

606. Drug trafficking in prisons raises the risk of the spreading of HIV among prisoners, in particular those who inject drugs. More than 70 per cent of the people who inject drugs had injected drugs on the day they entered prison, and 7 per cent shared needles while in the prison.

607. The Government of Lebanon launched an opioid substitution treatment programme at the beginning of 2012. The programme is now fully operational, and since its launch about 700 patients have joined the programme.

608. Treatment admissions data reported by the countries of the Central Asian and Transcaucasian subregion in 2011 showed that the proportion of those entering treatment primarily for opioid abuse ranged widely: in Tajikistan, 99 per cent of those admitted for treatment had primarily abused opioids; in Georgia, 96 per cent; in Uzbekistan, 89 per cent; in Kyrgyzstan, 84 per cent; and in Kazakhstan, 64 per cent. However, treatment capacity throughout this subregion remains limited.

## D. Europe

### 1. Major developments

609. Rates of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Western and Central Europe appear to be continuing to stabilize or decline, although at historically high levels. The use of amphetamine-type stimulants remains stable in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with a small increase reported in few countries. Cannabis remains the most widely abused drug in Europe. Heroin is the most abused opiate, followed by opium and morphine in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The emerging abuse of prescription opioids is of concern in Western and Central Europe, with seizures reaching record levels in a few countries of the subregion and with treatment demand for abuse of opioids other than heroin increasing. Opioid-related deaths have decreased overall in Western and Central Europe, but the proportion of deaths attributable to fentanyl and methadone has increased in some countries.

610. The abuse of new psychoactive substances poses a major challenge, especially in view of the unprecedented number and variety of substances identified in 2012, often sold as “bath salts”, “legal highs” or “plant food”. New psychoactive substances are an emerging drug phenomenon in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, where they have

recently begun to have an impact. While those substances are primarily transported in bulk from Asia, for processing, packaging and distribution in Europe, there are indications of limited manufacture in Europe. The supply of new psychoactive substances poses increasing challenges, as some are legally commercialized.

611. Illicit indoor cannabis cultivation continues to increase in the subregion of Western and Central Europe, although with a tendency towards the use of multiple, smaller sites. Cannabis resin seizures have decreased in the subregion, while seizures of cannabis herb have increased. Cannabis herb is grown throughout Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with large-scale cultivation detected in many countries, particularly Albania.

612. While the Balkan route remains the most commonly used route for drug trafficking in the subregion of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the amount of heroin trafficked declined in the past year. Consequently, declines in heroin seizures have been reported by countries in the subregion.

613. Cocaine trafficking routes are increasingly diversified, for instance with some trafficking of cocaine through the Baltic countries or along the Balkan route traditionally used for the trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan to Europe. An increase in cocaine trafficking has been reported in particular through ports of the Black Sea, together with the increasing influence of foreign criminal organizations in the region.

614. Illicit methamphetamine manufacture appears to be spreading to new locations in Europe. New laboratories for its manufacture have been uncovered in Bulgaria, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Seizures of MDMA (commonly known as “ecstasy”) have increased in Western and Central Europe, indicating a possible resurgence of the substance; at the same time, illicit manufacture of the substance has shifted away from Europe.

### 2. Regional cooperation

615. The regional Operation Channel Transport took place in the framework of the regional anti-drug initiative, Operation Channel, under the auspices of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, in December 2012. The main objective of Operation Channel Transport was to detect and prevent drug trafficking and to suppress channels of trafficking of synthetic drugs from Western and Central Europe to States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, as well as trafficking of heroin and cannabis from Afghanistan to the

countries of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

616. In December 2012, the Council of the European Union adopted the European Union drugs strategy for the period 2013-2020. The strategy comprises cross-cutting themes of coordination; international cooperation; and research, information, monitoring and evaluation. The strategy's first action plan, for the period 2013-2016, adopted in June 2013, includes actions to tackle the misuse of prescription and over-the-counter opioids, improve drug-abuse related health-care measures in prisons and after release, tackle new psychoactive substances and polydrug abuse (including licit/illicit combinations) and promote alternatives to coercive sanctions for drug-using offenders.

617. Various events were held in the past year with a view to further enhancing regional and international cooperation in drug control.

### 3. National legislation, policy and action

618. In Austria, in October 2012, the Psychotropic Substances Decree was amended with regard to, inter alia, the prescription of benzodiazepines in order to reduce the combined use of opioids and benzodiazepines. In the Russian Federation, Government Decision No. 1178 of 19 November 2012 introduced amendments to the list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals subject to control in the Russian Federation. In late 2012, the Ukrainian authorities developed a national integrated anti-drug strategy, expected to be approved by the Government by the end of 2013. In Estonia, as part of the national health plan for the period 2009-2020, an action plan for the period 2013-2016 was adopted; the action plan includes drug supply and drug demand reduction as part of an integrated public health approach.

619. In Croatia, the new criminal code came into force on 1 January 2013. The manufacture and abuse of narcotic drugs is now controlled under three of the code's articles: unauthorized manufacture and trade in drugs (article 190), enabling the use of drugs (article 191) and unauthorized manufacture and trade in substances prohibited in sport (article 191a). Production of drugs without intention to sell is defined as a distinct offence punishable by six months to five years imprisonment. The possession of small quantities for personal use is treated as a misdemeanour under the Law on Combating Drug Addiction, punishable by a fine between 650 and 2,600 euros (about \$820-\$3,250). Assessment of what comprises

a "small" quantity is left to the state prosecutor or court. The new Code urges the court to use alternative punishments to imprisonment for cases with sentences of up to six months prison terms.

620. In March 2013, the Government of the Russian Federation launched a comprehensive new state programme of the Russian Federation on countering illicit drug trafficking (2013-2020). The document includes a number of key measures intended to strengthen cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies, promote legal reforms, increase operational and research activities, inquiries, investigations, enhance coordination of anti-drug activities at the federal level, as well as international cooperation against illicit drug trafficking.

621. In Ukraine, on 13 May 2013 the Government approved resolution 333, which establishes procedures for acquisition, transportation, storage, dispensing, use and disposal of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in all health-care institutions in the country. In 2013, the Government of Montenegro prepared a draft national drug strategy for the period 2013-2020 and its action plan for the period 2013-2016, in cooperation with UNODC; adoption of those documents is expected by the end of 2013.

622. In October 2012, the Austrian Narcotic Drugs Decree was amended to allow the prescription of pharmaceutical products containing cannabis extract that are authorized in Europe. In April 2013, amendments to the act on dependency-producing substances of the Czech Republic came into force, allowing the cultivation, production and use of cannabis for medical purposes. In the United Kingdom, statutory instruments that came into force in April 2013 placed the cannabis-based medicine Sativex under part 1 of Schedule 4 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations so that the product is governed by the regulatory framework for medicines that are also controlled drugs.

623. In January 2013, in the Netherlands, a rule limiting access to so-called "coffee shops" to residents of the country came into effect nationwide, after having been introduced in three southern provinces (Limburg, Noord-Brabant and Zeeland) on 1 May 2012. However, municipalities were permitted to implement the new rule gradually and in accordance with local "coffee-shop" and security policies. The Government announced that, as of June 2013, 70 per cent of the 103 municipalities of the country were already implementing or were planning to implement the residency criterion. Planned restrictions that were to enter into force in January 2013 to limit access to such venues to a maximum of

2,000 “members” per year were revoked by the Government in November 2012. The Government also announced in November 2012 that the planned increase in the minimum distance between such venues and secondary and vocational schools to 350 metres would not be imposed by national rules. While noting those developments, the Board reiterates its position that such “coffee shops” are in contravention of the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

624. In Switzerland, amendments to the Narcotics Act were to come into force in October 2013, enabling the punishment by fine of possession by adults of less than 10 grams of cannabis.

625. Countries in the region have continued to take legislative measures to address the challenge of new psychoactive substances, at both the national and regional levels. In March 2013, the Council of the European Union decided to subject to control measures 4-methylamphetamine (known as “4-MA”), a synthetic derivative of amphetamine that has been associated with fatalities in Europe. In October 2013, the Council decided to ban 5-(2-aminopropyl)indole (known as “5-IT”), a synthetic stimulant with stimulant and hallucinogenic effects that has been associated with deaths in a number of countries.

626. In September 2013, the European Commission proposed legislation that would develop further the procedures for risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances, which would provide for the introduction of temporary measures restricting the sale of new psychoactive substances to consumers across the European Union, in cases of immediate risk, and permanent measures within 10 months. In case of substances assessed to pose a severe risk, even industrial use could be restricted. The measures would be directly applicable to European Union member States and would not need to be transposed into national law.

627. Many countries have placed numerous new psychoactive substances under control. For example, in 2012, 28 new synthetic substances were placed under control in Germany, and 46 new “research chemicals” were placed under control in Switzerland. In April 2013, 15 substances were placed under national control in Belgium. In 2012, tapentadol was placed under control in Austria, Finland and the Netherlands, and mephedrone was placed under control in Finland and the Netherlands.

628. In April 2013, legislation was introduced in Portugal that provides for the closure of retail outlets, also known as “smart shops” or “head shops”, selling new

psychoactive substances. Under the legislation, new psychoactive substances can be subject to temporary bans in cases where there is no authorized legitimate use and removed from the market until the substance is confirmed to pose no health risk.

629. In Latvia, in February 2013, a generic system was introduced in the list of controlled substances, and 17 generic chemical substance groups comprising more than 200 new psychoactive substances were placed under control. Lithuania placed five groups of substances under control in 2012. Also in 2012, methoxetamine became the first drug to be controlled under a temporary drug order in the United Kingdom, and in February 2013, methoxetamine, together with related substances, *O*-desmethyltramadol, additional categories of synthetic cannabinoids and compounds related to ketamine and phencyclidine were brought under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act. In 2013, decisions were taken to control benzofuran substances (also known as “benzofury”), such as 5-APB and 6-APB, in Belgium and as a temporary measure in the United Kingdom. In Luxembourg in 2012, the plants *Salvia divinorum* and Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) were placed under national control. Khat was placed under control in the Netherlands in January 2013, and in July 2013 a decision was taken to control the plant in the United Kingdom.

## 4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

### (a) Narcotic drugs

630. The illicit cultivation of cannabis plant, both in private homes and in larger plantations, in many countries in Europe has continued to increase, reportedly facilitated in some countries by the sale of seeds and equipment through the Internet. The involvement of organized criminal groups in the large-scale illicit production of cannabis has been noted, but there is also increasing evidence of a move towards multiple small-scale sites, such as seen in the United Kingdom, where large numbers of illicit commercial-scale operations have been discovered and where there is evidence of a stabilization in the number of detections of cannabis farms. The number of properties (residential and commercial) in which cannabis has been illicitly cultivated on a large scale has increased in some countries. For example, in the Czech Republic a record 199 seizures of cannabis “grow houses” were made in 2012, a third of which contained over 500 plants each, compared with 165 such seizures in 2011. In 2012, 48 cannabis cultivation sites were uncovered in Romania,

and a total of 3,125 cannabis plants were seized. Of those, 12 cannabis outdoor cultivation sites were detected, and 36 sites were indoors. Ukraine reported a total of 98,000 eradicated outdoor sites. In Bulgaria, in 2012 a total of 42 indoor facilities and greenhouses growing cannabis were detected compared with 35 in 2011.

631. In 2011, 5,435 indoor cultivation sites were dismantled in the Netherlands, which was not a significant change from previous years, although illicit cannabis production has been estimated to be increasing since 2008, with the main destinations reported to be Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries. A record 1,070 plantations were seized in Belgium in 2011, representing an increase of almost 10 per cent compared with the previous year, following the increasing trend that began in 2007, with an increase in the number of plantations containing 6-49 plants, which represented about one third of sites seized, whereas the proportion of large and industrial scale plantations remained stable. Seizures of cannabis plantations in Germany increased from 717 in 2011 to 809 in 2012, but there was a decline in the number of seized indoor large plantations and increases in indoor and outdoor small plantations. There is still widespread outdoor cultivation of cannabis in southern Italy.

632. During the past year there was a significant increase in the seizures of cannabis in South and South-Eastern Europe, mainly cannabis herb and, to a much lesser extent, cannabis resin. Important seizures of cannabis were made along the route traversing Albania, Montenegro and Croatia before arriving in Western European countries. In 2012, the Bulgarian Customs Agency seized 4.2 tons of cannabis resin. In Romania, cannabis herb seizures represent 42 per cent of the total amount of drugs seized, followed by seizures of cannabis plants (37 per cent), and cannabis herb seizures increased by 33 per cent compared with 2011. Cannabis resin seizures in Romania in 2012 increased by more than 50 per cent compared with 2011. In Montenegro, cannabis seizures rose by 90 per cent in the first four months of 2013 compared with the same period in 2012, pointing to the growing importance of Montenegro as a transit country for Albanian cannabis herb. The primary illicit markets for Albanian cannabis herb continue to be Greece and Italy.

633. In recent years, the number of seizures of cannabis herb in Western and Central Europe has continued to increase, while seizures of cannabis resin have decreased. However, the total quantity of cannabis resin seized remains much higher than that of cannabis herb. The quantity of cannabis resin seized in Western and Central Europe continued to decrease, from 526 tons in 2010 to

483 tons in 2011, which is much less than the 900 tons seized in 2008. Europe as a whole now accounts for almost half of global cannabis resin seizures, compared with about three quarters over a decade ago. While Spain accounts for about one third of global cannabis resin seizures and about three quarters of seizures in Western and Central Europe, cannabis resin seizures in the country fell by about one half between 2008 (683 tons) and 2012 (326 tons). The quantity seized annually in France has remained relatively stable at around 50-56 tons in the period 2009-2012, but decreased from 55.6 tons in 2011 to 51.1 tons in 2012. In the United Kingdom, cannabis resin seizures in England and Wales increased by 4 per cent from 18.7 tons in 2010/11 to 19.5 tons in 2011/12, compared with 12.6 tons in 2009/10, which is nonetheless much less than the 64 tons seized in 2004. While annual seizures of cannabis resin in Italy had remained at around 20 tons in 2010 and 2011, an increase to 22 tons was seen in 2012. Cannabis resin seizures in Portugal decreased significantly, from 34.7 tons in 2010 to 14.6 tons in 2011.

634. Most cannabis resin seized in Europe still appears to have been produced in Morocco. Cannabis resin from Morocco is primarily trafficked to Europe by sea to the Iberian peninsula, typically Spain, for consumption in that country and transit to other countries in Western and Central Europe, with over 90 per cent of seizures by Spain reported to be seizures from commercial vessels. Belgium and the Netherlands have been identified as trafficking hubs for cannabis resin and herb.

635. While the number of cannabis herb seizures in Western and Central Europe has increased around six-fold over the past decade, the quantity seized has remained relatively stable, at 55-65 tons annually between 2004 and 2010, then increasing to 92 tons in 2011, which is still much less than the 124 tons seized in 2002. In the United Kingdom, seizures in England and Wales of cannabis herb increased by 6 per cent from the 20.7 tons seized in 2010/11 to 22 tons in 2011/12, yet seizures of cannabis herb have decreased by a third since 2008. The amount of cannabis herb seized by Spain increased dramatically from 2.7 tons in 2010 to 17.5 tons in 2011, then decreased in 2012 to 10.5 tons. Seizures in Greece increased from 7.7 tons in 2010 to 13.4 tons in 2011, continuing the increasing trend of recent years. Around two thirds of the total quantity of seized cannabis in Greece in recent years was reported to have originated in Albania, trafficked mainly overland. In Italy, seizures of cannabis herb doubled from 5.5 tons in 2010 to 10.9 tons in 2011, then doubled again to 21.5 tons in 2012. At the same time, the number of cannabis plants seized in Italy increased from 72,000 plants in 2010 to 1 million in 2011 and over

4 million in 2012. In Belgium, total annual seizures of cannabis herb remained between 5.1 and 5.2 tons in the period 2010-2011, while in the Netherlands, there was a 10 per cent increase in annual seizures, from 4.5 to 5 tons over the same period; in France, after having increased by 20 per cent from 2010 to 2011, reaching 5.5 tons, total cannabis herb seizures decreased to 3.2 tons in 2012. Organized criminal groups continue to be involved in the illicit trafficking of cannabis.

636. With no sizeable local market in South-Eastern Europe, cocaine is trafficked onward to Western European countries either by boat from Greece or by land through Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary. Cocaine continues to be trafficked in small amounts through ports in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. The total amount of cocaine seized in Romania in 2012 was 54.7 kg, approximately one third of the quantity seized in 2011 (161 kg). A single significant seizure (48.5 kg) made at the Romanian border with Hungary constituted most of the total quantity seized in 2012.

637. The amount of cocaine seized in Western and Central Europe has remained stable at about 60 tons since 2008, after a peak level of 120 tons in 2006. The total amount of cocaine seized in Spain and Portugal combined decreased from a peak of 84 tons in 2006 to 20 tons in 2011, a level similar to that of Belgium and the Netherlands combined (18 tons in 2011). The quantity seized in the Netherlands has remained stable at about 10 tons per year, while seizures in Belgium have steadily increased from 2.5 tons in 2007 to 8 tons in 2011. Spain accounted for one quarter of cocaine seized in Europe in 2011 (16.7 tons, the lowest level since 2000), and the amount seized increased by almost 25 per cent to 20.7 tons in 2012. The amount of cocaine seized in Portugal has remained below 5 tons since 2008. In 2011, there were record seizures of cocaine in France (10.8 tons) and Italy (6.3 tons), which were increases of 163 and 65 per cent over 2010 respectively. However, the amount of cocaine seized in France in 2012 almost halved, falling to 5.6 tons and also decreased in Italy (falling by 16 per cent to 5.3 tons). In the United Kingdom, in England and Wales, the amount of cocaine seized increased from 2.4 tons in 2010/11 to 3.5 tons in 2011/12, a level similar to that of 2007/08.

638. Seizures of cocaine by customs authorities in Western Europe remained relatively similar in 2011 (34.2 tons) and 2012 (35.9 tons), representing almost half of the total amount of cocaine seized globally by customs authorities. Of seizures of cocaine of 1 ton or more by customs authorities in Western Europe, the identified countries of consignment were Ecuador (14.4 tons), the Dominican Republic

(3.2 tons), Brazil (2.3 tons), Colombia (2.3 tons), Peru (2.2 tons), Argentina (1.5 tons) and Chile (1.5 tons).

639. The diversification of cocaine trafficking routes to Western and Central Europe continued. Authorities have noted the possible emergence of routes that partially overlap the Balkan route for trafficking of more limited quantities of cocaine to Central and Eastern Europe. Some countries have noted the increased trafficking of cocaine in smaller quantities, as well as trafficking by airmail or courier. Europol has reported that, since 2007, the amount of cocaine seized in containers has increased, in particular in Belgium, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom, while the amount seized on vessels but not in containers has decreased. Increased trafficking via container shipments may have contributed to an increase in the use by traffickers of the ports of Belgium and the Netherlands and other western European countries. A sharp increase in the amount of cocaine seized in the Baltic countries in 2010, which was not repeated in subsequent years, was seen as an indication of increased trafficking by sea into those countries, possibly for trafficking onward to other parts of Europe. West Africa continues to be used to traffic cocaine to Europe but land routes could be becoming more significant, with a shift away from flights to European airports and northbound maritime routes along the African coast.

640. In 2012, heroin from Afghanistan continued to be moved along the so-called Balkan route from Turkey into South-Eastern Europe and then onward to destination markets in Western Europe. Total heroin seizures in South-Eastern Europe remained low and continued their declining tendency with the notable exception of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which reported increases. Seizures in 2012 suggest a predominance of trafficking of heroin by land through Turkey to Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary and onward to Western Europe. The quantity of heroin seized in Romania increased almost 3.7 times, from 12.2 kg in 2011 to 45.2 kg in 2012. In 2012, the Romanian authorities made their largest ever single opium seizure, of 9.8 kg. Heroin seizures in the Russian Federation in 2012 totalled 2,176 kg.

641. The diversification of trafficking routes of opiates from Afghanistan to Western and Central Europe continued. In addition to the traditional land routes, heroin trafficked from Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan entered Western Europe by air or sea, either directly or via East and West African countries, such as Kenya. In November 2012, customs authorities in the Netherlands made a seizure of 450 kg of heroin at Amsterdam airport in a shipment identified as having been consigned in South Africa and bound for Canada.

642. The amount of heroin and morphine seized in Western and Central Europe in 2011 (6 tons) was similar to the amount seized in 2010. However, the amount of opiates seized by customs authorities in Western Europe more than doubled, from 1.4 tons in 2011 to 3.3 tons in 2012. The amount of heroin seized in England and Wales in the United Kingdom, increased by 153 per cent to 1.8 tons in 2011/12 from 0.7 tons in 2010/11, after having halved from 2009/10 (1.5 tons). In France, the amount of heroin seized decreased by more than 40 per cent between 2010 and 2012, to 0.6 tons, the lowest level since 2004. In Germany, heroin seizures declined only slightly from 2011 (498 kg) to 2012 (489 kg), while opium seizures decreased from 112 kg in 2011 to 81 kg in 2012. In Spain, the amount of heroin seized fell by 45 per cent from 2011 to 2012 (229 kg). Seizures in Belgium and Greece declined in 2011 to 140 kg and 312 kg respectively. Seizures in Austria more than tripled, from 65 kg in 2011 to 222 kg in 2012.

643. In Estonia, seizures of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid analgesic, increased from 0.9 kg in 2011 to 1.7 kg in 2012, and seizures of methadone doubled from 1.1 kg to 2 kg. Carfentanyl, a highly potent analogue of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, normally used in veterinary medicine and not suitable for humans, and which is not under international control, suddenly appeared on the illicit drug market in Latvia in late 2012 and early 2013, where it is reported to have caused a number of fatal overdoses.

644. In the Russian Federation, in 2012, law enforcement agencies detected 1,770 drug trafficking cases. The volume of drugs seized increased 1.8 times and totalled 86.9 tons. In Romania, in 2012 there was an increase of about 60 per cent in the total quantity of drugs seized compared with the previous year. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the quantity of drugs seized in 2012 remained low, continuing a downward trend, and cannabis cultivation, mainly for local consumption, has also been reported.

## (b) Psychotropic substances

645. Seizures of amphetamine by customs authorities in Western Europe increased from 1.8 tons in 2011 to 2.5 tons in 2012, continuing the trend seen since 2010, but was still less than the amount seized in 2009. After having reached peak levels of between 7 tons and 8 tons of annual total seizures in the period 2007-2009, the total amount of amphetamine seized in Western and Central Europe decreased to 5.2 tons in 2010 and 5.6 tons in 2011. Germany accounted for approximately one quarter of the

amount seized in 2011, with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom each accounting for almost one fifth of the total. Seizures in Germany reached peaks of 1.4 tons in 2009 and 2011, then decreased to 1.1 tons in 2012, a level similar to that of 2010. Seizures in the Netherlands had decreased from 2.4 tons in 2009 to 0.6 tons in 2010, then increased to 1.1 ton in 2011. In the United Kingdom, seizures increased from 0.7 tons in 2010/11 to 1 ton in 2011/12, still less than the peak of 2.9 tons in 2008/09. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in 2012, police forces raided, for the first time, a laboratory manufacturing synthetic drugs, near Skopje, and seized 4 litres of liquid amphetamines and some 3,000 tablets. With regard to amphetamine-type stimulants, a sharp decrease has been reported in the number of tablets seized in Romania, falling from 7,315 tablets in 2011 to only 34 tablets seized in 2012, and methamphetamine seizures dropped from 24.3 kg in 2011 to 3.3 kg in 2012.

646. The expansion of the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in methamphetamine in Europe has continued. The number of laboratories illicitly manufacturing methamphetamine detected during the year further increased to 350 in 2011, the majority of which were in the Czech Republic, where the number of seizures of such laboratories decreased from a peak of 434 in 2008 to 235 in 2012, and where methamphetamine seizures peaked in 2012 at 31.9 kg, compared with 3.6 kg in 2009. Four methamphetamine laboratories were seized in the Russian Federation, and seizures of amphetamines increased from 142 kg in 2010 to more than 2 tons in 2011. Increased activity was also reported in Belarus, where nine laboratories were seized in 2011. Large-scale methamphetamine laboratories have been detected in Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, with illicit laboratories also detected in Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia. Seizures of methamphetamine by Western European customs authorities increased from 74 kg in 2011 to 361 kg in 2012. Total amounts of annual methamphetamine seizures in Western and Central Europe increased from about 300 kg in 2008 and 500 kg in 2009 and 2010, to 636 kg in 2011; in 2011, the largest proportion of methamphetamine in the subregion was seized in Norway, followed by Lithuania and Sweden. In Norway, methamphetamine accounts for 60 per cent of amphetamines seized, with a decrease in 2011 seizures of methamphetamine (163 kg) compared with the 2009 peak of 234 kg. In Lithuania, seizures have fluctuated from 18 kg in 2010 to 134 kg in 2011, decreasing in 2012 to 54 kg; in Sweden, total annual seizures decreased over the period 2009-2012 from 164 kg to 47 kg. In Germany, seizures of methamphetamine peaked at 75 kg in 2012, compared with 40 kg in 2011.

647. Customs seizures of “ecstasy” have remained relatively constant in Western Europe over 2011 and 2012 (481 and 438 kg). Overall, in Western and Central Europe, which accounts for around 13 per cent of global “ecstasy” seizures, the number of tablets seized has increased from 2 million in 2009 to 4.3 million in 2011, which nonetheless is much less than the peak of 23 million tablets seized in 2002, with France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom together accounting for 87 per cent of the amount seized. The increase has been taken as an indication of a possible “recovery” of the illicit market for the substance, especially in France and the Netherlands. The number of illicit laboratories manufacturing “ecstasy” that were dismantled in Western and Central Europe declined from a peak of 50 in 2000, to 3 in 2010 and 5 in 2011, with the Netherlands and Belgium having reported the largest number of such laboratories over the past decade. In August and October 2013, two large-scale laboratories used for the illicit manufacture of “ecstasy” were seized in Belgium. At the same time, the illicit manufacture of “ecstasy” has shifted away from Europe towards other regions.

648. A number of countries have noted the continued availability on the illicit drug market of Subutex, a preparation containing buprenorphine, an opioid controlled under the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. In Finland, heroin has to a large extent been replaced by Subutex, seizures of which reached their highest level in five years in 2012 (48,700 tablets seized compared with 31,700 tablets in 2011). At the same time, the amounts of other preparations seized (mainly benzodiazepines and some opiates) doubled in recent years. While seizures of Subutex trafficked between Estonia and Finland decreased, it is trafficked on a large scale from France, with increased trafficking through and from Norway and Sweden, and with emerging trafficking from the United Kingdom.

### (c) Precursors

649. The use of pre-precursors or non-controlled precursors in the illicit manufacture of drugs in Europe continues. *alpha*-Phenylacetoacetonitrile (APAAN), which is converted into P-2-P for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine, is becoming more prominent in the region. Since 2009, APAAN had been seized in Belgium, the Netherlands and Poland, with the Netherlands reporting the seizure of a number of laboratories where the substance was being converted to P-2-P. In Belgium in 2012, there was a sharp increase in airport seizures of APAAN, purchased mainly in China. In 2012, authorities identified several cases of APAAN being sent

to private companies in Latvia from companies in China, possibly for onward transit to other countries of Western and Central Europe. In 2012, Hungary reported, as a new phenomenon, the trafficking of APAAN from China to European ports for onward transport in smaller quantities to illicit laboratories in Western Europe. That trend was also seen in Poland in 2012. Since their emergence as pre-precursors, as of 2012, PMK-glycidate and BMK-bisulfite can be traded and used in the Netherlands only with a licence.

### (d) Substances not under international control

650. New psychoactive substances continue to pose a significant challenge in Europe, with a record number of 73 new such substances identified through the European Union early warning system in 2012, compared with 49 substances in 2011 and 41 substances in 2010. Of those, 30 were synthetic cannabinoids, 19 were from “less known or more obscure chemical groups” and 14 were substituted phenethylamines. New psychoactive substances are an emerging drug phenomenon in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Bulgarian authorities report that about 30 new such substances appeared on the market every month in the past year. In Romania, the use of new psychoactive substances (synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids) has been reported to be decreasing due to the new control legislative measures adopted in November 2011. Since 2009, Romania has consistently reported seizures of new psychoactive substances.

651. The substances seized in Western and Central Europe are reported to come mainly, and often in bulk quantities, from China and, to a lesser extent, India. Facilities for the processing and packaging of those substances have been seized within the region. There is some illicit manufacture of new psychoactive substances in Europe for direct sale on the illicit market, including in Belgium (mainly manufacture of synthetic cannabinoids) and Ireland, the Netherlands and Poland; some new psychoactive substances, such as *meta*-chlorophenylpiperazine (*m*CPP), are sourced primarily from within Europe. Products containing synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists have been detected in virtually all Western and Central European countries; they are usually imported from Asia, with processing and packaging in Europe. The role of the Internet in the marketing and sale of new psychoactive substances continues.

652. In the United Kingdom, there have been increased seizures of ketamine, possibly diverted from India and trafficked to the United Kingdom by mail and courier

services, and recently larger quantities have been seized from sea containers. Seizures of ketamine in France have also become more prominent in recent years. However, seizures of the substance have decreased in Hungary.

653. Seizures of khat by customs authorities in Western Europe in 2012 increased from 54.1 tons in 2011 to 60.6 tons in 2012, representing more than half of the global customs seizures of the substance. Customs seizures of khat increased in Germany, which accounted for almost half of the amount seized in the subregion of Western Europe, from 23.8 tons to 27.5 tons, but total seizures of khat by law enforcement authorities decreased slightly, from around 46 tons in 2011 to 45 tons in 2012. Of the total of 118 tons of khat seized by customs authorities globally in 2012, 40 per cent was bound for Scandinavian countries (28 tons for Denmark, 10 tons for Sweden and 9 tons for Norway). Seizures of khat by customs authorities increased in Denmark, from 6.6 tons in 2011 to 7.6 tons in 2012 but decreased in Sweden (from 12.8 to 9.5 tons in the same period) and Norway (8.3 to 6.4 tons). Seizures of khat by police and customs authorities in Finland continued to increase, reaching a peak of 5.8 tons in 2011 before decreasing to 1.9 tons in 2012.

## 5. Abuse and treatment

654. In Western and Central Europe, cannabis continues to be the most abused drug, with an average annual prevalence among adults of 7.6 per cent. A study by EMCDDA found that on average 1 per cent of the adult population in 22 countries in the region abused cannabis on a daily or almost daily basis, and the rate was almost double (1.9 per cent) among those aged 15-34 years. On average, annual prevalence of cannabis abuse was 11.7 per cent among individuals aged 15-34 years and 14.9 per cent among young people aged 15-24 years. Levels of cannabis abuse in many but not all countries of the region are considered to be stable or declining, although they remain at historically high levels. Among school students, the trend is towards increased levels of abuse in countries with lower prevalence rates and decreases in countries with higher prevalence rates.

655. In Italy, while there was a decrease in annual prevalence of cannabis abuse among adults from 5.3 per cent in 2010 to 4.0 per cent in 2012, annual prevalence among school students aged 15-19 increased from 17.9 per cent in 2011 to 19.1 per cent in 2012. In Spain, annual prevalence of cannabis abuse among adults decreased from 10.6 per cent in 2009 to 9.6 per cent in 2011. Annual prevalence levels among adults in England and Wales in the United Kingdom decreased from 6.9 per cent in

2011/12 to 6.4 per cent in 2012/13, the lowest level since reporting commenced in 1996 (9.5 per cent). Among people aged 16-24 years, annual prevalence fell from 15.7 per cent in 2011/12 to 13.5 per cent in 2012/13, also the lowest level since 1996 (26 per cent). Despite the overall stability or declining trend in levels of cannabis abuse, the number of people in the European Union entering treatment for the first time for cannabis-related problems has risen by one third from around 45,000 in 2006 to 60,000 in 2011. Between 2005 and 2010, cannabis was the primary drug of abuse for at least half of new admissions to treatment in France, Germany and Hungary and, by 2010, also in Cyprus, Denmark and the Netherlands.

656. While the level of abuse of cocaine in Western and Central Europe remains nearly three times the global average, it appears to be stabilizing or decreasing, with annual prevalence among adults declining from 1.3 per cent in 2010 to 1.2 per cent in 2011. Among persons aged 15-34 years in the European Union, annual prevalence is estimated at 1.9 per cent, with higher than average levels ranging from 2.5 per cent to 4.2 per cent in the United Kingdom, Spain, Ireland and Denmark, in descending order. Levels of abuse are decreasing in those countries with higher levels of prevalence, but increasing in some other countries, such as France and Poland. For example, in the United Kingdom, in England and Wales, annual prevalence continued to decrease, from 2.2 per cent in 2011/12 to 1.9 per cent in 2012/13 among adults, and from 4.2 per cent in 2011/12 to 3.0 per cent in 2012/13 among those aged 16-24 years. In Spain, annual prevalence among adults decreased from 2.6 per cent in 2009 to 2.2 per cent in 2011. In Italy, annual prevalence decreased from 0.9 per cent in 2010 to 0.6 per cent in 2012 among adults, and from 2 per cent in 2011 to 1.86 per cent in 2012 among school students aged 15-19. While annual prevalence in Ireland remained relatively stable in 2010/11 at 1.5 per cent among adults and 2.8 per cent among young adults, lifetime prevalence increased from 5.3 per cent in 2006/07 to 6.8 per cent in 2010/11 among adults and from 8.2 per cent to 9.4 per cent among young adults.

657. The abuse of heroin is a major problem in many European countries but levels of abuse of heroin appear to be stabilizing or decreasing in Western and Central Europe, where annual prevalence of abuse of opioids is 0.4 per cent and 0.3 per cent for opiates. A high prevalence of opiate abuse has been reported in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe: 1.2 per cent of population aged 15-64. Regarding heroin use, indicators suggest a trend towards low use and availability. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, drug dependence treatment is mainly targeted at the population of heroin users. Recent survey



data in Italy showed a decrease in annual prevalence of heroin abuse among adults from 0.24 per cent in 2010 to 0.12 per cent in 2012 and from 0.41 per cent in 2011 to 0.32 per cent in 2012 among school students aged 15-19 years.

658. The emerging non-medical use of prescription opioids is evident in a number of countries, and the number of new treatment cases attributed to abuse of opioids other than heroin has increased. In Estonia, fentanyl was the primary drug of abuse in 76 per cent of treatment cases, and its use was reported to be widespread among those who abuse drugs by injection. Annual prevalence of abuse of fentanyl in Estonia was estimated at 0.1 per cent among adults but 1.1 per cent among those aged 15-24. Notable increases in abuse of fentanyl by injection had also been reported in Bulgaria and Slovakia. Abuse of fentanyl in Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom had also been reported, even if at a localized level in some countries. In Finland, buprenorphine accounts for most first-time opioid-related treatment cases, and in Denmark and Sweden opioids other than heroin account for more than half of first-time opioid-related treatment clients.

659. Amphetamine-type stimulants remain the most commonly used synthetic stimulants in Europe, and recent data suggest increasing availability of methamphetamine. In Western and Central Europe, the annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and "ecstasy" has remained stable (at 0.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent among adults, respectively). Among adults aged 15-34 in European Union countries, average annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines is 1.3 per cent, with stable or decreasing trends in most countries with recent surveys. Methamphetamine, the abuse of which was relatively low in Europe compared with other regions and limited to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, continues to replace amphetamine as a substance of abuse in some countries, in particular in the north of Europe (Finland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden). Indications of problem use of methamphetamine have been reported for Cyprus, Germany and Greece. Most countries in Western and Central Europe report stable or declining trends in abuse of "ecstasy", with annual prevalence among young adults ranging from 0.1 per cent to 3.1 per cent, but there are indications of a resurgence in the popularity of the substance. In Spain, annual prevalence among adults decreased from 1.2 per cent in 2007 to 0.7 per cent in 2011, while in Ireland the prevalence of "ecstasy" abuse decreased among adults, from 1.2 per cent to 0.5 per cent and among young adults from 2.4 per cent to 0.9 per cent. In the United Kingdom, the annual prevalence of abuse among those aged 16-24 years in England and Wales fell

in 2012/13 to 2.9 per cent, the lowest level on record, and adult prevalence fell from 1.4 per cent to 1.3 per cent in the past year.

660. The abuse of new psychoactive substances continues to pose a major health threat in Europe, particularly with the record number of new substances of abuse identified in 2012 and reports of health problems linked to these substances. While the number of people using new psychoactive substances is reported to still be relatively low in general in most European countries although more prevalent among particular populations, national surveys present a varied picture of the situation. In Ireland, which according to earlier surveys had the highest lifetime prevalence of abuse of new psychoactive substances (16.3 per cent among those aged 15-24 in 2011) in Europe, there are indications that levels of abuse may have stabilized or declined following legislative changes, prevention activities and a reduction in the number of retail outlets selling such substances. A decline in admissions to accident and emergency services related to abuse of new psychoactive substances was reported in 2011, the first such decline in a number of years. Ireland's 2010/11 drug prevalence survey indicated that annual prevalence of abuse of new psychoactive substances was 3.5 per cent among adults and 9.7 per cent among those aged 15-24 years, second only to the prevalence of cannabis abuse. In England and Wales, in the United Kingdom, levels of abuse of new psychoactive substances started to decline in 2011/12 following increases in the years prior; and annual prevalence levels of abuse of mephedrone among adults fell from 1.1 per cent in 2011/12 to 0.5 per cent in 2012/13, and fell from 3.3 per cent to 1.6 per cent among young adults aged 16-24 years. Over the same period, annual prevalence of ketamine abuse among adults in England and Wales fell from 0.6 per cent to 0.4 per cent, and the rate among 16-24 year olds fell from 1.8 per cent to 0.8 per cent. Survey results indicated that 0.3 per cent of adults and 1.1 per cent of young people aged 16-24 in England and Wales had used *Salvia divinorum* in the past year.

661. Record levels of treatment, mainly in outpatient settings, have been reported by EMCDDA, with opioids accounting for the largest proportion of treatment cases, followed by cannabis and cocaine. It is estimated that approximately half of problem opioid users received opioid substitution treatment, the rate varying by country from 3 to 70 per cent, increasing to over 700,000 individuals in 2011, compared with 650,000 individuals in 2008. The number of new treatment cases associated with abuse of heroin in the European Union continues to decline, from a peak of 59,000 in 2007 to 41,000 in 2011. However, abuse of opioids continues to account

for the greatest proportion of treatment cases: almost half of new treatment cases in the subregion in 2011, and around 30 per cent of first-time treatment entrants, with heroin reported in 88 per cent of opioid-related cases. Authorities in some countries have noted increases in cases related to opioid abuse. In Portugal, the number of first-time treatment entrants is reported to have increased from 2002 to 2012, accompanied by an increase in readmissions to treatment, in particular readmissions associated with heroin abuse. The number of new cocaine-related treatment cases in Western and Central Europe has fallen, including in Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, for the first time, but acute and chronic problems related to cocaine abuse continue to be reported.

662. In Belarus, by the beginning of 2013, a total of 14,467 people were registered as suffering drug addiction. In 2012, the number of opiate users increased 13.2 per cent, mainly due to an increase in the number of persons using homemade extracted opium. The majority of registered drug injectors (96.9 per cent) used homemade opium. The number of registered heroin users decreased by 35.4 per cent, and the users of illegal methadone decreased by 8.5 per cent.

663. The number of drug users in the Russian Federation is estimated to be between approximately 2 million and 2.5 million, which is about 5-6 per cent of the population aged 15-30. According to figures from the Russian Ministry of Health, as of 1 January 2012, 35,203 adolescents aged 15-17 were diagnosed as suffering from a "substance dependence disorder".

664. Cannabis is now the most frequently mentioned drug of abuse among those admitted for first-time treatment in Western and Central Europe, with the proportion of cannabis use among all treatment entrants as high as 69 per cent in Hungary. In France, for example, cannabis abuse was reported by almost half of new treatment entrants, three quarters of whom reported daily use; the increase in levels of admission to treatment for cannabis abuse has been partially attributed to court referrals to treatment centres. In Denmark, 73 per cent of first-time treatment entrants cite cannabis as the primary drug of abuse; in 2011 cannabis was the primary drug of abuse among 80 per cent of treatment patients aged 18-24, compared with 46 per cent in 2003. In the United Kingdom, the number of new cases for treatment of cannabis abuse doubled from 2004 to 2011, by which time they accounted for one fifth of all new treatment cases and one third of first-time cases, with almost 80 per cent of treatment entrants admitted for cannabis abuse being under the age of 25 years.

665. A stable trend has been noted in first-time admissions to treatment for abuse of amphetamines, which accounted for 6 per cent of new treatment cases in the European Union area in 2011. Amphetamine accounted for a considerable proportion of first-time treatment entrants in Latvia, Poland and Sweden, whereas the large proportion of first-time treatment cases for methamphetamine further increased in the Czech Republic and Slovakia; in the Czech Republic, individuals abusing methamphetamine accounted for 69.1 per cent of all new treatment clients.

666. Overdose deaths, mainly related to abuse of opioids, declined in recent years, from around 7,000 in 2010 to 6,500 in 2011 in European Union countries. Overall, the number of opioid-related deaths has decreased, although increases have been seen in some countries, including Estonia (primarily due to fentanyl), France, Ireland, Lithuania and Sweden. In the United Kingdom, the proportion of deaths related to heroin and morphine declined from 41 per cent in 2010 to 32 per cent in 2011, while the proportion of deaths involving methadone increased by 4 per cent and those involving other opiates or opioid analgesics increased 6 per cent. In Scotland, the number of deaths related to methadone exceeded those related to heroin for the first time since 1997. Abuse of alcohol and benzodiazepines has been implicated in many of those deaths in the United Kingdom. Deaths in Europe due to cocaine abuse appear to have declined slightly, in particular in Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom, while an increase was reported in Germany.

667. A high prevalence of injecting drug use is reported in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries: 1.3 per cent of the population aged 15-64, of whom 14.9 per cent have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. About 30 per cent of the global population of injecting drug users infected with HIV/AIDS live in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. At about 22 per cent, Ukraine has the largest HIV/AIDS-infected population among injecting drug users. In Western and Central Europe, there has been an overall decrease in recent years in the prevalence of injecting drug use among those entering treatment for heroin abuse for the first time. Newly reported HIV infections among injecting drug users declined from 2004 to 2010, yet increased slightly in 2011, to a prevalence of 6.7 per cent. As a result of the HIV infection outbreaks among those who abuse drugs by injection in Greece and Romania, the proportion of such diagnoses in these two countries of the total for the European Union and Norway increased from 2 per cent in 2010 to 23 per cent in 2011. The proportion of acute cases of hepatitis C infection attributable to injecting drug use in Western and Central Europe has fallen from 40.6 per cent in 2006 to 33.3 per cent in 2011.