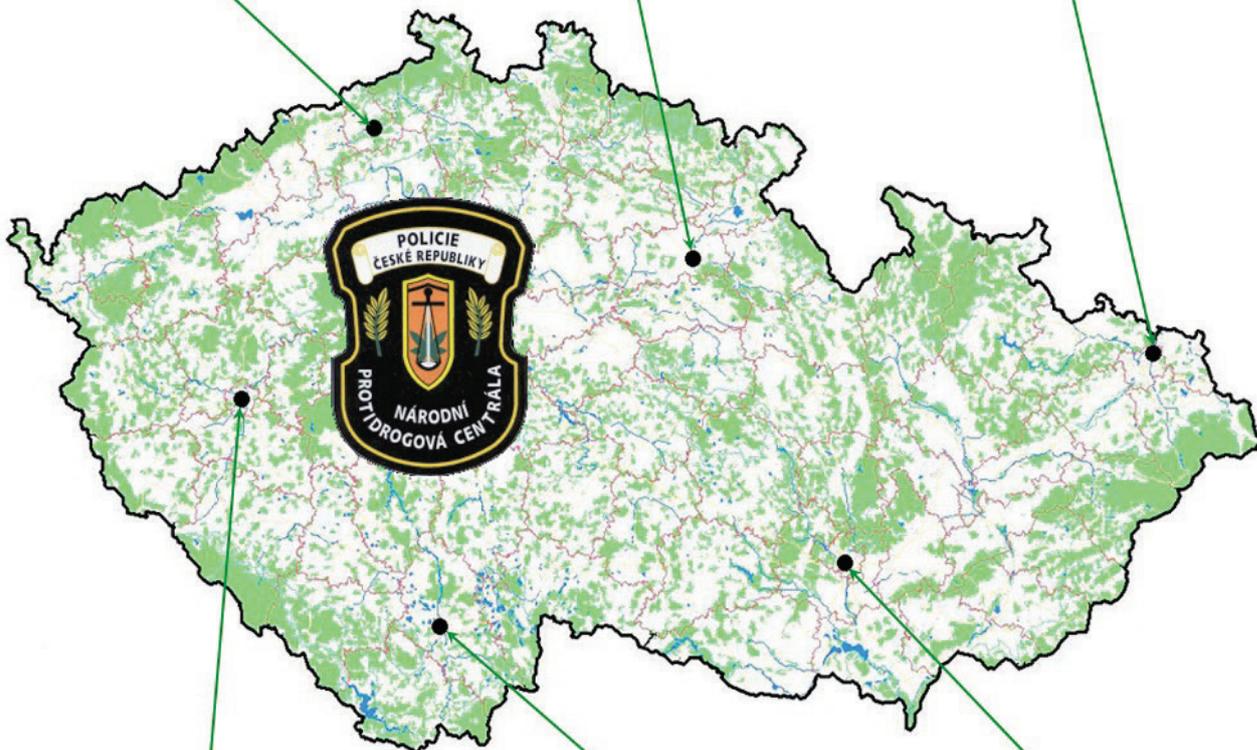


Branch
ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM

Branch
HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

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OSTRAVA



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PLZEŇ

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ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

Branch
BRNO

Annual Report of National Drug Headquarters

I.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE FIELD OF DRUGS

The National Drug Headquarters (Národní protidrogová centrála – NPC) of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service are a specialized unit of the Police of the Czech Republic with a nation-wide jurisdiction; their main tasks include the search for, detection, documentation and investigation of the most serious forms of organized drug-related crime. In their history, the NPC underwent a number of structural changes resulting from the restructuring of the former federal and present-day republic police; the NPC themselves, however, continuously endeavour to look for and develop new, more efficient models, forms and methods of work which would lead to a more effective prosecution of the criminal activity of illicit manufacturing and trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances. They constantly follow the trend of flexible adaptation to the development of and changes in the drug scene. The NPC react not only to the permanently appearing new methods of criminals and their activities, but also to the overall fundamental changes in the character and structure of the drug scene. In the situation when ethnicity and nationality are taking a back seat compared to the previous years and new criminal conglomerates are emerging, when the former rival groups of drug producers and distributors of different ethnic and nationality backgrounds unite and cooperate, a truly wise measure is apparently an early reaction of law enforcement agencies, involving not only intensified efforts in combating drug-related crime, but also structural and staff adaptations. In the space of almost two years, the fundamental structural changes of the NPC, carried out also on the basis of an in-depth analysis of the situation on the drug scene in the Czech Republic and abroad, can be said to be bearing fruit. The small and closely specialized groups of police officers needed in the past have nowadays joined their powers, knowledge and experience, thus becoming much more successful in combating the heterogenous networks of drug distributors and producers on the current drug scene, which radically differs from the situation only a few years ago. In contrast to the 1990's, it is no longer possible to specify in what types of drugs particular ethnic groups specialize. Drugs are being exchanged among groups and the involvement of ethnic Albanians, for example, in the import of cocaine or ephedrine apart from the traditional heroin, or in organizing the production of metamphetamine and its export abroad is no exception today.

An issue which poses extreme danger to society and requires a concept solution from the interested entities is illegal production of the psychotropic substance metamphetamine (pervitine in the slang) in the territory of the Czech Republic from pseudoephedrine contained in medicines sold over the counter. These medicines are, in particular, PARALEN, NUROFEN, STOPGRIP and MODAFEN, containing up to 30 mg of pseudoephedrine in a dosage unit. Since these medicines are available without medical prescription, the situation on the current Czech drug scene regarding the production of this drug has for a long time been alarming and calls for an adequate reaction. In the vast majority of the detected cases of illegal production of this psychotropic substance in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2005, it is these medicines that were used as the source material (e.g., according to the tentative data of the Forensic Institute Prague, in 87% of cases; of the Division of Criminal Technology and Expert Opinions of the East Bohemian Region Police Administration, in 92 %; and in other regions, the average percentage of such cases was approximately 90 %). Bulk purchases of MODAFEN and other of the mentioned drugs, when the amount that the illegal producer or his/her assistant bought in a pharmacy in the course of one week reached the value of CZK 30,000, were no

exception. One of the alternative solutions would be to include these medicines on the list of prescription drugs. Another solution could be a legal regulation of this issue in Act No.167/1998 Coll., regulating addictive substances, so that it would apply also to handling precursors contained in drugs in medicines irrespective of the amount of pseudoephedrine.

Characteristics of the current situation in drug misuse and drug-related crime in the Czech Republic.

The situation regarding the misuse of illegal addictive substances and drug-related crime in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2005 can be described, in particular, in the following terms:

1. metamphetamine is illegally manufactured from medicines available over the counter, particularly MODAFEN, PARALEN and NUROFEN STOPGRIP, with the content of pseudoephedrine up to 30 mg in a dosage unit;
2. a trend which is still dominant is the use of cannabis products by young people, who, owing to the overall climate in the Czech society, do not consider these products dangerous for health or society;
3. legislative efforts to recodify the Penal Code, which should come into effect on 1/1/2007, have continued. Apart from other things, the new PC introduces a special body of the crime "illicit cultivation of plants containing a narcotic or psychotropic substance", and a differentiation regarding the possession of narcotics and psychotropic substances and poisons (hereinafter referred to as "NPS") according to individual NPS types. With respect to cannabis products, this process can be seen as inconspicuous, hidden legalization, though the terms used in this connection are "decriminalization" etc.;
4. gradually, the term "ecstasy" is getting a wider definition, denoting all illegally produced medical products (tablets, capsules, suppositories etc.) containing substances subject to control or prohibited by the law;
5. new substances have appeared not listed in the annexes to Act No. 167/1998 Coll., regulating addictive substances, - tablets of ecstasy have been intercepted containing the active ingredient mCPP, which the domestic consumers, owing to their characteristic design, call "duhovka"¹;
6. 2005 saw a marked increase in the misuse and illegal distribution of SUBUTEX; it is illegally trafficked, individual tablets being usually sold to other consumers at prices many times exceeding those at which they are bought on prescription at a pharmacy. Also the substitution treatment rules are violated, consumers applying SUBUTEX intravenously;
7. the majority of regions have registered a rising demand for cocaine, which occupies the highest place on the notional price ladder on the illegal market;
8. drugs of poor quality are sold; in the case of heroin, in particular, the concentration of the active ingredient in one doze in the end distribution ranges from 5 to 10 %;
9. ever more information appears about trade in ketamine, a substance used as an anesthetic in veterinary practice and not listed in the annex to Act 167/1998 Coll., regulating addictive substances;
10. illegal manufacturing of an opiate called "braun", from medicines containing codeine, has again been detected;

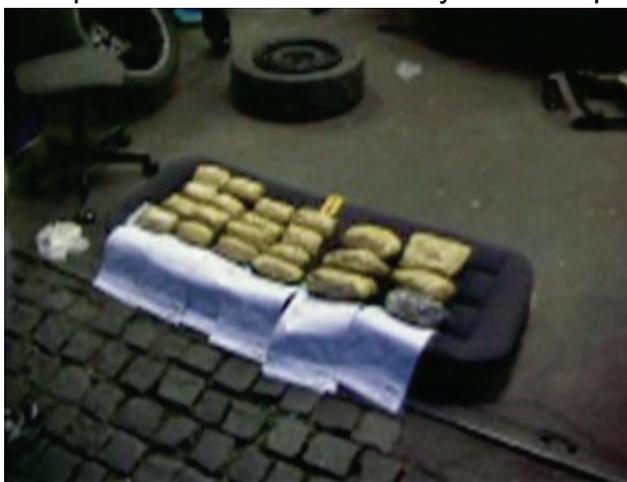
¹ transl. note: the Czech for "iris", "rainbow" or the "rainbow-tinted"

11. the number of offenders coming from former Yugoslavia who are involved in the organization of illegal import of ephedrine from the Balkans and the production of metamphetamine and its subsequent distribution abroad, particularly to the Federal Republic of Germany, continues to grow; they have become more involved in the illegal trade in cocaine, which is also transported along the so-called Balkans route;
12. to satisfy the demands of the drug market, so-called drug tourism has appeared in consequence of the relaxation of border controls after the Czech Republic's accession to the EU; it has taken the form of e.g. the export of metamphetamine in separate doses from our territory to Germany or the import of ecstasy in various quantities from the Netherlands;
13. the perpetrators of not only organized crime, in order to make their detection more difficult, devote considerable efforts to changing the modus operandi, using ever more sophisticated means;
14. a number of persons against whom actions of the Police of the Czech Republic are directed have already experience with the methods and means of the police work, acquired during the investigation of their previous crimes; in consequence, their criminal activity is very difficult to detect and prove.

II.

TRADE IN HEROIN

The main route for heroin import into the Czech Republic is still the so-called Balkans route. Ethnic groups holding an essential position in heroin trade are Kosovo Albanians and Turks, who participate in the organization of heroin export to the whole Europe. These routes and ways of transport are ever more frequently used also for



the transport of cocaine, ephedrine and synthetic substances. The groups take advantage of the different legislations and make the detection of shipments more difficult by changing the routes and ways of transport in the course of a single shipment. In the investigated cases, the most common way of shipments transportation ascertained was the transport by couriers in concealments in cars. A number of shipments to the Czech Republic are subsequently distributed further to Western Europe, particularly to the

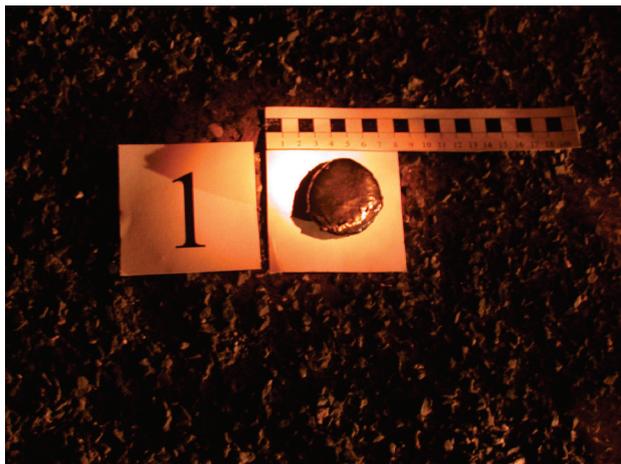
Federal Republic of Germany and the Scandinavian countries, in kilogram quantities. However, so-called "loners" are no exception either on the drug scene; they use their contacts in Kosovo and Macedonia, import heroin in the amounts of several kilograms and subsequently distribute it themselves to other dealers.

Operation "MEPRIT" – in May 2005, a courier transporting heroin from Bulgaria to the Czech Republic was arrested. The transport was organized by Kosovo Albanians. Two offenders aged 24 and 41 were accused of the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1), (2) (a), and (4) (c) of the Penal Code, and a judge of the District Court for Prague 2 placed them in investigatory custody. During

the search of the vehicle, police officers found in various concealments the total amount of 8 kg of heroin of the purity between 65 and 70 %. The dilution of this amount could give approximately 45 kg (appr. half a million of doses) of heroin for street sale. Its street value would reach at least CZK 36 millions.

Operation “FAUR” – in September 2005, the police arrested a Kosovo Albanian who participated in the import and subsequent distribution of heroin in the Czech Republic and in its further export to the Federal Republic of Germany. During the operation, 3 kg of heroin was seized as well as means for further processing and dilution of this narcotic substance.

Operation “TITANIUM LIGHT” – in February 2005, an operation took place during which a person of Czech nationality was arrested; this person was a member of an organized group participating in organizing export of a larger amount of heroin from the Czech Republic abroad, particularly to Italy.



III.

TRADE IN COCAINE

Apart from the activities of West African structures, traditionally involved in organizing the import of cocaine to Europe and hiring couriers for the transport of shipments in their digestive tracts or in luggage concealments, cocaine is ever more frequently imported by Czech citizens themselves, as well as by Kosovo or other ethnic Albanians. Activities of Czech immigrants in South America and the use of companies importing various goods from the source regions are also significant. In 2005, the most dangerous form of cocaine, crack, fortunately did not appear on the Czech drug scene.

IV.

TRADE IN CANNABIS

An increasing popularity of marijuana, a long lasting underestimation of the consequences of its use in most media as well as in the statements of a number of persons or entities active in public life lead to a marked increase in the number of both occasional and regular users of cannabis products (marijuana and hashish). There is a growing demand for marijuana with a high content of the active ingredient THC. Domestic growers are able to produce significant quantities of good quality marijuana by so-called hydroponics, and domestic produce of hashish begins to appear. Larger amounts of superior hydroponics technologies are imported, including

hydroponics accessories, which are misused for growing marijuana with high content of THC (as much as around 30 %). The source country for seeds, the mentioned accessories and the final product is, predominantly, the Netherlands. Marijuana and hashish are also directly imported, mainly from Morocco and Spain. Part of the shipments, intended directly for the Arabian community, are brought in smaller quantities by individuals using air transport.

Operation "PÁKISTÁN" – in April 2005, the NPC obtained information about a dispatch of a shipment of app. 1 ton of hashish from Port Quasim in Pakistan to be received by a company in the Czech Republic. Through international cooperation with the police of Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, the shipment was followed to the destination port of Antwerp in Belgium. In the evening of 25/5/2005, the Dutch police arrested 5 persons in the territory of the Netherlands and seized the stated shipment of 1 ton of hashish. Subsequently, 6 other persons were arrested in Pakistan in connection with this shipment dispatch.



V.

TRADE IN METAMPHETAMINE AND EPHEDRINE

Metamphetamine

The synthetic psychotropic substances metamphetamine (pervitine) and ecstasy are, after marijuana, the most commonly misused drugs in the Czech Republic. The high popularity of metamphetamine among narcotic and drug users is due to its relatively easy manufacture in home laboratories, so-called "cooking plants", and its effects, which are comparable to those of cocaine, while it can be obtained at a considerably lower price for a dose. It is usually Czech citizens who are involved in the production of metamphetamine, only exceptionally also foreign nationals residing in the territory of the Czech Republic. Metamphetamine is manufactured in smaller quantities in the mentioned small home laboratories, which are often quite simple and mobile. Only rarely is it produced in professionally equipped laboratories. The subsequent distribution of metamphetamine is organized by various criminal groups, both Czech citizens, including the Romany ethnic group, and groups from former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union. The purity of metamphetamine on the black market in many ways depends on the purity of the precursor used for its production. In the case of pervitine made from ephedrine, the purity is usually higher than when it is produced from medicines containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, such as the over-the-counter products MODAFEN, NUROFEN STOPGRIP or PARALEN PLUS. At the same time, the purity of the distributed or exported drug can depend on the demands from the organizers of the metamphetamine production. Thus, metamphetamine with the purity of 90 % is no exception, particularly when intended for clients abroad. On the other hand, the content of the active ingredient may be considerably low, when the drug is diluted by Piracetamum, a substance contained in the medicines PIRACETAM or KALIKOR.

Regarding metamphetamine export, this drug remains to be popular in the neighbouring countries, in particular in the Federal Republic of Germany. Metamphetamine is distributed here under the name "CRYSTAL", as it is illegally exported from the Czech Republic in a pure white crystal form.

A great problem is the easy availability of over-the-counter products containing pseudoephedrine, which for the illegal manufacturers is quite easy to transform into ephedrine; the above-mentioned over-the-counter medicines are thus used as a source for the production of metamphetamine. According to the data of the Forensic Institute Prague and individual Divisions of Criminal Technology and Expert Opinions of the regional administrations of the Police of the Czech Republic, pseudoephedrine from over-the-counter medicines serves as the precursor for the production of metamphetamine in app. 90 % of the investigated cases, ephedrine and other substances only in the remaining 10 %. Other chemical substances used for the illegal metamphetamine production are available in retail.

Operation "MUP" – at the beginning of 2005, the police arrested 4 offenders – citizens of the Czech Republic, and one offender, the organizer of the criminal activity



- a citizen of Bosna and Hercegovina, who in 2004 had been granted asylum in the Czech Republic for humanitarian reasons. During the investigation, 6.1 kg of cocaine, 1.6 kg of metamphetamine and 0.7 kg of the precursor ephedrine were seized. The stated amounts could make 3,000 doses of metamphetamine for end users to the total value of CZK 3,000,000, and 12,000 doses of cocaine to the total value of CZK 12,000,000. The precursor seized had been

manufactured abroad; also all of the seized metamphetamine was manufactured from the P2P precursor (1-phenyl-2-propanone), which is not produced in the Czech Republic either and is only rarely used here for the production of metamphetamine.

Ephedrine

Ephedrine appearing on the illegal drug market in the Czech Republic is imported especially from East European countries. The import is organized mainly by persons from former Yugoslavia. There is a continuing shortage of ephedrine after the factory ICN in Roztoky u Prahy ended production. In 2005, the route of ephedrine supplies coming from the Federal Republic of Germany to the Czech Republic was mapped; intelligence regarding ephedrine probably from Ukraine is being examined.

Operation "BALT" – at the end of June and beginning of July 2005, two citizens of Yugoslavia and one citizen of Bosna and Hercegovina were arrested. They were traffickers and middlemen of the sale of 5 kg of ephedrine at the price of CZK 1,150,000.

VI.

TRADE IN SYNTHETIC DRUGS AND OTHER PRECURSORS

Ecstasy

The source countries from which synthetic substances summarily referred to as ecstasy (XTC) are imported to the Czech Republic are the the Netherlands, Belgium and Poland. A more frequent occurrence of "false ecstasy" tablets made from various kinds of medicines, also in home conditions, has been registered. On the illegal drug market, tablets have appeared prepared from anabolics and passed off as ecstasy. In the middle of 2005, tablets called "duhovka" occurred containing piperazine derivatives, especially mCPP (1,3-chlorphenylpiperazine); subsequently, they were also found in East Bohemia under the name "prskavka"². This substance is a dangerous hallucinogenic substance with similar effects to that of MDMA. In Europe, several tens of thousands of these tablets also declared as ecstasy have already been seized. The mCPP substance does not belong to the substances controlled by the UN and thus is not included in the annexes to Act No. 167/1998 Coll., regulating addictive substances.

The price of ecstasy ranges from CZK 50 to 200 for 1 tablet. It is typically transported in smaller shipments, particularly by small couriers using buses or trains. In Brno, 0.5 litre of so-called "liquid ecstasy" (the GHB and GBL substances) was intercepted. So-called liquid ecstasy is another of the substances commonly found and used mainly on the dance scene; in slang it is called e.g. "E-55".

Operation "MAMBA" – in June 2005, a man of Czech nationality was arrested who, at various places of the Capital Prague, in particular in music clubs, had organized the sale of and himself had been selling the tablets of ecstasy in quantities of 100 pieces and more at the price CZK 50 to 100 for one tablet. At the same time, he had been harbouring 598 tablets of ecstasy with various logos at his place of permanent residence. During the operation, 1103 pieces of ecstasy tablets were seized.

Operation "KORUNA" - in September 2005, two citizens of the Czech Republic were arrested who, since March 2005, had been selling ecstasy tablets in several hundreds of pieces in Prague 6 and other Prague areas. During their arrest, 70 tablets of ecstasy were seized.

Operation "MÁG" – in October 2005, an offender of Czech nationality was arrested who, since November 2000 until his arrest, organized in Prague and Plzeň and abroad in Peru, Croatia and Chile seminars and meditation programs at which he unlawfully and repeatedly gave the participants psychotropic substances – LSD trips and capsules containing the substances of DMT, DPT, ketamine and Ayahuasca.

Precursors and medical drugs

Since the Czech Republic entered the European Union, it has been bound by all the directives and regulations of the EU bodies in the field of trade in precursors and auxiliary substances. The internal trade in precursors is regulated by the EU Regulation No. 273/2004. Under this regulation, a natural person or legal entity may

² trans. note: the Czech for "firecracker"

only handle precursors with a permission of the competent authority of the respective Member State; in the Czech Republic, this authority is the Ministry of Health – Inspectorate for Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances. Other trade between individual entities in the Czech Republic and with entities from the EU Member States is free. Regarding individual sales of precursors, it is only required that the buyer fills in an affirmation that the substance will not be misused for the production of drugs or chemical weapons and sends it to the seller. Trade with the third countries (non-EU members) is governed by the EU Regulation No. 111/2005, stipulating that export to these countries may only happen with the permission of the competent national authorities. The Czech Republic reacted to these changes by an amendment to Act No. 167/1998 Coll., regulating addictive substances. Amendments of Act No. 167/1998 will be adopted also in the future if the European Union introduces other changes.

The situation in the control of auxiliary substances is similar. In the Czech Republic, these companies are registered with the Health Ministry only as companies handling such substances. The trade in auxiliary substances in the EU territory is, like the trade in precursors, in a free regime, which applies also to the import from or export to the so-called third countries, i.e. outside the EU territory. However, operations “PURPLE” and “TOPAZ” under the auspices of the United Nations are still under way, monitoring the sale of potassium permanganate and acetanhydride outside the EU territory.

The NPC’s activity in the field of precursors and auxiliary substances focuses on the monitoring of specific precursors, auxiliary substances and poisons, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health – Inspectorate for Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, the State Institute for Drug Control, the production and distribution companies in the Czech Republic, members of the Chemical Industry Union, the Czech Association of Pharmaceutical Companies, including other entities which countersigned the Memorandum on Mutual Cooperation, and last but not least, with the General Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Finance. The aim of this cooperation is, in particular, to monitor and control the movement of precursors and auxiliary substances to and from the Czech Republic and prevent their misuse for illegal production of synthetic and semi-synthetic drugs.

Operation “ERGOCRISTINE” – in 2005, thanks to the already mentioned close cooperation of the National Drug Headquarters with the pharmaceutical industry, a criminal group from the USA was detected which had tried to obtain the chemical Ergocristine Base in the Czech Republic, ordering it in the CR and having it sent to Panama. In cooperation with the INCB (International Narcotic Control Board, a UN body) in Vienna, the American anti-drug service DEA and the Panama customs authorities, 1 kg of this chemical was seized in Panama. The competent Panama authorities, however, did not proceed in the investigation of the stated criminal group. After the first unsuccessful attempt to obtain Ergocristine Base, the same group of Americans tried to order another supply of Ergocristine Base in the Czech Republic, at the amount of 250 g, with the final destination on the island Sint Maarten in the Caribbean (the Dutch Antils). Thanks to the joint efforts of the NPC, the INCB and the prosecuting attorney on the island Sint Maarten, the surveillance of the shipment led to the discovery of a laboratory for LSD production in the city of Philipsburg and the arrest of the organizers – 2 citizens of the USA.

Ergocristine Base is not listed among the substances – precursors in Annex 9 to Act No. 167/98 Coll., regulating addictive substances; nevertheless, it is one of the ERGO products (just as Ergotamin, Ergometrin, Lycergic Acid) which can be misused for the illegal production of synthetic drugs, in particular LSD, its derivatives and so-

called “designer drugs”. Out of 1 kg of Ergocristine Base, around 8,5 millions of doses of LSD trips can be manufactured and the financial profit amounts to several millions of dollars. For these reasons, the NPC check every new customer who wants to purchase Ergocristine Base from the Czech Republic, at the same time cooperating with the UN bodies in Vienna and foreign police forces in order to prevent the escape of this substance into illegal channels and the misuse of the Czech Republic as a source of precursors for LSD production.

VII.

REGIONAL SPECIFICS OF THE TRADE IN NARCOTIC AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

THE CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE

(Division for Serious General Crime of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service (OOZOK SKPV) of the Capital Prague Administration)



In the Capital Prague and the Central Bohemian Region, there are no NPC branch offices. Apart from the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the National Drug Headquarters with the nation-wide jurisdiction, a unit which in the Prague territory deals with drugs, their misuse, consumption, illegal trade and the related serious and organized crime, beyond the common structure of the regional administrations of the Police of the Czech Republic, is the 1st Section of the Serious General Crime Division of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic, at the Capital Prague Administration (OOZOK). In 2005, this section documented and investigated the total of 46 cases of drug-related crime. Out of this number, 34 cases were investigated in cooperation with officers of anti-drug divisions of individual Prague I to IV District Directorates of the Police of the CR. Altogether, 69 offenders were charged with 66 so-called drug offenses (sections 187 – 188a of the Penal Code) and 13 other crimes; 7 manufacturing plants of narcotic and psychotropic substances were destroyed, including one facility for large-scale hydroponic cultivation of marijuana. At the same time, 10 deaths from overdosing on narcotic and psychotropic substances were documented and 4 wanted persons were arrested.

Among individual regions, the Capital City of Prague continues to hold one of the leading positions in the field of drug-related crime. A measure which had a positive impact on the open drug scene in the city centre was stronger presence of the Czech Police officers towards the end of the year 2005, which led to a considerable decrease in the number of drug users and the related crime, especially the distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances, in the area of the Wenceslas Square. Other problem areas in Prague, however, include the wider city centre, large amusement centres and traffic junctions. Here, the stated crime is committed mainly by members of the Romany ethnic group, who, to a great extent, are mainly involved in street distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances. This activity is carried out by smaller and closed groups, which are well organized, with a certain hierarchy of leadership. The facts ascertained hitherto indicate that such groups focus not only on drug-related criminal activities, but also closely cooperate with groups involved in other crime, particularly property crime. Other

problem areas are housing estates, with higher concentration of groups of young people and higher rate of drug misuse and other related crime, especially property crime. The overall distribution and consumption of drugs is spread in all parts of the Capital Prague including the suburbs.

Ever new trends in street distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances appear, as well as higher degree of conspiracy, the use of aids and various technological means. The NPC have information about an established structure of Vietnamese nationals involved in hydroponic cultivation of marijuana with a high content of THC (up to 20 %), grown out not only in small, home growing facilities, but mainly in large closed premises, enabling the production of thousands of plants several times a year. By the sale of such an amount of plants with a higher content of THC, the stated Vietnamese structures are very well off. To prevent the police from entering their premises, they employ guards and utilize technology; through analysing and evaluating the outputs provided by the guards and technical equipment, they try to detect the activities of the state authorities, or rival groups.

The most widely spread narcotic and psychotropic substances on the Prague drug scene are metamphetamine, marijuana and heroin. Recently, the consumption of cocaine has increased, as it has become financially more accessible. Its distribution has been registered in the city centre in casinos and night clubs. In large part, metamphetamine is manufactured from alternative sources – medicines sold over the counter, e.g. MODAFEN. The manufacturing plants of narcotic and psychotropic substances are also moving to the suburbs of the Capital Prague (allotment areas etc.) or completely outside its territory. Metamphetamine production has also been detected in mobile laboratories in the country, in flats on a short lease, cellars or attics. Another important phenomenon on the Prague drug scene is the increase in the misuse of the medicine SUBUTEX, originally intended as a heroine substitute helping to reduce the negative social impacts of opiate consumers. Currently, SUBUTEX is being traded illegally and its original function is completely disappearing. A lasting trend is the low average age of consumers, who driven by need for the drug commit, in particular, property crime to obtain the necessary finances (the most common crimes being simple thefts). Young people's consumption of synthetic drugs, connected mainly with the dance and music scene, keeps growing.

Operation "BAHNO" – between January and May 2005, officers of the OOOZOK of the Capital Prague Administration and the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the District Directorate of Prague I investigated the death of a person S. S., who died after intravenous application of heroin. By the investigation, a person L. J. was ascertained and identified, suspected of having sold the drug to S.S. On the basis of the evidence collected, prosecution against L. J. was initiated for the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provision of section 187 (1) and (4)(a) of the Penal Code. During the search of the accused's flat, heroin and one person wanted nationally were found.

Operation KRYM – between May and June 2005, officers of the OOOZOK and the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the District Directorate of Prague IV conducted an investigation regarding persons from the Romany ethnic group who had been distributing the narcotic substance heroin on a larger scale in the territory of Prague 10. During the operation, two offenders were arrested in a flat in Prague 10 and were subsequently accused of the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1) and (2) (a) of the Penal Code; one person wanted nationally was arrested as

well. During a search of the premises, 80 pieces of so-called heroin envelopes were found, 0.4 g each, and with the assistance of a dog handler with a service dog, another 10 g of heroin in a plastic bag.

Operation KOBRA – police officers of the OOZOK of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the District Directorate of Prague III and the District Directorate Prague – East managed to document a large-scale criminal activity of a group of 10 offenders which had been operating for at least 18 months in several places of Prague and Central Bohemia, manufacturing and selling the psychotropic substance metamphetamine. Four members of the group (three men and one woman, aged 30, 30, 28 and 29) had been manufacturing the drug in several mobile laboratories, often changing the place of the manufacture. The presumed profit from the sale of the drug amounted to millions of CZK. The arrest of these offenders was carried out with the assistance of the intervention squads of the Capital Prague Administration and the Central Bohemian Administration of the Police of the Czech Republic. During searches of persons and premises, the police seized firearms, professionally set up mobile laboratories, chemicals, precursors, metamphetamine at various stages of manufacture and money. The group had also attempted to supply the drug into one of the prisons in the Central Bohemian Region; this attempt, however, was foiled by the police in cooperation with the officers of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, and the smuggled drug was seized.



Operation “SKLENÍK” - since September 2005, officers of the OOZOK conducted an investigation of a large-scale cultivation of cannabis sativa in the territory of Prague 9. During the investigation, it was ascertained and documented that on the premises of garden greenhouses in Prague 9, Morušová Street, the above-mentioned plants were grown in large quantities by persons of Vietnamese nationality, including illegal immigrants. During the operation, the police found 2,532 plants of cannabis sativa at the total weight of app. 630 kg, cultivated on the area of 750 square meters. After drying, the weight of these plants was app. 130 kg.

CENTRAL BOHEMIAN REGION

(Police of the Czech Republic, Central Bohemian Region Administration)



In the Central Bohemian Region, drug-related crime is to a great extent influenced by the vicinity and accessibility of the Capital and the interconnections of drug producers and dealers in the region with the Prague drug scene, which has a large network of distributors with great fluctuation of persons enabling anonymity of this crime. A number of perpetrators of so-called drug offenses, coming from Prague, usually make use of lonely deserted buildings in Central Bohemia for their illicit

manufacturing of metamphetamine, committing crime simultaneously in the territory of several districts, and alongside with other, mainly property crimes.

The narcotic and psychotropic substances which are most commonly misused and pose the greatest problem in the region are metamphetamine and heroin in the case of adults and cannabis in the case of juveniles and children; metamphetamine, however, is used by the latter as well. Distribution of drugs to people under 18 has been registered this year in almost all the districts of the Central Bohemian Region. Most often it was cannabis – marijuana. This marijuana is mainly home-produced, which means it is of worse quality with a low content of THC, or it is imported, usually from Prague. Heroin is imported from Prague, Ostrava and Brno. Metamphetamine is manufactured mainly from medicines containing pseudoephedrine (MODAFEN, NUROFEN STOPGRIP, PARALEN PLUS, SOLUTAN); cases of misuse of medicines obtained on prescription are also frequent. In 2005, there was registered an increase in the misuse and illegal distribution of SUBUTEX in particular. Other misused drugs include ecstasy and volatile solvents, especially toluene. The use of the Internet for the distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances is getting more and more frequent. Drug producers use mobile “cooking plants”, which are moved to various places. Most of the drug-related crime is committed by the Romanies, who currently trade not only in heroin, but practically in all available narcotic and psychotropic substances.

Most significant operations

In 2005, 41 metamphetamine manufacturing plants were discovered – in the districts of Kladno (17), Mladá Boleslav (5), Prague – East (5), Kolín (7), Benešov (2), Mělník (1), Prague – West (1), Rakovník (1), Beroun (1) and Příbram (1). Metamphetamine was manufactured from medicines containing pseudoephedrine. Hydroponic cultivation of marijuana was ascertained in Prague – West. In the districts of Kolín, Nymburk and Mělník, heroin distributors were arrested. 26 cases were detected of the distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances into prisons – namely to Vinařice, the district of Kladno (15), Bytíz, the district of Příbram (5) and Oráčov, the district of Rakovník (6). In the districts of Beroun and Prague – West, distribution of ecstasy tablets was ascertained, and in the Prague – East district, manufacturing of the drug braun. Cases of toluene inhalation were detected in the districts of Kutná Hora and Příbram. In the district Mladá Boleslav, siblings – drug consumers – murdered their mother. In the Kladno district, a 19-year old woman suddenly died after using metamphetamine and cannabis. In the Benešov district, a consumer of narcotic and psychotropic substances committed suicide. In the district Prague – East, juvenile offenders applied intravenously narcotic and psychotropic substances to a minor.

SOUTH BOHEMIAN REGION (NPC Branch Office České Budějovice)



The drug which is most commonly misused in the South Bohemian Region is metamphetamine. The production of this substance in the region is scarce; most producers are so-called “cooks”, who can produce only a very limited amount of this substance, using over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine as the precursor. A greater part of metamphetamine is imported, in particular from North Bohemia and partly from Prague.

The decrease in the number of heroin users continues; in most cases, these persons change for substitutes taken during substitution treatment of drug addiction to opiates (METADON, SUBUTEX).

Cannabis is grown both outdoors in small private fields, and in various buildings using hydroponic technology. The amounts of the cultivated products, however, are rather small. 2005 saw a mild increase in the demand for so-called synthetic drugs, in particular ecstasy. These drugs are mainly misused during a so-called "technoparty", but their consumption is not nearly as massive as in other regions of the Czech Republic. Other narcotic and psychotropic substances are represented only scarcely in the South Bohemian Region.

Trade in metamphetamine is organized mainly by Czech citizens with criminal history, usually related to drugs. Partly, the Romanies are active in this field as well. There is a stable interest of foreigners (particularly from Austria) in this substance; individual purchases, however, amount to grams, or tens of grams at maximum, and there is a greater interest in metamphetamine produced from ephedrine; foreign clients are willing to pay as much as over CZK 2,000 for 1 gram. These transactions are usually a phenomenon accompanying sexual services in the border areas. During the year, signals proved true indicating the mobilization of foreigners, in particular from former Yugoslavia, who had been pushed out from other parts of the Czech Republic and were trying to establish themselves in South Bohemia; according to the intelligence gathered so far, their intentions are to become involved in the transit of heroin along the so-called Balkans route. The stated community makes use of the advantageous geographical location of the region to develop relationships with similar communities in the neighbouring countries of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany. The overall prevailing trend is trading in smaller amounts, when individual purchasers of narcotic and psychotropic substances prefer to see the supplier more often and get smaller supplies, in order to minimize their loss in case they were arrested by the police.

Operation "DOMINO" – five persons were arrested during this operation suspected of the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1) and (2) (a) of the Penal Code; their criminal activity consisted in illegal manufacturing of metamphetamine in the North Bohemian Region and its subsequent distribution in the South Moravian and South Bohemian Regions. The persons concerned had been obtaining metamphetamine from other offenders arrested during other NPC operations, "VETERÁN" and "FENYKL", for the crimes of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1) and (2) (c) of the Penal Code. During the operation, 0.53 kg of cocaine, 0.93 kg of metamphetamine, 2.5 kg of ephedrine, 4,870 tablets of ecstasy and 2 illegally possessed firearms were seized.

THE REGIONS OF PLZEŇ AND KARLOVY VARY (NPC Branch Office Plzeň)



The most frequently misused narcotic and psychotropic substances in the region are, in particular, metamphetamine, heroin, ecstasy and marijuana. Among young people, marijuana prevails. Regarding natural and semi-synthetic drugs (heroin in particular), the trend that has been registered in the export of narcotic and

psychotropic substances into the Federal Republic of Germany was exporting small shipments of up to 100 g sent repeatedly (a larger amount tends to be divided into smaller parts). Recently, it has also been registered that customers from the Federal Republic of Germany or couriers personally hired by them come for the narcotic or psychotropic substances to the Czech Republic in person. This manner of export is different from the previous years when export of the drug abroad was usually organized and carried out by suppliers from the Czech Republic.

In the field of synthetic drugs and precursors, in particular in the case of metamphetamine, the same trend has been registered as described above in connection with the export of heroin into the Federal Republic of Germany. Seizures at border crossings, in particular in Rozvadov, in 2005, show a higher activity in ecstasy and marijuana import from the Netherlands, mainly by citizens of the Czech Republic. The drugs are imported partly by private vehicles, but mainly by regular coach lines from the Netherlands to the Czech Republic.

Apart from the import of ecstasy and marijuana from the Netherlands, no remarkable new trend in drug-related crime has been registered with respect to the Czech Republic citizens. Regarding other EU citizens, only the so-called "drug tourism" has been registered, as mentioned above. As regards Albanians operating in the territory of the Plzeň and Karlovy Vary Regions, in contrast to the previous years, when their activity focused almost exclusively on trading heroin, they have now become more involved in trading in other drugs, particularly metamphetamine. Albanians have also repeatedly participated in the local distribution, in cooperation with Romanies. Contacts between Albanians and persons of Vietnamese nationality take place as well, aimed at mutual exchange of different kinds of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances – heroin and metamphetamine. The Vietnamese take an active part in the local distribution also outside the Vietnamese ethnic group; cases of trading with citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany have also been detected. The Romanies continue to participate, in particular, in the local distribution of various kinds of narcotic and psychotropic substances, as well as in their sale to customers from Germany.

After the entry of the Czech Republic into the European Union, the export and import of narcotic and psychotropic substances takes advantage of the relaxation of border controls. This relaxation reduced the risk for persons transporting drugs across the state border, particularly the risk of an accidental discovery of the drug during a control at a border crossing.

Operation "ROCK" – on 19/10/2005, a citizen of former Yugoslavia, of Albanian nationality, was arrested, who in the years 2004 and 2005 organized the export of heroin and metamphetamine to customers in the Federal Republic of Germany. During the operation, the German police authorities, within international cooperation, documented individual acts and arrested several persons in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, seizing, apart from other things, narcotic and psychotropic substances coming from the above-mentioned Albanian.

Operation "STEP" – during the operation, an activity was documented of a group of citizens from the former Soviet Union, part of them already possessing German citizenship, who organized trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances, especially in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. The organizer, staying in Karlovy Vary, was hiding in the Czech Republic from the German police investigating his activities. Officers of the NPC documented this person's activity, which enabled the detection of the stated group's hierarchy. Subsequently, also thanks to the information gained in the territory of the Czech Republic, other

offenders were arrested and narcotic and psychotropic substances were seized in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, where the offenders are currently being prosecuted for drug offenses.

THE REGIONS OF ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM AND A LIBEREC (NPC Branch Office Ústí nad Labem)



The narcotic and psychotropic substances most commonly misused in the region are metamphetamine, cannabis, ecstasy and to a smaller extent also heroin. There has been an apparent mild increase in the illegal trade in synthetic drugs.

An ethnic group actively involved in trafficking narcotic and psychotropic substances in the territory of the Regions of Ústí nad Labem and Liberec, particularly in the production and distribution of metamphetamine, is Romanies; this crime is connected with other activities, for example prostitution. Also organized groups of persons from former Yugoslavia are intensely involved in metamphetamine production, providing for the supply of ephedrine and the organization of both the production and the subsequent distribution.

Metamphetamine is manufactured both from medicines containing pseudoephedrine and directly from ephedrine. In the latter case, the produced amounts range from tens of grams to kilograms. After the end of the production of ephedrine in the Czech Republic, the perpetrators of organized crime are trying to make up for its shortage by import from abroad. Samples of ephedrine, in particular from Germany and the countries of former Yugoslavia, have been seized. Despite this fact, pharmacies have sold markedly more over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine. Metamphetamine manufacturing laboratories are very mobile and the drugs are sometimes manufactured in remote places; there have been cases where the first stage of the production was carried out in the open air and the following stages inside buildings. Metamphetamine is not only intended for domestic drug market, but particularly for export into the Federal Republic of Germany. This is particularly due to the growing number of metamphetamine consumers in the border areas of Germany, where the drug is called Crystal, but especially due to the financial profits from the Crystal sale. The price of metamphetamine in the Czech Republic ranges, depending on the quality and the purchased amount, between CZK 600 and 1200 for 1 g, while in Germany, the price is approximately 65 euros for a gram.



Heroin in the Regions of Ústí nad Labem and Liberec is distributed much less than in the previous years, as most of the problem drug users prefer metamphetamine with respect to the bad states of the heroin withdrawal syndrom. The perpetrators of organized and especially serious crime react to this situation by a partial change of the focus of their illegal trading activities onto metamphetamine, in

particular the import of ephedrine into the Czech Republic. As regards heroin, these groups are more involved in its transport into other EU states. In 2005, the consumption on the substitution product SUBUTEX increased, which could be registered in the illegal drug market in connection with forged medical prescriptions.

Cocaine is popular especially among those consumers who have enough money to buy this drug, as its price ranges from CZK 2,000 to 2,500 for a gram, depending on the quality and amount of the purchased drug. In 2005, the volume of the illegal traffic in cocaine slightly increased. The reason may be a growing number of wealthier drug consumers and a fashion wave of cocaine use, or a greater number of citizens of the Ústí Region who agreed to be hired as cocaine couriers (so-called “swallowers”) by international organizations importing cocaine to the Czech Republic or the EU states.

The offer of ecstasy slightly increased; its occurrence and distribution is highest at the so-called technoparty, houseparty and at discos. The price for one tablet at a lower end of the distribution chain ranges from CZK 100 to 200; the price of the first sale from the producer is approximately between CZK 70 and 100 for a tablet. Most of the tablets seized had the logos Crown, Mitsubishi and “Family Bonds”³, containing the active ingredients MDMA and MDEA.

Regarding Cannabis products, especially marijuana is used, grown outdoors; cases of hydroponic cultivation, however, have also been registered.

³ trans. note: “Family Bonds” – in Czech “Rodinná pouta” – is a soap opera currently on program on TV

Operation CLUB – during 2005, an organized group of persons operating in several countries was arrested; the group had been importing ephedrine from Germany to the Czech Republic and producing metamphthamine in our territory. A larger part of the metamphetamine produced returned back to be distributed to German drug consumers. The price of the imported ephedrine was around 3,500 euros for 1 kg. From this amount of ephedrine, approximately 800 g of metamphetamine can be produced. The subsequent price of the metamphetamine produced from this substance was in the region of 25,000 euros for 1 kg. In the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, cases of trading in ephedrine were documented, at amounts reaching tens of kilograms, and exports of the drug to the Czech Republic. Subsequently, the persons participating in the illegal export of ephedrine from Germany and the import of metamphetamine Crystal were identified. During 2005, the group operating in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany was arrested, as well as 6 other persons of Czech nationality operating in the territory of the Czech Republic. These persons are prosecuted for the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1), (2) (a) and (4) (c) of the Penal Code.



THE REGIONS OF HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ AND PARDUBICE (NPC Branch Office Hradec Králové)



The most commonly misused and at the same time the most popular drug among the consumers in the Regions of Hradec Králové and Pardubice is metamphetamine. Its manufacture from pseudoephedrine obtained from over-the-counter medicines prevails. In most cases, the production of the drug is so-called home manufacture, when the person manufacturing the drug is also its distributor or is surrounded by a group of persons looking after the distribution. The price at the illegal market depends on the purchased amount, ranging from CZK 650 to 1,000 for 1 g. Recently, metamphetamine manufactured from ephedrine – so-called Crystal – has been appearing more and more often. This metamphetamine of a very good quality is much demanded, its price ranging from CZK 900 to 1,000 for a gram. The main buyers of Crystal are persons from the Federal Republic of Germany. There is information about the import of ephedrine from Poland intended for concrete customers, who use it for the manufacture of metamphetamine, which is subsequently distributed in the territory of the Czech Republic.

A drug which has become easily available among juveniles is ecstasy, now common in ordinary street distribution. The tablets most often found in the region have the logos of Batman, Armani and the Four-Leaf. The price of the tablets depends on the number of purchased pieces; when this is high, the price ranges from

CZK 45 to 80 for a tablet. For individual tablets, the price is from CZK 120 to 200. Ecstasy is imported to East Bohemia mainly from Poland. The content of the active ingredient MDMA in the tablets is approximately 35 %. Recently, also tablets distributed under the name "prskavka" have appeared on the market. These tablets contain the chemical substance mCPP (1,3-chlorophenylpiperazine), which is not listed in the annex to Act No. 167/1998 Coll., regulating addictive substances.

During 2005, a high amount of small facilities for growing marijuana were also registered. In most cases, however, marijuana was grown for the cultivators' own needs. A large-scale misuse of heroin and cocaine was not registered.

Operation "BART" – at the end of May 2005, ten persons of Czech nationality aged from 20 to 33 were arrested. Their criminal activity consisted in organizing the import of tablets of ecstasy from the Slovak Republic to our territory and their further distribution. During the operation, eleven searches of premises were conducted and the total of 750 tablets of ecstasy was seized. The offenders are prosecuted for the crimes of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1), (2) (a) and (4) (c) of the Penal Code.

Operation "KUNA" – in November 2005, in North and East Bohemia, in cooperation with the Illegal Proceeds and Tax Crime Combating Unit, the Rapid Response Unit of the Police of the Czech Republic and the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, seven persons of Czech nationality, aged from 24 to 45, were arrested; two persons were already serving a term of imprisonment in the penitentiary Valdice. The group had organized the production and distribution of metamphetamine in the territory of the Czech Republic, Germany and in the penitentiary Valdice. The main organizers of the whole group were two persons of Czech nationality in the penitentiary Valdice, serving a term of imprisonment for a double murder. From the prison, they had been contacting customers in Germany and arranging appointments during which the transactions were effected. Other members of the group subsequently provided for the production and distribution of metamphetamine. Metamphetamine was also supplied to the penitentiary Valdice, regularly once a month, the total amount exceeding 300 g. In the penitentiary, metamphetamine was further sold at the price of CZK 5,000 for a gram. The total amount of the produced and distributed metamphetamine reached at least 5 kg, with the final profit amounting to more than CZK 5 millions. During five searches of premises, a shotgun, a 9 mm calibre pistol, bullets and 0,3 kg of high quality metamphetamine were seized. The offenders are prosecuted for the crimes of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1), (2) (a) and (4) (c) of the Penal Code; by way of legal assistance, the criminal prosecution of other persons in the Federal Republic of Germany has been requested.

In the region, the NPC branch office also cooperates with a Specialized TOXI Team of the East Bohemian Region Administration of the Police of the CR, consisting of officers of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service from district police directorates and the East Bohemian Administration. The main focus of the team's work is producers, cultivators and larger distributors of NPS. In 2005, the TOXI Team detected 154 perpetrators of drug-related crime, seized 25 laboratories for NPS production and 6 illegal facilities for the cultivation of cannabis sativa. Apart from repression, the TOXI Team also deals with prevention in a joint project with the Prevention and Information Group of the East Bohemian Region Administration of the Police of the CR, aimed at school children and secondary school students as well as the general public.

THE REGIONS OF SOUTH MORAVIA, ZLÍN AND VYSOČINA (NPC Branch Office Brno)



A drug commonly misused in the regions is metamphetamine, in most cases produced and distributed in smaller quantities. The source material is pseudoephedrine from over-the-counter medicines. Larger amounts of matamphetamine are imported to Brno and the whole territory of South Moravia from Prague and Ostrava; this metamphetamine is produced from ephedrine and is of higher quality. The price for 1 g of metamphetamine is about CZK 1,000. The production and distribution in the regions is usually carried out by Czech nationals.

The most problematic citizens in the South Moravian Region are persons from former Yugoslavia. These persons work in strictly organized groups, formed by a close circle of people tested by long-lasting cooperation, each member fulfilling tasks at a certain organizational level. Thus, obtaining information about these persons is more difficult. Their drug related criminal activity, apart from heroin, has recently consisted mainly in organizing cocaine trade and the import of cocaine to the Czech Republic. In most cases, cocaine is imported from Holland. The price of this drug in Brno ranges from CZK 1,600 to 2,500 for a gram, the import price being about 35 euros for a gram. With respect to the high price of cocaine, these persons also organize the production of and trade in metamphetamine, which they most usually sell through Czech citizens. Distribution of the drugs is not limited solely to the South Moravian Region, but takes place in the whole territory of the Czech Republic. Persons with higher positions in these groups have at their disposal large sums of money. Efforts to invest in real estates, in particular in the city of Brno, continue.

In Brno and its surroundings, heroin is also distributed by another problematic and quite closed group of Vietnamese nationals, who do not limit their activity to South Moravia only, but operate in the territory of the whole Czech Republic. Close contacts were particularly registered with persons of Vietnamese nationality in the territory of Moravian Silesian Region and Prague. Connections are also built between Vietnamese nationals and persons from former Yugoslavia and Romanies. Heroin is sold by smaller Romany groups, which organize their criminal activity in a similar way to that of the Vietnamese nationals. They acquire the drug mainly from persons from former Yugoslavia. Limited financially, the Romanies usually distribute heroin in smaller amounts, in most cases diluting it to maximize the profit, thus reducing the already low content of the active ingredient (5 to 10 %). Heroin distributed by the Vietnamese end distributors is of equally low quality. The price of 1 g of heroin ranges from CZK 1,000 to 1,200.

The most popular drug among young people remains to be, especially for its



availability, ecstasy. Information indicates that ecstasy is most often imported from Holland, couriers using more and more frequently public transport, particularly coach lines. The import and export of this drug is divided among several groups, with couriers transporting around 5,000 of tablets; together with ecstasy, they

also transport smaller quantities of cocaine and LSD. Since ecstasy is popular in particular among young people, also its import is carried out by younger persons, whose average age does not exceed 30 years. A problem related to this age category is the documentation of their criminal activity, as these persons act and communicate with a high degree of conspiracy, using modern communication means.

Operation "FENYKL – VETERÁN" – from February to April 2005, 8 persons were arrested, all citizens of the Czech Republic. Four of the offenders were already charged on indictment with the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1) and (2) (a) of the Penal Code; regarding the other four persons, due to the extent of their criminal activity, investigation is still under way; a motion is presumed for the submission of an indictment for the crime of illicit manufacturing and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons under the provisions of section 187 (1), (2) (a) and (4) (c) of the Penal Code. During the operation, 0.53 kg of cocaine, 0.93 kg of metamphetammine, 2.5 kg of ephedrine and 4,870 tablets of ecstasy were seized.



THE REGIONS OF OLOMOUC AND MORAVIAN SILESIA (NPC Branch Office Ostrava)



The most commonly misused drug in North Moravia is metamphetammine. The source material used by the majority of metamphetammine producers is pseudoephedrine from over-the-counter medicines. Currently only a minimum of producers in the region manufacture metamphetammine from pure ephedrine. However, import of ephedrine from countries of former Yugoslavia was registered, at the price of app. CZK 60,000 for 1 kg (the purchase price in former Yugoslavia), and its subsequent sale for CZK 180,000 up to 210,000 for 1 kg (in the territory of the Czech Republic). This criminal activity is carried out by persons from former Yugoslavia. From North Moravia, ephedrine is further distributed to Slovakia and North Bohemia. In 2005, during two operations of the NPC 2nd division, 5 kg of ephedrine and 1 kg of metamphetammine were seized in the territory of North Moravia. Metamphetammine can be obtained of a relatively high quality, at a stable price around CZK 1,000 for a gram.

Another drug misused in the territory of North Moravia is heroin. NPC operations in the Vietnamese community have partly paralyzed this distribution network; an important position, however, has been taken also by the Albanian community. Although heroin distribution is lower, cases of the import of heroin from the North of Bohemia and its subsequent distribution have been registered – for instance, during the operation "HEMA", 2 ethnic Albanians and 1 Czech citizen were arrested and 120 g of heroin seized. For street distribution, low quality is typical, since before its sale, heroin is further diluted and the content of the active ingredient is around 10%. This drug is then sold among Romanies and other citizens at a price equal to that of a quality heroin, i.e. CZK 800 to 1,000 for 1 g.

An increase in the consumption of cocaine has been registered. The import and distribution of this drug is carried out by ethnic Albanians, who distribute it also

outside the Albanian community. The price for 1 g is approximately CZK 1,500. Cocaine is imported to North Moravia from Germany.

To a smaller extent, also ecstasy can be found in the region, mainly in the Ostrava conurbation. Police officers from the TOXI team operating within the City of Ostrava Police Directorate participated to a great extent in the detection and investigation of these cases.

In 2005, the NPC succeeded in detecting several growing facilities, both hydroponic and aeroponic, for the cultivation of marijuana, with a high content of the active ingredient THC. These growing houses are situated in remote areas of the region, mainly in small villages in the Beskydy Mountains. The street price of this marijuana, which is quite in demand, ranges from CZK 80 to 200 for 1 g of dried substance.

VIII.

THE METHODOLOGY AND PREVENTION GROUP OF THE NATIONAL DRUG HEADQUARTERS

The Methodology and Prevention Group (MPG) represents the NPC within the Police of the Czech Republic and in the public, through lecturing, training, methodology and publication activities.

Within the Police of the Czech Republic, it participates in the development of internal normative acts; within the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, it participates, where possible, in the drafting of new legislation regulating the field of narcotic and psychotropic substances. It also actively cooperates with entities both within the Interior Ministry and the Police of the CR and outside in implementing the state anti-drug policy.

The key task of the MPG in 2005 was a continuous and periodical training of police officers at police schools – courses within the initial training at the secondary police schools of the Ministry of the Interior, specialized lectures for serving officers as part of special courses, and lectures at the Police Academy of the Czech Republic in the Bachelor and Masters study programs. In 2005, the MPG officers gave the total of 53 lectures for 1400 police officers at these police schools. Building on the well-established cooperation with the Police Academy of the Czech Republic, the MPG prepared a seminar in the program of lifelong education, on the current situation on the drug scene, on drug detection and legislation regarding drug-related crime, and participated in authoring a textbook – *Drugs – Selected Chapters*. The MPG and the Traffic Police Directorate of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic cooperated in training traffic police officers in spot checks for drugs in road traffic.

Another important and almosty everyday activity of the MPG is ensuring the contact of the NPC with the public and the media. The MPG also prepares annual training courses for the NPC officers, important days of the unit and gives lectures at training courses held by the police regional administrations for officers of territorial units assigned to the field of combating drug crime.

In November 2005, on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the NPC, the MPG prepared and opened an exposition on the



premises of the Museum of the Police of the Czech Republic devoted to fight against drugs, the situation on the drug scene and preventive activities.

Outside the Police of the Czech Republic, the MPG participated in organizing training courses for professionals, in particular for specialists in the field of education – school prevention methodologists and prevention coordinators from municipal and

regional authorities. The MPG also lectured for members of other armed and security forces – the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, the Municipal Police and units of Civil Protection of the Army of the Czech Republic. The total number of such lectures given by MPG officers was 31; the number of trainees amounted to 1,600. 18 lectures were given for about 750 primary school pupils and secondary school and university students. Adhering to the NPC's principles in the drug field, the MPG cooperated both with GOs and NGOs and participated in the implementation of the anti-drug policy of the Czech Republic.



In June 2005, the third year of The Small Police Academy, a joint project of the NPC and the Prevention and Information Group of the District Police Directorate in České Budějovice, was successfully completed. This project, since 2004 accredited by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, is designed for four years, planning to involve the total of 3,500 children. The program covers issues of bullying, truancy, aggression, religious sects, gambling, human rights, anti-social phenomena, child crime, criminal law, alcohol and other drug addictions and others. In classes, teachers build on the individual courses taught by the police and other specialists, thus ensuring continuous work with children throughout the school year. The project aims to help children adopt positive social behaviour and refuse violation of the law. The successfully completed third year has again confirmed that only systematic work with children at primary schools leads to effective prevention of antisocial phenomena. Within this project, the MPG officers gave 50 lectures for 500 children and held 2 special seminars for 100 teachers.

Other activities of the MPG in 2005 included, as usual, publication, in particular the preparation and publishing of the 11th year of the NPC Bulletin, a professional quarterly intended mainly for members of the Police of the Czech Republic, the judiciary and other interested professionals.

IX.

THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

In 2005, the National Drug Headquarters were continuously fulfilling tasks of the National Focal Point. This is a joint analytical office of the NPC and the General Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Finance (hereinafter "GCD"), which was established by a supplement to the Implementation Protocol to the Agreement between the Police of the Czech Republic and the GCD. It must be stated that neither in 2005 did the GCD fill the post of its representative within the joint analytical office.

This joint office has the following goals:

- to provide a complete statistics on all seizures of narcotic and psychotropic substances and arrested offenders
- to eliminate duplication of statistical data
- to guarantee that all data in items monitored by the EMCDDA are complete
- to eliminate the possibility of parallel processing of documented cases
- to improve coordination with foreign agencies

In compliance with the Police President's Binding Instruction No. 102/2003, regulating the police procedures relating to drug crime, the system of data collection in the Police of the Czech Republic requires a unified procedure for collecting and sending statistical data regarding objectives in the field of drugs. The information gained is processed and serves as source material for the National Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction in the following categories:

- statistics on the drugs seized
- statistics on the offenders
- review of the purity of the drugs seized
- review of the prices of drugs

X.

COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN AGENCIES

International cooperation in combating drug crime is a priority of the National Drug Headquarters. Also in 2005, they were quite successful in putting this proclamation into practice. In this connection, before the traditional evaluation of cooperation with individual countries, some general conclusions and ideas ensuing from the results of the year 2005 must be pointed out:

- A very sound level of the exchange of information with foreign partners was achieved. Speedy exchange of information including the retrieval of data from available police records worked without major problems with those countries where the cooperation is generally on a good level. It is the liason officers who bear the brunt of this achievement.
- The experience of 2005 clearly showed that the exchange of information via liason officers is the promptest and most efficient way and therefore is also quite often given priority before other forms. Where the posts of liason officers have been cancelled, this exchange of information languishes. Therefore, the NPC do not consider cancelling the posts of liason officers, as happened for instance in

Italy and Nordic countries, a good solution. Experience shows that such measures neither improve nor help maintain the present level. Other forms of communication can replace a good-working liaison officer – such as the Italian and the Nordic one – only with great difficulty, and in some respects not at all.

- In 2005, there were cases where the NPC demonstrated they were prepared for more demanding forms of close cooperation with foreign partners in two or even more countries, using requests for legal assistance. With a number of foreign partners, the NPC have such relationships established that the management of particular investigation techniques is done by telephone or fax and thus with absolute promptness. Here, too, the essential role of liaison officers must be mentioned. Without them, efficient cooperation in this respect cannot be imagined.
- In their relationship to foreign partners, in 2005, the NPC followed the principle that the partners' requests, including requests for legal assistance, must be handled in the same way as the NPC expect their own requests to be handled. This applies also to those partners who not always react in such a way. The NPC cooperates with any law enforcement agency operating in the field of drugs, whether it is the police, the gendarmerie, customs officers, a security service or another agency, national or regional. What matters is whether the foreign partner can provide effective assistance. To be a reliable and professionally competent partner is an important long-term task. The efforts invested in this area of activity pay back. As shown in the analysis of the situation of individual countries below, there were certainly cases in 2005 demonstrating that the NPC have such kind of a reputation. In the nearest future, this reputation will not only need to be maintained, but also further developed.
- In 2005, the trend of the last few years, namely a significant growth of the importance of requests for legal assistance in police work, manifested clearly. Owing to the fact that most of the intelligence means and device are included in the Rules of Criminal Procedure as of 1/1/2002, requests for legal assistance are often needed today even in the examination stage ⁴ under section 158a of the Code of Criminal Procedure. What has proved expedient when dealing with these requests for legal assistance is the physical presence of representatives of the requesting side, who can thus directly influence the way of dealing with the matter. This form of cooperation has imposed greater demands on the NPC officers and will do so in future as well. Another element becomes involved, which is the judiciary in the person of a prosecuting attorney or an investigating judge. Cooperation with these is always more complicated than with foreign police or customs agency. Here, it is again the liaison officers who effectively help solve organizational problems and delays in handling requests. A typical example in 2005 was the Netherlands. The problems of lengthy handling of requests for legal assistance sent in the standard judicial way or via Interpol are chronic. Therefore, this way is unsuitable for procedures which must be carried out promptly. Hence, liaison officers need to be used more, as well as direct contacts in the requested countries. In the future, the importance of requests for foreign legal assistance is not only unlikely to decline, but expected to keep growing.

⁴ trans. note: in the Czech Code of Criminal Procedure the stage in investigation before initiating criminal prosecution



- Recently, another positive tendency could be observed regarding international cooperation. While in the past this field was to a large degree the domain of the executive divisions of the Prague headquarters, in 2005 cooperation and exchange of information increased at the NPC branch offices. This shows that these regional offices are well aware of the importance of international police cooperation, at least to

the same extent as the headquarters.

- Also in 2005, the established practice of organizing meetings of foreign liaison officers on the occasion of important days of the NPC proved useful. These meetings have a very open and working character and contribute to the development of cooperation with foreign partners. Liaison officers represent some kind of caesus of very valuable colleagues.

Albania

In 2005, contacts with Albanian police agencies were needed again, as in the previous years. However, there are no direct contacts and those mediated by Interpol appear quite unreliable.

Belgium

In 2005, the volume of information shared with the Belgian colleagues through the liaison officer stationed in Vienna increased. The communication went again smoothly this year. For a greater part, the cooperation with Belgium concerned synthetic drugs.

Bulgaria

Cooperation with the Bulgarian side focused on the established illegal trade in heroin along the Balkans route, but also on the trade in metamphetamine and synthetic drugs. This cooperation is carried out exclusively through the Bulgarian liaison officer stationed at the embassy in Prague. In 2005 a new person was appointed to this post. In comparison to the past, the cooperation sometimes seems somewhat slower. An exchange of information was carried out, for instance, by the NPC 1st Division within the operation "Meprit" - during the detection of heroin networks of ethnic Albanians with connections to Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, as well as by the NPC Branch Office Plzeň.

France

The NPC 1st Division, in particular, intensified the exchange of information in 2005 via the police liaison officer at the French Embassy. The information exchanged concerned mainly heroin trade and networks of ethnic Albanians. Although not many

cases connect the NPC and France, this positive trend in mutual cooperation must be appreciated.

Croatia

2005 saw the first and so far isolated, albeit satisfactory, case of exchange of information with the Croatian police. It concerned the trade in cocaine investigated by the NPC Branch Office Brno. It was based on a direct contact established through the activity of the international Working Group South-East. We may hope that this case is a promise of more frequent successful cooperation, for Croatian nationals are often involved in illegal international drug trade in the territory of the Czech Republic.

India

In 2005, the NPC 1st Division completed successfully the operation "Mule". An international organized group had for a long time been sending couriers for hashish to the region of Chandigarh in India. The group was lead by citizens of Israel, one of whom had a residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic. The group further comprised of citizens of the Czech Republic, India and other states. The contact with the Indian drug squad was established in a rather unconventional way, through the Indian Embassy in Prague, which was unusually co-operative in handling the request. Cooperation with the Indian colleagues was very successful and led to the arrest of three offenders in India: one of them a citizen of Izrael and the main organizer, one a citizen of the Czech Republic and one a citizen of India. The contact established with the Indian drug squad can be effectively used for further cooperation in the future.

Italy

The intelligence acquired by the NPC in 2005 again identified Italy as an important country of destination for couriers of heroin and cocaine transiting through the Czech Republic. A major role is played by organized criminal structures of ethnic Albanians. Thus, the absence of an Italian liason officer in the Central European region was felt negatively. Despite this fact, during 2005 information was exchanged through direct contact with the Italian central anti-drug service DCSA. Sometimes, Italy's replies to our requests show certain hesitation; an ongoing problem is quick handling of requests for legal assistance, which may be essential for successful completion of an investigation in the Czech Republic, including the subsequent court trial. In contrast to the previous year, no such successful joint investigation was conducted in 2005 as had been, for instance, the operation "Titánium".

Israel

In 2005, there was again very good cooperation with the Israeli police. This cooperation has for a long time been very well mediated by a liason officer of the Izraeli police at the Embassy of Israel in Berlin. In 2005, it concerned the exchange of information within the operation "Mule", regarding a case of smuggling of large amounts of hashish from India organized by an Israeli citizen, and also focused on the trade in ecstasy and cocaine. The level of cooperation with Israeli colleagues has permanently been very high.

Hungary

In 2005, cooperation with Hungary was not very frequent; there was only one case of exchange of information, which regarded smuggling of heroin along the

Balkans route. The relations are based on direct contacts with the Hungarian police established in the past. In principle, the cooperation is without problems. Owing to the location of both countries on the heroin Balkans route, it will apparently be needed also in the future.

Germany

Like in the previous years, in 2005, Germany was a very important partner in the drug field. Although here, too, the post of the liaison officer of the Federal Criminal Office at the German Embassy in Prague was taken by a new person, it had no negative impact on the good level of cooperation. The BKA liaison officer is a reliable partner at the post. The operation "Orion", conducted by the NPC Branch Office Brno, can demonstrate the readiness of both sides for relatively more complicated forms of international cooperation. The German liaison officer successfully coordinated cooperation with the Czech and Dutch party through telephone contact, also in his free time.

The NPC really appreciate that the liaison officer contacts the competent officer on the German side and enables subsequent direct communication. This is, from the practical point of view, a very useful way, facilitating flexible working contacts with foreign colleagues directly working on a case. Contacts with the German liaison officer certainly come up to the ideal of how international cooperation should work.

Germany, as the biggest neighbour of the Czech Republic, is also a good example of cross-border cooperation on the regional level, taking place through the NPC Branch Offices Plzeň and Ústí nad Labem and the regional police authorities on the German side. The NPC Branch Office Plzeň cooperated actively and efficiently with the criminal police in Bavarian Bayreuth. The case concerned heroin trade, ethnic Albanians and Russian-speaking offenders. Within this cooperation, also informal direct contacts of police officers from both sides took place. The NPC Branch Office Ústí nad Labem in 2005 cooperated very successfully with the Sachsen State Criminal Police Office in Görlitz, during the operation "CLUB" focusing on illegal cross-border trade in ephedrine and metamphetamine. On both sides, offenders were arrested. Smooth communication here led to positive results. The same applies to cooperation of the prosecuting attorneys on both sides.

The 1st NPC Division evaluates positively cooperation with German colleagues from the BKA and LKA and GER. This cooperation at various levels mainly concerns activities of ethnic Albanians in the international drug trade. It must also be mentioned that in its relations with Germany, the NPC also use a customs liaison officer stationed in Cologne upon Rhine. In matters concerning German customs officers, he provides a helpful and efficient assistance.

On the whole, the NPC regard cooperation with Germany as very good and smooth.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands permanently confirm their role of a source country number one with respect to ecstasy coming to the drug market in the Czech Republic. The easy availability of this drug indicates that the supply provided mainly through couriers in passenger vehicles is quite high. There are also international cocaine trade routes running across the Netherlands which are connected with the Czech Republic. The

country also serves as an important base, apart from others, for Nigerian criminal groups.

In the past, there were certain problems in relation to the Netherlands, the main one being the difficulty in finding a partner in the Dutch police authorities who would handle the NPC's requests. This unfavourable barrier to cooperation was gradually overcome in 2005 thanks to the Dutch liaison police officer, stationed at the embassy in Warsaw. Thanks to her personal interventions, the Dutch colleagues are more easy to convince that the NPC is a good partner for cooperation. Thus, the situation regarding the relations with the Dutch police has rapidly improved. This was reflected, for instance, in very good cooperation during the operation "Orion", conducted by the NPC Branch Office Brno. Cooperation which certainly can be described as above standard is taking place within the operation "Parcival", where the Dutch request for legal assistance is being handled by the 2nd NPC Division. This operation is part of an investigation of a global network of illegal trade in precursors, involving very intensive exchange of information directly with the Dutch side, as well as mutual coordination of the investigation procedures. It was the Dutch liaison officer who helped to establish this contact. It is again necessary to appreciate the fact that the liaison officer helps to establish a direct contact, leaving further progress in the case to direct cooperation of the police officers on the case. She was also the channel for a large amount of information exchanged within the operation "Mazec" of the NPC Branch Office Ústí nad Labem; the criminal prosecution of cocaine traffickers conducted by the NPC Branch Office Brno; the trade in synthetic drugs investigated by the Branch Office České Budějovice (operation "Dudák"); or the earlier started cocaine operation "Atila" of the NPC 1st Division. The NPC also responded through the liaison officer to the Netherlands' request regarding trade in cannabis products conducted by Dutch citizens.

The NPC regard cooperation with the Netherlands as continuously improving and prospective, as the above-mentioned relations with the Netherlands in the drug field are undoubtedly of a permanent character.

Poland

Being the second biggest neighbour of the Czech Republic after Germany, Poland represents, in terms of fight against drugs, a region of interest. Contacts of the NPC branch offices in the border area seem to be particularly needed. Nevertheless, cooperation with Poland is the most problematic of all neighbouring countries. The competent anti-drug office of the Central Bureau of Investigation in Warsaw responds to quite simple requests either with delays or not at all. Joint investigations are completely out of the question at the moment. The NPC are not satisfied with the level of cooperation with Poland. The situation might, perhaps, be unfavourably affected by the fact that the agreement on police cooperation, which has for a long time been in preparation, has not been concluded and ratified yet.

Austria

As regards cooperation with Austria in 2005, the role of the police liaison officer at the Austrian Embassy in Prague can be particularly appreciated. The exchange of information mediated by him concerned, for instance, traffic in cocaine solved by the NPC branch office in Brno and the operation "Mazec" of the NPC branch office in Ústí nad Labem.

There is, of course, a well-established cross-border cooperation with Austria. Here, it is especially the NPC Branch Office Brno which highly values the quality of

communication with Austrian colleagues. Also the NPC Branch Office České Budějovice positively evaluates communication with the Austrian police. One problem in cooperation was caused rather by the approach of the prosecuting attorney on the Austrian side and had nothing to do with the Austrian colleagues' attitude to cooperation.

Thus, in cooperation with Austria, well-established good contacts prevail, both contacts through the liaison officer and direct ones. The NPC regard the level of cooperation as good.

Romania

Concerning relations with Romania, practically the same evaluation applies as in the year 2004. The exchange of information was limited in 2005 to more general information and statistics. This, however, has no relevance for the NPC's positive evaluation of the activity of the Romanian liaison officer in Prague, with whom the NPC maintain very good relations. At the end of the year, he came up with the initiative to intensify mutual relations in the drug field.

Russia

In 2005, the contacts with the Federal Anti-Drug Service of the Russian Federation were carried out exclusively through the liaison officer of the Police of the Czech Republic in Russia. They consisted in three requests of general character. There is no cooperation in the investigation area whatsoever, just like in the pre-trial criminal proceedings. Cooperation with the bodies of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation was substantially reduced, owing to the new division of powers with the Federal Anti-Drug Service. This agency now seems to have monopoly of international cooperation in the drug field in Russia. The level of cooperation can hardly be called satisfactory. At the end of the year, the Russian side expressed its interest in sending a delegation to Prague and signing a memorandum of understanding and an interministerial agreement. Negotiations in this matter are still under way. This could perhaps represent some kind of an impuls for the improvement of a rather difficult state of cooperation with Russia.

Nordic Countries

Nordic countries are a model example of the sharp decrease in cooperation after withdrawing a liaison officer. Contrary to the previous years, in 2005 cooperation with the Nordic countries was limited to only sporadic exchanges of information with Denmark and Sweden: one case with Denmark and three cases with Sweden during the year. The NPC officers tried to use the direct contacts established while a liaison officer for the Nordic countries was stationed in Prague. The former level of contacts, however, marked a notable decline. Nevertheless, the efforts of the Nordic colleagues to maintain the relations established in the past, though on a less intensive level, must be appreciated.

Slovakia

2005 saw a clear progress in cooperation with Slovakia. To a large extent, it was thanks to the activity of the Slovak liaison officer at the embassy in Prague. He acts as a mediator of the exchange of information, both regarding individual cases

investigated on both sides and general reports and statistical data. His contacts with the NPC are marked by an active, flexible and informal approach.

Also direct contacts with the National Drug Unit in Bratislava were maintained in 2005. Cross-border cooperation developed too, in particular at the NPC Branch Office Ostrava, cooperating with the Žilina branch office of the Slovak Organized Crime Bureau. Thanks to direct contacts with Slovak colleagues, a successful operation was conducted in Ostrava. Information was exchanged with Slovak colleagues also within the operation "Albi" at the NPC Branch Office České Budějovice or the operation "Mazec" at the Branch Office Ústí nad Labem. The 1st NPC Division cooperates with the Slovak Customs Administration on the operation "Grenza". Both sides are also open to mutual international legal assistance.

Cooperation with the Slovak party builds upon long-lasting good relationships and can be evaluated as very good.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

It was certainly by no accident that in 2005, the Chief of the NPC awarded the NPC Plaque for Cooperation to the liaison officer for organized crime at the United Kingdom Embassy in Prague. In relation to the United Kingdom, the volume of information exchanged with the help of the liaison officer grew significantly. During 2005, the NPC cooperated with the British side, for instance, in the cocaine operations "Atila" and "Veterán" at the 1st Division, in another case of cocaine trade solved by the NPC Branch Office Brno, in a case of trade in metamphetamine dealt with by the NPC Branch Office Plzeň and in the operation "Mazec" at the NPC Branch Office Ústí nad Labem. These cases were not the typical cases of single exchanges of information, but represented long-term mutual cooperation.

Thus, there are good conditions for very flexible and prompt mutual cooperation. To illustrate this point, it is worth mentioning that territorial units of the Police of the Czech Republic twice appealed to the NPC to mediate a contact with the British side through the liaison officer in Prague, as other channels of information transfer were not reliable enough. The NPC, of course, granted those requests, as well as the British liaison officer.

The United States of America

Cooperation with the USA maintained its permanent good level. It took place, in particular, in the field of exchange of criminal intelligence and cooperation in this area. The fact remains, though, that in 2005 no such joint investigation was conducted with the American anti-drug service DEA as had been the 2004 operation focused on international trade in ecstasy. Despite this, the NPC regard cooperation and communication with the DEA as very good.

Serbia and Monte Negro

In relation to this federation, a visit of the NPC delegation to Serbia and Monte Negro had a very positive impact; cooperation after this visit is generally very satisfactory. So far, it has consisted only in the exchange of information on individual cases; however, it is likely to develop further, as citizens of Serbia and Monte Negro are also involved in drug trade in the territory of the Czech Republic. The level of cooperation is evaluated by the NPC as satisfactory and improving.

Spain

Cooperation with Spain had a clearly episodic character in 2005. The NPC made two requests, one of which remained without any response. These facts show that cooperation with Spain is not too satisfactory.

In 2005, two officers of the NPC participated in an international course in the field of drugs in a Spanish police center in Madrid. The course had a standard level usual at similar international events and helped establish some new contacts with colleagues from abroad.

Switzerland

In 2005, Switzerland was another partner with whom the exchange of information and cooperation through a police attaché at the embassy in Prague increased significantly. Thanks to him, Switzerland is a reliable and active partner for cooperation. In the case of Switzerland, requests from the Swiss side typically prevail. The cooperation focuses mainly on illegal heroin trade. During 2005, however, the mutual exchange of information concerned also e.g. trade in cocaine or the activity of Nigerian criminal structures. The level of cooperation with Switzerland is permanently very good.

Ukraine

Cooperation with Ukraine in 2005 was carried out almost exclusively through the first secretary of the embassy in Prague. This is due to the specific allocation of responsibilities in the field of international drug trade in Ukraine. The Czech police liaison officer in Kiev is, therefore, used very little for contacting the bodies of the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine. This Czech liaison officer, however, maintains good contacts with the NPC and provides general information regarding the field of drugs in Ukraine.

Cooperation consisted in the exchange of information on individual cases, in particular regarding the control of trade in precursors. So far, no common investigation took place. Nevertheless, the NPC regard the cooperation as good. There are prospects of further and organizationally more demanding cooperation in the drug field.

Interpol

Naturally, the NPC made use of Interpol services in 2005, especially with respect to those countries where the Czech Republic does not have any police liaison officers or direct contacts. The NPC also make use of certain standard procedures within Interpol, such as situational reports and international arrest warrants. For prompt cooperation and the exchange of sensitive information, however, the Interpol network does not seem suitable. There are typical problems with slow speed and inflexibility of this network. Therefore, officers from the NPC executive divisions and branch offices quite understandably prefer other channels of cooperation. Nevertheless, when it was needed, cooperation with Interpol was and will be carried out on a more or less standard level.

Europol

The Czech Republic has been a member of the European Union for less than two years; its membership in Europol has lasted a little more than one year. The NPC have been involved in international cooperation in the area of drug-related crime since its establishment in 1991. During those 15 years, the NPC developed strong

connections in this area of activity, and so they only slowly abandon direct forms of cooperation. Today, the Police of the Czech Republic clearly define Europol as the main partner and communication channel for police cooperation. This area of activity is soon going to be regulated by an internal administrative act, which will even more strengthen Europol's position in the area of international cooperation. The NPC, however, are already participating in the activity of Europol within several Analytical Working Files (AWF).

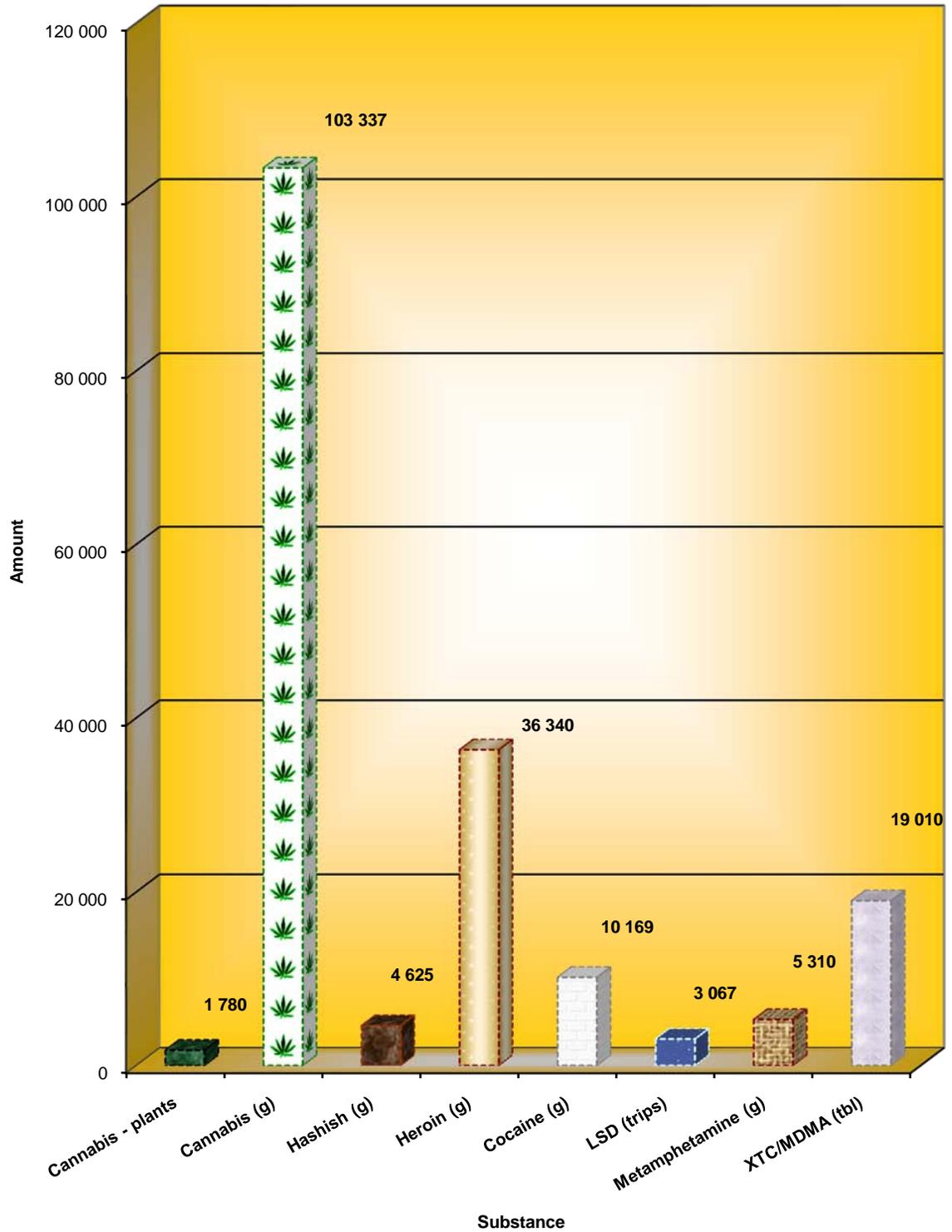
Where the NPC, for the sake of promptness and flexibility, need a clearly defined, specific foreign partner, in particular during operations, they prefer direct contact, with the information being subsequently provided via Europol headquarters. Practically simultaneously with the accession to Europol, the NPC introduced the 4 x 4 system of information analysis, in order to increase the utility of information and its compatibility with the information of foreign partners.

In 2005, the Europol channels were really not much preferred as a way of international cooperation sought by the NPC. The reasons for this are purely practical, the main one being that the process of contacting a partner via Europol has too many stages, in fact even more than in the case of Interpol. From the requesting party, the request goes to the Europol National Unit, from here to the Czech liaison officer at the Europol headquarters, from him/her to the liaison officer of the requested party at the headquarters, from him/her to the Europol National Unit in the requested country and only from there to the police unit in the requested country which is going to handle the request. Due to the numerous stages of the information transfer, the process is slow and some details are lost. Thus, in particular in cases where joint investigation is under way, such a process hinders flexible cooperation. From their experience, the NPC can say that Europol network, in contrast to liaison officers, is not able to provide efficient help in handling requests for international legal assistance in cases where the other side does not consider granting such assistance a priority or at least necessity.

Despite these reservations, the NPC admit that Europol has a great and irreplaceable analytical capacity. In this area, cooperation in its framework is quite important. Therefore, the NPC also participated in 2005 in five analytical working files of the Europol Headquarters in the Hague, namely in the AWFs Mustard, Cola, Copper, Synergy and Islamic Terrorism, and also in an activity of the Target Group Stela. The NPC were more active in the AWFs Mustard, Cole, Copper and Synergy. As regards Islamic Terrorism, they only participated through not very frequent correspondence. Therefore, in 2006, the NPC are withdrawing from this AWF, also since it does not specifically deal with a drug-related issue. Regarding the practical benefits of the participation in the AWFs, the 1st Division, which is in charge of the participation, is not too enthusiastic though. It is also true that participation in the meetings in the Hague is quite demanding on the limited unit resources allocated for foreign business trips. The NPC participation in the Target Group Stela was seen as somewhat more useful from the practical point of view, in particular with respect to the major initiative of the German Federal Criminal Office (BKA). It seems that the participation of the NPC in this particular Europol project could bring real practical results in the near future. The NPC certainly found Europol's general analytical materials, particularly the EU Organised Crime Report, an interesting source of information.

STATISTICAL DATA

**Czech Republic 2005 - amounts of seized NPS
(source: all competent units of the PCR and the GCD)**



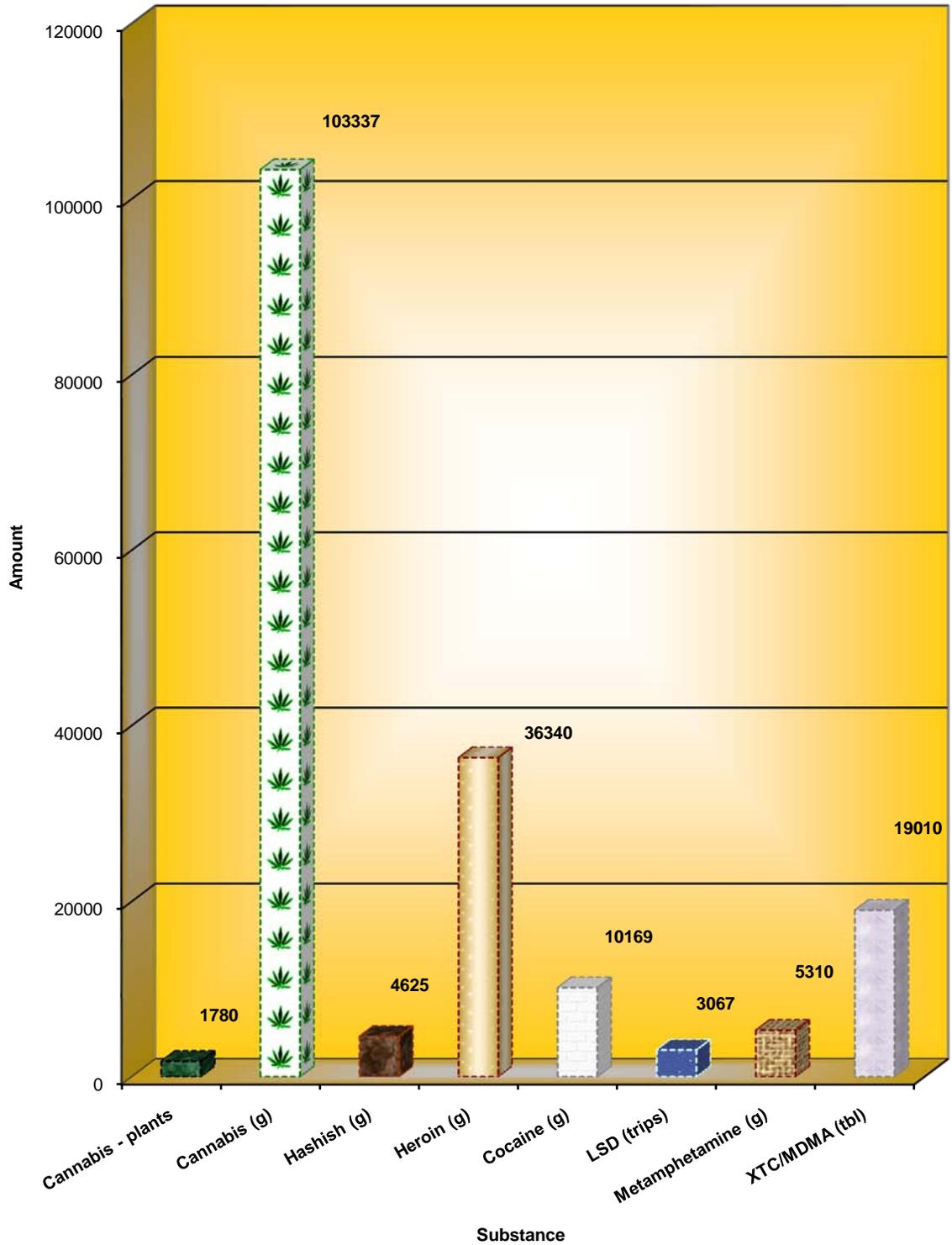
Cannabis - plants	1 780
Cannabis (g)	103 337
Hashish (g)	4 625
Heroin (g)	36 340
Cocaine (g)	10 169
LSD (trips)	3 067
Metamphetamine (g)	5 310
XTC/MDMA (tbl)	19 010

Czech Republic 2005 - amount of NPS seized

(source: all competent units of the PCR and the GCD)

Substance	Amount
Amphetamine (g)	38
Amphetamine (tbl)	56
Apaurin (ml)	2
Buprenorfine (g)	0,5
Cannabis (g)	103 337
Cannabis-plants	1 780
Cannabis-seeds (g)	3
Diazepam (tbl)	290
Ephedrine (g)	27 301
GHB (ml)	500
Hashish (g)	4 625
Heroin (g)	36 340
Klonazepam (g)	1
Codein (ml)	1
Cocaine (g)	10 169
Cannabis paste (g)	820
LSD (trip)	3 067
Psilocybe	145
Base solution (ml)	20 000
Metamphetamine - cooking facility	261
Metamphetamine (g)	5 310
Modafen (tbl)	10 980
Morphine (ml)	1
Nurofen (tbl)	12
Plant growing facility	11
Piracetam (g)	1
Pseudoephedrine (g)	3
Rohypnol (tbl)	26
Subutex (tbl)	287
Sustanon 250 - precursor (ml)	990
Toluene (ml)	830
XTC/MDMA (tbl)	19 010

**Czech Republic 2005 - amounts of seized NPS
(source: all competent units of the PCR and the GCD)**



Czech Republic 2005 - NPS statistics

(source: all competent units of the PCR and the GCD)

Investigated cases	1888
Offenders	2163
Unknown offenders	244

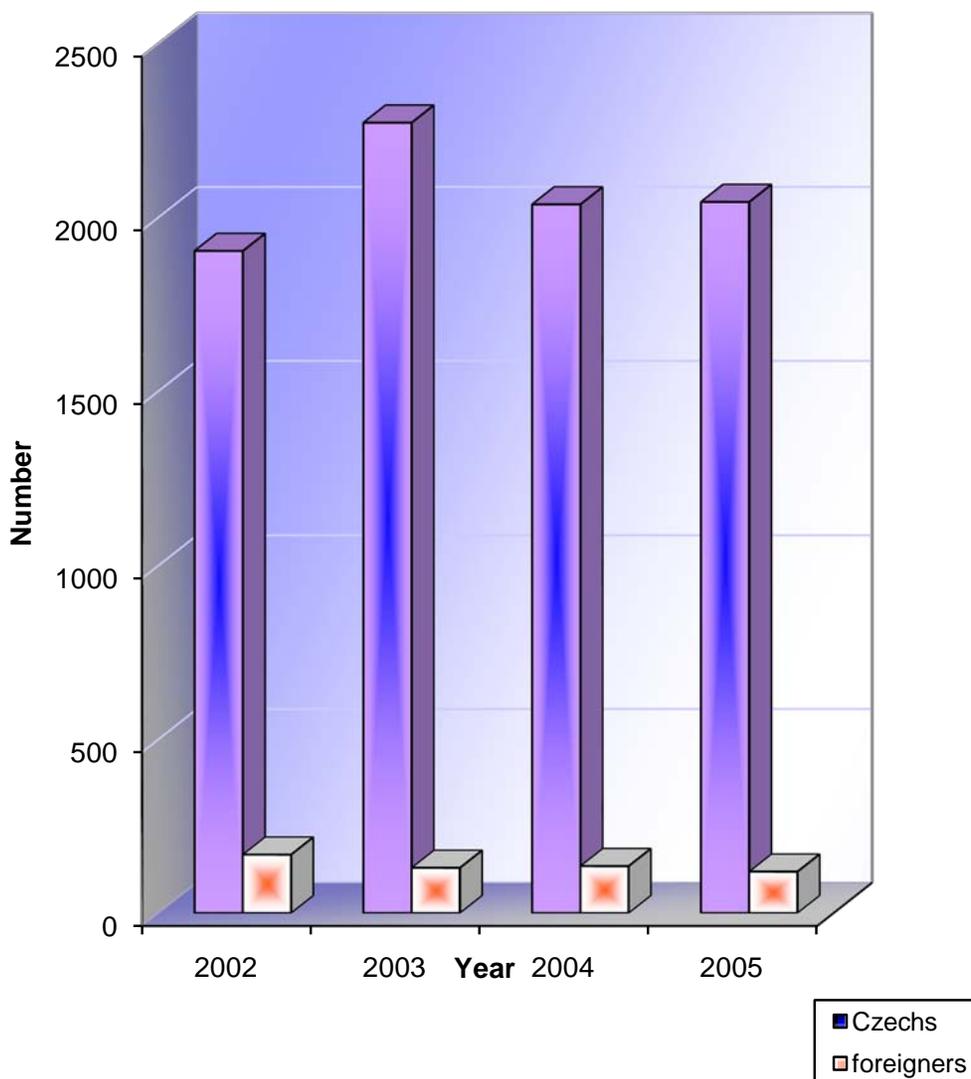
offenders' nationality/ country of origin	number
Algerian	2
USA	1
Angolian	1
Bosna a Hercegovina	1
British	1
Bulgarian	2
Czech	2044
French	1
Croat	2
Iraqi	1
Irish	2
Italian	3
South African	1
Yugoslav	18

Hungarian	1
Macedonian	9
Mexican	1
Moldavian	1
German	2
Nigerian	9
Dutch	2
Portuguese	1
Russian	2
Slovak	18
Republic of Central Africa	1
Spanish	5
Swiss	1
Ukrainian	2
Vietnamese	28

Czech Republic - comparison of the numbers of offenders

(source: all competent units of the PCR and the GCD)

	Czechs	foreigners
2002	1903	168
2003	2272	130
2004	2037	135
2005	2044	119

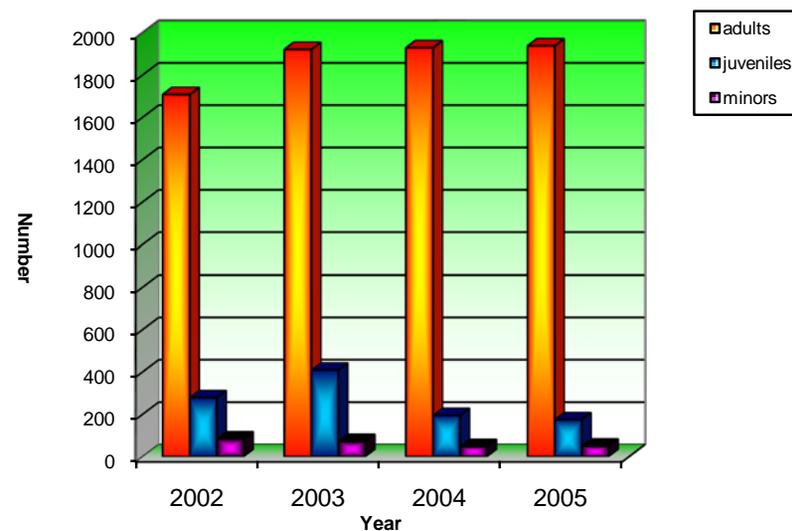
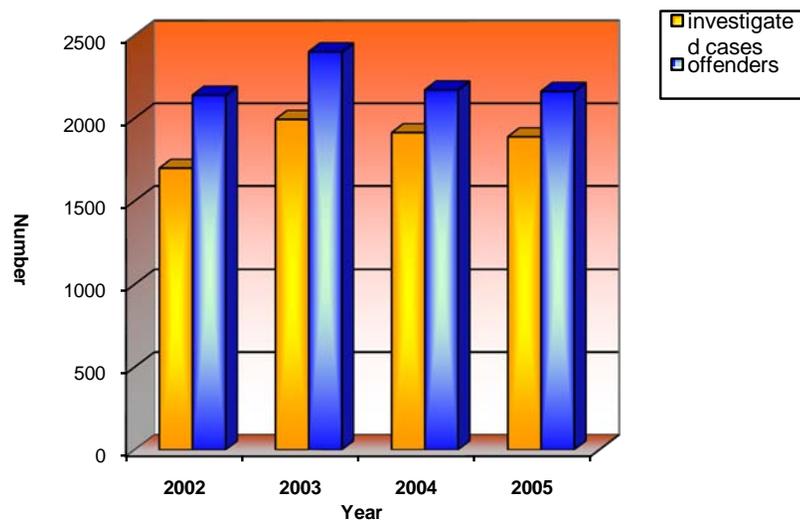


Czech Republic - comparison of the numbers of investigated cases and offenders

(source: all competent units of the PCR and the GCD)

	investigated cases	offenders	UO
2002	1698	2140	231
2003	1993	2402	232
2004	1913	2172	305
2005	1888	2163	244

	adults	juveniles	minors
2002	1708	279	84
2003	1921	409	72
2004	1929	195	48
2005	1938	175	50



□
□
□

Czech Republic - prices of the NPS 2005

NPS	price in CZK/ gram		price in CZK/gram	
	street sale ¹⁾	ø ²⁾	large-scale sale ¹⁾	ø ²⁾
Amphetamine (g)	600-1000	942	500-800	650
Diazepam (tbl)	5	5		
Ecstasy (tbl)	80-500	212	40-200	113
Hashish	150-500	245	50-250	142
Heroin	500-2000	1089	400-1200	780
Braun (1ml)				
Cocaine	1500-3000	2264	1500-2300	1758
LSD/Halucinogens	70-300	181	50-200	107
Marijuana - 1 joint	10-50/joint	27		
Marijuana ³⁾	20-350	167	20-250	102
Metamphetamine	400-2000	1017	300-1000	713
Toluene (kg)	60-75	68		
GHB (dose)	50	50		
Subutex 2mg	100-250	190	200	200
Subutex 8mg	250-600	375		

1) range of prices according to the data provided by individual districts

2) average counted from all prices given by individual districts

3) price for a gram irrespective of the percentage of the active ingredient - cannot be differentiated

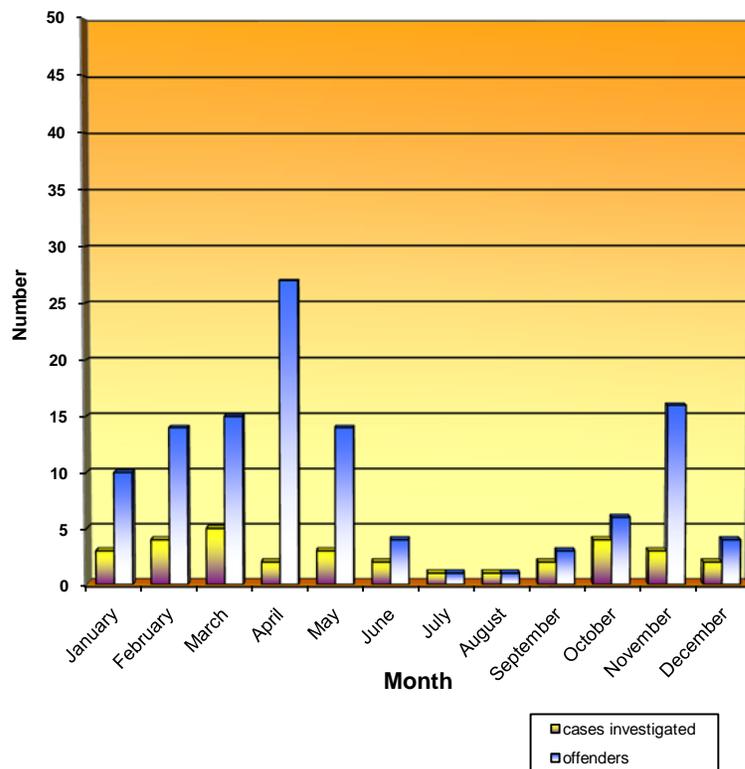
Number of the prosecuted cases (section 160 Code of Criminal Procedure) of the NPC in 2005 according to the provisions of the Penal Code

Section of the Penal Code																		
Month	187/1	187/2a	187/2b	187/3a	187/3b	187/3c	187/4a	187/4b	187/4c	187a/1	187a/2	188/1	188/2a	188/2b	188/2c	188a/1	188a/2a	188a/2b
JANUARY	1					4			1	1								
FEBRUARY		10							4									
MARCH		2		4					9	2								
APRIL		4							18									
MAY		9							5	4	1							
JUNE		4																
JULY		1																
AUGUST									1									
SEPTEMBER		3									1							
OCTOBER		4							1									
NOVEMBER		1							15									
DECEMBER									4									
TOTAL	1	38	0	4	0	4	0	0	58	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Section	Number
187	105
187a	9
188	0
188a	1

NPC - 2005 Number of investigated cases and offenders - according to months

	cases investigated	offenders
January	3	10
February	4	14
March	5	15
April	2	27
May	3	14
June	2	4
July	1	1
August	1	1
September	2	3
October	4	6
November	3	16
December	2	4
TOTAL	32	115



Administrative delicts in the section of protection against alcoholism and other drug addictions -
Section 30 (1) (j) of Act No. 200/1990 Coll.

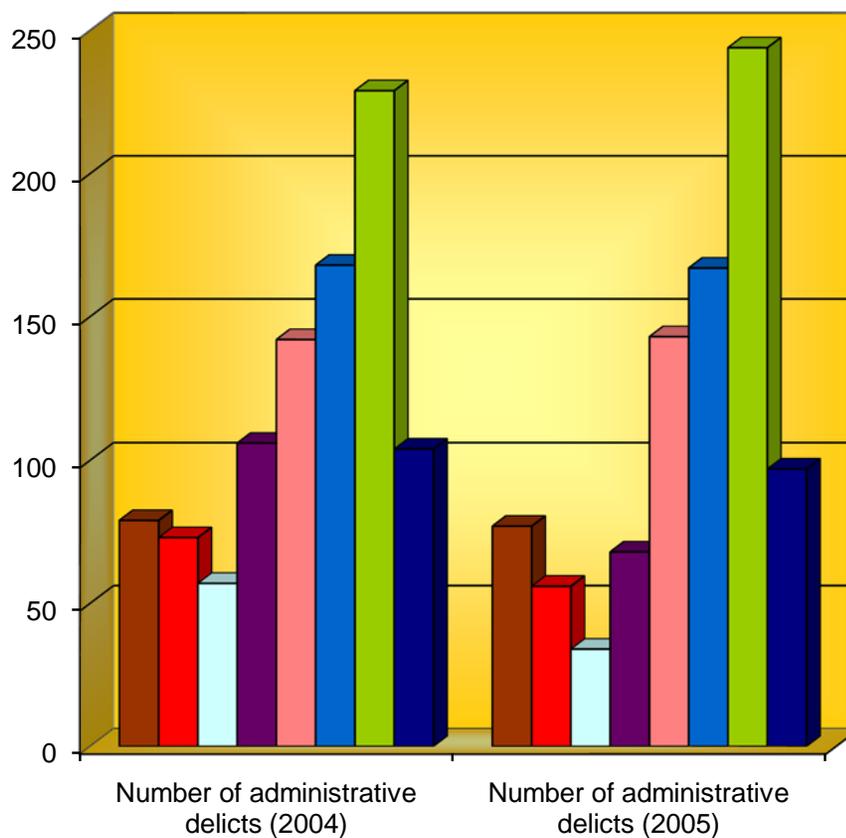
Name of the unit	Number of administrative delicts	Heard in administrative proceedings	Admonition	Fine	Prohibition to undertake activities	Forfeiture of a thing	Discontinued or referred to another authority	Not decided yet	Referred to the investigative, prosecuting and adjudicating bodies	Fines - CZK total
Capital Prague Administration	77	26	7	19	0	28	41	12	2	43 500
Central Bohemian Region Administration	56	32	3	29	0	22	23	10	1	64 500
South Bohemian Region Administration	34	23	0	24	0	24	9	4	0	21 000
West Bohemian Region Administration	68	44	1	40	0	38	20	15	1	99 600
North Bohemian Region Administration	143	55	9	36	0	22	95	15	2	31 100
East Bohemian Region Administration	167	102	13	89	0	51	44	30	0	138 600
South Bohemian Region Administration	244	165	2	144	0	154	81	25	0	452 900
North Bohemian Region Administration	97	56	10	43	0	53	40	7	3	58 700
TOTAL	886	503	45	424	0	392	353	118	9	909 900

SOURCE: Police Presidium - Police Administrative Services Directorate

**Administrative delicts under section 30 (1) (j) of Act No. 200/1990 Coll.-
comparison 2004, 2005**

(SOURCE: Police Presidium - Administrative Services Directorate)

Unit	Number of administrative delicts (2004)	Number of administrative delicts (2005)
Capital Prague Administration	79	77
Central Bohemian Region Administration	73	56
South Bohemian Region Administration	57	34
West Bohemian Region Administration	106	68
North Bohemian Region Administration	142	143
East Bohemian Region Administration	168	167
South Moravian Region Administration	229	244
North Moravian Region Administration	104	97
TOTAL	958	886



■ Capital Prague Administration	■ Central Bohemian Region Administration
■ South Bohemian Region Administration	■ West Bohemian Region Administration
■ North Bohemian Region Administration	■ East Bohemian Region Administration
■ South Moravian Region Administration	■ North Moravian Region Administration