

# Panel IV

## New tasks and activities of Focal Points

Exchange on data collection challenges  
related to new psychoactive substances use  
Budapest, 19-20 April 2012



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# Objectives of the panel

- New data and information requested from NFPs – apart from the EMCDDA, at a national level (identification of new substances, drug profiles, legal issues etc.)
- Information dissemination: new target audience and new methods of information dissemination, relationship to the media, visibility
- New tasks delegated to NFPs at national level (EWS, risk assessment, data collection etc.)

# Hungary

- Planned restructuring of EWS  
(online platform to enhance interactivity, involvement of treatment-care institutions and frontline services besides experts)
- Risk assessment of NPS-s: NFP has to provide information (new control mechanism for scheduling NPSs from 3 April 2012)
- Growing demand for information on NPS (identification, legal status, monitoring guidelines) from different actors (media, public, police, health institutions, other professionals)

# Hungary

- Growing need for interaction and cooperation between fields within the focal point and within the professional community (because information is scattered, no routine data)
- New monitoring needs
  - availability: first survey on online shops in 2011
  - patterns of use: need for more qualitative surveys, mixed methods (2011 mephedrone, 2012 cathinones)

# To discuss...

- Did you experience a change in NFP's role and competency? (Informal or formal?)
- Do you have new tasks to undertake at a national level? Any new activities or new methods for data collection?
- What is the role of NFP (if any) in the process of scheduling new substances? Is the NFP involved in the risk assessment of NPSs?
- Do you plan any organizational changes in order to cope with the changing requirements?
- Did your role in information provision and your relationship to the media change? What kind of new information is expected from you?
- Are you able to respond to the newly emerging needs? Any good ideas and examples to share?

# Thank you for your attention!

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