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Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) Meeting

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Vienna, Austria



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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, ...)



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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