

## Novel Psychoactive Substances: New Measures for Harm Reduction



**Levente Móró**

MSc, PhD (cand.)

Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Turku, Finland

Multidisciplinary Society for Psychedelic Research, Hungary

Daath.hu – Hungarian Psychedelic Community

- „Hungarian Psychedelic Community” (2001-)
- harm reduction, drug information, peer help
- psychedelic and related substances
- 9400+ registered members (entry test)
- Forum: 1000-1200 daily readers
- moderated, no trading
- Ecstasy pill database: 3000+ pill descriptions

**Informed and responsible drug use!**

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<http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/10/1/18>



HARM REDUCTION  
JOURNAL

REVIEW

Open Access

## Online drug user-led harm reduction in Hungary: a review of “Daath”

Levente Móro<sup>1</sup> and József Rác<sup>2,3\*</sup>

### Abstract

Harm reduction has been increasingly finding its way into public drug policies and healthcare practices worldwide, with successful intervention measures justifiably focussing on the highest-risk groups, such as injecting drug users. However, there are also other types of drug users in need for harm reduction, even though they pose less, low, or no public health risk. Occasionally, drug users may autonomously organise themselves into groups to provide advocacy, harm reduction, and peer-help services, sometimes online. The [www.daath.hu](http://www.daath.hu) website has been operated since 2001 by the “Hungarian Psychedelic Community”, an unorganised drug user group with a special interest in hallucinogenic and related substances. As of today, the website serves about 1200 visitors daily, and the online community comprises of more than 8000 registered members. The Daath community is driven by a strong commitment to the policy of harm reduction in the form of various peer-help activities that aim to expand harm

# Novel Psychoactive Substances

- **NSD = New Synthetic Drugs**
  - **DD = Designer Drugs**
  - **RC = Research Chemicals**
  
  - **marginal, „psychonaut” subculture**
  - **hallucinogenic Shulgin phenethylamines / tryptamines**
  - **self-experimenting -> party drug use**
  
  - **cannabinoid receptor agonists (e.g. JWH-s)**
  - **stimulants (cathinones, piperazines,  $\beta$ -ketones)**
  - **psychedelic-like (phenethylamines, tryptamines)**
- „incense”, „bath salt”, „plant food”, ...**

# Drug markets: traditional + NPS

GOOD  
HASA!  
←

OPiUm  
~~COCAINE~~  
LSD  
MUSHROOMS  
←

MDPV  
AMPHETAMINE

NEED

AMT 15€ 4500TT  
2 DOSE  
8 DOSE = 45€  
4750TT



# Why NPS?

- Demand: party culture, trend, curiosity, „coolness”
- Supply: Internet purchase
- Market: new profit
- Media: Internet communication, covert advertisement

**New!**

**Legal!**

**Strong!**

**Cheap!**

**Trendy!**

**Easily available!**

**Dangers (can)not listed!**

# Risks Related to Drug Use

- Overdosing
- Mixing
- Accidents
- Reckless use
- Suicides
- Pre-existing medical conditions
- Plain stupidity

# Risks Related to NPS Use

1. Online purchase scams
2. Drug misidentification
3. Drug mixtures
4. Substance naming
5. (Over)dosing
6. Drug interactions
7. Legal consequences
8. Psychosocial risks



# Dilemma: ”

**Less users & More problems**  
**or**  
**More users & Less problems**  
**?**

# Harm Reduction Best-Practices I.

## 1. Drug checking

ChEckiT! @ Vienna; DIZ @ Zurich;  
WEDINOS @ Wales

## 2. Drug databases

ReDNet project's New Database on Legal Highs

## 3. Global and local information

[bluelight.ru](http://bluelight.ru), [drugs-forum.com](http://drugs-forum.com), [daath.hu](http://daath.hu), ...

# Harm Reduction Best-Practices II.

## 4. Drug user empowerment

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

## 5. Party harm reduction

Nightlife Empowerment & Well-being  
Implementation Project (NEWIP)

## 6. Media regulation

Media Monitor program of the Hungarian Civil  
Liberties Union (HCLU)

# Harm Reduction Best-Practices...?

7. Dose measurement
8. Vendor databases
9. Market force involvement
10. Consumer protection
11. Smart user culture
12. Reducing alcohol/tobacco hypocrisy

# Take-Home Message:

The lifecycle of drugs cannot be stopped by force, but the course may be partially affected by carefully chosen interventions.

For the long-term goal of establishing evidence-based and integrated psychoactive substance policies that also reduce use related harm, changes are urgently needed.

Thank you for your attention!

