Expert working group on improving drug statistics and strengthening the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ)

29-31 January 2018
Vienna, Austria
Challenges in data on seizures and trafficking

• **Seizures (questions 1-3, ARQ Part 4)**
  – Aggregation of data from multiple law enforcement agencies
  – Aggregation across drug types
  – Attribution, counting rules for number of cases
  – Losses
  – Uncertainty about nature of seized substances

• **Trafficking routes (questions 4-6, ARQ Part 4)**
  – Concepts of departure country, production/manufacturing country, transit and destination
  – Require a significant effort of aggregation of case-specific records

• **Mode of transportation (questions 7-8, ARQ Part 4)**
  – Potential overlap of “mail” with air/sea/land
Challenges in price-purity data (questions 15-18, ARQ Part 4)

- **Prices**
  - Purchase units
  - Currency
  - Retail versus wholesale, redundant conversions
  - Intelligence versus data

- **Typical values and common ranges**
  - Ranges too wide, include extreme values
  - Typical value unclear
  - Size of samples

- **Purity data**
  - Representativity
  - Ad hoc concepts (cannabis, opium, tablet content)
  - Purity-adjusted price
Challenges data on cultivation, production and manufacture

- **Cultivation and eradication (Questions 32-38, ARQ Part 4)**
  - Relevance: cannabis, opium poppy and coca bush
  - Indoor cultivation: no provision for reporting, unit of measurement
  - Potential overlaps and ambiguities in measurement of eradication

- **Yield and production (Questions 39-43, ARQ Part 4)**
  - Require in-depth studies
  - Information currently available through joint crop monitoring projects

- **Clandestine laboratories (Questions 48-57, ARQ Part 4)**
  - Nomenclature
  - Breakdowns by substance, layout/structure
  - Complex classifications

- **Illicit manufacture (Questions 58-65, ARQ Part 4)**
  - Very specific information: precursor chemicals, raw materials and reagents used, and associated conversion ratios