Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) Meeting

29 to 31 January 2018
Vienna, Austria
NPS Supply Data Challenges

• **General issues**
  – Errors in long chemical names, incomplete or ambiguous names (e.g. NBOMe, 2C-X)
  – Group names, street or product names given rather than substance names (e.g. ‘spice’)
  – Experience from specific NPS surveys with (long) pre-defined lists featuring different names (abbreviation, scientific, common, numerical ID, ...)

• **Seizures and seizure cases**
  – Incorporation of mixtures (different NPS in one product, sometimes belonging to different effect or chemical groups)
  – Form of presentation missing (sprayed on herbal material or pure powder?)
  – Confusion between controlled substance (e.g. cathinone) and uncontrolled plant (e.g. khat leaves)
  – Assessment of significance of seizure amounts difficult as some NPS are highly potent (gram amounts may be a very significant amount but not get reported as it seems small).

• **Trafficking**
  – Most NPS by mail in relatively small amounts (<1kg)
  – Seizure rate may be very different from other drugs
  – Variety of forms of presentation (same substance may be available as powder, sprayed on herbal material, spray, tablet, ...
NPS Supply Data Challenges

• **Price and purity**
  – Price data would require to indicate form of presentation,
  – Typical dosage not clear for many NPS

• **Manufacture**
  – Information on clandestine laboratories scarce: many manufacturers may have legal front and serve both licit and illicit purposes
  – If reported, mainly mixing laboratories, not synthesis labs