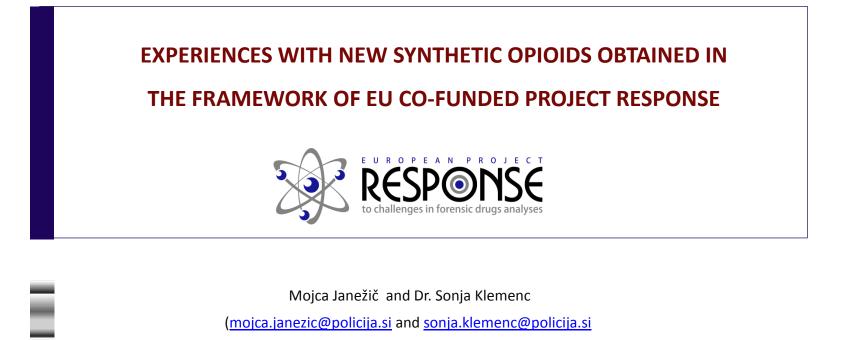


Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union



MNZ GPU, National Forensic Laboratory, Vodovodna 95, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Technical Expert Meeting - Strengthening Early Warning of New Synthetic Opioids in Europe, Lisbone, 31. March – 1. April 2016

### "RESPONSE" project in brief

The main topic of forensic drugs investigations addressed by the RESPONSE project

(http://www.policija.si/eng/index.php/generalpolicedirectorate/1669-nfl-page-response)

- New psychoactive substances (NPS) identification challenges
  - unexpected growth in the number and type of NPSs [1]
  - easy availability of NPS, which are advertised and sold over the Internet
  - lack of availability of reference materials (RM) and specific reliable MS and FTIR spectra databases are the main problem for accurate NPS identification
- Drugs profiling where the main problem is the recognized gap between customers (law enforcement, judicial system, EU policy makers) needs and ForL capacities, methodologies and staff competencies.

<sup>[1]</sup> New Psychoactive substances in Europe, EMCDDA, March 2015, (http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/2015/new-psychoactive-substances )

#### NPS facts & project objectives

#### FACTS:

3

- NPS are mainly detected in forensic and customs labs.
- Identifying of NPS means to elucidate compoud structure, to give the substance a name and formula
- To identify new substance reference material (RM) or special techniques are needed
- RM are not available (in real time)
- Most of laboratories have to realy:
  - on comparison of their results to available MS and/or FTIR spectra in searchable electronic libraries (not updated in real time)
  - or existing information exchange channels and/or open source data

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

- to provide numerous spectral data MS, FTIR-ATR and FTIR-condensed phase on newly appearing NPS
- to implement spectra into electronic data repositories of European Network of Forensic Institutes - Drugs Working Group (ENFSI - DWG).
- to share analytical data, knowledge and information efficiently through different communication platforms (SI EWS, EMCDDA, EUROPOL, cooperation /communication with other complementary projects ) and open source repositories
- By internet purchasing of NPSs the project will aim at implementing a pro-active forensics respond to the NPS phenomena and form " NPS material bank".

## Sources of materials & Chemical characterizations methods

Type of material	Analytical methods					
Reference materials (Different vendors; around 200)	GC-MS, FTIR-ATR, GC-MS-FTIR-(condensed phase) - optional					
Test purchases (Internet based vendors; 200 to 300 samples) Seized samples (Police/ Customs)	GC-MS FTIR ATR GC-MS-FTIR (Condesed Phase) HPLC-TOF					
Collected samples (NGO – anonymous users, project partners, other)	IC NMR ( <sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C, <sup>1</sup> H– <sup>1</sup> H <i>gs-COSY</i> )					

The compounds are identified in the Slovenian forensic laboratory (NFL). Structures are confirmed by NMR at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical technology (FKKT). Spectra are provided to EI-MS and IR libraries of ENFSI DWG.

## Test purchases over the internet -challanges

Detection of new substances [L. Ask Reitzel et all, Systematical methodology for finding novel NPS (New Psychoactive Substances) over the Internet, EAFS-2015, Prague, 2015]

- use a Google engine and simple keyword search and possibly filters
- follow social networks related to recreational drugs (blogs/discussion forums/chats)
- follow already evaluated reliable internet vendors

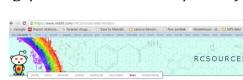
#### Find a internet vendor(s) and evaluate its reliability

- use information (and updates) from the internet
- check the payment options
- check minimum required order (some only sell bulk quantities)
- test vendors by small orders (few samples) first
- -Preferable pure substances

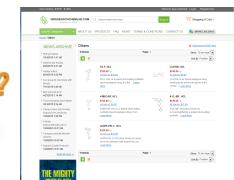


- shall follow institutional and national rules (quite complicated)
- information exchange system between national authorities concerning internet orders has been established. (Co-operation of the Police (NFL), the Customs, and the Ministry of Health about every purchase in advance and after receiving the samples).





https://www.reddit.com/r/RCSources/wiki/vendors



Belgiu	ım
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Germ	any
Hung	ary
The N	etherlands
Polan	đ
Spain	
Swed	en
United	d Kingdom
North Ame	erica
Canad	la
USA	
Asia	
China	
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Europe

#### Test purchases - procedures

- Substances are purchased via four reliable "importing companies" in SI
- □ All data about the desired substance, internet links and desired quantities are provided by NFL; further comunication with internet vendor is done by importing company
- □ First the inquiry at the chosen internet vendor is performed (all the communication is done via e-mail)
- After a positive response, NFL issues a customer declaration which is forwarded to the importing company in SI and to the liaison officer between the Police and the Customs
- □ Importing company orders and pays the substances to the internet vendor
- All the samples are delivered directly to the NFL
- □ NFL confirms the receipt of samples to importing company and to lisiation oficer
- Importing company issues the receipt which is paid from the financial departement of MNZ
- □ In chemistry lab each sample is labeled with an unique identification number and is photographed
- Identification of the substance by different chemical methods follows
- □ In the case of a new substance (first time identified in SI) EMCDDA and SI EWS are informed
- □ Chemical characterisation data and analytical report are published in public open database created in the frame of the response project

#### REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

POLICIJA Generalna policijska uprava Nacionalni forenzični laboratorij Vodovodna 95 Jodo Ljubijana SLOVENIA

T: 01 428 44 93 F: 01 428 49 86 E: nfi@policija.si www.policija.si

#### IZJAVA KUPCA O NAMENU UPORABE SUBSTANC CUSTOMER DECLARATION OF SPECIFIC USE(S) št./no: 023-32/2015/38 (2P502-01) datumidate: 18.8 2015

Spodaj podpisani (I, We),

Ime (Name): Dr. SONJA KLEMENC

Naslov (Address):

RS-MNZ-GPU NACIONALNI FORENZIČNI LABORATORIJ (NFL) /National Forensic Laboratory (NFL) Vodovodna 95 1000 LJUBLJANA SLOVENIA

smo naročili(-i) pri (have ordered from):

Ime (Name):

same ways in pass modern , we

Naslov (Address)

21

naslednje snovi (the following substances) iz/from www.lsresearchchemlab.com

4F-BF FREEBASE (1g)

Formula Name: 1-((4-fluorophenyi)(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yi)amino)butan-2-one CAS: IVA Formula: C23H29FN2O Exact Mass: S86 23 Molecular weight: 388.49 Synonyms.4-fluoro-butyl-fent http://www.isresearch.demilab.com/catalogsearch/result/?g=4F-BF

I/we hereby certify that the substance(s) referred to above will not be re-sold and will not be used for the further production of any other goods. In Slovenia the oredered substances are not schedulled as illicit drugs.

Ime (Name) Podpis (Signature) SONJA KLEMENC Sarger Alumn Delvoro mesto (Position)/ Vodja oddelka za kemijske preiskave/ Head of chemistry department

## **Experiences of test purchases**

- Purchases within EU are relatively easy (no Customs), the substances are delivered with correct invoice and mostly suitable labeling (although often wrong substance)
- Purchases from Canada run relatively smoothly, appropriate documentation and bills (sometimes wrong substance)
- □ Purchases from China:
- some pages have very good selection (e.g. <u>Drugs Power Store</u>); but we couldn't established any contact (they were non responsive)
- Communications by internet vendor trough e-mails
- Shipments track&trace (using courier delivery services company, e.g. FEDEX etc.)
- Sometimes long delivery time
- Few samples have not been delivered
- Attached documentation usually describes the shippment as a free sample (real price is not given)
- Substances are wrongly declared (e.g. as sample of ammonium polyphosphate, acrylic paint etc.) with different Common Customs Tariff to mislead the Customs (to avoid taxation of goods)
- "Proforma invoices" do not correspond to the real price, the seller's company data on invoices is mostly "faked" (and this is a problem for the imprting company which purchase for NFL)
- Sample containers (bags) are labeled only by numbers no chemical information

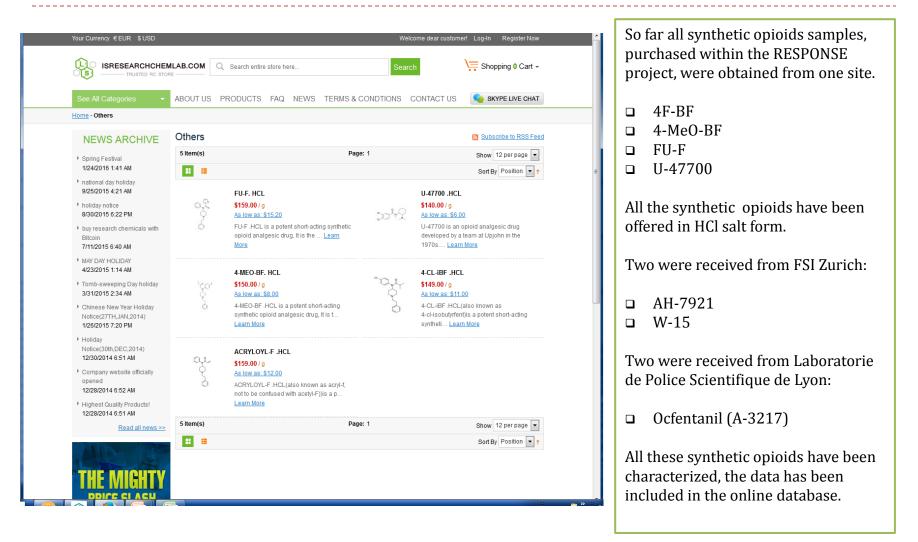


PLEASE PRINT

### Changes on the internet market

- Chinese Food and Drug Administration announced the control of 116 new psychoactive substances, effective from 1st October 2015 (*Non-medicinal drugs and psychotropic narcotic drug control varieties*).
- The newly scheduled NPS include also Acetylfentanyl, AH-7921, Butyrylfentanyl, β-Hydroxythiofentanyl, Isobutyrfentanyl, Ocfentanyl which almost dissapeared from China vendors web pages
- Consequently new synthetic opioids appeared on the China (and EU) market (Acryloil-F, 4Cl-iBF, FU-F, U 47700, etc.)

## New synthetic opioids, received within RESPONSE project

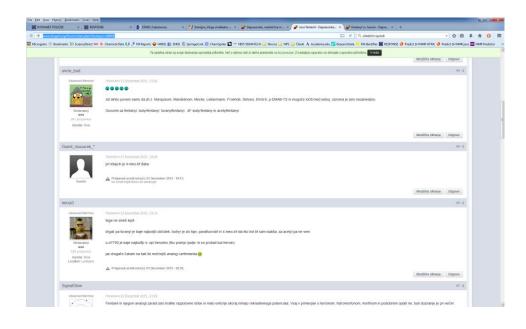


## Current situation on new synthetic opioids between users in Slovenia

### NFL has not received any sample containing new synthetic opioid seized by the Police or collected via NGO so far.

An associated partner DrogArt Association is a private nonprofitable volunteer organization with the status of humanitarian organizations . The vision DrogArt Association is to reduce the risks associated with the use of drugs and alcohol in Slovenia. In DrogArt drug related forums, users also report their

experiences with synthetic opioids.





Resume from the forum about new synthetic opioids in Slovenia:

- New synthetic opioids are rarely used, only experimentaly
- Users write about experiences with BF series, U-47700, other fentanyles (e.g. furanyl as FU-F, butryr, acetyl, parafluorobf)
- U-47700 and FU-F are currently considered to be the best
- butryr + 3fmp is considered to be a good combination
- MT-45 is allegedly poisonous, causes hair loss

٠

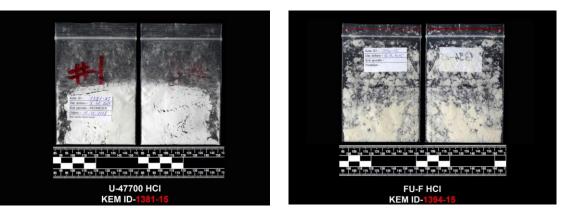
#### Physical appearance of purchased synthetic opioids



Photos of the samples were taken from both sides and merged.

Similar physical appearance of two different substances, both purchased from China as 4F-BF and 4-MeO-BF freebase. Zip bags with the substances were marked only with a hand written number on a sticker.

Each sample gets its unique identification number in the NFL laboratory.



The sample, purchased as U-47700, in a form of white powder, and the sample, purchased as FU-F, in a form of off-white powder.

# 4F-BF (4-fluoro-butyrfentanyl) and 4-MeO-BF (4-methoxybutyrfentanyl)

Two analogues of butyrfentanyl:

Proposed structures (theroretical): The structure of 4-MeO-BF given on the web site was different, -CO- was indicated on the position 2

**4F-BF** N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2phenylethyl)piperidin-4yl]butanamide

Mass: 368,496 Formula: C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O

31. March – 1. April 2016 Technical Expert Meeting - Strengthening Early Warning of New Synthetic Opioids in Europe

4-MeO-BF

yl]butanamide

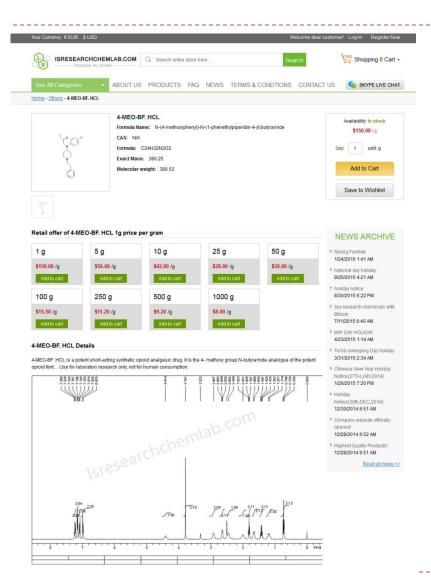
Mass: 380,532

Formula: C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-[1-

(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-

### 4-MeO-BF: 2-on or 1-on?





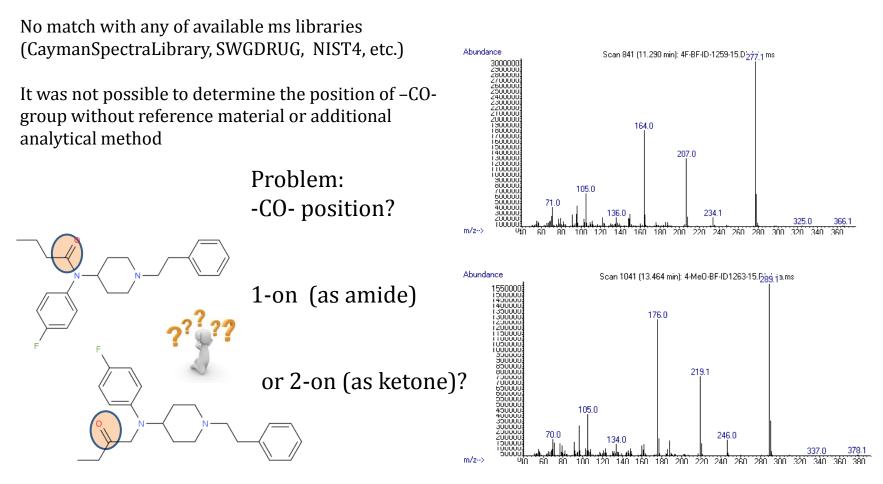
The web site describes 4-MeO-BS as N-(4methoxyphenyl)-N-(1-phenlypiperidin)-4butyramide with the structure as ketone (as -2-on substance.

Web sites often describe the substances with incomplete or wrong names, empirical formulas, and/or structures.

This web site even displays <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of the offered substance.

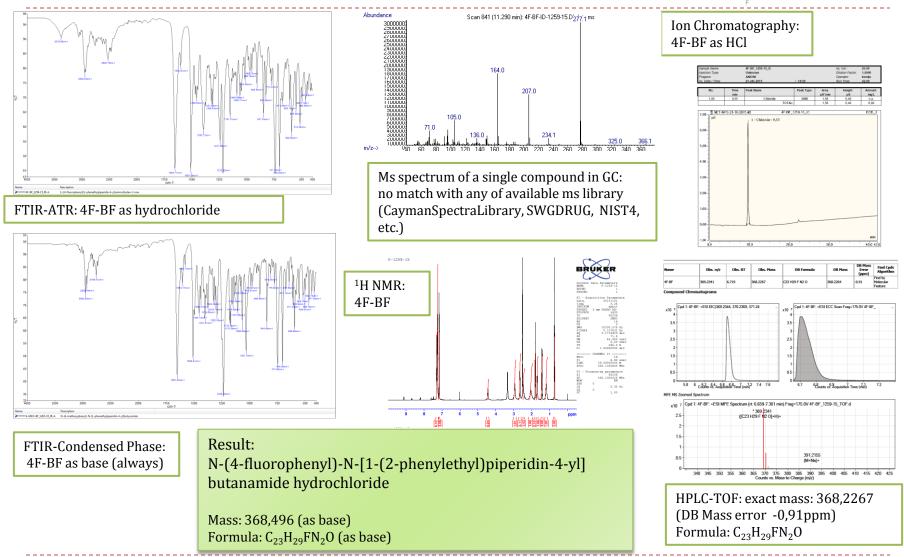
-CO- position can be defined by NMR.

#### Mass spectra of 4F-BF and 4-MeO-BF

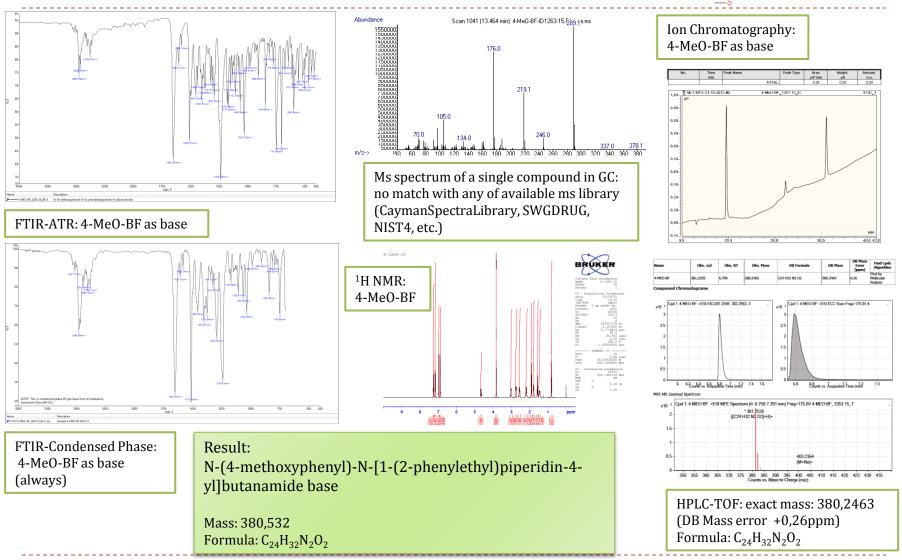


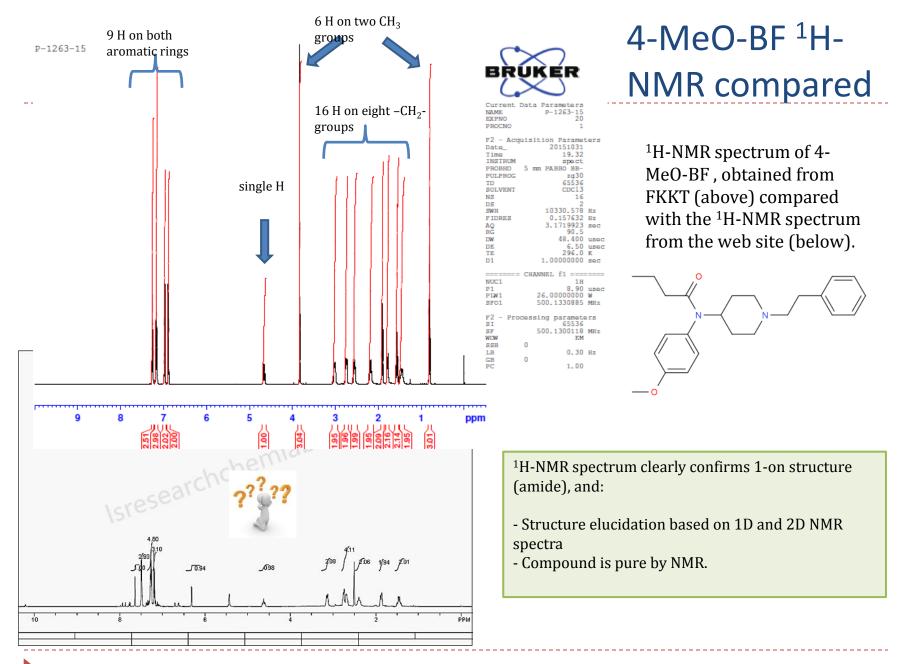
The difference between mayor peaks of both compounds is 12: the difference between mass of MeO group(31) and fluoride (19)

#### Analytical data of 4F-BF

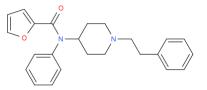


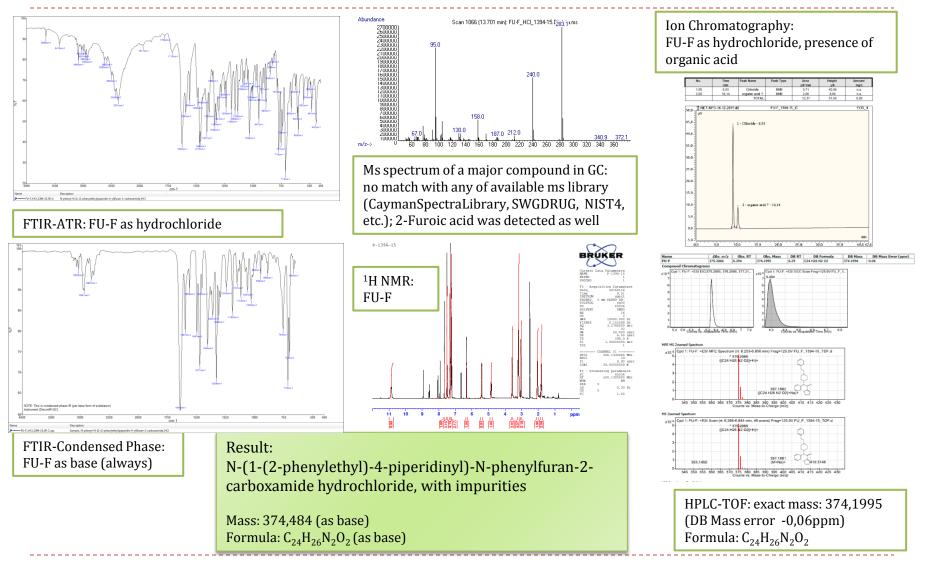
#### Analytical data of 4-MeO-BF





#### Analytical data of FU-F

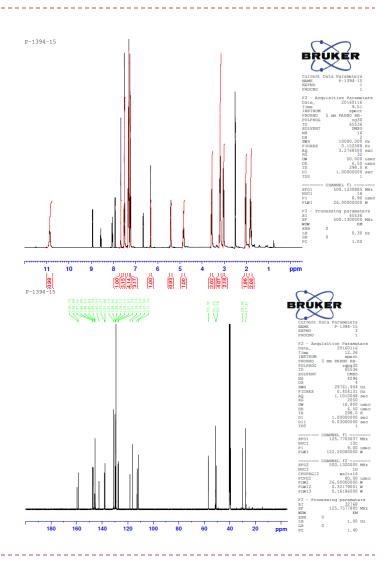




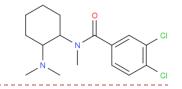
#### **FU-F NMR results**

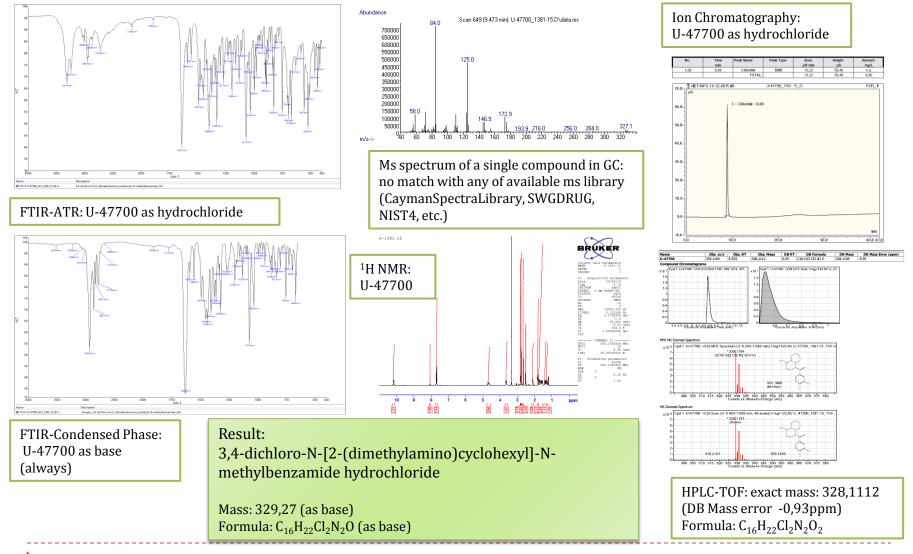
REPORT

1394-15							
P-1394-15							
15 mg dissolved in 0.7 mL DMSO-d <sub>6</sub>							
<sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C, <sup>1</sup> H– <sup>1</sup> H <i>gs</i> -COSY, <sup>1</sup> H– <sup>13</sup> C <i>gs</i> -HSQC, <sup>1</sup> H– <sup>13</sup> C <i>gs</i> -HMBC, <sup>1</sup> H– <sup>15</sup> N <i>gs</i> -HMBC.							
+ another major component							
1-phenethyl-4-(N-phenylfuran-2-carboxamido)piperidin-1-ium							
- Structure elucidation based on 1D and 2D NMR spectra							
- Sample is not pure by NMR, it contains some minor impurities (around 5%). The sample, however, besides the compound with the structure proposed above, contains another major component (possible ratio 2:1) - an organic compound, containing at least one N and (hetero)cyclic ring(s) (8 aromatic/carbonyl signals in <sup>13</sup> C NMR and signals in <sup>1</sup> H NMR: 8.93, 8.57, 8.05, 7.92, 7.23, 6.65 and possibly others), it seems it has no (or just a few) aliphatic carbons. It is also possible, though unlikely, that the second major constituent is not just one compound, but mixture of more.							
<ul> <li>NB. In <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum below only the signals belonging to the structure proposed above are integrated, whereas in <sup>13</sup>C all prominent peaks are peak-picked.</li> </ul>							
Copies of <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra							
Prof. Dr. Janez Košmrlj, Doc. Dr. Krištof Kranjc							
January 21, 2016							



## Analytical data of U-47700





### "Drugs monographs" database

- Chemical information on NPSs and related compounds collected in the frame of RESPONSE is joined in the "Drugs Monographs" database – an interactive table searchable along different criteria
  - http://www.policija.si/apps/nfl response web/seznam.php
- The free access database already enhanced communications and information exchange between forensic and customs community. (example on the next slide)

Recently some new conributors have enriched the database:

- CLEN2SAND project data on novel opioids (kindly provided by the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), DG TAXUD and the CLEN)
- Analytical data obtained on samples kindly provided by Forensic Institute Zurich Switzerland, HIFS Hungary, FSI Sweden and some other contributors have been implemented into the RESPONSE project database.

#### Information and data exchange in practice U-47700

- Preliminary characterisation data on U-47700 compound was published in "Dugs monographs" database 18/12/2015 (compound was not yet NMR confirmed at that time)
- At 20th January, 2016 we received two and at 27th January the third request from Begium:
  - From Toxicological Center of University of Antwerpwen (at 10:54 AM) request for MS spectrum (we delivered the spectrum in electronic format (Agilent) at 11:15 AM)
  - From Customs lab 27/01/16 at 13:34 PM request for IR and/or MS (we delivered data at 14:49)

8 B

- From forensic lab NICC at 15:20 PM request for IR spectrum (we delivered data at17:18)
- Belgian colleagues confirmed the substance as U-47700 succesfuly

		van Nuijs Alexander <alexander.vannuijs@uantwerpen.l to me, sonja.klemenc, Maudens v</alexander.vannuijs@uantwerpen.l 	be> Jan 20 🏠 🔦 Reply 🔻
		Dear Sonja,	
			d to confirm this. I see in your analytical reports from the RESPONSE project ( <u>http://www.policija.si/apps/nfl_response_web/seznam.php</u> ) that there is some information on ailable. Is it possible to send me a full mass spectrum of this compound or bring me in contact with people who could help me with this?
	U-47700 INGE M.J. VINCKIER za: sonja.klemenc	Thank you very much for your help! Kind regards, Prof. dr. Alexander L.N. van Nuijs, PharmD	
	,		Dear Sonja,
Zgodovina:	Sporočilo že ima odgovor.	Toxicological Centre University of Antwerp	Can you send me a IR spectrum from the U-47700. This compound is listed on the Response website. We have a mass spectrum but I want to confirm it with a IR spectrum.
Dear Sonja	,		Best regards
	again with some question about a produc e the FTIR spectrum or the MS-spectrum	ct in the Response Database: U-47700 n of this product ? Or is it still being anal	Y Filip VAN DURME, gerechtelijk deskundige drugs
Thank you Inge	in advance,		Tel +32 2 240 04 83 – GSM +32 474 87 45 16 – Fax +32 2 243 46 08 Nationaal Instituut voor Criminalistiek en Criminologie – Vilvoordsesteenweg 100, 1120 Brussel
22			0.05 (WS:0.4: Nove psiboaktivne substance - odziv na izziv.

Ljubljana 25. 2. 2016

#### Final reports: the web database "Drug Monographs"

#### NPS AND RELATED COMPOUNDS - ANALYTICAL REPORTS

Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union

Stran 1 od 5

ID1263-15

Substance class	substance (NPS) common name	structure (created by OPSIN free tool)	NPS1 systematic name	other names	Formula per base form	Mw (g/mol) per base form NPS1	MS (BP1)	MS (BP2)	MS (BP3)	GC-MS-RT NFL/min	MS spectrum (picture)	Stdin ChiKey	Type of detection	comments	opioids date of entry	rep upda	
Opioids	4-MEO-BF	30-0	N-(4-methoxyphenyl)- N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)butyramide		C24H32N2O2	380.53	289	176	219	13.46	<u>show</u>	FNVSEQCPMXWQKG- UHFFFAOYSA-N	test purchase		2015-09-02	2015-	
Opioids	<u>U_47700</u>	2400	3,4-dichloro- N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]- N-methylbenzamide		C16H22Cl2N2O	329.27	84	125	71	9.46	<u>show</u>	JGPNMZWFVRQNGU- UHFFFAOYSA-N	test purchase	Impurity detected by NMR	2015-12-18	2016-1	
Opioids	<u>AH-7921</u>	Optor	3,4-dichloro-N-[[1- (dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]methyl]benzamide		C16H22Cl2N2O	329.27	126	127	173	10.31	<u>show</u>	JMZROFPPEXCTST- UHFFFAOYSA-N	collected	Sample was kindly provided by Foresic Science Institute Zurich, Switzerland (NMR confirmed)	2016-01-15		
Opioids	4F-BF	3000	1-((4-fluorophenyl)(1-phenethylpiperidin- 4-yl)amino)butan-1-one	4F-BF/4-fluoro- butyrfentanyl	C23H29FN2O	368.49	277	164	207	11.29	<u>show</u>	QZFMCYUBPSLOBP- UHFFFAOYSA-N	test	DUIRE BY GC HPLC			
Dpioids	VALERYLFENTANYL	2000	N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin- 4-yl]pentanamide		C24H32N2O	364.52	273	146	189		show	VCCPXHWAJYWQMR- UHFFFAOYSA-N	ana NEL	Vodovodna 75 T: +366 (0) 1 428 4 1000 Ljuhijima E militarolo			
Opioids	<u>W-15</u>	-018 <sup>0</sup>	4-chloro-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)- 2-piperidinylidene]-benzenesulfonamide		C19H21CIN2O25	376.90	207	104	111	15.84	<u>show</u>	VJHXSSVOCOBVMI- UHFFFAOYSA-N	Sample ID: COLLI Sample des Sample type Date of sam Date of ent database	N.(4-methoxyphenyl           ther NP5 detected: none           ription:         powder-ye           c         test public           pie receipt (M/D/Y):         9/2/2015           y(M/D/Y) into NPL         9/2/2015	eU-BP (C24H32N2U2) -N-(1-phenethylpiperidin Iowish (gently) e /RESPONSE -purchasing	4-yt)butyramide	
ble updated 6 hits	8 of 8 entries (filtered from 3 22.03.2016	,			III	·							sportuget guidance h Substance i structure <sup>2</sup> (	ientified-		web/serrem.php	
'he a	analytical	result	s are published	on the									Systematic Other name	ame N-(4-metho	yphenyl)-N-(1-phenethylpipe	ridin-4-yf]butyramide	
CCI	OMCE	h nog	<b>.</b> .										Formula (pe	base form) C24H32N2O2			
LC3	ONSE we	eu page											M <sub>a</sub> (g/mol)				
		1 0		,									Salt form				
ttp:/	/www.polici	ja.si/app	s/nfl_response_web,	/seznam.	.php								StdlinChiKey	FNVSEQCPM0KWQKG-UHFFFA0YSA-N			
												Compound					
าว	cearchah	lo tahla	form containir	ng ndf									Other NPS of				
in a searchable table form containing pdf monographs. The table enables filtering data.												Add.info (pr	rity.) pure by GC,	HPLC			

The page is regularly updated.

## **Conclusions and thoughts**

□ New syntehtic opioids are inexpensive and easly available through Internet

□ Online shop information does not always correspond to the offered substance: incomplete or wrong names, structures and formulas, wrong salts

□ The test purchases performed in the frame of the RESPONSE project so far, show that:

- In drugs users can never be sure of what they get when buying from internet vendors.
- ➤ the rate of the "false advertised" compounds is at approximately 20% 30%.
- > this poses a serious health risks for the population of NPS users

□ Activities which can rise the awareness are welcomed and should be enhanced at all levels (national and international EWS stakeholders are the key actors).

□One of the options with regard to harm reduction are also enhanced activity and capacities for the support of "anonymous testing" of samples provided by users (as for example already existing WEDINOS project).

Our impression is that the internet market is still growing.

China ban of 116 substances was a bit "disturbing" but the supplying chain was not seriously "endangered".

□What to expect with regard to "UK's Psychoactive Substances Act 2016"? Reduced supply or just movement of the web vendors to new locations?

#### Acknowledgements

#### To partners and associate partners

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (FKKT), Slovenia Ministry of the Interior, National Forensic Institute (INPS), France Hungarian Institute for Forensic Sciences (HIFS), Hungary National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (INCC), Belgium Institut for Foresic Medicine, Aarhus (UNI Aarhus), Denmark University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health (UNI CPHG), Department of Forensic Medicine, Denmark Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, Forensic Science Centre (MUP RH), Croatia

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Portugal Forensic Science Lab, Dublin (FSL), R Ireland Forensic Science and Toxicology Lab, State General Laboratory, Ministry of Health (FSTL), Cyprus Judiciary Police, Scientific Police Laboratory (SPL), Portugal National Investigation Service Norway (KRIPOS), Norway National Institute for Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenija University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Toxicology (UNI LJ FM DT), Slovenia Association DrogArt (DrogArt), Slovenia

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Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union





