



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

**EU4MD**



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# EU4MD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

## NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

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**UKRAINE**

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## THE CURRENT SITUATION (TRENDS) ON NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES IN UKRAINE

### Situation before the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (before 24 Feb. 2022)

- The main import of new psychoactive substances to Ukraine came from the countries of East Asia (China, India) by air and sea transport (seaports of Odessa region);
- In recent years, there has been observed a trend of the increase in share of production of new psychoactive substances within Ukraine, using precursors imported from the countries of East Asia;
- Use of cryptocurrencies and online wallets for purchasing new psychoactive substances;
- The main distribution channel is drop-off sites through Telegram channels;
- There was observed a diversification of the illegal business engaged in the production and sale of new psychoactive substances. Thus, the laboratories, warehouses and consumers are often located in one country, and the call centers that take orders and arrange delivery to the end user, are located in other country or in the territory not controlled by the Ukrainian authorities;
- There have been detected several attempts to export new psychoactive substances produced in Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

## THE CURRENT SITUATION (TRENDS) ON NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES IN UKRAINE

### Situation after the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (after 24 Feb. 2022)

- Due to the destruction of the aircraft infrastructure and the blockage of the sea trade routes of Ukraine by the troops of the Russian Federation, all the transit through the territory of Ukraine was stopped, as well as the use of air and sea transport for importing and exporting any goods. This resulted in breaking the supply chains, including those for new psychoactive substances and precursors for their production;
- Today, the main import and export of goods is arranged through the western borders of Ukraine with the European Union countries and the Republic of Moldova, including the import of new psychoactive substances and their precursors;
- It is assumed that attempts to export new psychoactive substances made in Ukraine to the European Union countries would increase;
- In Ukraine, there is a trend of shifting from the illicit use of traditional drugs to the use of synthetic psychoactive substances. In this regard, the amphetamine family substances, as well as methadone, are becoming more prevalent in illicit trafficking.

## MAIN NATIONAL OR LOCAL ACTIONS CONDUCTED TO PREVENT, REDUCE HARMS, OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES USE

**In order to reduce harm associated with the use of new psychoactive substances, the law enforcement authorities carry out activities that are aimed at as follows:**

- to decrease the supply of the above substances in illicit trafficking through identifying drug distributors, bringing them to the criminal liability and isolation from society;
- to carry out activities aimed at preventing the channels of illegal entry of new psychoactive substances into the territory of Ukraine from other countries;
- to identify and dismantle the drug laboratories producing psychoactive substances for their further illicit trafficking;
- to carry out the preventive measures targeted at young people in order to shape their sustainable belief in a healthy lifestyle without drugs.

## CHANGES ON THE LEGISLATION ON THE NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES IN 2021/2022

**In 2021–2022, the following changes in terms of new psychoactive substances were made to the legislation of Ukraine:**

- Government Resolution of 10 March 2021 №192 “On Amendments to the List of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors” (imposed control over 58 new psychoactive substances: 17 narcotic drugs, 36 psychotropic substances, 5 precursors).
- Government Resolution of 07 April 2021 №324 “On Amendments to the List of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors” (imposed control over 2 new psychotropic substances);
- Order of the Ministry of Health 06 December 2021 №2712 «On Approval of the Amendments to Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine of 01 August 2000 №188» (defined the small, big and very big quantities for 58 new psychoactive substances in illicit trafficking: 17 narcotic drugs, 36 psychotropic substances, 5 precursors);
- Order of the Ministry of Health of 09 July 2021 №1403 “On Setting and Approving Members of the Committee of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine for Classifying Drugs and Substances as Analogues of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances”