

The main objective of I-TREND is to help preventing health and social harms linked to the new psychoactives substances (NPS).

Each one of the 5 countries will focus its investigation on approximatively 10 NPS per year, considered as most popular and/or representative of others. NPS will be selected according to a number of criteria such as data on police seizures, evidence on increased interest among users, and fatalities.

Once an initial NPS top list has been chosen by each individual country, four online research activities will then be carried out. The objectives of each one are provided below.

I-TREND TEAM

18 researchers in 5 EU countries

France : OFDT (French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction), St-Denis

Czech Republic : Department of Addictology, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague and General University Hospital, Prague

Great-Britain : Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Liverpool

Netherlands : TRIMBOS Institute, Utrecht

Poland : University of Social Sciences and Humanities (SWPS), Warsaw

EMCCDA is associated to this project as scientific consultant

ACTIVITIES

Analysis of drug Forums

- overview of users interest in specific substances
- overview of NPS knowledge displayed and its role in influencing harm reduction strategies
- compare the attitudes towards NPS and current legal and illegal substances
- evaluate the forum interaction as a mean to predict emerging substances and trends in use

Toxicological analysis of substances

- purchase and diffuse substance standards among laboratory partners
- purchase samples from selected online shops for quantitative toxicological analysis
- sustain the networking of sharing substance standards

Online SURVEY

- current use of NPS (frequency, contexts, purchasing practices) compared to illicit substances (drug use trajectories)
- motivations for using new substances, knowledge about health risks and legal issues
- perception of online purchasing and criteria used in selecting retail websites

Entry points disseminated among several websites: party goers magazines, non-institutional and institutional drug information services, drug users forums, lifestyle magazines (music, cultures, gamers, etc...), general information media, facebook and other social networks.

Analysis of online shops

- most marketed substances available online in the national language of each partner countries
- dynamic list of the online shops selling NPS in each partner country
- overview of online market, marketing strategies with special attention to pricing and sale strategies adapted to specific age groups of customers, control measures and restrictions.

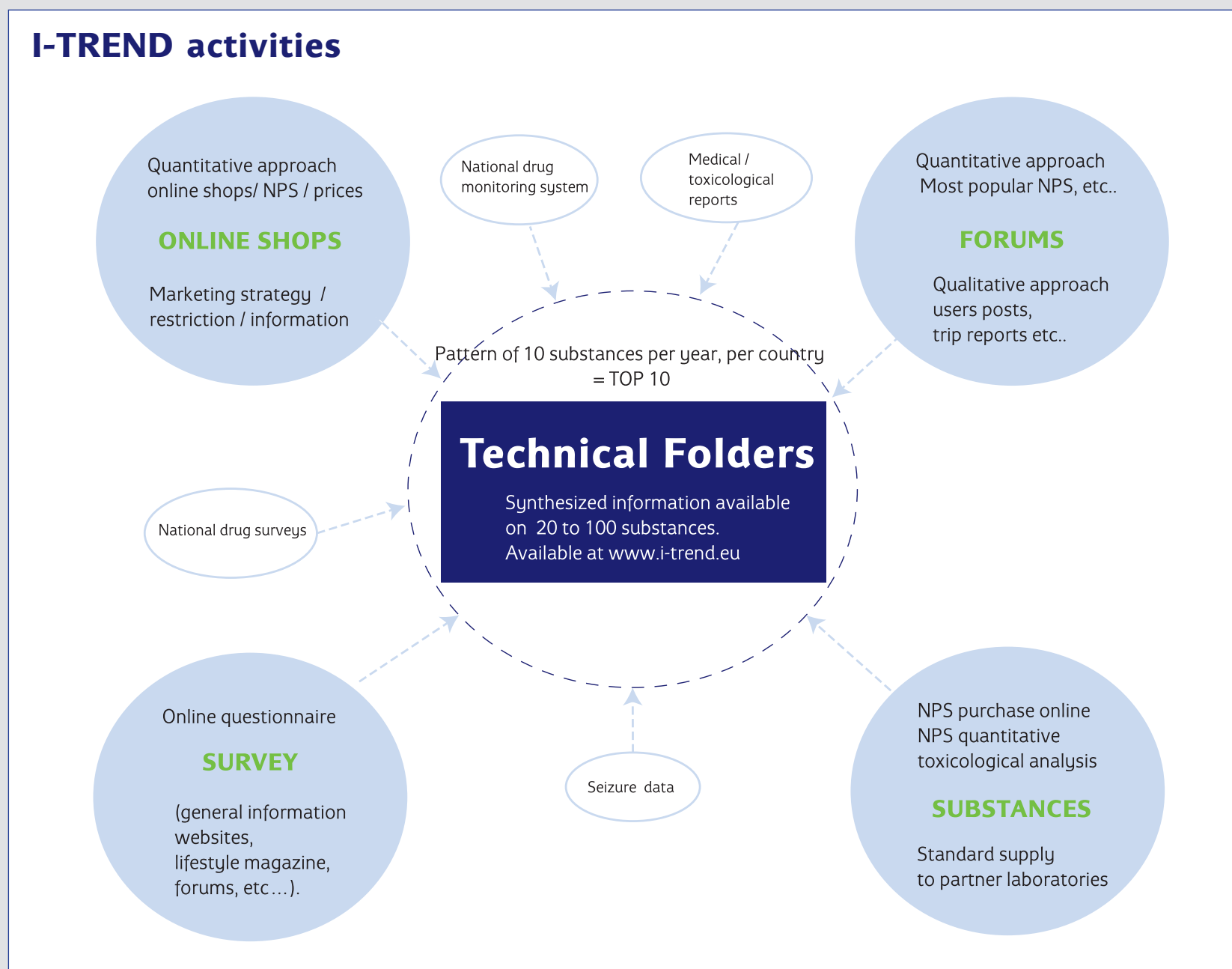
OUTCOMES

The results obtained for each NPS will be synthesized into technical folders (TF) ; 20 to 100 TF are expected, structured as followed:

- Presentation, aspect of NPS
- Chemistry / pharmacology
- Toxicological composition on NPS available online
- Prices (Internet / street)
- Traffic
- Use
- Acute toxicity (chronic if data available...)
- Users profile (in a lesser extent)

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I-TREND activities



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