see Fig. No. 1a) or family houses, but operational information about growing in other buildings was also obtained, e.g., in colleges, garages, etc. It namely concerned growing of smaller quantities for one's own or community consumption. In the municipality of Čuklovce in the Snina District, equipment for indoor cannabis cultivation was confiscated in a family house. During a house search, policemen of the OR PZ Snina seized 15 pcs of cannabis plants with a height of 150 cm and equipment for its cultivation (see Fig. No. 1 b).



a.

b.

Fig. No.1: Cannabis growing in family houses and flats<sup>3</sup>

In case of growing smaller volumes of cannabis, the offenders have also used the so-called tents. They have curtained off a part of the room's premises by a fabric, under which they have cultivated the plants. Watering, irrigation and other activities associated with growing have been carried out manually.

An offender from Veľký Krtíš has bought online a set consisting of a tarpaulin box, intended for cultivating the plants together with a thermometer, humidity meter, LED lighting, humidifier, as well as other equipment designed to create suitable conditions for growing the hemp plants. The set has also included a blower and odour filter intended for covering the typical odour of the cultivated plants. The offender has again bought the pre-grown hemp seeds in an e-shop. The offender has placed the equipment, the so-called "growbox" in the attic of a family house. On the spot, policemen of the OR PZ Veľký Krtíš have seized not only equipment for cannabis cultivation, but 6 pcs of plants, as well.



Fig No. 2: Growbox for cannabis growing in Veľký Krtíš<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> OR PZ Prešov and OR PZ Snina

<sup>4</sup> OR PZ Veľký Krtíš

In some cases, the offenders have made use of the possibility to grow plant varieties over 180 cm in greenhouses. Such varieties allow the growers to achieve a higher volume of dry matter containing THC with fewer plants. In the municipality of Potônske Lúky in the Dunajská Streda District, two offenders have cultivated hemp plants taller than 200 cm in a greenhouse near a family house. On the spot during the “Farma” operation, policemen of the OR PZ Dunajská Streda have seized weapons, hemp seeds, equipment for growing and 11 pcs of cultivated plants. In addition to cannabis growing, the two offenders have also dealt with illicit arming and weapons trafficking.



Fig. No. 3: Growing of hemp plants in a greenhouse in the municipality of Potônske Lúky<sup>5</sup>

In case of growing larger quantities of plants, e.g., in the form of an industrial growing facility (more than 250 pcs of plants<sup>6</sup>), the offenders have used more rooms in a building. Activities associated with growing have been performed semi-automated, or have been fully automated. The offenders have purchased the necessary technology in shops with gardening equipment. They have purchased seeds or small seedlings with required properties (variety, THC content, resistance to diseases, etc.) via the Internet.

NAKA of the PPF officers have discovered a cannabis growing facility in the municipality of Malá Iža in the Komárno District, set up by the offender in two buildings located

<sup>5</sup> OR PZ Dunajská Streda

<sup>6</sup> Growing facility – a facility, a building or a room for cannabis growing. According to the quantity of plants, growing facilities are divided into small ones up to 50 pcs of plants, medium-sized 50-250 pcs of plants, industrial – more than 250 pcs of plants.

on a common land plot. At least from March 2019 to September 2020, together with an accomplice, they grew hemp plants there, which they subsequently dried and distributed. On the spot, during house searches, in addition to the equipment for hemp growing, 1,054 pcs of hemp plants in various stages of growth, as well as 2,510.82 g of dry matter in the value of EUR 7,129.20 (see Fig. No.4) were seized.



Fig. No. 4: Growing facility in the municipality of Malá Iža<sup>7</sup>

As in previous years, cases of outdoor growing of cannabis have been discovered throughout the Slovak territory. The offenders have bought, most frequently via the Internet, types of cannabis specially cultivated to be grown outdoors and have planted them in gardens nearby their homes. In case of larger quantities of plants, the offenders have located their small fields at places more distant from their homes. The reason for hiding and placing of the small fields outside the inhabited areas is the height of the plants at the maturity stage (as they grow up to the height of 1.5-3 m) and their typical aroma or, better to say, odour at the flowering stage. In the municipality of Žiar nad Hronom, an offender has planted hemp plants nearby his home, whereby the offender has also grown vegetables on the land plot as a form of camouflage as regards the other neighbours. Similar small field have been found, for example, nearby the municipality of Poproč, in a garden area Zdoba and elsewhere.

Measures associated with the Covid-19 disease have been reflected in the way of consumption and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances. In the past, cannabis was

---

<sup>7</sup> Department of West of NAKA of the PPF

mostly consumed in discos, clubs and bars. Due to a long-term closure of such facilities, often connected with a closure of business, the consumption, especially in case of recreational users, has moved to flats and family houses, cottages, etc.

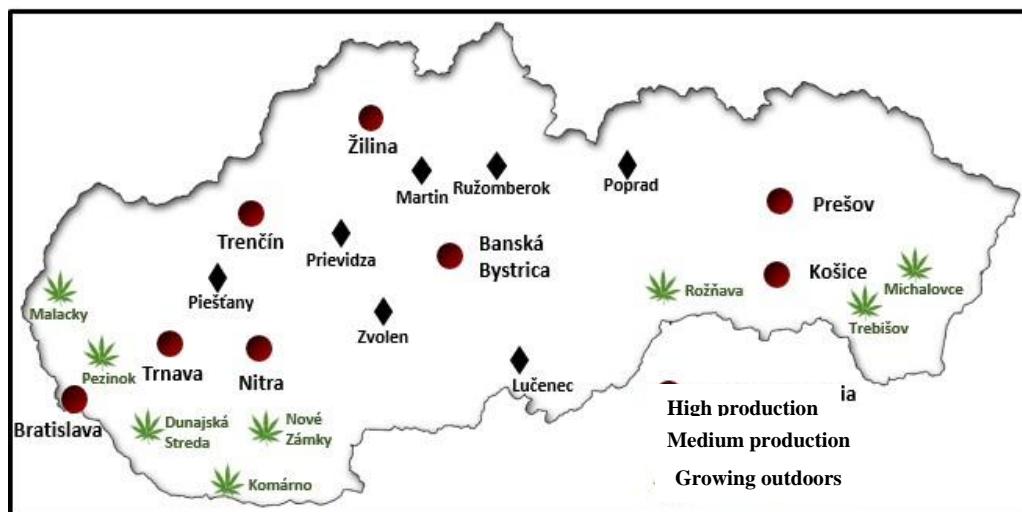


Chart No.1: Cannabis growing in 2020 in the Slovak Republic<sup>8</sup>

A large group of cannabis consumers is formed by students, especially university ones, who, due to a switch to distance education, have had to leave colleges and return home, while they have mostly contacted local distributors, as well. Reduced volume of school duties, in many cases together with the end of work and other out-of-school activities, has provided these consumers with a lot of free time. Drug addiction experts have pointed out that this has exactly been the period, when many consumers have moved from recreational to regular use and developed addictions, often combined with addictions to alcohol, cigarettes or information and communication technologies.

Operational information has indicated that the first contact with cannabis has occurred at the age of 12-14 years, but most often at the age of 17-18 years or when starting studies at a university, as well as that minors have been misused for the distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances in socially vulnerable groups of population. The lowest age of consumers has also occurred here, especially in the areas of southern and eastern Slovakia.

<sup>8</sup> PDC NAKA of the PPF

## **1.2 Methamphetamine**

In 2020, methamphetamine was, together with cannabis, among the most frequently abused narcotic and psychotropic substances in Slovakia. It came in particular from two sources:

- production in laboratories with various levels of equipment and production,
- import from the Czech Republic.

The source of methamphetamine available in Slovakia was methamphetamine produced and imported from the Czech Republic. Students coming from all Slovak regions studying at one of the Czech universities were very often used as couriers.

Border measures related to the Covid-19 disease also caused a partial lack of Czech methamphetamine in our country at the turn of the first and second quarters of 2020. Although methamphetamine was quite easily available in the Czech Republic, its import to Slovakia was problematic. As in case of cannabis, the so-called “cross-border workers”, delivery drivers and others were involved in its import. Methamphetamine ordering and distribution have also moved to on-line platforms, while postal and courier services were misused for import.

Since the demand for methamphetamine was growing among the consumers, especially during the release of measures, there was an increase in the volume of production within one production cycle, a commercialisation of the production and distribution, as well as a boost in activities of organised groups of offenders.

“More experienced” Czech “cooks” also came to Slovakia, cooking here larger quantities of high-quality methamphetamine from the prepared substances. Often, a part of the prepared volume of drug was intended for them as a reward, i.e., they transported the drug prepared in Slovakia to the Czech Republic and distributed it there.

In Slovakia, methamphetamine was produced in:

- small, the so-called “kitchen” laboratories with production of up to 100 cm<sup>3</sup> per one production cycle,
- medium laboratories with production of over 100 dm<sup>3</sup> per one production cycle,
- mobile laboratories, which are moved to another building on a regular basis.

Due to the restrictions, many consumers started to focus also on domestic production of methamphetamine in small kitchen laboratories. The majority of small laboratories was equipped with simple equipment, often commonly available in shops with houseware, etc. One-off

production capacity of such laboratory was relatively low and intended for the consumption of a small community of users. However, the production was more frequent.

The quality of the final product depended on the drug precursor used, most often obtained from non-prescription medicinal products of various manufacturers, e.g., of brands such as Modafen, Trifed, ClarinaseRepetabs, etc., as well as on the compliance with technological process, the substance used for dilution and the skills of the “cook”. However, available medicinal products serving as the source of precursor – ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, often illegally imported from abroad, became unavailable in larger amounts. Therefore, the “cooks” switched to various substitutes. Non-compliance with the production procedures, using various substitutes, as well as mistakes in the procedure, resulted in several accidents associated with damage to the property or health of the persons present.

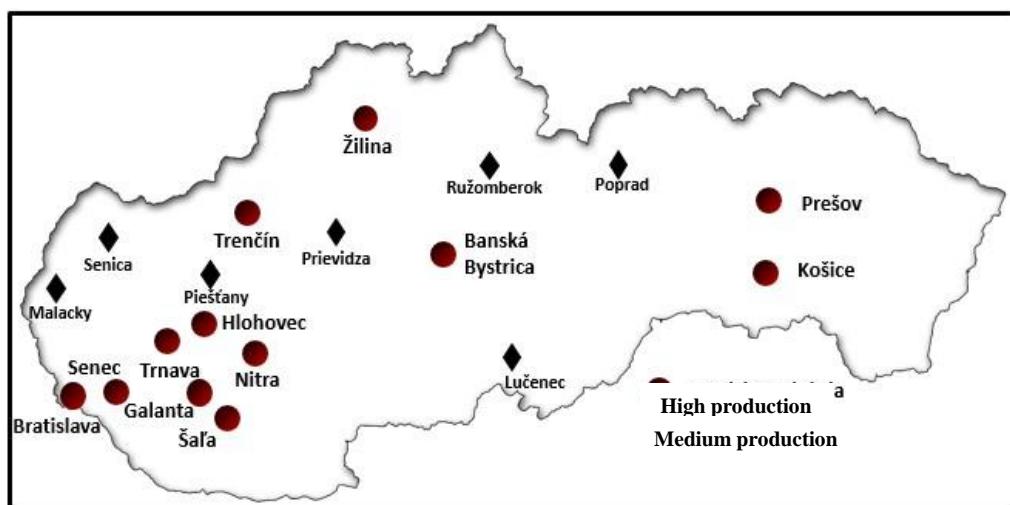


Chart No. 2: Methamphetamine production in 2020 in the Slovak Republic <sup>9</sup>

In particular organised crime groups focused on the production of methamphetamine in larger quantities. However, in 2020, there was a partial limitation of the activities of such groups. It was also caused by the fact that to produce methamphetamine, namely pure ephedrine or medicinal products with a high content of ephedrine imported in the form of tablets or powder from Poland or Turkey were used as drug precursors. A case of precursor production in our country was also discovered (see Chapter 1.7).

Approximately 1.2-1.6 kg of pseudoephedrine is required to prepare 1 kg of methamphetamine, depending on the medicinal product used.

<sup>9</sup> PDC NAKA of the PPF

In case of production in larger volumes, the offenders divided the production into the following cycles:

- purification of the precursor and filtering into an aqueous solution,
- precursor incorporation into toluene,
- adding other substances (iodine, phosphor, alkaline substances),
- processing into crystalline form,
- purifying, diluting, drying and weighting the drug prepared.

In order to avoid detection, the “cook” usually divided the production into the above-mentioned cycles. After the completion of each cycle, the laboratory was moved to another place. In this way, the offenders managed to produce as much as several kilograms of methamphetamine during one cooking with the active substance concentration of up to 80% (see Table No. 6).

In the municipality of Krásno, a married couple purchased the medicinal product Nurofen in unidentified pharmacies in the cities of Partizánske, Topoľčany, Bánovce nad Bebravou, Nitra, Prievidza, Piešťany. On several occasions, they also entrusted another accomplice with the purchase of the medicinal product. Subsequently, in a courtyard belonging to a family house of the married couple in the municipality of Krásno, the spouses were producing the drug meth (methamphetamine). From March to July 2020, they asked another accomplice several times to store chemicals and items for the drug production in a family house in the municipality of Krásno, in which the accomplice lived. The married couple repeatedly, following a previous arrangement over telephone or via SMS or Messenger messages, sold methamphetamine in the family house to drug addicts from the neighbourhood. During a house search at the accomplice, plastic items were also found, where the accomplice stored cannabis.



Fig No. 5: Chemicals intended for the methamphetamine production and items used in the distribution<sup>10</sup>

Operational information obtained by police officers in 2019 indicated that also in Slovakia, there were active criminal groups cooperating with the members of their group operating abroad or with foreign groups. In such cases, the modus operandi was more sophisticated. In order to hide their illegal activities, these groups used a wide range of means within the use of information and communication technologies, real estate rentals, organisational structure of work, as well as the process of transport, production, etc.

In May 2020, pontoons were seized in the Slovak Republic, containing 1,498.91 kg of methamphetamine in 2 metal tanks with a concentration of 78% in the total value from EUR 290,228,776 to EUR 1,169,148,240. The offenders together with other, so far unidentified persons, as members of international organised criminal group arrived in our country in August 2019 to formally establish a commercial company with an Executive Director being a Hungarian citizen. The purpose for using a Hungarian citizen having no information about the company's activities, was to cover persons operating behind this company and, in case of criminal liability of either legal or natural person, to let exactly this purposely appointed person be responsible for acting on behalf of the company.

On behalf of the Executive Director of the company, the offenders placed an order with a Mexican company located in Cancún for the transport of 2 metal tanks to Rijeka in Croatia. After unloading in Rijeka, the offenders ensured, again on behalf of the Slovak company – the customer, the transport of the tanks to a customs warehouse in Nitra, where methamphetamine was found in the tanks.

---

<sup>10</sup> Criminal Police Department of the KR PZ Banská Bystrica



Figure No. 6: Seized metal tanks hiding 1,498.91 kg of methamphetamine<sup>11</sup>



Fig. No. 7: Methamphetamine hidden in the tank<sup>12</sup>

The offenders used various encrypted communication applications in mobile phones, the Internet, etc. to communicate among the group members.

In cooperation with foreign anti-drugs units, the import organisers were detained and this international criminal group active not only in Slovakia, but also in Europe, Mexico and other countries, is still under investigation.

As follows from the analysis of samples processed by the IFS of the PPF, methamphetamine used to be diluted with creatine or with medicinal products used not only in human but also in veterinary medicine. Analyses suggested the use of freely available nutritional supplements for athletes designed to prevent joint injuries and regeneration, or veterinary medicinal products intended for treating joint diseases in animals. The concentration of the active substance depended mainly on the precursor used, the quality of the other substances used as well as on the skills of the "cook".

---

<sup>11</sup> Department of West of NAKA of the PPF

<sup>12</sup> Department of West of NAKA of the PPF

However, there were also cases when information was obtained about the occurrence of the so-called blue methamphetamine, i.e., a substance with the same effects as methamphetamine, but with a blue colour. At present, the IFS of the PPF is investigating whether it is a new psychoactive substance or a new type of substance causing such colouring was used in the dilution.

In 2020, too, the police officers received information about the activities of offenders who, in addition to the production and distribution of methamphetamine, dealt with, for example, the provision of precursors, cultivation and distribution of cannabis, cocaine, etc. Some groups focused not only on drug-related crime, but also on illicit weapons trafficking or property crime. The globally observed multi-commodity approach of organised groups of offenders thus also manifested itself in the Slovak Republic.

A characteristic, practically already a traditional method of methamphetamine distribution was its transport in hiding places of motor vehicles. The offender often bought the drug in a quantity higher than for one's own consumption and subsequently sold part of it to other customers.

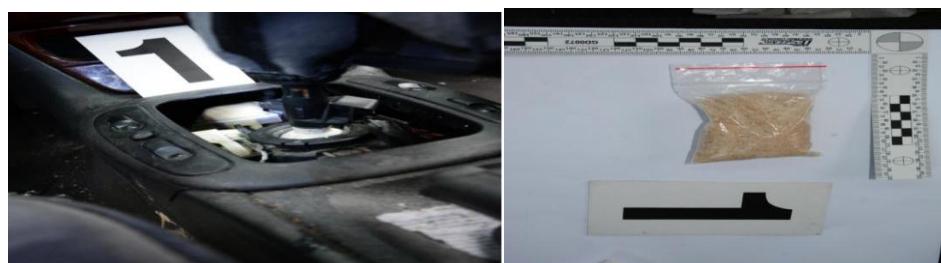


Fig. No. 8: Methamphetamine and hiding places in a car<sup>13</sup>

In 2020, several cases deviating from traditional methamphetamine smuggling routes were recorded, e.g., the offender importing methamphetamine from Ukraine to the territory of the Slovak Republic for users in Slovakia was detained, or a person from Prievidza was detained at the Vyšné Nemecké border crossing carrying 3 kg of methamphetamine in the opposite direction, i.e. to Ukraine.

Payments were made mainly in cash, occasionally using e.g. paysafecard.

The offenders, as in the case of cannabis, used a mask covering their face during distribution, or otherwise covered the lower half of their face. They also used sunglasses, various hats and hoods to make identification more difficult. The methamphetamine consumption moved

---

<sup>13</sup> Criminal Police Department of the KR PZ Trnava

to closed areas of houses, flats, etc., as publicly accessible places such as restaurants were closed for most of the year in relation to the Covid-19 measures. The information obtained through investigation at operational level indicated that the customers and consumers were even persons younger than 18 years of age.

### **1.3 Heroin, Opiates and Opioids**

In 2020, too, criminal activity related to heroin distribution was committed in Slovakia by organised groups, however, these groups often focused even on illicit trade in other narcotic and psychotropic substances, in particular methamphetamine. When trading in larger volumes of heroin, Slovakia was a transit country rather than a country of destination. The low interest in heroin was also caused by its low quality when sold on streets (see Tab. No. 6).

The long-term decline in the interest of consumers in heroin also reflects the onset of the generation of consumers preferring substances with stimulating effects and a minimally invasive method of use, i.e., tablets used orally, sniffing, smoking, etc.

Also in 2020, the majority of offenders engaged in illicit activities connected with the distribution from suppliers to users was from the Roma ethnic group. Similar to the sale of methamphetamine, heroin dealers used the so-called “dead drops” when handing over narcotic and psychotropic substances.

In general, it can be stated that in Slovakia, too:

- the interest of consumers in heroine is low,
- the quality of heroine available on streets is very low (it usually only contains from 3 to 5% of active substance in one dose).

Heroin distributed in Slovakia was already during import several times diluted by caffeine or paracetamol. Other additives were also recorded in fewer cases; the dose had its final colour according to such additives. This fact could explain the low percentage of active substance in one dose thus resulting in reduced effects of the drug on the consumer's organism.

In 2020, the interest among opiate users continued to grow as regards opiate-containing medicines continued, e.g., Tramadol, Tramal, TramadolRetard and TramalRetard and patchers containing fentanyl, which are intended for the suppression of moderate to severe pain, etc.

The said medicinal products are only available based on a special medical prescription (the so-called “blue-stripe prescription”).

However, interest in the above medicinal products has also increased among those not addicted to narcotic and psychotropic substances. The measures applied in relation to the Covid-19 disease create difficult life situations with a significant increase in depression, anxiety disorders, etc. Drug addiction experts, not only in our country but also abroad, point out the risk that this situation may lead to an increase in the number of people addicted to medicinal products.

Policemen of the OR PZ Košice detained persons, who, based on falsified medical prescriptions, ensured the medicinal products Tramabene, Diazepam, Ketonal Forte, FrontinNeurol, Zolpiden, etc. in various pharmacies. They subsequently sold the purchased medicinal products to drug addicts.

Other abused substances included opioid analgesics, such as morphine or medicinal products containing fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid used since the 1960s as an analgesic to control pain. It is used in people with chronic pain and oncology patients. Similar to the medicinal products containing opiates and opioids, these therapeutic preparations are only legally available based on a specially registered medical prescription with the so-called “blue stripe”. Pharmaceutical companies produce preparations, where the active substance fentanyl gets into human organism in the form of tablets, solution for injection, nasal spray or by means of transdermal patches, which are suitable for legal use in all patients with chronic pain. Drug addicts obtain patches in various ways, such as:

- stealing from healthcare facilities,
- from medical waste,
- purchases from persons (relatives) being survivors of patients using pharmaceuticals containing fentanyl, etc.
- from used patches from people using fentanyl patches within oncology treatment (they spot people in waiting rooms or when shopping in a pharmacy and subsequently follow them home, where they search through their rubbish).

Some users:

- stick the patches on their palate,
- stick or insert the patches on or under their tongue,

- chew the patches,
- administer the patches by injection.

People who have long been addicted to narcotic and psychotropic substances have been identified as heroin and opiate consumers. These consumers have often been or are enrolled in substitution treatment in drug treatment centres. However, the problem remains that, despite strict control measures in these centres, these people are abusing the medicinal product Suboxone prescribed to them and dealing with its illegal sale to drug addicts.

## **1.4 Cocaine**

In 2020, too, trade in cocaine in the Slovak territory was an activity of in particular organised groups, as well as smaller groups of individual cocaine users.

The imported cocaine came from the Netherlands or Belgium and its concentration was at a level of about 80% of active substance. Although from the point of view of Slovak customers, it was a large shipment in the volume of 1-2 kg, in comparison with customers from other countries (Germany, Spain and others) it was a small quantity.

Cocaine was imported to the territory of Slovakia usually through a contact person or distributor from the countries of South America. Most frequently, a courier travelled from Slovakia to pay for the cocaine, take it over and transport it concealed from a country of the Schengen area to the Slovak territory, where the cocaine was subsequently diluted, dosed into smaller doses and distributed. The purchase was ensured in advance.

In smaller groups of consumers, the group members provided financial amounts to purchase the supplied goods, intended for their own consumption. Organised crime groups ensured the purchase by other distributors in advance.

The closure of borders between the individual countries during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2020 also caused problems in the import of cocaine from abroad to the territory of the Slovak Republic. However, even in this case, consumers and larger customers have switched to the use of information and communication technologies, as well as various alternative payment methods, e.g. paysafecard and the like.

The price of a dose of cocaine for the final user – consumer in the Slovak Republic ranged within EUR 60-120/g, while the concentration of cocaine was about 20 to 40%. Cocaine was most often diluted with carnitine, but also with other dietary supplements.

NAKA of the PPF officers detained four people during the "Veža" operation, who ensured the import of cocaine from abroad and its distribution in the Bratislava and Nitra Region. The main organiser, who is the subject of an international arrest warrant, ensured the import of cocaine from the Netherlands. Other four persons dealt with the dosing and distribution of cocaine in western Slovakia and in Bratislava.



Fig. No. 9: "Veža" operation – seized cocaine and cannabis<sup>14</sup>

Within the international cooperation, NAKA of the PPF officers discovered a group of offenders who imported cocaine into the territory of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic from Spain and Portugal. The criminal activity of the group members was monitored in the Slovak territory. However, the offenders managed to find out that they were the subject of operational interest of the PF members. Subsequently, they moved to the territory of the Czech Republic, where they were detained together with other group members operating in the Czech Republic. In addition to the other group members from the Czech Republic, three citizens of the Slovak Republic were also detained on the spot, and 4,000 g of methamphetamine and 500 g of cocaine were also seized.

The trend of smuggling larger quantities of cocaine in the body cavities and gastrointestinal tract of persons (couriers) was not proven in 2020, although information through

---

<sup>14</sup> Bratislava Department of NAKA of the PPF

investigation at operational level indicated it. The reason was both the restriction of air traffic within the global measures associated with the Covid-19 disease, as well as long-established personal checks based on the so-called profiling of the offender at Slovak international airports and border crossings.

Based on monitoring in the field of wastewater pollution, information obtained by the PF officers and taking into account the purchasing power of the population in the individual Slovak regions, it can be stated that cocaine was used mainly in larger cities with inhabitants having higher incomes.

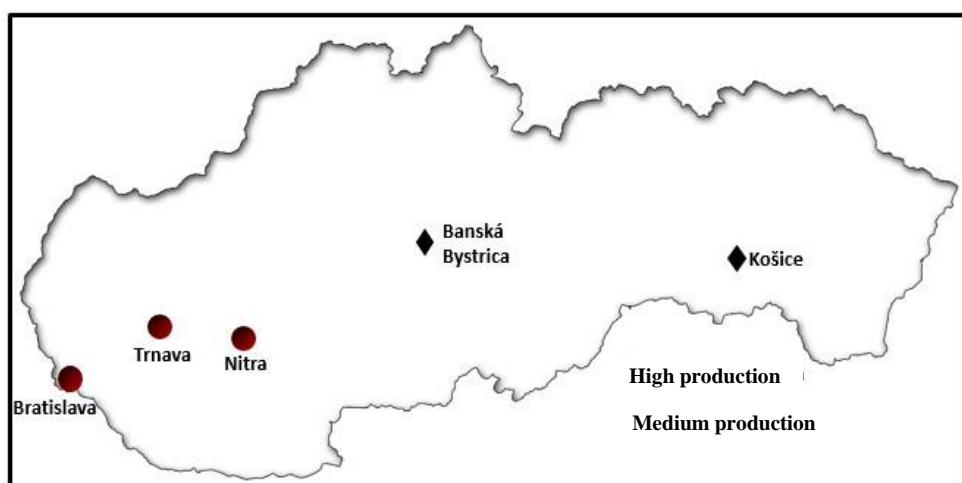


Chart No. 3: Cocaine consumption in the Slovak Republic in 2020<sup>15</sup>

Due to the higher price of goods, children and young people are not involved in criminal activities. However, cocaine was often used by consumers in the period of the so-called "early adulthood".

## 1.5 Synthetic Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances<sup>16</sup>

In accordance with Article 3(a) of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA: "*new psychoactive substance*" means a new narcotic drug or a new psychotropic drug in pure form or in a preparation"<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> PDC NAKA PPF

<sup>16</sup> Free translation of the English term New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

<sup>17</sup> Council Decision 2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005 on the information exchange, risk-assessment and control of new psychoactive substances

The provision of Article 3(b) of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA specifies that: “*new narcotic drug*” means a substance in pure form or in a preparation, that has not been scheduled under the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and that may pose a threat to public health comparable to the substances listed in Schedule I, II or IV.”<sup>18</sup>

Accordingly, pursuant to the provision 3(c) of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA: “*new psychotropic drug*” means a substance in pure form or in a preparation that has not been scheduled under the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and that may pose a threat to public health comparable to the substances listed in Schedule I, II, III or IV.”<sup>19</sup>

Main groups of new psychoactive substances include:

- phenylethylamines,
- tryptamines,
- piperazines,
- cathinones,
- synthetic cannabinoids,
- other substances (various synthetic or plant-based psychoactive substances, which need not belong to any other chemical group), mostly with entactogenic, stimulating or hallucinogenic effects.

New psychoactive substances are dangerous not only because they mimic the effects of “traditional” narcotic and psychoactive substances, however, their effects are much stronger. The fact that neither short-term nor long-term impacts of their use on human health, the way of their elimination in case of an overdose and often their composition are not known also represents the risk of use of new psychoactive substances. For example, substances from the fentanyl group mimic the effects of heroin, however, they are 50- and more times stronger. Thus, in case of new psychoactive substances, there is a real high risk not only of damage to the health, but also of death as a consequence of their consumption.

Trade in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances was also in 2020 similar to the way of trading in other drugs imported to Slovakia. Mostly they were imported from the

---

<sup>18</sup> Council Decision 2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005 on the information exchange, risk-assessment and control of new psychoactive substances

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

Netherlands, Poland or purchased online. Synthetic drugs such as MDMA and the like were also imported to Slovakia from the Czech Republic, although, for example, the Netherlands could have been the source country. Here, too, the effect of closing the borders and lockdowns in the individual countries was manifested. Customers, whether direct consumers or distributors, focused on the use of information and communication technologies and the use of courier and postal services.

New psychoactive substances were often sold to consumers under a general name such as ecstasy or a legal alternative of cocaine, methamphetamine, etc. Synthetic cannabinoids imitating the effects of cannabis, however with a much stronger effect, were also very popular.

The use of the so-called “herba”, i.e. the dry plant matter, on which various types of synthetic cannabinoids in liquid form are sprayed, was among the problems most frequently presented in mass media in 2019. It is a cheap drug imported mainly from Hungary, which was especially popular with users from socially vulnerable groups. It was often used by smoking or inhaling through the so-called “bongo” produced from a plastic bottle. Users combined the “herba” consumption with various types of medicinal products or alcohol of various quality, which caused various health problems in consumers. In 2020, a decrease in its consumption was recorded in the regions of eastern and southern Slovakia with the highest number of herba users. The reason was again the closure of the Hungarian border, from where the herb was imported to Slovakia.

In 2020, a new psychoactive substance PICA with effects similar to cannabis appeared among consumers in southern Slovakia. It was a cheap substitute for cannabis distributed from Hungary. Due to its low price, it can be assumed that in 2021 the interest of consumers from the socially most vulnerable groups, especially nearby Komárno and Šahy, will increase.

In the districts of central and northern Slovakia, a new psychoactive substance NEH (N-Ethylhexedrone) occurred among users, which was also used as a cheap substitute for cannabis.

In addition to direct threat to the lives and health of consumers of these substances, the environmental burden also poses a direct threat as a result of the illegal production of new psychoactive substances. On-site residues from production in the form of an illegal landfill, large volumes of chemical and other waste are polluting or endangering and directly affecting the environment. Although the production process itself is not technologically demanding, a number of hazardous substances are released into the environment. With regard to that the producer

handles explosive and highly flammable chemicals, there is a high risk of explosion and fire, if the technological procedure is not observed. This is also why offenders prefer abandoned buildings outside largely built-up areas.

The Internet is a significant factor making the drug market analysis and the possibility of effectively combating the phenomenon of new psychoactive substances more difficult. Providers of web hosting services, as well as services concerning payment processing, for example, in Bitcoins or via paysafe payments, are based in various countries. This factor significantly complicates the possibilities of cash flow monitoring and subsequent detection of producers, transporters and other links in the chain of illicit distribution and consumption of new psychoactive substances. New psychoactive substances are primarily sold and distributed in larger volumes also through the so-called darknet.

Although more than 20 types of substances from the group of new psychoactive substances have already been seized in our country, mostly minimum quantities have been seized. The IFS of the PPF has also sent information about these substances to the EMCDDA in Lisbon on a regular basis.

Based on information provided by EU Member States obtained by means of the Early Warning System, the EMCDDA prepares warnings of occurrence of new psychoactive substances and proposes the list of substances prohibited in the EU.

NAKA of the PPF in cooperation with the IFS of the PPF and with the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic prepared an initiative to amend Act No. 139/1998 Coll. on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Preparations by proposing to include 10 substances from the group of new psychoactive substances in the List of Prohibited Substances, which forms an annex to Act No. 139/1998 Coll. on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Preparations. The proposal also includes the removal of cannabidiol (CBD) from the List of Prohibited Substances, as it has not been proven to have narcotic and psychotropic effects nor to be addictive.

Cannabidiol is a substance obtained from the plants of Cannabissativa, which contains more than 100 active substances commonly called cannabinoids. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), cannabigerol (CBG), cannabichromene (CBC), cannabinol (CBN) and others belong among the best-known.

Tests carried out by W. S. Loeve already in 1946 confirmed that cannabidiol does not cause changes in mental state. In foreign countries, cannabidiol has long been used in the

treatment of chronic pain, cancer, depression and anxiety, epilepsy, etc.<sup>20</sup> Cannabidiol was included in the List of Prohibited Substances in the Slovak Republic in 2011.

In 2019, the WHO suggested to re-classify cannabis within the UN lists of prohibited substances. The EC has long been supporting this proposal. The re-classification of cannabis will, at global level, also be the topic of discussions at the 64<sup>th</sup> CND meeting in April 2021.

In relation to the fight against illicit trade in new psychoactive substances, the inflexible and time-consuming process of their inclusion among prohibited substances represents a big problem. The length of duration of the current legislative process from the proposal for the inclusion of a substance to the legislation's effective date is on average about one year and more. For this reason, too, it is necessary to modernise the legislation on this issue, for example, towards the generic inclusion of new psychoactive substances.

## **1.6 Medicinal Products and Substances with Anabolic and Other Hormonal Effects**

The main source of medicinal products and substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects were laboratories operating outside the territory of the Slovak Republic, which distributed their products mainly through online sale. However, the offenders who import these substances from abroad and then distribute them in our country based on orders through various applications in information and communication media also took part in the distribution.

Consumers of this type of substances do not take into account or are not aware of health risks resulting from their use. In addition to the de facto unknown composition and concentration of active substance, as well as the additives used, they do not even accept health effects and negative consequences for their health.

In 2020, committing of this type of crime moved from fitness centres and various sports clubs to the Internet platforms.

An operation carried out in cooperation with several European anti-drug units may be described as one of the most significant successes in the fight against substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects. An operation called "Medik", which has long been prepared, was carried out in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

---

<sup>20</sup> CADENA A.: 2020. HempvsMarijuana: TheDifferenceExplained (2020 Update), online. cit.[11.02.2020]  
Available at: <https://medium.com/cbd-origin/hemp-vs-marijuana-the-difference-explained-a837c51aa8f7>

Investigation at operational level were used to obtain information about illegal activities of persons committing crime in the territory of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Romania and other EU states. Since at least December 2017, the suspects, partly as members of an organised group with an exact allocation of functions and tasks, as well as accomplices, have been involved in the illegal production, storage and distribution of prohibited substances with hormonal effects and trafficking in counterfeit medicinal products in the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and several countries of the European Union. Working meetings of the group took place in the territory of the Bratislava Region, and approximately from summer of 2019 also in the border areas of Hungary in order to prevent the detection of the group's activities. The purchase of chemicals, e.g. spirit, microcrystalline cellulose, silicon dioxide, castor oil, ethyl oleate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polysorbate 80 and others from a company whose scope of business was trading in chemicals, took place mainly in the Bratislava Region. The purchase of glass ampoules from laboratory glass, primarily intended for the pharmaceutical industry, was preferentially carried out from a company based in Bratislava. The printing activities, graphic processing of packaging material, as well as of package leaflets, were carried out in Bratislava. In addition to the Bratislava Region, the organiser's working meetings with customers of final products, people from Poland, Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic took place nearby Hungarian border area, or in several EU countries, where prohibited substances with hormonal effects and counterfeit medicinal products were distributed.

Purchased substances and material intended for the production of prohibited substances with hormonal effects and counterfeit medicinal products were transported through transport companies from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Romania to an illegal laboratory in Romania, where Slovak citizens travelled in order to produce anabolic substances and counterfeit medicinal products. After the completion of production, prohibited substances and medicinal products were distributed through forwarding companies across the territory of Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic to other European Union countries (the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Sweden) as well as worldwide.

During the implementation of the "Medik" operation, 16 people were detained, of which 12 were accused (nine as members of an organised group, three as accomplices), and four witnesses.

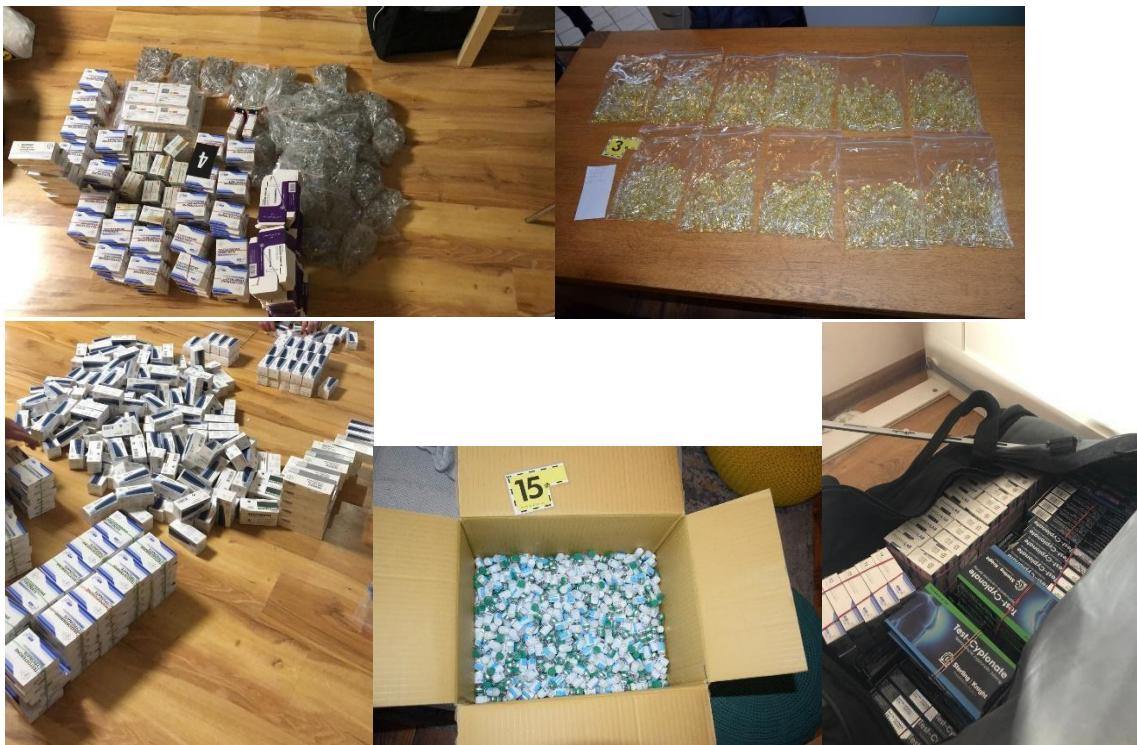


Fig. No. 10: “Medik” operation – part of the seized substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects<sup>21</sup>

The concept of pharmaceutical crime is defined differently by the individual countries. However, it is generally based on the definition used by the WHO. Counterfeit medicinal products are products that are intentionally and fraudulently produced and/or incorrectly labelled with respect to the identity and/or source to look like the original product. This definition applies to both branded and generic products.

There is a wide range of defects in counterfeit products. It has been found that counterfeit medicinal products have contained less or more than the required amount of active pharmaceutical ingredients used in the original version or have even contained the proper amount of active ingredients, but have been manufactured under insufficient hygienic and safety conditions.

Based on a long-term operational preparation within the joint investigation team with the police and judicial authorities of France, Poland and Ukraine during the TIGER operation on 18 February 2020, an international organised group was dismantled, which was largely trafficking in anabolic substances or substances with other hormonal effects and laundering the proceeds of

---

<sup>21</sup> PDC NAKA of the PPF

crime through a purpose-built chain of at least 9 companies operating on three continents (America, Europe and Asia).

In the case, criminal proceeding was conducted against 12 natural persons and 2 legal persons – companies based in the Slovak Republic – for the continuing crime of unauthorised handling of substances with anabolic or other hormonal effects and for the continuing particularly serious crime of money laundering (committed for a longer time and by an organised group).

The offenders obtained an unjustified financial benefit of more than EUR 5 million. (For more information, see Chapter 2.3. Central Slovakia Region)

Original medicinal products were also counterfeited and packaged in counterfeit packaging to extend the expiration date or to commit fraud in relation to various government programs. In 2020, there were suspicious offers of medicinal products, tests and protective equipment related to the Covid-19 disease on the Internet.

Illegal abuse of medicinal products also occurs when an original pharmaceutical product is approved and intended for sale in one country, but is illegally offered in another country without the consent of its competent authorities. These schemes often take place using falsified declarations and documentation. Illegal abuse may also occur in the same country, when a legally approved group of discounted medicinal products intended for one group of consumers, e.g. for hospital treatment, is illegally moved to groups purchasing medicinal products on an unregulated open market. Illegal abuse often occurs when the government buys medicinal products at reduced prices for use in public hospitals, but these medicinal products are moved to street sale or illegal non-prescription sale. Within the Covid-19 disease period, in the first half of 2020, it concerned medicinal products with effects similar to remdesivir. In the second half of 2020, offenders switched their attention to medicinal products with effects similar to isoprinosine or ivermectine. Information was obtained about the sale of veterinary medicinal products with similar effects, import of medicinal products containing active medicinal ingredient without the necessary statutory approvals, etc.

In relation to the detection of pharmaceutical crime, the term incident refers to an event associated with the discovery of counterfeit, illegally abused or stolen medicinal products. A single incident occurs, if the relevant factual information is available, e.g.: the particular date, time, place of manufacture and type of the medicinal product used. After confirmation, the

tracking number is assigned to the incident. All incoming reports are checked to see if they are related to a registered incident and indicate a continuing crime.

Incidents vary in their scope, content, and timeframe. The scope of the incident relates to the number of falsified medicinal products found, e.g. rarely it may be a small amount of one product, and conversely, the incident may involve hundreds of thousands of counterfeit medicinal products. Distributor involvement is also assessed within the scope of incidents. Incidents may involve a single provider responsible for distributing thousands of falsified medicinal products. The incident may also involve an organised group distributing hundreds of thousands of medicines through information and communication technologies.

Incidents may also vary as regards the timeframe. The state inspection body may find counterfeit medicinal products on one particular day during the inspection. This is generally considered by the inspection bodies as a single incident. However, other incidents may occur over a long period of time. Some investigations have revealed groups of organised counterfeiters who have long been trading in counterfeit medicinal products, based on monitoring the incidence of their occurrence.

An incident associated with the occurrence of counterfeit medicinal products can be reported by anyone, from state inspection bodies to customs officers, police officers, etc. The detection of abused or counterfeit pharmaceuticals is thus the result of government or market surveillance.<sup>22</sup>

In 2020, other substances were available on the drug scene, in particular stimulants and substances affecting the amount of body fat, intended for groups of recreational, as well as top athletes. Substances intended for the treatment of erectile dysfunction were preferred by users with erectile dysfunction. Medicinal products and supplements affecting hormonal cycles, as well as postcoital and abortive drugs were intended for women.

## **1.7 Precursors**

As already mentioned in the section regarding methamphetamine, precursors containing ephedrine/pseudoephedrine were the most frequently abused ones in Slovakia. Offenders

---

<sup>22</sup> PHARMACEUTICAL SECURITY INSTITUTE. 2021. *Report*. PSI:Vienna, 2021.

purchased them in smaller quantities in pharmacies or online for methamphetamine production for their own consumption. If larger volumes of drug were produced, precursors were obtained in Poland or Austria.

Due to measures in relation to the Covid-19 disease, there have been cases of replacement of unavailable precursors by others or production of precursors by the offenders themselves. Luckily, these cases only caused minimal damage to property and not to human lives.

When laboratories intended for the production of medicinal products, precursors or pre-precursors are liquidated, special care must be taken with regard to the presence of various combustibles, explosives, as well as ongoing chemical reactions. For example, the APAAN pre-precursor produces hydrogen cyanide (chemical warfare gas) during its conversion into a precursor needed to produce MDMA, which of course poses a risk to the health and lives of people. Therefore, any intervention in such laboratory shall be performed by a specialised NAKA unit.

## **1.8 Organised Crime Groups**

Drug-related crime is a global problem. As a consequence of increasing addiction to narcotic and psychotropic substances, as well as of lack of financial resources, many consumers get involved in drug-related crime commitment, either in distribution or production and transport of such substances.

In case of cannabis and methamphetamine, consumers focused in particular on cannabis growing or methamphetamine production for their own consumption or for the consumption of their friends.

As regards import of cocaine, synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances interested consumers from among consumers often “gather” financial resources for a certain quantity of goods and subsequently procure them from abroad.

Organised crime groups dealing with production, import, and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances in large volumes also operated in Slovakia in 2019. These drugs again mostly include cannabis and methamphetamine; however, activities of these groups also concerned trading in cocaine and heroin or substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects.

In compliance with the substantive jurisdiction under the relevant internal regulation, NAKA of the PPF police officers detected and investigated criminal activity of illicit production of narcotic and psychotropic substances, poisons or precursors, keeping them and trafficking pursuant to Section 172 para. 1, para. 4 and pursuant to Section 173 para. 1, para. 4 of Act No. 300/2005 Coll. – the Criminal Code. In this context, they focused in particular on the detection of organised groups or individuals, who committed drug-related crime with the so-called “international” aspect.

In the field of organised drug-related crime, the police carried out several important operations, many of them in cooperation with foreign partner police units, especially from the neighbouring countries.

In May 2019, within the “VENAL 3” operation, one of the crime groups operating within the so-called “Drug Mafia of Sered”, whose activity had long been monitored, was dismantled. During several years, various partial operations focused on organisers, producers, distributors, helpers, precursor suppliers and other persons were gradually implemented.

During the operation, 16 people were accused of the establishment, plotting and supporting a crime group pursuant to Section 296 of Act No. 300/2005 Coll. – the Criminal Code for a particularly serious crime of illicit production of narcotic and psychotropic substances, poisons or precursors, keeping them and trafficking pursuant to Section 172 of Act No. 300/2005 Coll. – the Criminal Code.

By documenting the case, it was proved that since 2015, the crime group members had made the following transactions:

- with a crystalline substance in a volume of 1.9 kg with a modified chemical formula with effects similar to methamphetamine in the value of EUR 15,000,
- had brokered the sale of 11.6 kg of synthetic cannabinoid in the value of approximately EUR 100,000,
- with unidentified larger quantities of cocaine,
- with precursor tablets for methamphetamine production, from which about 79.6 kg of methamphetamine were produced in the value of at least EUR 2,529,000.

NAKA of the PPF police officers obtained additional operational information regarding the continuing drug-related crime in the town of Sered'. Based on this information, other members of the criminal group ensuring the production and sale of drugs in the locality of Sered'

and its surroundings were identified. This group also took over the production and sale of methamphetamine and other narcotic and psychotropic substances from persons detained during the "VENAL, VENAL 2, VENAL 3" operations. Based on this information, a police operation was carried out under the cover name "VENAL 4" in order to detain suspects. Within this operation, the NAKA of the PPF investigator accused 14 people of drug-related crime committed by a criminal group. Among other things, a laboratory for the production of methamphetamine and cash of EUR 84,000 were seized.

During the investigation, it was proved that, since 2010, this group has been active in the locality of the Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra and Žilina Region, especially in the cities of Trnava, Sered', Šaľa, Galanta, Nitra, Bratislava.

During the group's presence in the illegal market for narcotic and psychotropic substances, its members have sold 166.6 kg of methamphetamine, which they have produced from medicinal products containing ephedrine. The total value of methamphetamine distributed by this group has been EUR 5,685,800.

In proving drug-related crime, members of another criminal group operating in parallel at a lower level alongside the other above-mentioned groups were also detected. The said group also provided for the production and sale of drugs in the locality of Sered' and its surroundings. The operational actions performed also documented the activities of this criminal group and the places, where narcotic and psychotropic substances were allegedly produced and sold. A police operation was further carried out under the cover name "VENAL 5" in order to detain suspects. Seven people were detained during the operation.

Other two people are currently on the run and are subject of prosecution for escape. The NAKA of the PPF investigators charged 17 people with drug-related crime committed by a criminal group. During the documentation of this case, it was proven that the members of the criminal group had sold 162.5 kg of methamphetamine in the total value of EUR 3,692,000 within an unspecified period of time, at least from 2010 to 2020. Cash of EUR 18,350 was seized on the spot.

The above clearly shows that on the drug scene of the Slovak Republic, like in other countries of the European Union, all types of narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors were available in 2020 despite measures related to the Covid-19 disease.

Consumer interest has primarily focused on cannabis and methamphetamine. However, like abroad, consumers have also focused on cocaine, new psychoactive substances and synthetic drugs. Although there has been a long-term decline in the interest in heroin, the demand for synthetic opiates has increased, especially for substances containing fentanyl or other opiates and opioids. The reason has also been the increasing number of people suffering from various untreated mental problems and anxieties. Various preparations with anabolic and other hormonal effects have also had their group of users and thus the suppliers, too.

Measures related to the Covid-19 disease have affected the production and import of narcotic and psychotropic substances. When the borders between countries were closed, some consumers started to focus on growing cannabis and producing methamphetamine for their own consumption or for the community's consumption.

Some consumers ordered narcotic and psychotropic substances through information and communication technologies from abroad. Payments were made in cash on delivery, via the Internet banking or using various alternative methods, e.g. paysafe, etc.

Import of narcotic and psychotropic substances, namely cannabis and methamphetamine from abroad took place through persons working abroad, the so-called "cross-border workers", using courier and postal services or persons transporting goods.

## **2 DRUG SCENE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC BY REGIONS**

The drug scene in the Slovak Republic differs also by the individual regions, depending on their industrial structure, social, economic and age structure of the population, proximity to borders with another country, etc.

The closure of universities and secondary schools and the switch to distance education, together with the closure of restaurants, discos, cafés, along with measures related to the free movement of persons, as well as bans on public gatherings, have led to a shift of and change in the distribution and consumption. Some consumers, mainly university students, have left their colleges and returned home. However, it is possible to assume that they continue to use drugs and look for contacts for distributors in their surroundings, or order the drugs. Distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances takes place in public places, e.g. parking lots, etc. The consumption and, partially, also distribution have moved to flats.

The decline in the production in manufacturing companies, restaurant services and in the tourist industry has caused a reduction in income concerning a large part of the population. It can be assumed that those who were drug users in the past with contacts for distributors might have got involved in the distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances among other consumers, partly as a result of their poor economic situation, solving long-term financial problems in this way.

Due to measures in force in relation to the Covid-19 disease, the availability of the individual drugs in the regions has generally become worse, their quality has decreased and the price of the individual substances has increased compared to previous years.

### **2.1 Bratislava and Surroundings**

Thanks to its geographic position, as well as the status of a capital city, there is a lot of companies, organisations and people of various ages concentrated within the territory of Bratislava and its surroundings, with different incomes, occupations, education, etc. It is clear that such wide range of inhabitants brings more consumers of narcotic and psychotropic substances, as well as producers and distributors able to provide a wide range of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

The proximity of borders with Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic (especially during the periods of free movement within the Schengen area) enabled the import of various substances from abroad and thus simplified their availability. As the average income of inhabitants including students is higher than in other regions, the drug types are also demanded, which are not requested in other regions due to their higher price.

Also due to the high number of young people employed and living in this micro-region, cannabis was one of the most demanded drugs in 2020. One of the reasons for the increased interest may also be the mass media, which very often provided information about its "harmlessness" or initiated discussions on the release of cannabidiol (hereinafter referred to as the "CBD"). At a price of EUR 4 to EUR 10/g, cannabis was the most affordable.

Right after cannabis, the second most popular drug with consumers was methamphetamine, followed by cocaine and new psychoactive substances. Interest in heroin and opiates was minimal in the region.

We can assume that some users procure drugs via the Internet and using postal and courier services. Some of the consumers, mainly of cannabis, began to grow cannabis in smaller volumes for their own or community consumption and set up growing facilities in houses and flats.

NAKA of the PPF police officers carried out an operation under the cover name "Stroj" aimed at a group of offenders who distributed narcotic and psychotropic substances in the Trnava Region, especially the drugs methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis.

Since a time period in 2018, not exactly defined, the main organiser and other members of the organised group have been engaged in drug-related crime, especially in the Trnava Region. The main organiser has provided financing, storage and distribution of methamphetamine in quantities of 2-4 kg per monthly. He has also built a network of other subordinate distributors. Offenders at lower levels have served as dealers of larger volumes, couriers, storekeepers, etc.

The task of one of the offenders has been to deliver methamphetamine to other dealers, as well as to drive the main organiser to meetings with suppliers and other dealers. Some members of the group have been among the main distributors who have built individual dealer networks in the Trnava Region. Methamphetamine has thus been distributed in smaller volumes with the help of smaller distributors and consumers.

During the implementation of the "Stroj" operation, 6 people were detained, the search of one person still continues. A total of 376.365 g of cannabis worth EUR 3,763.65, 1,994.894 g of methamphetamine worth EUR 59,846.82 as well as 39.82 g of cocaine worth EUR 3,583.80 and 6 MDMA tablets worth EUR 60 were seized. The total value of seized drugs on the black market was EUR 67,254.24. At the same time, cash in the amount of EUR 54,845 was seized during house searches.



Fig. No. 11: "Stroj" operation – seized drugs <sup>23</sup>

Police officers of the Regional Headquarters of the PF Bratislava carried out the "Putika" operation, during which 4 persons engaged in the purchase and distribution of methamphetamine were detained. During house searches of these persons, as well as during the inspection of non-residential premises, 3,811.5 g of methamphetamine were seized in the total value of EUR 152,582-190,727.50. In addition to methamphetamine, EUR 210,000 in cash were seized.

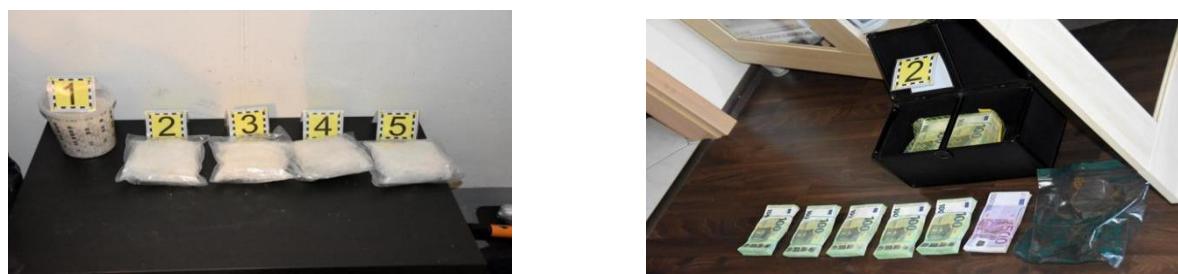


Fig No. 12: Putika operation – seized methamphetamine and cash<sup>24</sup>

Two offenders living in a residential building in the District of Bratislava II have long been involved in the storage and distribution of methamphetamine. Customers have been ordering a certain amount of the drug from offenders in advance via mobile applications. The

offenders have then met in person at the front or back entrance of the house, or in the immediate vicinity, where they have handed over the agreed amount of the drug.

Police officers of the District Headquarters of the PF in Karlova Ves detained a person suspected of distributing narcotic and psychotropic substances. During the search, the offender handed over the drugs he was carrying. Police seized 11,180 g of cannabis and 1.23 g of methamphetamine.

Despite that fitness centres have long been closed and sports activities have significantly been reduced, users' interest in substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects has still been high. At the Rajka – Čuňovo border crossing, a passenger motor vehicle was checked, in which a Romanian citizen transported various anabolic and other substances with hormonal effects, e.g.: Testosterone P, Testo E, Drosta E, Decandrol, etc. According to the detainee living in the United Kingdom, an acquaintance in Romania asked him to deliver a consignment to the United Kingdom addressed to another person. The detainee picked up the consignment in question in the Romanian municipality of LeteaVechce, while it was a package, the contents of which he could not see. The sender allegedly stated that it was a consignment with medicinal products.

In Bratislava and its surroundings, too, there has been a growing trend of interest in medicinal products for male potency. More than 3,600 Kamagra tablets, 1,000 Super Kamagra tablets and 880 Tadalafil tablets were seized in an Audi A4 passenger car during the motor vehicle inspection. The said medicinal products are intended for the treatment of male potency disorders. The total value of the seized medicinal products in this case was EUR 16,100-26,090.

In addition to the presence of organised groups of Slovak offenders, the information obtained through investigation at operational level also indicates the activities of a group of Turkish offenders engaged in trading in heroin. However, in case of heroin, the Slovak Republic is, as already mentioned, a transit country. Consumer interest in heroin has long been decreasing in our country. Similarly, information was obtained about the activities of Albanian-speaking groups of offenders, who focus mainly on the trade in and distribution of cocaine and cannabis in our country.

The results of investigation at operational level point to the fact that the first contact with the drug, especially with cannabis and methamphetamine, occurs in Bratislava and its surroundings at the age of approximately 13 years.

## **2.2 Western Slovakia Region**

The Western Slovakia region borders not only with Hungary, but also with the Czech Republic. These geographical particularities also affect the region's drug scene. Another factor is the location of large and foreign companies in the region, for example: car producers, Amazon, etc.

The particularity of the region is the border with the Czech Republic, where not only the "cooks" of methamphetamine have come from, but also those interested in purchasing medicinal products containing precursors for its production. Many students and employees in the position of couriers or for their own consumption have also imported cannabis in addition to methamphetamine from the Czech Republic, the two most frequently abused drugs in the region. Some so-called "cross-border workers" or drivers of cars providing supplies in the Slovak Republic from abroad have also participated in the import of drugs from the Czech Republic. They have made improper use of the possibility of faster transport and minimum border controls between EU member states.

The southern part of the Western Slovakia Region is a place, where part of the socially vulnerable population or inhabitants of minority groups have lived. Many of them have not only been addicted to alcohol, but also to narcotic and psychotropic substances. As their financial income has been minimal, they have searched for very cheap drugs, e.g. synthetic cannabinoids known as herba. They have often been involved in activities related to their distribution, or in secondary drug-related activity, e.g. theft, robbery, etc.

Measures related to the Covid-19 disease and especially the closure of the borders between Hungary as a source country of herba and the Slovak Republic have caused its lower availability among the most socially vulnerable groups of users.

The so-called "drug triangle" Sered' – Hlohovec – Galanta has been a special problem of the region. Not only drug addicts but also organised crime groups involved in the production and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances, especially methamphetamine and opiates, have long been concentrated in this area.

From 2016 to 2020, NAKA of the PPF police officers carried out several operations aimed at dismantling the so-called Mafia of Sered' (see Chapter 1.8, "VENAL 1-5" operations).

Due to measures related to the Covid-19 disease, universities and secondary schools, bars, discos, restaurants, fitness centres, etc. were closed in 2020 in this region, too. Drug distribution took place through dead drops, in public places, petrol stations, washrooms, but also directly among employees in companies. Drug consumption moved to flats, often rented ones.

The closure of borders with other countries has led users also in this region to try to grow cannabis or produce methamphetamine for one's own or community consumption. In connection with the production of methamphetamine, there have been several cases that the so-called "cook" has not followed the production procedure and the cook or other persons present during production have been injured.

According to sources from the drug scene, some "cooks" artificially colour the chemical product during production, e.g. with blue or other colourings. The effects after consumption of the substance are similar to those of methamphetamine, but according to consumers, the so-called "flash" is missing and the duration of the effect itself is shorter than in case of methamphetamine. Drug dealers sell it as methamphetamine, deceiving end users in order to maintain the price of the drug.

A 65-year-old offender was detained during the implementation of the "Dedo" operation, who stored methamphetamine in a family house and further distributed it to a network of dealers. During the house search, 122.4 g of methamphetamine were seized in the total value of EUR 4,895-7,343.

Methamphetamine in various colours and forms (white, pink or brown crystals, or powder) was filled into both injection and insulin syringes with sealed end, pressure-sealed plastic bags, paper folders, etc.

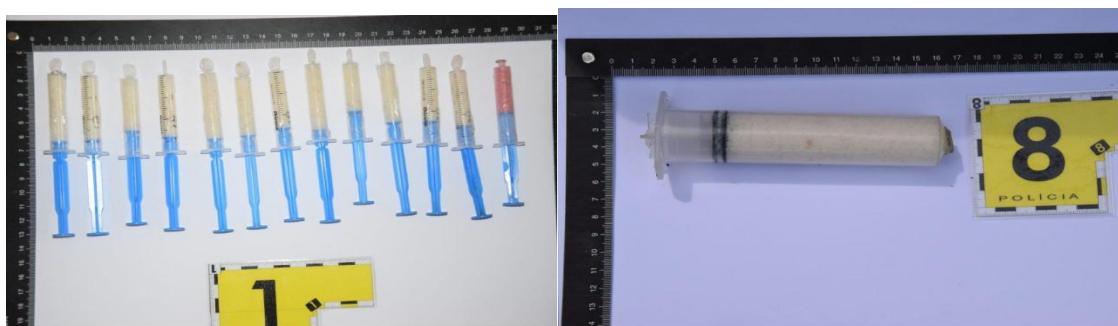


Fig. No. 13: Dedo operation – part of the seized methamphetamine<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Criminal Police Department of the District Headquarters of the PF Trnava

Based on information obtained through investigation at operational level, the police officers of the Criminal Police Department of the District Headquarters of the PF in Nitra discovered a pair of offenders, who were growing cannabis outdoors behind a family house in the municipality of Podhorany. During the operation, 8,277.49 g of cannabis were seized.

In addition to cannabis and methamphetamine, the interest of long-term drug addicts in opiate and opioid-containing medicinal products, e.g. fentanyl, continued to grow in 2020. These were mainly fentanyl pain-killing patches, medicinal products Tramal, Lexaurin, Rohypnol, Neurol, etc. Drug addicts ensured the medicinal products through patients treated in psychiatric outpatient clinics or from long-term sick persons, to whom they are prescribed on a special medical prescription with the so-called blue stripe.

In 2020, a case of illegal export of medicinal products ViaraxClassic and Viarax Extra Long by a company operating in the Western Slovakia Region to Austria was also investigated. In 2018, a database of customers was allegedly stolen for ransom from a Slovak company also engaged in e-commerce of medicinal products. The Executive Director of the Slovak company filed a criminal complaint in this regard. At the end of 2019, a consignment with medicinal products containing the active ingredient sildenafil and tadalafil, which is subject to a prescription, was seized at the Slovak-Austrian border by the competent Austrian authorities. In 2020, in cooperation with the Austrian partner service, the verification of information concerning the possible confusion of the content of the consignment or other misuse of the company's data by a foreign natural or legal person was performed.

Drug availability in the region has generally become worst as a result of measures related to the Covid-19 disease. The main reason was a decrease in the volume of imported narcotic and psychotropic substances from abroad. The price of drugs has also increased and the concentration of the active ingredient has decreased.

The age of first contact with drugs, especially with cannabis, ranges from 13 years to 17-18 years in the region, depending on the particular location. While in the vicinity of Hlohovec, Sered' and Galanta, the first contact with drugs is at the age of 13, in the vicinity of Dunajská Streda or Piešťany, it is approximately 16-17 years.

## **2.3 Central Slovakia Region**

The situation in the Central Slovakia region is mainly affected by the southern border with Hungary and the northern border with Poland. In addition, the region's drug scene is largely influenced by a smaller concentration of major companies, a high unemployment rate, but also tourism in the northern part.

Another specific feature of the region is the high number of inhabitants living in the southern parts of the region and around Banská Bystrica, coming from ethnic minorities and socially vulnerable communities.

The high unemployment rate forced some inhabitants to work mainly in the Czech Republic, from where, as couriers or for their own consumption they imported cannabis in addition to methamphetamine, being the two most frequently used drugs in the region.

In the southern part of the Central Slovakia Region with a high concentration of socially vulnerable inhabitants or people from minority groups, many are addicted to alcohol, as well as narcotic and psychotropic substances. Financial incomes of these people are minimal, mostly formed by social benefits and parental allowances. Drug consumers among these people are looking for very cheap drugs, e.g. synthetic cannabinoids known under the general name herba, imported mainly from Hungary. In 2020, it mainly contained the active substance 5-fluoro-MDMB-Pinaca and 5-fluoro-ADB. Due to the extremely strong effects of these substances, their users became unconscious, while it was necessary to provide treatments within the emergency medical service.

Consumers of synthetic cannabinoids are also often involved in activities related to their distribution or in secondary drug-related activities, e.g. theft, robbery, etc. Measures related to the Covid-19 disease and especially the closure of the borders between Hungary as a source country of herba and the Slovak Republic have caused its significantly lower availability among the most socially vulnerable groups of users.

A special problem of the region is its northern part. In previous years, offenders, who came to Slovakia from Poland, set up laboratories in our country for the production of new psychoactive substances prohibited in Poland, but permitted in the territory of the Slovak Republic under applicable laws. Offenders benefited from the differences in the legislation of the

two countries in case of illegal purchase and distribution of anabolic steroids and substances with other hormonal effects.

Nearby Martin and Žilina, a new psychoactive substance NEH (N- Ethylhexedrone) also appeared among the users. It is a white, yellowish to grey material in the form of powder or small crystals from the group of cathinones, i.e. with stimulating effects similar to cocaine.



Fig No. 14: Seized N- Ethylhexedrone<sup>24</sup>

The second group of problems in the region is the import of precursors needed for the production of methamphetamine from Poland to our territory. In Poland, the availability of ephedrine-containing precursors, e.g. in the form of medicinal products Cirrus, Sudafen, etc., is much more easier than in Slovakia. Therefore, the producers of methamphetamine in Slovakia purchase and import them from Poland.

Due to measures related to the Covid-19 disease, secondary schools and universities, clubs, gaming houses, bars, discos, restaurants, fitness centres, etc. were closed in 2020 in this region, too. Similarly as in other regions, distribution of drugs took place in public spaces, petrol stations, washrooms, etc. Consumption of drugs moved to flats and cottages, often rented ones.

The closure of borders with other countries has also led users in this region to try to grow cannabis or produce methamphetamine for their own or community consumption.

From January 2019 to July 2020, members of an organised group produced methamphetamine in the premises of a family house in the village of Priechod, which they subsequently distributed to consumers. The group members purchased precursors and chemicals intended for the production of methamphetamine (sudafen, cirrus, abselan) in the Republic of Poland. After the purchase, the precursors were transported to the premises of a family house in

---

<sup>24</sup> Criminal Police Department of the District Headquarters of the PF Martin

the village of Priechod. Some group members prepared precursors and other substances for another member in the position of the main "cook". Later, this main "cook" taught another member the individual procedures for preparing methamphetamine and remained to be a coordinator of the whole process. They prepared the drug in larger quantities about 2-3 times a month, while distributing it almost daily to users.

The costs associated with the operation and energy consumed in the building intended for the production of methamphetamine were divided by the offenders into three parts. They used the funds obtained from the sale of methamphetamine to import other precursors and chemicals intended namely for the production of methamphetamine and other narcotic and psychotropic substances. They divided the remaining funds into three parts as their profit.

During a house search in the family house, NAKA of the PPF police officers seized the laboratory equipment and substances needed for the preparation of methamphetamine, as well as 584.835 g of methamphetamine in the total value of EUR 29,241.75-58,483.50 and 434.58 g of ephedrine necessary for the preparation of methamphetamine.

Four people were detained on the spot. The other two offenders were responsible for the purchase of precursors in Poland and are currently being searched.



Fig. No. 15: Lampa operation – seized laboratory equipment for the production of methamphetamine <sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Department NAKA Central of the PPF



Fig. No. 16: Lampa operation – seized methamphetamine and substances for its production<sup>26</sup>

From 2017 to 2020, an organised crime group was active in the Central Slovakia Region, dealing with the illegal trade in and distribution of substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects, especially with illegal doping preparations within the nandrolone group, e.g. DecaDurabolin and Trenbolone in various forms, illegal doping preparations containing testosterone of various compositions and other doping preparations in the form of capsules, tablets and liquids for injection.

The main organiser managed the activities of the group and the background of the trade in the said substances in Námestovo and its surroundings, as well as in the village of Jablonka in Poland. He imported substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects from various sources in China, Malta, Greece and Bulgaria, or obtained them from other group members as required. He also stored the substances intended for further distribution with the help of other group members in the premises of the administrative and commercial building and in the warehouses of several companies in Námestovo, as well as in the buildings located in the village of Jablonka in the Republic of Poland.

Some group members were responsible for storing and dispatching substances with anabolic and hormonal effects, as well as for receiving cash payments. The group also sold the purchased substances through various websites and e-shops. Selected group members were entrusted with the creation and management of websites and e-shops within the allocation of tasks in the group.

Other 2 members of the group were responsible for packing substances into shipping packages. They used ad hoc couriers to ship substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects, but especially the courier companies DPD and GLS, through which they sent consignments to EU countries, most often to Germany and France, but also to Bulgaria, the

---

<sup>26</sup> Central Department of NAKA of the PPF

Netherlands and Belgium. They also masked illegal activities by officially mentioning one of the three companies established in Slovakia as senders of consignments to cover their illicit activities.

In order to cover the illegal origin of the proceeds of crime, they established various companies based in Slovakia as well as abroad. They also opened and used bank accounts with various banking institutions, or used the already existing bank accounts. They received non-cash payments credited to these accounts for the supply of substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects from various customers, transferring large amounts of funds from the illicit trade in these substances between the individual bank accounts without any obvious economic sense. They withdrew large amounts of cash from these accounts, which they disposed of and dealt with in an undetected manner.

Part of the funds obtained from the illegal sale of substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects was invested through other persons and companies into the purchase of real estate, e.g. apartments and vehicles.

One group member established several business companies in the USA in an unspecified period of time and provided for the opening of bank accounts of these companies with a bank operating in Slovakia. He had the right of disposal of the bank accounts opened. A laundering scheme was created through these accounts. The offenders also transferred funds to these accounts for the sale of substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects.

The main organiser was the Executive Director of a virtual company in the USA. There are no commercial or business premises at the company's address in the USA. The company's Executive Director opened a bank account for it with a bank operating in Slovakia, of which he had the right of disposal. Funds for the sale of substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects were transferred also through this account.

The aim of establishing companies abroad was to build a network of interconnected companies directly or indirectly controlled by the accused and to perform financial operations between and on the accounts of companies as well as the accounts of natural persons in order to cover the source of funds.

In the implementation of the above-mentioned "TIGER" operation, substances in the total amount of EUR 38,826.97- 66,074.33 were seized, while only the seized anabolic substances alone were in the total amount of EUR 14,329.51-19,768.24.

The offenders imported the preparations and distributed them also within the territory of the Slovak Republic, thus gaining an unjustified financial benefit for themselves in the amount of more than EUR 5 million. As regards the effectiveness of criminal proceedings, within 1 year of the indictment, it was managed to close the case as regards 6 accused in the pre-trial phase within the period of custody. On 24 February 2021, a plea bargain was concluded between the prosecutor and the 6 accused natural persons (top members of the organised group) and 2 legal persons, approved on 12 March 2021 by the District Court in Žilina. In addition to mandatory sentences, a total of 5 sentences of forfeiture of property in the estimated value of EUR 2,500,000-3,000,000 were imposed.

In this region, too, the application of measures related to the Covid-19 disease has generally worsened the availability of drugs there, increased their price and reduced the concentration of the active substance.

The age of first contact with the drug, especially with cannabis, ranges in the region from 11 years to 17-18 years of age, depending on the particular location. While in the southern part of the region and socially excluded communities, the first contact with drugs is at the age of 13, in the northern part of the region it is approximately 16-17 years.

## **2.4      Eastern Slovakia Region**

The Eastern Slovakia region is bounded by the border with Poland, Ukraine and part of the southern border is common with Hungary. The drug scene in the region is affected by a smaller concentration of major companies located mainly nearby Košice and a high unemployment rate.

Similar to the Central Slovakia Region, the particularity of this region, too, is a high number of inhabitants from socially vulnerable communities.

The high unemployment rate has forced part of the population to go to work to other regions, especially Bratislava. Another part of the population is employed or studying mainly in the Czech Republic. From there, as couriers or for their own consumption, they imported cannabis in addition to methamphetamine, being the two most frequently used drugs in the region.

A large part of the Eastern Slovak Region is characterised by a high concentration of socially vulnerable inhabitants or people from socially vulnerable and minority groups. In these communities, many people are addicted to alcohol and narcotic and psychotropic substances. Financial incomes of these people are minimal, mostly formed by social benefits and parental allowances.

Drug users in this social group of the population are looking for very cheap drugs, the most common are synthetic cannabinoids known under the general name herba, imported from Hungary. In 2020, synthetic cannabinoids contained mostly the active substance AMB – Fubinaca. Consumers of synthetic cannabinoids are often involved in activities related to their distribution or in secondary drug-related activities, e.g. theft, robbery, etc. Measures related to the Covid-19 disease, and in particular the closure of the border with Hungary as a source country, have made it less accessible to the most socially vulnerable users.

Information obtained through investigation at operational level suggests that members of this group of drug addicts, in case of shortage, also focus on the abuse of the medicinal products containing opiates and opioids. Officers of the District Headquarters of the PF Košice discovered a group of offenders who, based on falsified medical prescriptions, ensured Tramabene, Tramadol, Neurol, Ketonol Forte, etc. in various pharmacies in Košice. Subsequently, they distributed them among drug addicts.

A special problem of the region is the border with Ukraine. In 2020, as regards the drug-related crime, officers of the PF registered information, as well as cases of imports of methamphetamine and substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects. An attempt to export methamphetamine to Ukraine was also recorded.

The most frequently distributed drugs in the region were cannabis and methamphetamine. The worsening availability due to measures related to the Covid-19 disease was also reflected in their higher cost and quality. Due to poor social situation not only of many inhabitants but also of users, many consumers started to focus on growing cannabis and producing methamphetamine in small volumes for their own or community consumption.

Within the region, many small fields of cannabis plants grown outdoors have been discovered. There have also been several cases of offenders, who have grown cannabis in smaller volumes in family houses or flats.

In the village of Hervartov in a family house, members of the District Headquarters of the PF Bardejov discovered a growing facility for cultivating cannabis indoors, set up by an unknown offender. During the house search, 75 cannabis plants were seized, from which it would be possible to prepare 90-250 single doses.

A strange case of barter trade in methamphetamine was detected by officers of the District Headquarters of the PF Trebišov. The offender purchased a smaller amount of methamphetamine in exchange for 5 litres of home-made alcohol. The methamphetamine obtained was dosed by the accomplice in the motor vehicle while driving to the individual customers.

Cases of imports and distribution of cocaine, ecstasy and anabolic substances have also been documented in the region. From October 2019 to October 2020, during the “Dispečer” operation, NAKA of the PPF police officers documented a offender, who ensured methamphetamine, cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy from the Czech Republic in larger volumes. The offender subsequently distributed imported narcotic and psychotropic substances among consumers in the Prešov and Košice Region. During the execution of 3 house searches and 2 passenger motor vehicle searches, 200 g of cannabis, 700 g of methamphetamine, 40 g of cocaine and 417 ecstasy tablets were seized at the offender.



Fig. No. 17: Dispečer operation – seized drugs

During 2020, police officers of the District Headquarters of the PF Košice investigated several cases of import and distribution of substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects imported by Ukrainian nationals.

In 2020, an offender was detained who, since February 2020, had been purchasing substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects from persons operating throughout the Slovak Republic, as well as from the Federal Republic of Germany. These mainly included

Trenbol A, Trenbol 100, Trenagen 100. Testosterone Enanthate. He subsequently sold these substances to several users in the Trebišov and Púchov District and surroundings.

The lowest age of the first contact with narcotic and psychotropic substances in the region ranges from approximately 16-17 years. Exceptions are socially excluded communities, where the first contact with drugs occurs at the age of 10-12 years.

In the Eastern Slovakia Region, too, measures related to the Covid-19 disease have affected the drug scene. The availability of the individual narcotic and psychotropic substances has also become more difficult due to the closure of borders between the individual countries, especially Hungary and the Czech Republic. Therefore, the prices of narcotic and psychotropic substances have increased and their quality has decreased. Drug distribution has moved to public spaces, petrol stations and grocery and drug stores. Consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances has moved to flats, family houses and cottages. Similar to other regions, offenders have used the requirement for covering the upper and lower airways to make their identification more difficult.

### **3 INTERDEPARTMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

The issue of abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substance is not only a matter of detecting drug-related crimes, but also concerns the area of prevention, cooperation with healthcare and economy sectors at national level, as well as cooperation among various bodies and organisations at international level. In 2020, however, these activities were also significantly affected by the global situation and measures related to the Covid-19 disease.

#### **3.1 Horizontal Working Party on Drugs of the Council of the European Union**

In 2020, the Horizontal Group on Drugs of the Council of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “HDG”) met 3 times in Brussels. The other 7 meetings took place in the form of video conferences. On behalf of NAKA of the PPF, 1 national expert took part in the meetings, either in the form of a physical presence in Brussels or during video conferences.

Priority topics of the HDG meetings in 2020 included:

- draft opinion of the EU on the WHO’s proposal concerning reclassification of cannabis and its products from Group IV to Group II of the list of prohibited substances of the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1961,
- uniform position of EU Member States in voting concerning the inclusion of substances in the UN lists of prohibited substances at the 63<sup>rd</sup> CND meeting,
- assessment of the EU Drugs Strategy for 2013-2020 and the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2017-2020,
- preparation of the EU Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025.

In connection with the preparation of the EU Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025, several discussions took place in the second half of 2020. EU Member States did not agree with the procedure of the EC, which, without the knowledge and consent of the Member States, prepared a new EU Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025 and submitted it to the EP for approval on 24 July 2020. The reason for the disagreement was not only the EC procedure itself, but also the direction of the drug policy proposed in the strategy submitted by the EC. Following negotiations through

video conferences, on 18 December 2020, Member States submitted a new draft EU Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025 for the COREPER meeting.

In 2019, within the activities related to the HDG, the national expert of the National Criminal Agency of the Presidium of the Police Force prepared the position of the Slovak Republic on the EU Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025 for the COREPER meeting.

### **3.2 Standing Committee on Precursors of the EC**

The group of experts for drug precursors of the Standing Committee on Precursors of the EC prepared uniform opinions of the EU for the 63<sup>rd</sup> CND meeting concerning MAPA precursor abused for the production of methamphetamine and amphetamine.

In October 2020, the MAPA precursor was included in the list of substances identified by the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

### **3.3 International Cooperation with Law Enforcement Authorities**

The phenomenon of abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors globally affects all countries worldwide, law enforcement authorities cooperate with each other not only at national, but also at international level, as well as through various organisations. However, in 2020 their activities took place mainly through video conferences.

#### **3.3.1 EUROPOL and INTERPOL**

Among others, NAKA of the PPF is an active participant in two EUROPOL projects also in the area of drug-related crime, the so-called EMPACTs (EMPACT cocaine, heroin and cannabis and EMPACT synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances). Within these EMPACTs, it was involved in 24 operational activities concerning the issue of production of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, smuggling of cocaine, heroin and cannabis, cannabis growing, detection of organised groups of western Africa, the Balkans, liquidation of drug laboratories, sale of narcotic and psychotropic substances via the Internet, etc.

Despite various restrictions in relation to the Covid-19 disease, namely the exchange of information through the SIENA channel took place in 2020. NAKA of the PPF police officers participated in the "Gold" operation in cooperation with Slovenia. Since May 2020, there has been close cooperation between the Member States, EUROPOL and the Slovak Republic within the framework of the "Pontón" operation (see Chapter 1.2).

In cooperation with partner services of Hungary, Serbia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Bulgaria and the Netherlands, NAKA of the PPF police officers participated in the "Transporter" operation under the auspices of EUROPOL.

Cooperation with INTERPOL is focused primarily on the exchange of information in particular cases and in active participation in international meetings and conferences.

### **3.3.2 EUROJUST**

In March 2019, the NAKA of the PPF investigator commenced criminal prosecution in the matter of a crime of counterfeiting of medicinal products and medical device pursuant to Section 170b (1), (3) (b) referring to Section 138 (b), (i) of the Criminal Code and unauthorised handling of substances with anabolic or other hormonal effects pursuant to Section 176 (1), (2) (c) of the Criminal Code referring to Section 138 (b), (i) of the Criminal Code.

In June 2019, a joint Czech and Slovak investigation team was established under the cover name "Tovarys". The activities of the joint investigation team were reflected in the implementation of the "Medik" case in our territory, as well as in other coordinated operations in Romania and other participating countries.

### **3.3.3 International Cooperation**

Despite the limitations in relation to the Covid-19 disease, international cooperation took place at the operational level. In addition to the many cases mentioned in the previous chapters, NAKA of the PPF police officers, in cooperation with the Czech and Polish partners, focused on detecting groups of offenders involved in the production of new psychoactive substances.

International cooperation took place at the bilateral level between representatives of the Slovak Republic and partner units of the Czech Republic, Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries.

Based on such cooperation between NAKA of the PPF police officers and the British NCA it was managed to dismantle an organised crime group of offenders, citizens of the Netherlands and Belgium, smuggling narcotic and psychotropic substances to the Great Britain hidden in electric generators. During the implementation, 20 kg of cocaine and 5 kg of heroin were seized.

### **3.4 Other Legislative Activities**

On 6 April 2020, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic was asked by a letter from the President of the PF to include 11 new psychoactive substances in the List of Prohibited Substances of Act No. 139/1998 Coll. on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Preparations.

NAKA of the PPF police officers also prepared an opinion of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic on the exclusion of the substance cannabidiol (CBD) from the list of prohibited substances of Act No. 139/1998 Coll. on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Preparations. This activity is aimed at enabling the use of the therapeutic properties of cannabidiol in patients suffering from epilepsy, oncological diseases, chronic pain, etc.

#### **3.4.1 Interdepartmental Expert Coordination Body**

In connection with the activity of the Interdepartmental Expert Coordination Body for Fight against Crime, the Methodology of Intervention in Case of Occurrence of Hazardous Substances for the working group of chemical security of NAKA of the PPF was issued and approved on 27 September 2019. The methodological guidance was also published on the Intranet of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

A task concerning special chemical training of PF members was also included in the Plan of Training of the PPF for 2020, within which three instructional and methodological activities were carried out. Members of the working group of chemical security of NAKA of the PPF,

members of UOU of the PPF and selected units and HaZZ, trainers of the PIU OPP of the Regional Headquarters of the PF, MZJ OHCP Sobrance, IFS of the PF, KCHL CO Jasov and STU Bratislava participated in the activities focused on handling of toxic, chemical and radioactive substances, service interventions in laboratories for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors.

Due to measures in relation to the Covid-19 disease, the international military exercise "Toxic Valley" did not take place in 2020. As in 2019, the subject of the joint exercise of members of the PF, HaZZ and soldiers of NATO armies was to train specific activities of taking samples and subsequent identification of toxic chemical substances.

### **3.5 Projects**

Organisational units of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, including the units of the PPF, have participated in the preparation and fulfilment of tasks resulting from various projects both at national and international levels. The projects are focused on various areas of fight against drugs, in particular on the repressive and preventive areas. In 2020, the implementation of projects took place only at national level or with the use of information and communication technologies.

#### **3.5.1 System Project**

In September 2018, the System Project was launched, which was funded from EU funds within the Horizon 2020 programme. It is a scientific and innovation programme aimed at environmental monitoring focusing on the substances used in the production of narcotic and psychotropic substances, explosives, precursors and pre-precursors of drugs and explosives.

As the whole project is implemented in the confidentiality regime determined by the European Union, no more details on this NAKA of the PPF activity may be provided.

### **3.5.2 CO3DIL Project**

In February 2019, the CO3DIL Project funded from EU funds was launched. It is focused on international cooperation in detecting and liquidating illegal laboratories for the production of narcotic and psychotropic substances, in particular methamphetamine.

With regard to the global situation and the measures taken in relation to the Covid19 disease, all planned meetings, conferences and similar activities were cancelled in 2020. In view of these facts, the main organiser, the Czech Republic, asked the EC to extend the implementation date. The EC has complied with the request and the project is expected to be completed in October 2021.

Within the activities, the representative of the Slovak Republic participated in the preparation of underlying documents and correction of the guidance document "Illegal Laboratories for the Production of Methamphetamine" for the PF officers.

### **3.5.3 “Introduction of Tools and Methods for Fight Against Drug and Pharmaceutical Criminality” Project**

The project was launched in March 2017 and takes place at national level. It is financed from EC funds for the area of the Internal Security Fund. Primarily, the project is aimed at improving the efficiency of detection of drug and pharmaceutical crimes by introducing standard tools, new methods and best practices.

In 2020, Raman spectrometers were purchased from the provided funds for use by NAKA of the PPF and KUFS police officers, as well as a portable decontamination device for the purpose of decontamination of seized evidence and equipment of intervening units. There was also a call for bids as regards the purchase of a special car intended for the transport of seized chemical materials and laboratories.

## **3.6 Operational Protection of International Airports**

In 2020, too, despite measures and restrictions related to international air traffic, risk analyses were performed on an ongoing basis as regards passengers records of airlines operating in the territory of the Slovak Republic through scheduled air services, as well as the so-called

"private jets", i.e. users of small private aircraft pursuant to Article 16 of the so-called Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation with regard to national and EU legislation (especially in the field of personal data protection, the so-called GDPR).

The performance of service activities was primarily focused on the area of the so-called CARGO. In 2020, more than 120,000 consignments were analysed and inspected. Due to the growing interest of consumers, as well as drug-related crime offenders in importing various types of narcotic and psychotropic substances ordered from abroad through information and communication technologies, there was close cooperation with KÚFS and CÚ, as well as courier companies DHL and TNT.

At national level, already in 2017, the relevant NAKA of the PPF department was an accredited sponsor of the basic supplementary training "Use of Passenger Name Record Data for Operational Purposes, Detection and Investigation of Serious Crime". However, in 2020 it was not possible to implement these educational activities.

### **3.7 Preventive Activities**

During 2020, NAKA of the PPF officers carried out 5 preventive activities aimed at reducing the demand for narcotic and psychotropic substances at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level of primary schools. However, other planned preventive activities were cancelled due to the measures taken and the closure of primary and secondary schools.

### **3.8 Other**

In addition to repressive, preventive, coordination and monitoring activities, the activities of the PPF units, as well as of the public administration also include other activities necessary for the effective fulfilment and setting of strategic goals and the performance of tasks in the fight against drugs.

#### **3.8.1 Expert Opinions**

In 2020, 335 expert opinions were prepared to determine the value of seized narcotic and psychotropic substances, medicinal products and precursors, as well as anabolic substances necessary for criminal proceedings required under Section 141 of Act No. 301/2005 Coll. – the Criminal Procedure Code.

### **3.8.2 Questionnaires and Other Statistical Data**

In 2020, various statistical data concerning repressive and preventive activities, narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors, etc. were provided to international organisations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Organised Crime, Europol, EMCDDA, as well as to the national authorities dealing with anti-drug policy. Various questionnaires were prepared, such as the Annual Drug Questionnaire (ARQ) for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Organised Crime, as well as underlying documents for EUROPOL and EMCDDA regarding the influence and impacts of the Covid-19 disease on the field of narcotic and psychotropic substances, precursors and pre-precursors, as well as consumers and offenders of drug-related crime.

## **CONCLUSION**

For its entire existence, mankind has been looking for a way to cure various diseases, as well as to change the state of mind, stimulate or dampen energy, approach situations and problems more positively. In relation to the Covid-19 disease, 2020 brought serious challenges for all countries, including the Slovak Republic. It affected not only the social, economic and other living conditions of each individual and society, but also the illegal activities associated with narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors.

Based on information provided herein it can be expected that the following will continue in 2021:

- increase in the number of consumers and drug addicts,
- increasing consumption of cannabis and thus its production, including growing for one's own consumption, import and distribution,
- increasing consumption of methamphetamine, its production, including production for one's own or community consumption, import and distribution, as well as interest in the precursors needed to produce it,
- increasing consumption of new psychoactive substances connected with their procurement via information and communication technologies,
- reinforcing illegal activities in the field of pharmacological crime, e.g.: sale of counterfeit medicines, nutritional supplements, etc.,
- increase in the interest in substances with anabolic and other hormonal effects,
- decrease in the interest in traditional heroin combined with increasing interest in synthetic opiates and opioids in medicinal products, e.g. fentanyl,
- misuse of information and communication technologies in trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances,
- misuse of courier and postal services in distributing narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors,
- involvement of persons working abroad, the so-called "cross-border workers", drivers of freight transport in the import of narcotic and psychotropic substances into the territory of the Slovak Republic,

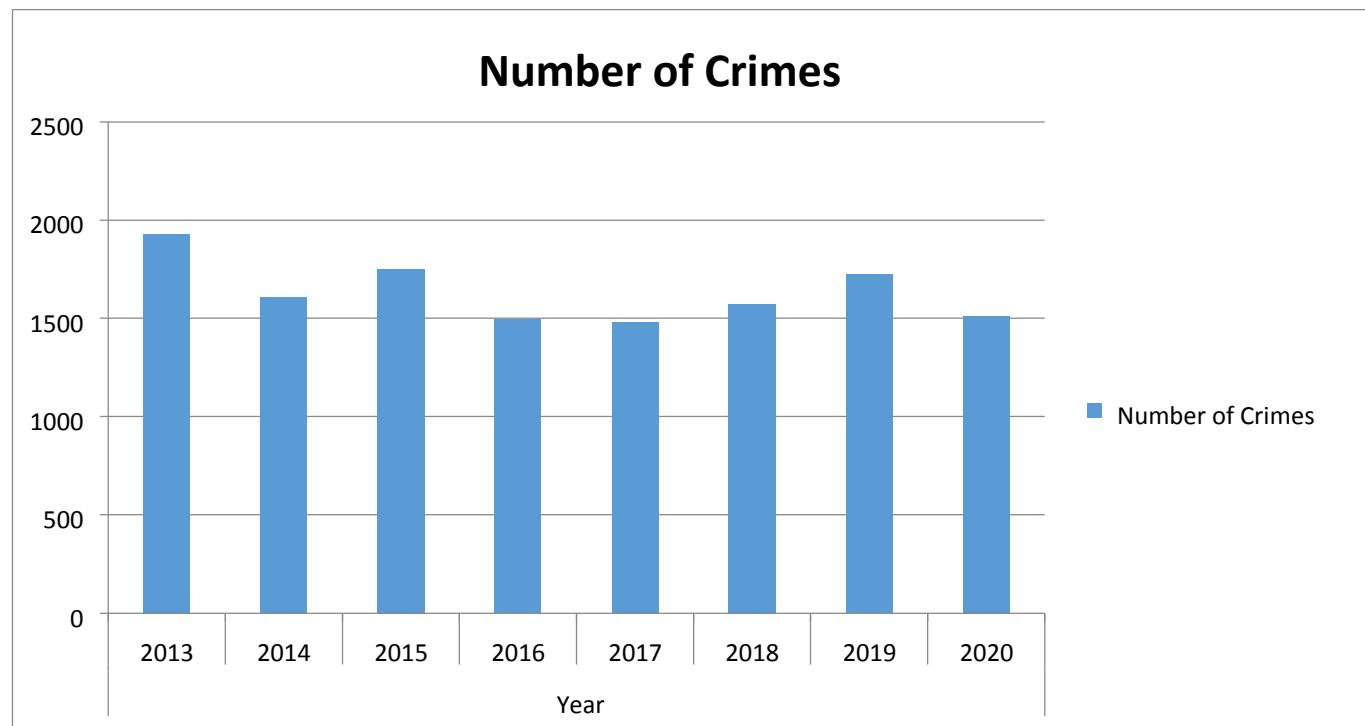
- misuse of measures in relation to the Covid-19 disease by offenders, for the purpose of concealing their identity and criminal activity,
- involvement of groups of offenders from the Balkan Peninsula in the illicit trade in cannabis and cocaine in the Slovak Republic,
- increasing interest of socially disabled groups, especially in the eastern Slovakia, in solvents, as they are affordable,
- establishment of organised groups, whose members operate in different countries and deal with illicit trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors
- replacement of organised groups dealing with drugs.

## **A N N E X E S**

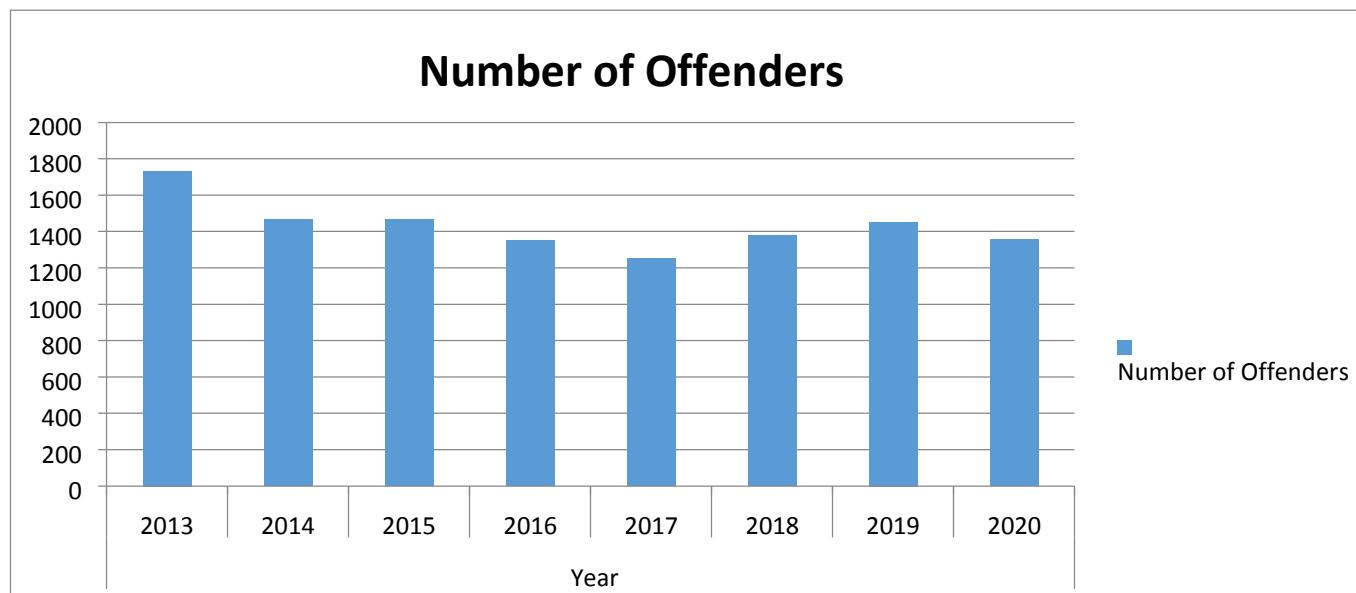
**Tab. No. 1: Number of Drug-Related Crimes and Offenders Identified by PF Officers in 2013-2020**

		Year							
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crimes	Number of Crimes	1930	1609	1750	1493	1480	1573	1723	1513
	Number of Cleared-Up Crimes	1417	1222	1270	1156	1105	1161	1252	1071
	Clear-Up Rate in %	73.42	75.95	72.57	77.43	74.66	73.81	72.66	70.79
Total Offenders	Number of Offenders	1733	1468	1467	1352	1253	1378	1451	1355
	Juveniles	127	99	98	80	80	88	71	51
	Minors	4	0	0	0	3	1	1	0

**Chart No. 1: Number of Drug-Related Crimes and Offenders Identified by PF officers in 2013-2020**



**Chart No. 2: Number of Drug-Related Crime Offenders Detained by PF officers in 2013-2020**



**Tab. No. 2: Seizures of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances for 2018-2020**

YEAR		2018		2019		2020	
Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance	Unit	Number of Seizures	Seized Quantity	Number of Seizures	Seized Quantity	Number of Seizures	Seized Quantity
Hashish	kg	22	0.259	27	0.485	16	0.0337
Cannabis	kg	1016	52.509	1075	131.361	909	51.101
Hemp plants	pc	28	904	41	1611	29	633
Heroin	kg	62	1.003	50	1,517	42	0.308
Cocaine	kg	32	1.245	51	0.348	33	0.616
Amphetamine	kg	5	0,006	10	0,042	4	0.02
Methamphetamine (pervitin)	kg	648	4.444	752	8,836	745	1518.114
Ecstasy tablets - MDMA	tablet	72	6041	65	1301	52	2898
MDMA powder	kg	18	0.144	35	0.25	17	0.049
LSD	dose	7	138	5	16	3	6
Other		119		165		109	
<b>In Total:</b>		<b>2029</b>		<b>2276</b>		<b>1959</b>	

**Table No. 3: Number of Seizures of New Psychoactive Substances for 2020**

Substance	Unit	Number of seizures	Quantity
1cP-LSD	trip	2	36
1cP-LSD	trip	2	14
2C-B-fly	tbl	1	2
3-Fluoroamphetamine	g	1	0.43
3-MeO-PCP	g	1	1.772
3-HO-PCE	g	1	0.483
3-MeO-PCE	g	1	0.5
3-MMC	g	2	3.54
4-CMC	g	2	26.238
4F-3M- $\alpha$ -PVP	g	1	3.05
4F-MDMB-BICA (powder)	g	1	0.611
5F-MDMB-PICA (herb)	g	1	2.274
5-MeO-N,N-DMT	g	3	0.437
alprazolam	tbl	6	30
eutylone	g	1	4.12
bromazepam	tbl	1	4
buprenorphine	tbl	3	18
buprenorphine (powder)	g	2	0.318
buprenorphine (solution)	ml	1	0,5
CBD	ml	2	47
deschloroketamine	g	1	0.93
diazepam	tbl	3	103
diazepam (solution)	ml	1	9
diclazepam	tbl	1	10
diphenidine	g	1	1,075
DMT	g	1	0.96
DMT (solution)	ml	1	2.5
ephenedidine	g	1	2.022
escitalopram	tbl	1	4
etizolam	tbl	1	2
etizolam (powder)	g	1	1.749
fentanyl (patch)	ks	2	9
fentanyl (solution)	ml	3	0.98
fentanyl (film)	ks	1	112
2F-deschloroketamine	g	1	1.204
isopropylphenidate	g	1	0.822
clonazepam	tbl	3	55
hemp cakes	g	1	53.63
hemp solution	g	2	4.064

MDMB-4en-PINACA (plant)	g	2	1.794
MDMB-4en-PINACA (powder)	g	4	12.039
MDPEP	g	1	0.33
mephedrone	g	1	10.72
methamphetamine (solution)	ml	13	603
morphine	tbl	1	6
MXPr	g	1	2.068
N-Ethylhexedrone	g	4	3.199
N-Ethylhexedrone + 3-FPM	g	1	7.017
deschloro-N-ethyl-Ketamine	g	1	0.471
psilocin (Psilocybin mushrooms)	g	14	222.171
zolpidem (powder)	g	1	0.271
zolpidem	tbl	2	46
$\alpha$ -D2PV	g	1	6.189
<b>In Total:</b>		<b>109</b>	

**Tab. No. 4: Seizures of New Psychoactive Substances for 2019**

New Psychoactive substance	Unit	Number of Seizures	Seized Quantity
2C-I	trip	1	6
3-CMC	g	4	148.201
3-CMC + 3-CEC	g	1	0.762
3-MeO-PCP	g	1	1.085
3-MMC	g	1	3.309
4-CMC (powder)	g	6	915.42
4-CMC (solution)	g	1	0.734
4-CMC + 3-CEC	g	1	4.288
4-CMC + 4-CEC	g	1	0.251
CMC + CEC	g	2	29.425
4F-MDMB-BINACA (powder)	g	2	1.789
4F-MDMB-BINACA (herb)	g	4	64.322
5C-AKB-48 (powder)	g	1	0.743
5F-ADB (powder)	g	1	0.179
5F-ADB (herb)	g	6	82.22
5F-ADB + AMB-FUBINACA (herb)	g	2	1.157
5F-ADB+5F-MDMB-PICA (herb)	g	2	1.11
5F-Cumyl-PeGaClone (herb)	g	1	9.889
5F-Cumyl-PeGaClone (solution)	ml	1	100
5F-MDMB-PICA (powder)	g	2	24.087
5F-MDMB-PICA (herb)	g	13	46.616
5F-MDMB-PICA + 4F-MDMB-BINACA (herb)	g	2	106.009
5F-MDMB-PICA + 5F-MDMB-PINACA (herb)	g	1	0.254
5F-MDMB-PICA + MDMB-4en-PINACA (herb)	g	2	0.27
ADB-CHMINACA (herb)	g	1	6.025
ALD-52	trip	1	10
AMB-FUBINACA (herb)	g	1	0.14
alprazolam	tbl	12	297
datura (seeds)	g	1	2.225
bromazepam	tbl	2	23
buprenorphine	tbl	3	4
buprenorphine (patch)	pcs	1	4
butyhexedrone	g	1	0.01
citalopram, olanzapine	g	1	0.125
Cumyl-CH-MeGaClone (herb)	g	3	182.676
diazepam	tbl	3	6
diazepam (solution)	ml	2	3
dihydrocodeine	tbl	1	63
DMT	tbl	1	1
EMC (solution)	ml	1	60
escitalopram	tbl	1	6
phenibut	tbl	1	2.909

fentanyl (patch)	pcs	10	146
fentanyl (solution)	ml	2	1.6
GBL (solution)	ml	1	7
heroin (solution)	ml	2	0.9
cathine	g	1	3.593
clonazepam	tbl	2	3
codeine	tbl	1	571
hemp oil	g	3	10.427
hemp ointment	g	1	1032.2
LSD + 1P-LSD	trip	1	5
poppy straw	g	1	6.245
methamphetamine (solution)	ml	19	1100
MMB–FUBINACA (powder)	g	1	0.557
morphine	tbl	1	8
morphine (solution)	ml	1	3
N-ethyl Heptedrone	g	4	5.398
N-Ethyl-nor-pentedrone	g	1	117.808
psilocin (Psilocybin mushrooms)	g	10	429.422
tramadol	ml	1	6
zolpidem (powder)	g	2	0.671
zolpidem	tbl	3	94
bk-MPA	g	1	0.08
<b>In Total:</b>		165	

**Tab. No.5: Seizures of New Psychoactive Substances for 2018**

New Psychoactive Substance	Unit	2018	
		Number of Seizures	Seized quantity
2C-B	tbl	2	4.5
3-FEA	g	1	1.023
3-FMA + 3-FPM + FEA	g	1	0.743
3-FPM	g	1	0.438
3-MeO-PCP	g	1	2.957
4-CMC	g	1	0.78
4-chloro- $\alpha$ -PVP	g	1	0.02
4-methyl Pentedrone	g	1	0.15
5F-ADB (powder)	g	2	0.264
5F-ADB (herb)	g	20	395.1
5F-AKB57 (powder)	g	1	3.149
5F-MDMB-PICA (herb)	g	2	2.044
ADB-FUBINACA + 5F-ADB (herb)	g	1	0.33
AMB-FUBINACA (powder)	g	1	9.512
AMB-FUBINACA + 5F-ADB (herb)	g	5	30.833
$\alpha$ -PVP (herb)	g	1	0.55
$\alpha$ -PVP (powder)	g	1	0.259
alprazolam	tbl	4	104
bromazepam	tbl	1	2
buprenorphine	tbl	3	31
CUMYL-PEGACLONE (herb)	g	1	0.327
dextromethorphan	g	3	102.459
diazepam	tbl	3	16
dihydrocodeine	tbl	1	59
DOI	trip	1	1
etizolam	g	1	0.116
fentanyl (patch)	pcs	10	44
GBL (solution)	ml	1	50
heroin (solution)	ml	6	5.56
ketamine	g	1	2.538
ketamine (solution)	ml	1	1500
clonazepam	tbl	1	4
clonazolam	g	1	0.423
hemp oil	g	1	3
hemp ointment	g	2	159.79
hemp extract	g	1	4.67
methamphetamine (solution)	ml	20	17.74
MDPHP	g	1	0.313
MDMB-FUBICA (herb)	g	1	6.96

N-ethylhexedrone (powder)	g	1	0.203
N-Ethyl-nor-pentedrone (powder)	g	1	2.292
psilocin (Psilocybin mushrooms)	g	4	8.475
scopolamine	g	1	1.511
tramadol	tbl	1	13
zolpidem	tbl	3	21
In Total:		119	

**Tab. No. 6: Concentration of Active Substance in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances - 2020**

Concentration of Active Substance (Retail Sale)	Number of Samples	2020		
		Minimum	Maximum	Arithmetic Average
Hashish (% THC)	19	0.1	32.5	13.6
Hemp (% THC)	1520	0.1	46.4	10.3
Heroin (%)	144	7.1	47.1	16.1
Cocaine (%)	34	15.9	85.9	51.2
Amphetamine (%)	7	2	22.9	13.4
Methamphetamine (%)	1179	0.1	80.3	55.8
Ecstasy (mg MDMA in tablet/unit)	2898	34	282	145

**Tab. No. 7: Concentration of Active Substance in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances - 2019**

Concentration of Active Substance	2019			
	Number of Samples	Minimum	Maximum	Arithmetic average
Hashish (% THC)	33	0.3	42.3	16.2
Cannabis (% THC) (10)	1379	0.01	42.2	10.8
Heroin (%)	144	3	24.3	9.6
Cocaine (%)	53	12	87.5	52.6
Amphetamine (%)	10	6	74.3	35.7
Methamphetamine (%)	888	0.1	80.4	56.4
Ecstasy (mg MDMA in tablet/unit)	1329	19.17	223.45	141.54

**Table No. 8: Prices of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances in the Black Market in the Territory of the Slovak Republic, year 2020**

NPS type	Depart Bratislava	Unit price in EUR*							Notes
		West Department			Centre		East	SR	
		Trnava	Trenčín	Nitra	Banská Bystrica	Žilina	Košice	Prešov	
Cannabis	5-15	10-15	10	10	5-15	5-10	7-11	5-10	5-15
Hashish	10-20	15-30	10	10-15	n/a	n/a	8-12	10-15	10-30
Pervitin	30-70	30-60	60-100	50-80	50-100	50-90	50-100	50-120	30-120
Heroin	20-45	30-55	30-60	50-55	40-100	40-100	40-50	50-70	20-100
Cocaine	50-100	90-100	80-100	100-120	80-100	80-130	100-120	80-150	50-150
Amphetamine	30-40	40-55	40-55	45	n/a	n/a	30	n/a	30-55
MDMA - Ecstasy	3-10	12	10	10	8-10	5-11	5-10	5-15	3-15
LSD	10	10	10	13-15	n/a	n/a	8-10	5-15	5-15
Ketamine	n/a	180-250	n/a	120	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120-250
subotex/suboxone	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	5-15	n/a	5	n/a	5-15
fentanyl - patches	45-50	35-40	60	40-60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35-60
	n/a	30	45	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30-45
	n/a	20	35	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20-35
	n/a	10	10	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10
other*	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	1-2	2-5	2.50	n/a	1-10

