

## NPS: The situation in Hungary and harm reduction in Europe



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Daath.hu – Hungarian Psychedelic Community

- „Hungarian Psychedelic Community” (2001-)
- harm reduction, drug information, peer help
- psychedelic and related substances
- 9600 registered members (entry test)
- Forum: 1000 daily readers
- moderated, no trading
- Ecstasy pill database: 3000+ pill descriptions

**Informed and responsible drug use!**

Móro and Rác *Harm Reduction Journal* 2013, **10**:18  
<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

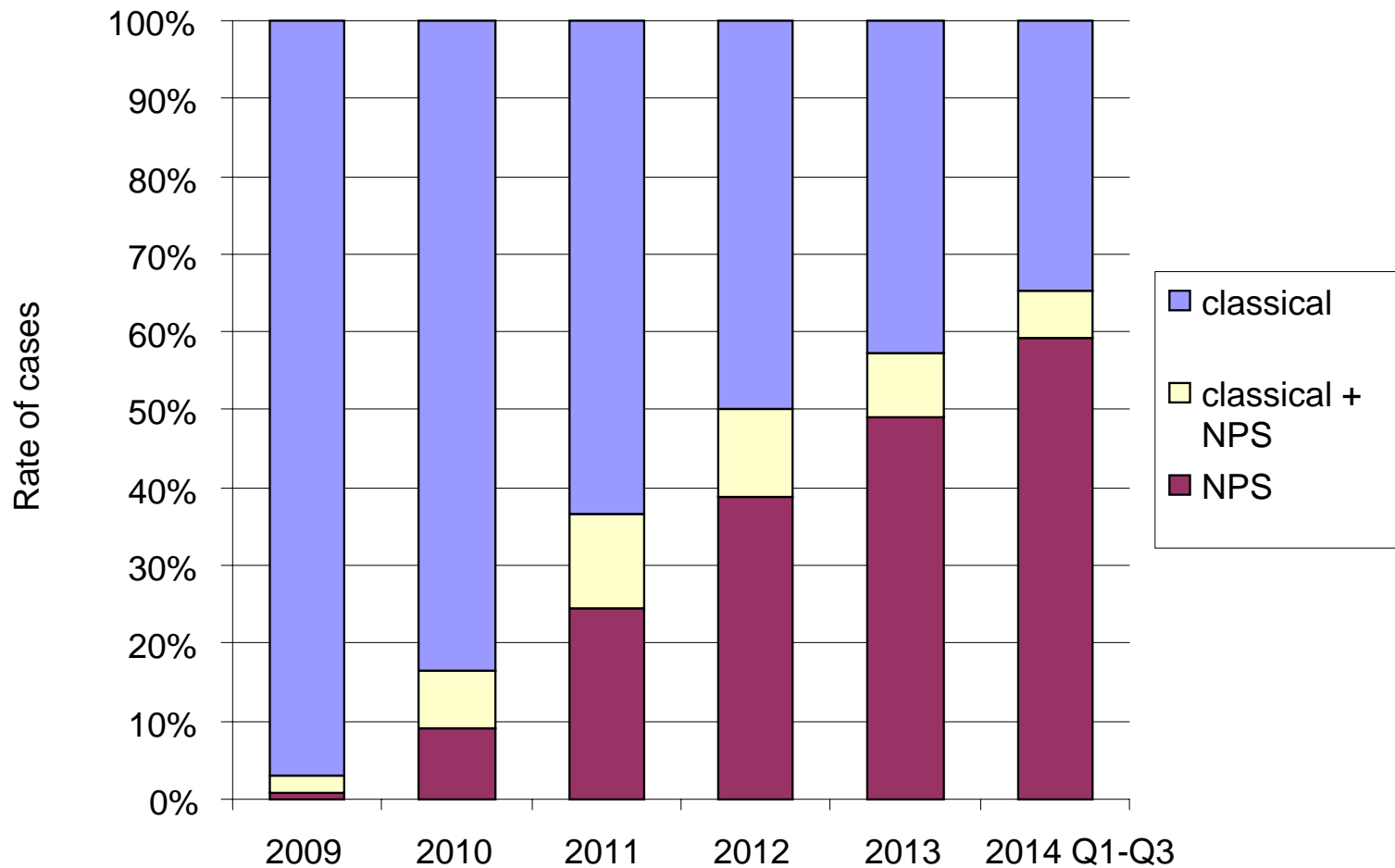
# In this presentation:

- 1. Situation in Hungary**
- 2. Field observations**
- 3. User groups**
- 4. Harm reduction best-practices**

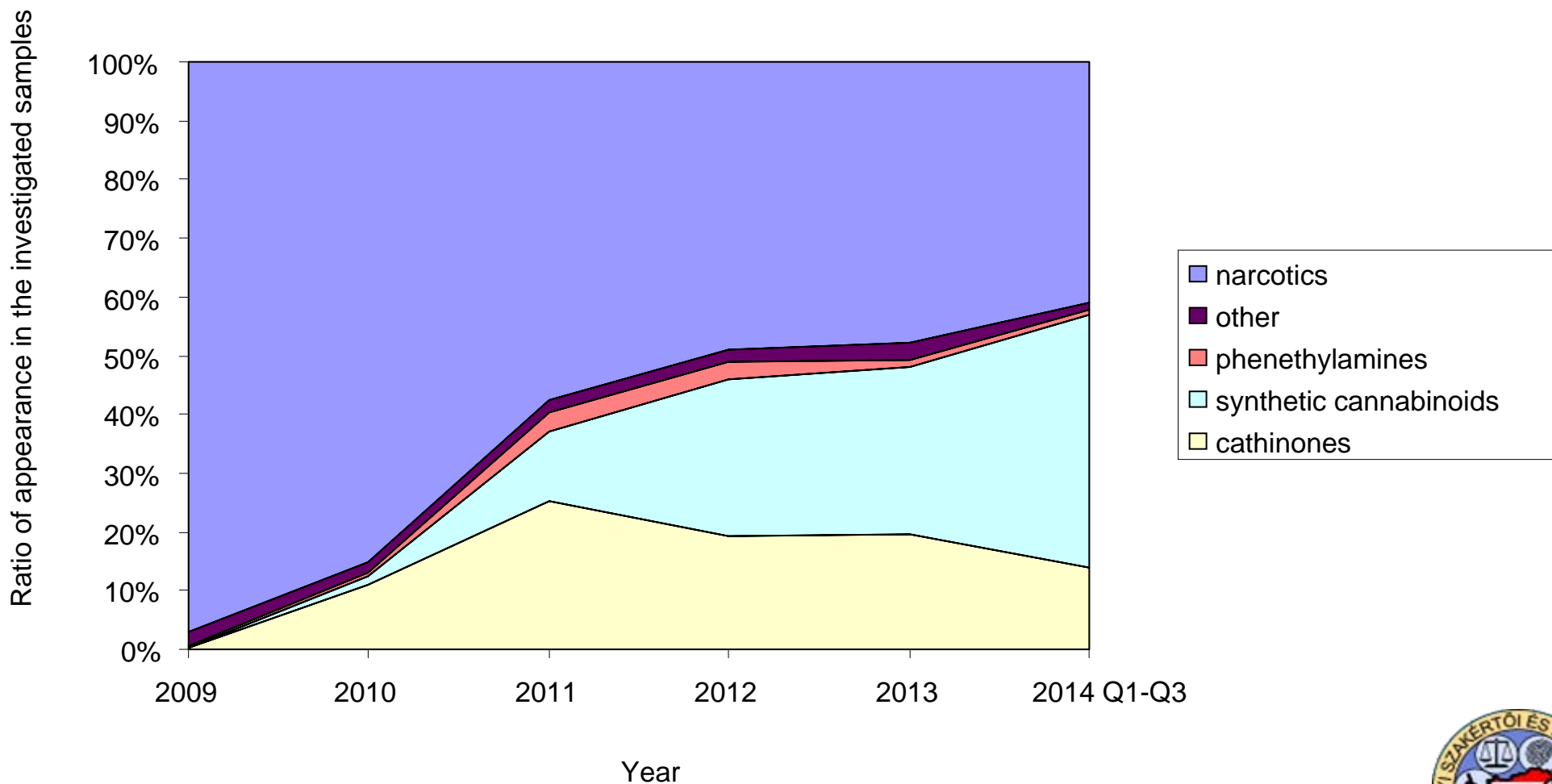


# 1. Situation in Hungary

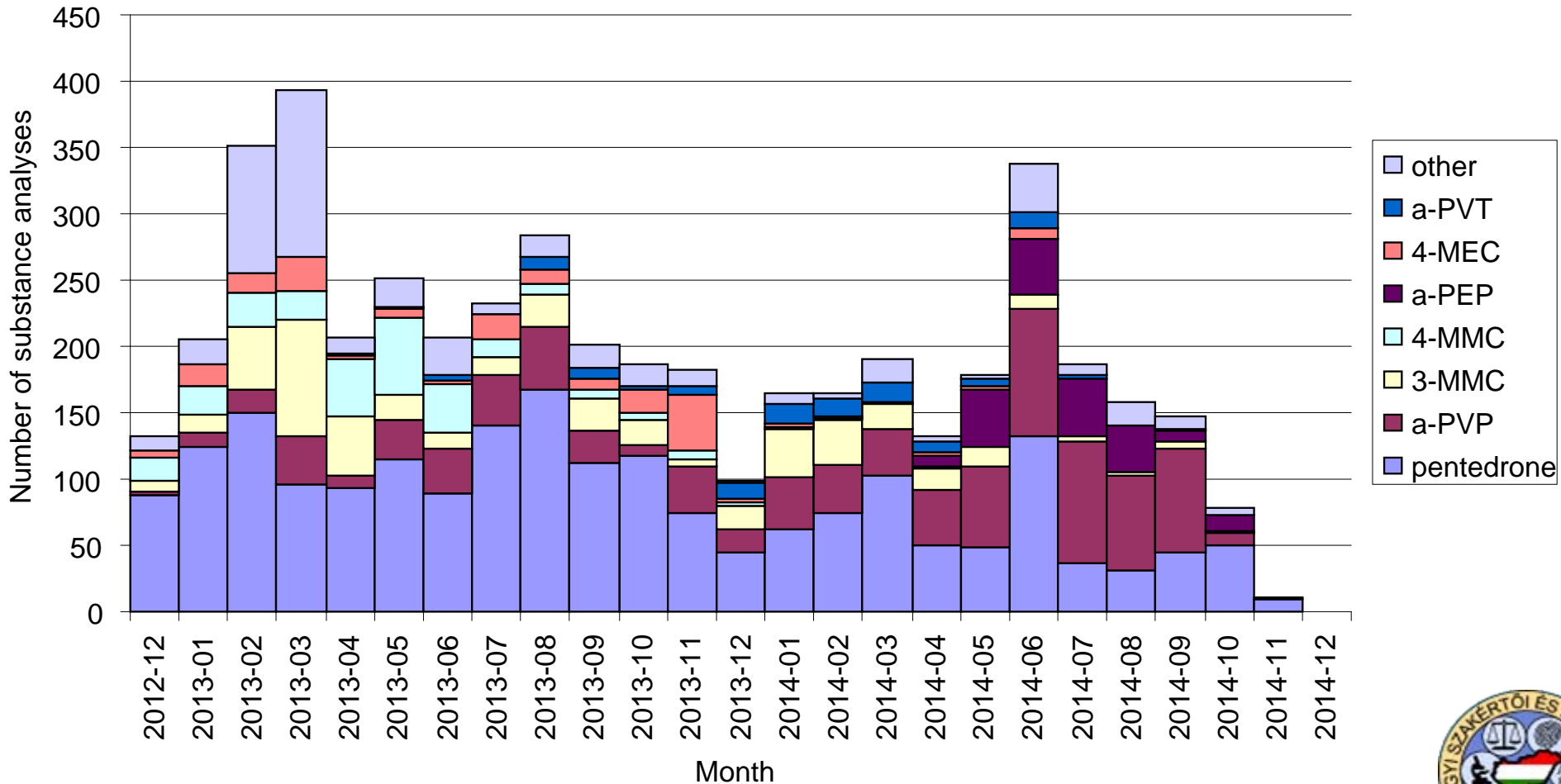
# „Classical” vs. „new” substances



# Market ratio of substances

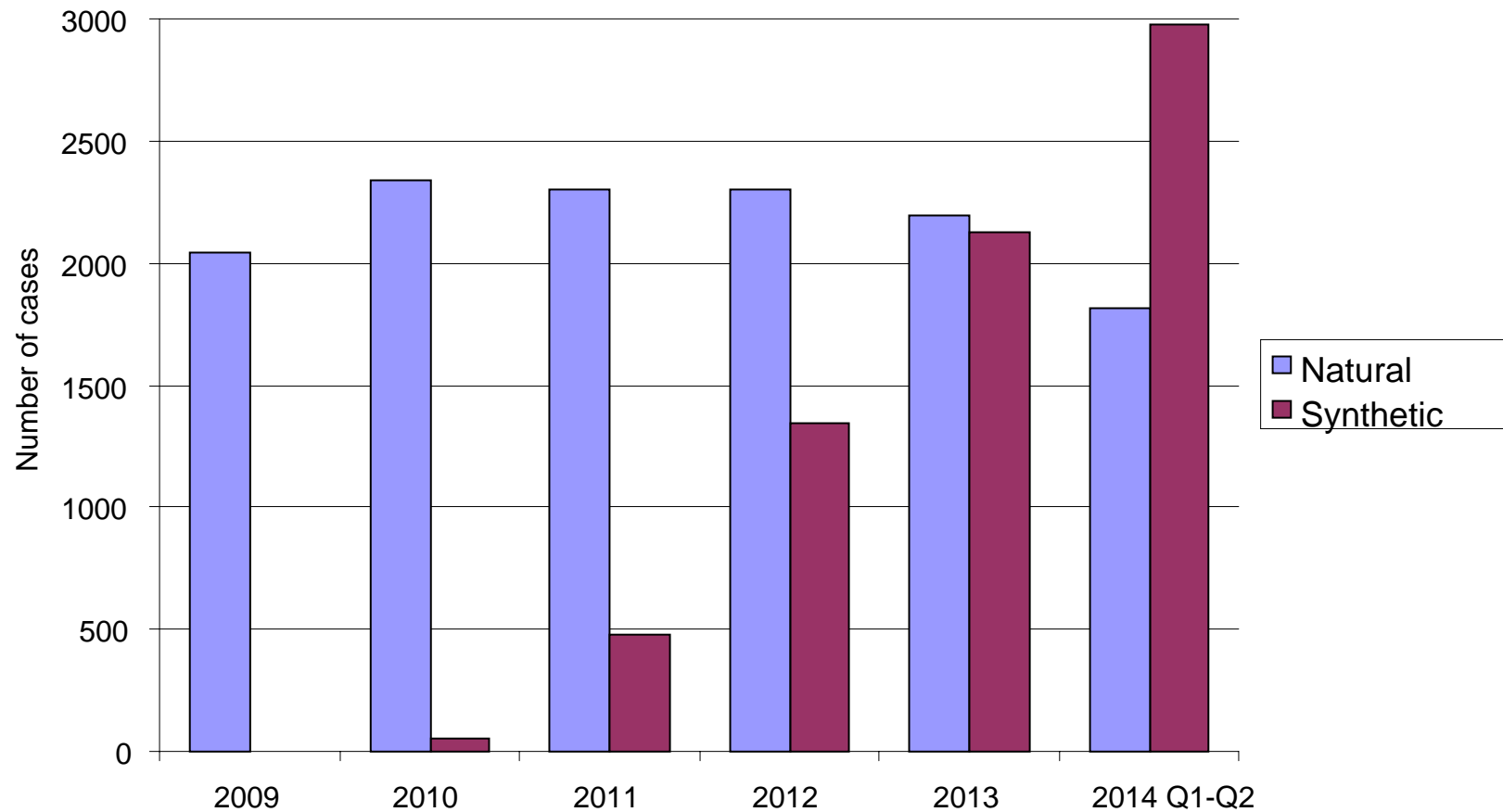


# Cathinones

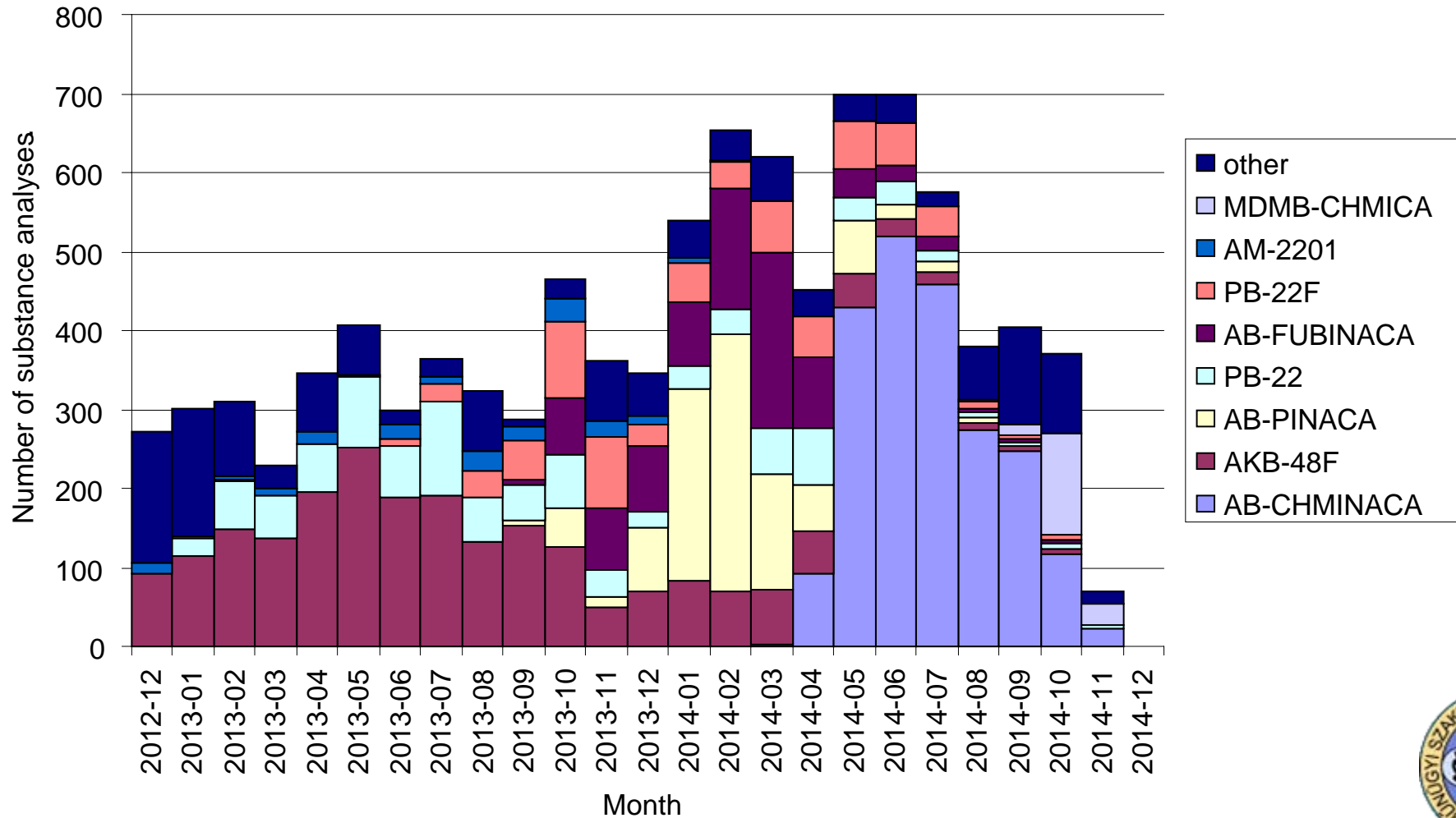




# Cannabis market



# Synthetic cannabinoids





## **2. Field observations**

## AJÁNLAT

- › A másodperc írása: [Galambos Péter: Széllal szemben](#)
- › A másodperc oldala: [MAPS - Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies](#)

## KERESÉS

› Mit:

› Hol:

- anyagok
- könyvtár
- fórum
- kapcsolatok

RENDBEN TÖRLÉS

## ECSTASY TABLETTA ADATBÁZIS >



Az Ecstasy tablettá adatbázis célja a furcsa, veszélyes hatású Ecstasy-tabletták kiszűrése. Az adatok az Ecstasy tabletták témakör hozzászólásai alapján kerültek fel. Az adatbázisban jelenleg 3027 beszámoló szerepel 1034 különböző tablettáról.

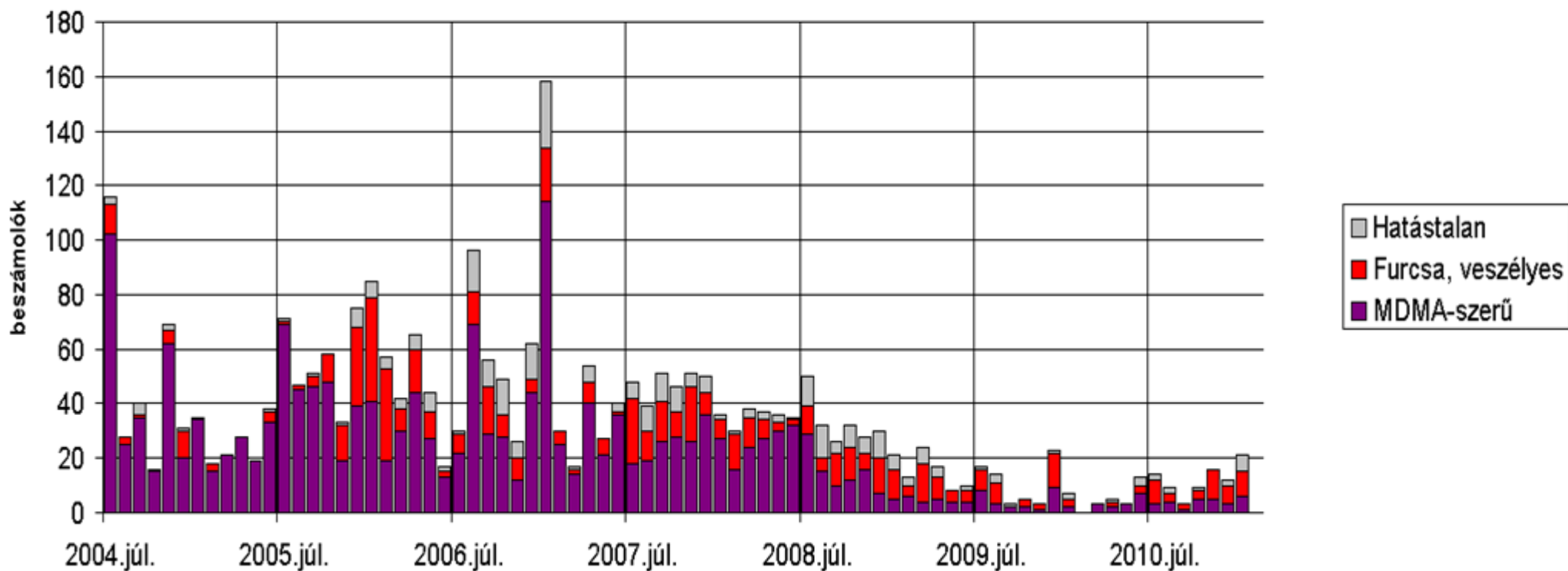
Keresés:

**Furcsa, veszélyes hatású tabletták**

1045 találat:

- › kék | Philipp Plein (qp/db) hatszögben | kerek : 2014. február 26.
- › fehér (bézs) | + (pluszjel) | felezős : 2014. február 7.
- › fehér (bézs) | cseresznye | kerek : 2014. február 7.
- › sárga | Philipp Plein (qp/db) hatszögben | kerek : 2014. február 3.
- › rózsaszín | S / Superman | kerek : 2014. január 29.
- › kék | Philipp Plein (qp/db) hatszögben | kerek : 2014. január 20.
- › sárga | Philipp Plein (qp/db) hatszögben | kerek : 2014. január 13.

Daath / Ecstasy tabletták adatbázis



# Drug information + harm reduction

## NEM EKI! BZP és egyéb piperazinok!



kék  
villám  
kerek



piros  
lepke  
kerek



lila  
tripla-X  
kerek



sárga  
smiley  
kerek



lila  
autó  
kerek



piros  
vasvilla  
kerek

## NEM EKI! Anabolikus szteroid!



méregzöld  
-nincs logó-  
szív



kékeszöld  
kígyó nyíllal  
kerek/6-szög



rózsaszín  
kígyó nyíllal  
ötszög



kék  
-nincs logó-  
szív



rózsaszín  
szem  
kerek





*“psychedelic support”*

*“psycare”*

*“PsyEm services”*

- *specialized harm reduction*
- *handling psychedelics-related emergencies & spiritual crises*
- *since June 2013*
- *41 volunteers (2 coordinators)*
- *in 2014: 27 (+2) interventions*
- *Hungary (in Budapest: 70%)*



**[facebook.com/psy.help.team](https://facebook.com/psy.help.team)**



**DÁT2 Psy Help team @ S.U.N. festival 2014**



# 2011-: classical + NPS

GOOD  
HASA!  
←

OPiUm  
~~COCAINE~~  
LSD  
MUSHROOMS  
←

MDPV  
AMPHETAMINE

NEED

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



# 2014: LSD? NPS!

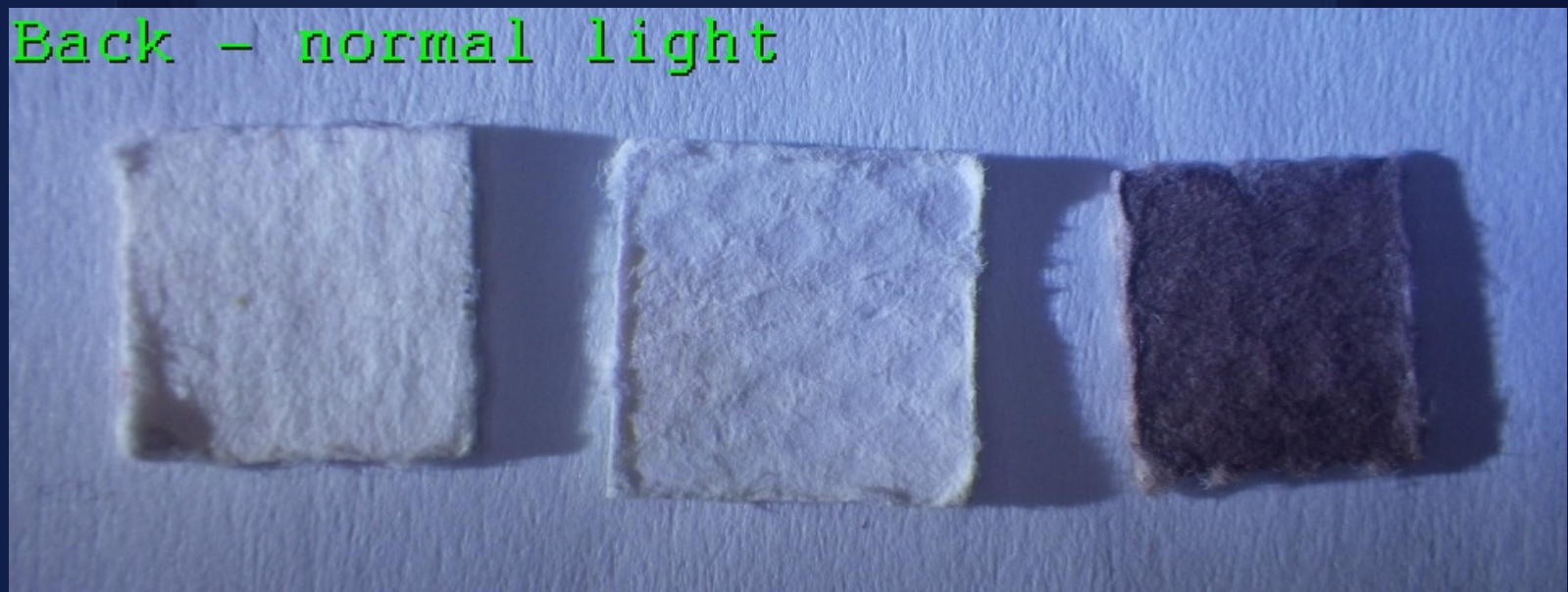


# 2014: LSD? NPS!

Front - normal light



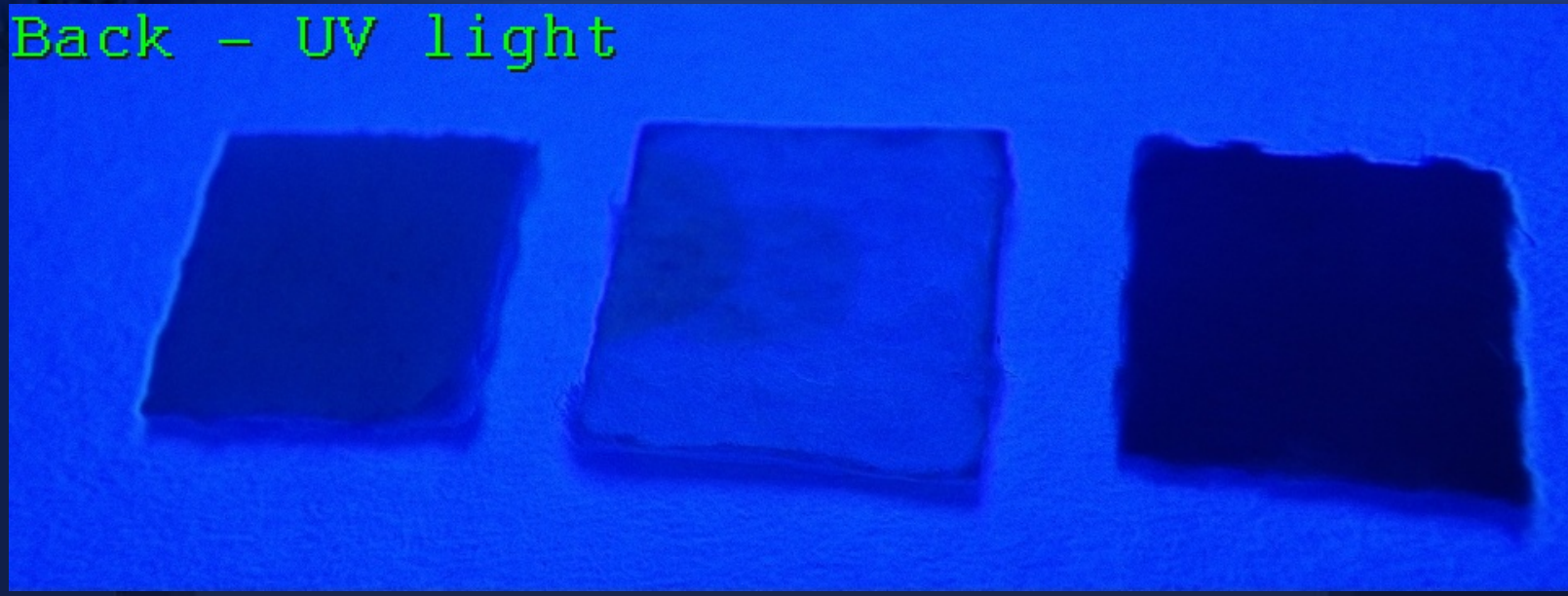
Back - normal light





# 2014: LSD? NPS!

Back - UV light



Back - UV light (color corrected)



# 2014: Ecstasy? NPS!



**strong Ecstasy pills  
(MDMA: 120 – 200+ mg)**





# 2014: Ecstasy? NPS!

**NPS-Ecstasy!**



# 2014: Speed? NPS!

~80-100 persons with strange symptoms

„ambulance went in and out all the time”

„I was a drooling zombie for 2 days”

„people were left on the field with an infusion”





# 3. User groups



# NPS user groups

- **NPS UG 1)** „Psychonauts” (*marginal*)
- **NPS UG 2)** „Young people” (*substantial*)
- **NPS UG 3)** „Ghetto people” (*marginal*)
- **NPS UG 4–N)** ...?

**Substances**

**ROA**

**Frequency**

**Intention**

**Attitude**

**Characteristics**

# NPS UG 1) „Psychonauts”

- **Substances:** hallucinogens, empathogens (LSD-analog, tryptamine, phenethylamine)
- **ROA:** oral, nasal (no i.v.)
- **Frequency:** occasional trial -> non-problematic
- **Intention:** recreation, autognosis, experiences
- **Attitude:** informed user
- **Characteristics:**
  - access to classical drugs, no replacement
  - victims of fake product: LSD, Ecstasy, speed

## NPS UG 2) „Young people”

- **Substances:** stimulants, cannabinoids („PV/crystal”; „herba/bio/”)
- **ROA:** nasal; inhaled (no i.v.)
- **Frequency:** occasional habit -> bit problematic
- **Intention:** show-off, entertainment
- **Attitude:** uninformed user
- **Characteristics:**
  - replacement of classical drugs, „trashed - LOL”
  - epidemics in secondary school aged (?)

## NPS UG 3) „Ghetto people”

- **Substances:** stimulants, cannabinoids („PV/crystal”; „herba/bio/”)
- **ROA:** nasal, inhaled, **i.v.**
- **Frequency:** frequent -> often **problematic**
- **Intention:** „escape from reality”, for-profit
- **Attitude:** uninformed user/dealer
- **Characteristics:**
  - replacement of classical drugs, „anything goes”
  - „taking off clothes mid-town”; street injection



## **4. Harm reduction best-practices**

## Change and Continuity: researching evolving drug landscapes in Europe

Gary R. Potter, Marije Wouters & Jane Fountain (Eds.)

 PABST



### 3

## Harm reduction of novel psychoactive substance use

Levente Móró

*During the last few years, the rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) has significantly reshaped the global drug scene. Emergency hospital admissions and confirmed or suspected NPS-related deaths are on the rise, and many related health and social problems may not yet have been fully recognised. Potential NPS harms stem from a lack of information, as well as from the general sets and settings of drug use. As compared with 'classical' drug harm reduction, NPS-related harm reduction has a notably more difficult operational environment. In this chapter, I will briefly outline the emergence, terminology, and appeal of the NPS phenomenon, and introduce a seven-item list of NPS-related risks and subsequent potential harms that has been compiled from both academic and anecdotal sources. Moreover, I summarise six important ongoing NPS harm reduction attempts that can be currently perceived as best-practice, illustrated by European examples. Finally, I conclude the analyses of NPS-related harms and harm reduction best-practices by discussing some conceptual, strategic, practical, and drug policy issues.*

**Keywords:** drug use, substance use, novel psychoactive substances, NPS, harm reduction, drug markets, drug policy

### 1. Introduction

During the last few years, the rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) has significantly reshaped the global drug scene. As of May 2014, the EU Early Warning System monitors more than 350 new psychoactive substances, 81 of which were notified in 2013 (EMCDDA, 2014b). The NPS phenomenon has induced fundamental changes on legal and illegal drug markets, in national and international drug policies, and also in drug use subcultures. While some of the background factors – such as the development of organic chemistry, the spread of internet marketing, and the cultural demand for psychoactive

## 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)

...

...

## 4. Drug user empowerment

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

## 5. Party harm reduction

Nightlife Empowerment & Well-being  
Implementation Project (NEWIP) -> NEWNet

## 6. Media regulation

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



## Other 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

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Take-Home Message:**

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

**<leve@utu.fi>**