

# *Estimating and monitoring NPS popularity on drug users' forums: methodological issues and challenges for researchers*

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« Challenges: a changing drug market » 25/09/15.*

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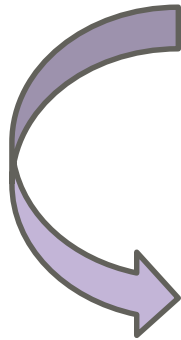

# WS 1: Monitoring online drug discussions

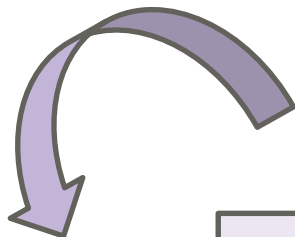
- 13 drug forums monitored between October 2013 and 2014 in 4 countries – UK, NL, PL, FR
- 5,169 collected threads / online discussions
- Double-typology
  - EDND classification, based on chemical families
  - Forums classification, based on main self-experienced effects
- Measurement: the average number of new views per day for each month

- **Process – to collect each month NPS “threads” and their numbers of “views” on selected forums for each country**

## Technical issues:

- At first, collection done manually.
  - Time consuming (2-3 days per partner)
  - To handle the substances' names (synonyms, type errors, etc.)
- At the end of the project, collection done via a dedicated software and an online platform
  - To spare time
  - To collect more data

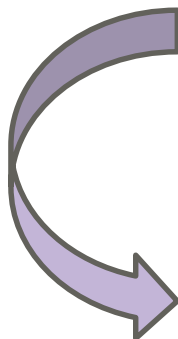




Enters Threads Checking

Management Creation Local Filters General Filters

No	Monthly views	RF	Org	Title	Substance 1	Substance 2	Family	Sub-Family	Created
3635	7652	00		Présentation					
3636	3150	00		Les photos des psychos qui sont bons (.à l'intérieur)					
3632	2549	00		Les absurdités sur la drogue					
3816	2145	00		1-propionyl-L-tyrosine Acid Diethylamide (1P-LSD)					
3835	2062	00		3-FMP : des retours ?					
174	1563	00		COMMENT FUMER DE LA COCAINE					25/03/2013
599	1362	00		Tout sur la MDMA					22/04/2013
5938	1325	00		Je ne suis pas raciste et pourtant...					28/03/2015
3638	1311	00		[SOS modo bums] VS [Solidarité drogue sévère]					30/09/2010



No	Monthly views	RF	Org	Title	Substance 1	Substance 2
7100	10074	O1031		Quelques questions sur le DXM...	DXM	
7117	5294	O907		E liquide cannabis avec 5F-AKB48 et AB-FUB	5F-AKB-48	
5859	4060	O1023		Drogues à faire soi même	Fridge	
713	2828	O902		bubba blue ou liquide 5f akb48 pour cigarette électronique	5F-AKB-48	
80	2496	O94		Ce nouveau RC, mais qu'est-ce que ?	Fridge	
7102	2145	O1033		1-propionyl-L-tyrosine Acid Diethylamide (1P-LSD)	1p-LSD	
7101	2062	O1032		3-FMP : des retours ?	3-FMP	
390	1903	O443		La DMT, surprenant, puissant et inquiétant	DMT	
890	1836	O988		Tryptophane : La molécule du bonheur ?	Tryptophane	
715	1719	O905		Comment faire son e-liquide avec des cannabinoïdes de synthèse	Mixed SC	
388	1588	O451		La 3-MéthylDérivCathinone (alias 3-MAC), très bon mais très a	3-MAC	
318	1579	O373		Ethylphenidate, la grosse discussion	Ethylphenidate	
37	1557	O41		Internet, supermarché des drogues de synthèse	Fridge	
291	1554	O324		Methoxetamine	Methoxetamine	
88	1451	O102		Les combos a ne surtout pas faire... danger.	Fridge	
347	1450	O403		Synthacaine ???	Synthacaine	
7103	1282	O1034		Décoouverte 3-MAC: besoin d'avis et conseils	3-MAC	
7094	1149	O1025		Mab-climacina	MDMB-CHMICA	
7108	954	O1039		Le 2-FMAC, thioromethocathinone, aucun intérêt...	2-FMAC	
720	947	O910		Fumer des cannabinoïdes synthétiques ab-fubina	AB-FUBINACA	

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Displaying 1 to 20 of 909 items

Legal Highs - General

Introduce yourself  
Come and say hi and tell us a bit about yourself if you've just signed up.

Old boys section  
You can only contribute in this section if you are a member with 100 posts or more together with at minimum of 20 "Thank you's" received. If you have less than this, you will still be able to read the contents, but cannot add posts or vote on posts.

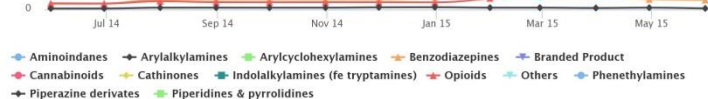
TOPICS IN CATEGORY: STIMULANTS

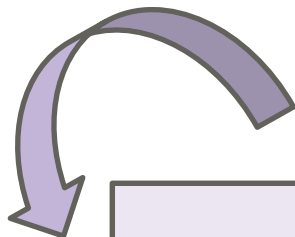
6	Important information for Members and Vendors regarding Sourcing	5678	Last Post by veritable	1504	5687	Last Post: into below trends
14	List of Chemicals affected by the UK temporary ban	4228	Last Post by veritable	54	659	Last Post: The check that proper
1	Ethylphenidate + 3-Fluorophenmetazone combo.	12	Last Post by veritable	67	1234	Last Post: THE BROWN & Orange 11

■ 6,020 online discussions collected

■ Selection of the most viewed

■ Retrospective inclusion possible





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TOPICS IN CATEGORY: STIMULANTS

Topics	Replies	Views	Last Post by	Last Post by	Last Post by
6	5687	1504	Topics	Topics	Topics
14	54	659	Topics	Topics	Topics
1856	19.4k	1856	Topics	Topics	Topics
67	1234	67	Topics	Topics	Topics

Enter Threads Checking

Management Creation Local Filters General Filters

No	Monthly views	RT Org	Title	Substance 1	Substance 2	Family	Sub-Family
3655	7652	00	Présentation				
3656	3150	00	Les photos des perchos qui sont bons (.à l'intérieur)				
3652	2549	00	Les absurdités sur la drogue				
3616	2145	00	1-propionyl-2-tyrosine-Acétylethylamine (1P-2SD)				
3655	2062	00	3-FMP - des retours ?				
174	1563	00	COMMENT FUMER DE LA COCAINE				
599	1362	00	Tout sur la MDMA				
5958	1325	00	Je ne suis pas raciste et pourtant...				
3658	1311	00	(SOS modo bams) VS (Solidarité drogue sévère)				

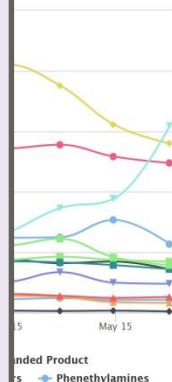
- Closed list of substance names

- Automatic categorisation by the two typologies ( felt effects or chemicals)

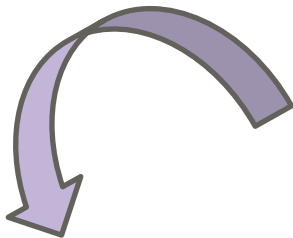
- Management of about 600 names and 1,200 synonyms

5839	250	00					
713	2496	00					
80	2145	01033	1-propionyl-2-tyrosine-Acétylethylamine (1P-2SD)				
7102	2062	01032	3-FMP - des retours ?				
7101	1903	0443	La DMET, surprenant, puissant				
380	1836	0988	Tryptophane : La molécule du bonheur				
890	1719	0905	Comment faire son e-liquide avec des cannabinoïdes				
715	1588	0451	La 3-Méthyl-D-GuanoCatéchine (alias 3-MDAC), très bon mais très				
388	1579	0373	Ethylphénétidine, la grosse discussion				
318	1557	041	Internet, supermarché des drogues de synthèse				
37	1554	0324	Méthoxetamine				
291	1451	0102	Les combos a ne surtout pas faire... danger.				
88	1450	0403	Synthétacane ???				
347	1282	01034	DéSocouverte 3-MDAC: besoin d'avis et conseils				
7103	1149	01025	Mash-chemica				
7094	954	01039	Le 2-FMAC, thiorométhocathinone, aucun intérêt				
7108	947	0910	Fumer des cannabinoïdes synthétiques ab-futuriska				
720							

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Enter Threads Checking						
<div>Management Creation Local Filters General Filters</div>						
No	Monthly views	Rf Org	Title	Substance 1	Substance 2	Family
3655	7652	00	Présentation			
3656	3150	00	Les photos des psychos qui sont bon (.à l'inséer)			
3652	2549	00	Les absurdités sur la drogue			
5816	2145	00	1-propionyl-L-tyrosine: Acide Diethylamide (1P-LSD)			
5855	2062	00	3-FMP - des retours ?			
174	1563	00	COMMENT FUMER DE LA COCAINE			
599	1362	00	Test sur la MDMA			
5958	1325	00	Je ne suis pas raciste et pourtant...			
3658	1311	00	(SOS modo bums) VS (Solidarité drogue ségrégée)			

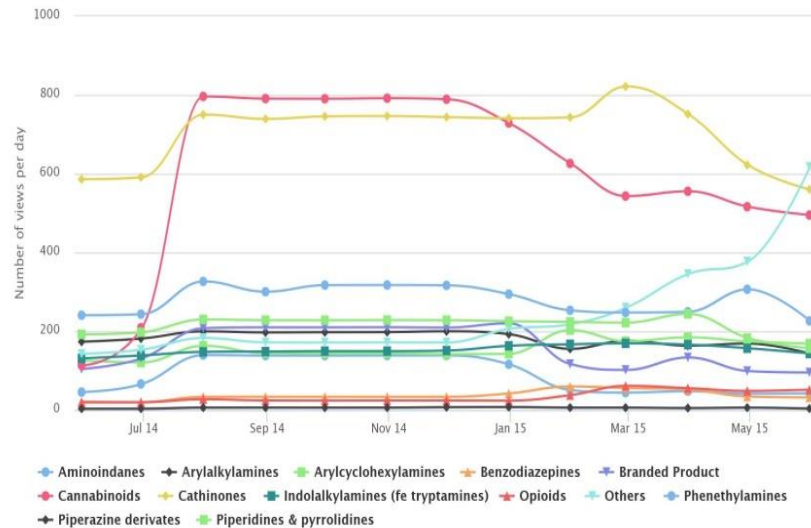
Legal Highs - General		
<b>Introduce yourself</b> Come and say hi and tell us a bit about yourself if you've just signed up.		
<b>Old boys section</b> You can only contribute in this section if you are a member with 100 posts or more together with at minimum of 20 "Thank you's" received. If you have less than this, you will still be able to read the contents, but cannot add threads or replies.		
TOPICS IN CATEGORY: STIMULANTS		
6 Replies	<b>Important information for Members and Vendors regarding Sourcing</b> Topic started 2 years 2 weeks ago by David	5876 Views
14 Replies	<b>List of Chemicals affected by the UK temporary ban</b> Topic started 2 years 2 weeks ago by David	4228 Views
1 Replies	<b>Ethylphenidate + 3-Fluorophenmetazone combo.</b> Topic started 3 hours 58 minutes ago by David	12 Views
22 Replies	<b>You had to choose two, what is the most euphoric stims IYO</b> Topic started 2 days 11 hours ago by David	369 Views
18 Replies	<b>Ethylphenidate (EPH) - Post your Research &amp; Questions here</b> Topic started 1 week 15 hours ago by David	163 Views
8 Replies	<b>3pm IV</b> Topic started 1 week 11 minutes ago by David	83 Views
3 Replies	<b>NIOPPO</b> Topic started 2 weeks 1 day ago by David	68 Views
5 Replies	<b>3-phenyl-2,6-dimethylmorpholine or 36 drigrams</b> Topic started 3 weeks 2 days ago by David	160 Views



No	Monthly views	Rf Org	Title	Substance 1	Substance 2	Family	Sub-Family	Creat. Date
7100	10074	O1031	Quelques questions sur le DDM...	DDM		Dissociative	Dissociative	29/06/2013
717	5294	O907	E liquide cannabis avec 5F-AKB48 et AB-FUB	5F-AKB-48		Synthetic Cannabis	SC	04/04/2014
5859	4060	O1023	Drogues à faire soi même	Fridge		Fridge	Fridge	14/05/2004
713	2828	O902	budha blue ou liquide 5f akb48 pour cigarette électronique	5F-AKB-48		Synthetic Cannabis	SC	14/04/2014
80	2496	O94	Ce nouveau RC, mais qu'est ce que ?	Fridge		Fridge	Fridge	15/03/2011
7102	2145	O1033	1-propionyl-L-tyrosine: Acide Diethylamide (1P-LSD)	1p-LSD		Psychodelic	Other Psychodelic	13/01/2015
7101	2062	O1032	3-FMP - des retours ?	3-FMP		Stimulant	Other Stim	30/11/1899
390	1903	O443	Le DMT, surprenant, puissant et inquiétant	DMT		Psychodelic	Others tryptamines	21/08/2013
890	1836	O988	Tryptophane - La molécule du bonheur ?	Tryptophane				20/10/2013
715	1719	O905	Comment faire son e-liquide avec des cannabinoïdes de synthèse	Mixed SC		Synthetic Cannabis	Mixed SC	17/04/2014
388	1588	O451	La 3-MethylmethCathinone (alias 3-MDMC), très bon mais très a	3-MDMC		Stimulant	Cathinones	03/10/2012
318	1579	O373	Ethylphenidate, la grosse discussion	Ethylphenidate		Stimulant	Other Stim	27/05/2013
37	1557	O41	Internet, supermarché des drogues de synthèse	Fridge		Fridge	Fridge	11/06/2013
291	1554	O124	Methoxetamine	Methoxetamine		Dissociative	Dissociative	06/01/2011
88	1451	O102	Les combos a ne surtout pas faire... danger.	Fridge		Fridge	Fridge	10/10/2012
347	1450	O403	Synthacaine ???	Synthacaine		Stimulant	Other Stim	08/01/2013
7103	1282	O1034	De@couverte 3-MDMC: besoins d'avis et conseils	3-MDMC		Stimulant	Cathinones	30/11/1899
7094	1149	O1025	Mauv-élimacine	MDMB-CHMICA		Synthetic Cannabis	SC	30/11/1899
7108	954	O1039	Le 2 FNIC, fluorométhylcathinone, aucun un@ce@t@n...	2-FNIC		Stimulant	Substituted amphetamine	30/11/1899
720	947	O910	Fumer des cannabinoïdes synthétiques ab-fubina	AB-FUBINACA		Synthetic Cannabis	SC	23/04/2014



Number of views per day



## Ethical issues:

- Should forums be informed of the ongoing monitoring?

### Question

- Ethic
- Legal
- Technical

- Is it a true or false problem?

- Forums have different attitudes toward the publicity and the accessibility of their content

1	2	3	4	5
The more private			The more open	
2 forums (PL, NL)	2 forums (FR)	1 forum (UK)	1 forum (FR)	7 forums (UK, PL, NL)

- Forums have different cultures on the fact to exchange with institutions or medias

1	2	3	4	5
None culture			Dedicated Sub-forums	
7 forums (UK, PL and FR)	1 forums (FR)	1 forum (UK)	1 forum (PL)	3 forums (NL)

- Forums use - or not - different types of copyrights

1	2
<b>Copyrights</b>	<b>No Copyrights</b>
<b>3 forums (PL, UK, FR)</b>	<b>10 forums (PL, UK, FR, NL)</b>

## What does that mean?

- Forums are extremely diverse:

1	2	3	4
Platforms events	Source Info.	Kind of syndicates	Not-for-profit Org.
2 forums (UK and NL)	8 forums (UK, NL, PL, FR)	2 forum (UK, PL)	1 forum (FR)

- Particular relationship and trust to build with each one of them.

- **Before declaring itself the researcher should carefully weight the pros and the cons**
- **The possibility to build cooperation can impact**
  - **Data quantity**
  - **Data quality**
  - **And access to the research field itself**

**[www.i-trend.eu](http://www.i-trend.eu)**

Thanks for your attention  
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**trend**

Internet tools for research  
in Europe on new drugs



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Sources:  
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