

# I-SEE project

for strenghtening information exchange between  
**I**taly and **S**outh **E**ast **E**urope  
neighbouring countries on  
New Psychoactive Substances

**Project coordinator: Elisabetta Bertol**

Coordinator



Department of Health Science

Beneficiary partners



Ministry of Interior  
Republic of  
Slovenia



# MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen information exchange between Italy and South East Europe neighbouring countries on NPS
- To support the development and consolidation of national EWS networks
- To create a joint mechanism for information and good practice exchange and mutual learning
- To increase information flow towards Law Enforcement and health personnel to strengthen early identification and interception of NPS supply and demand

# PARTNERS & WORKSTREAMS

WS	Description		Partner
0	Management and coordination		UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE
1	Building up network with Law Enforcement, NGOs and health sector		National Institute of Public Health Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve <b>Policija</b> National Forensic Laboratory and Criminal Police Directorate <b>DrogArt</b>
2	Building up clinical network		UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
3	Developing tools for strengthening NPS information exchange and identification		UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE
4	Evaluation of the project and dissemination and communication of results		UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE

# WS0: ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

- Participation to the kick off meeting organized by the European Commission (*Brussels, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015*)
- Organization of 2 technical meetings with partners to organize project activities (*webconference February 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 and Ljubljana January 25<sup>th</sup> 2016*)



- Draft and subscription of a Partnership Agreement among partners to rule partners' relationships and mutual obligations
- Reporting to the EC (financial and activity report)
- Management of project funding

# WS 0: ORGANIZATION OF STUDY VISIT TO ITALY

- 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December 2015
- Visited institutions:
  - University of Florence, Forensic Toxicology Unit (Florence)
  - University of Florence, Medical Toxicology Unit (Florence)
  - Poison Control Center (Pavia)
  - S. Matteo Hospital lab (Pavia)
  - Carabinieri Research Investigation Unit (Rome)
  - Central Directorate for Antidrug Services (Rome)



# WS 3: PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF REFERENCE MATERIAL (RF)

- The University of Florence acquired and distributed to partners more than 50 reference materials (certified analytical standard)
- From partners, acquisition of:
  - authorization to import scheduled substances, signed by national Ministry of Health
  - possession and use license for scheduled substances



# CONSEQUENCES OF RF DISTRIBUTION

- increasing the analytical capacity of laboratories
- reducing the time to identify NPS in analyzed samples
- providing faster responses to Law Enforcement, with respect to seized product composition (IT and SLO)
- providing information to health personnel for a right diagnosis in intoxication cases by NPS (IT and CRO)






## WS 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Drafting of an evaluation plan regarding activities performed and partners satisfaction



## WS 4: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- Writing a dissemination and communication plan
- Organizing 3 press conferences:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in Split (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015) 
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ljubljana (February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016) 
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> in Florence** (December 16<sup>th</sup> 2016) 



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## I-SEE



Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against  
Crime Programme of the European Union  
JUST/2013/ISEC/DRUGS/AG/6426

online services

for strengthening information exchange between Italy and South East Europe neighboring countries on New Psychoactive Substances

### Objective

Granted by the Prevention and Fight against Crime Program of the European Commission, the main objective of the I-SEE project, which involves the National Early Warning Systems (EWS) networks of Italy, Republic of Slovenia and Republic of Croatia, is to strengthen information exchange on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) between Italy and South East Europe neighbouring countries, where drug smuggling is easy due to the right of free movement of persons and goods into EU territory. The project intends to ease Law Enforcement activities and cooperation both within countries and among participating countries by means of the valorization of national EWS experiences and good practice exchange.

### Partners involved

Coordinator	University of Florence – Department of Health Sciences (IT)
Beneficiary partners	University of Split School of Medicine – Department of Forensic Science (CRO) National Institute of Public Health (SLO) Ministry of Interior Police (SLO) Association DrogArt (SLO)

**Kick off meeting  
Brussels (Belgium)**

[Agenda](#)  
[Presentation 1](#)  
[Presentation 2](#)  
[Presentation 3](#)  
[Presentation 4](#)

# NPS DETECTION ACTIVITY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY UNIT

Seized material (about 600 seizures) was positive for traditional drugs (cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines and amphetamin-like, heroin, pharmaceutical drugs...)

NPS detected:

- **3-MMC**
- **Penthedrone**
- **Penthedrone + 3-MMC**
- **4-FA**
- **Methoxethamine**
- **AB-FUBINACA** (2016)
- **5-MAPB** (2016)



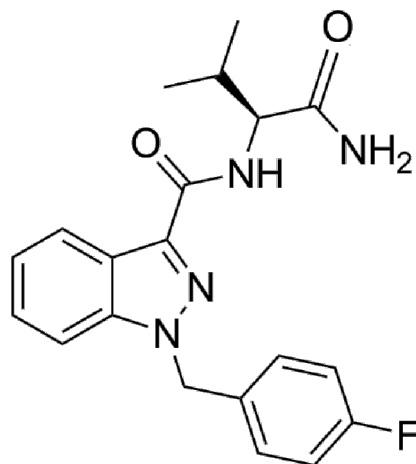
# NPS DETECTION ACTIVITY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY UNIT

*In vivo* (biological samples):

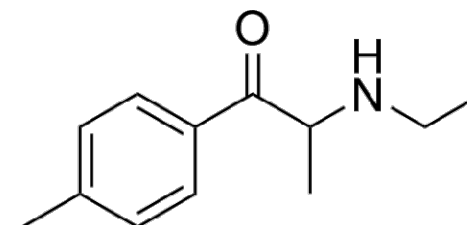
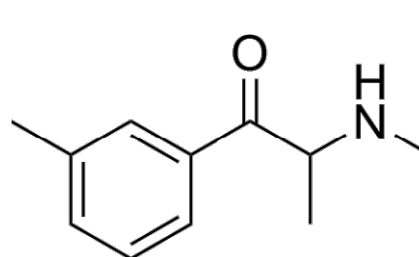
- **JWH-073**
- **MDPV**
- **AM-694**
- **Mephedrone**
- **3-MMC + 4-MEC** (2016)
- **AB-FUBINACA** (2016)

# NPS DETECTION ACTIVITY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY UNIT in 2016

- **AB-FUBINACA**

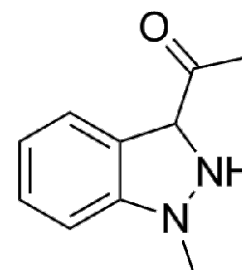
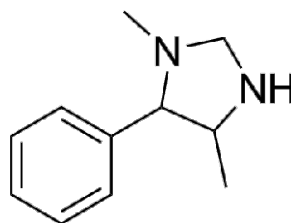
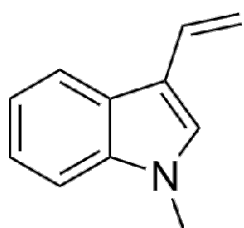
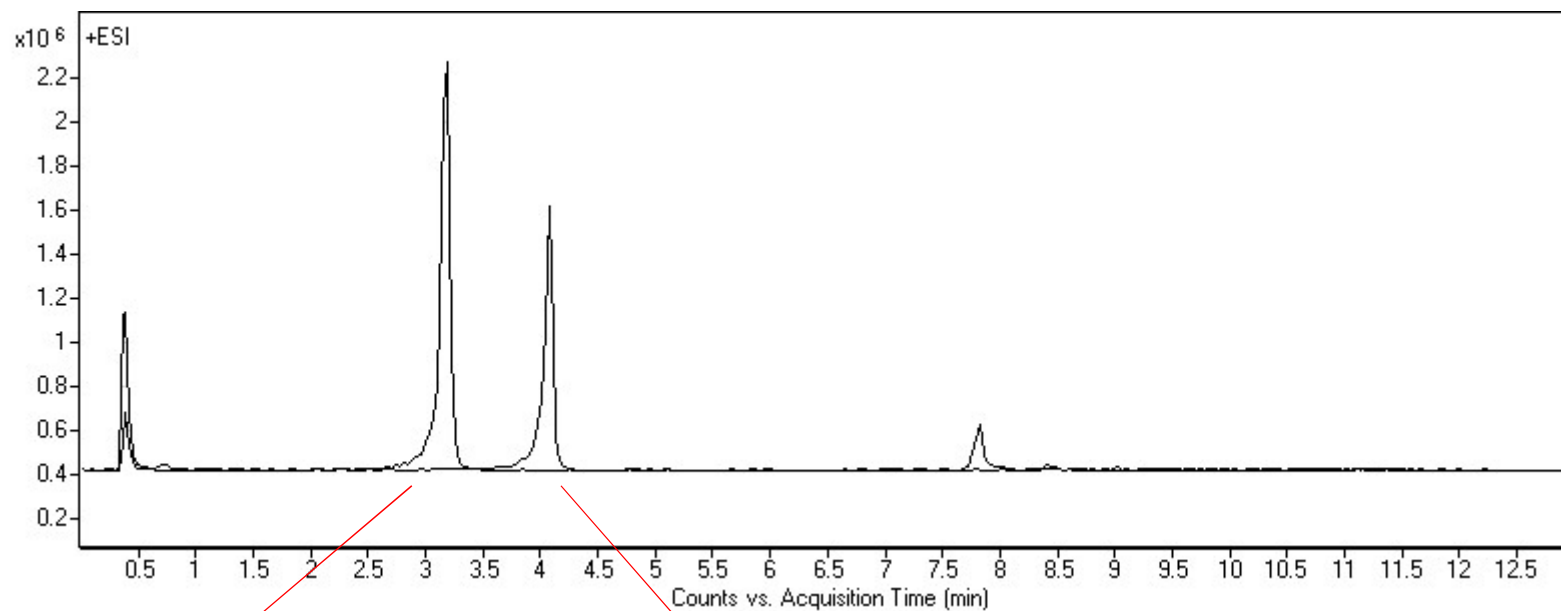


- **3-MMC + 4-MEC**



Detected and quantified in urine and blood samples of intoxication cases

# NEW UNKNOWN COMPOUNDS...



- Further analysis ( $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ , HRMS) will soon be performed...

# NEW UNKNOWN COMPOUNDS...

## Hypothesis

1. Interrupted synthesis → found out by Law Enforcement in illegal lab?
2. Uncompleted synthesis → chemical reaction not completed?

# CONCLUSIONS

**Analytical activities promoted by this project allowed to detect the previously described substances, both in seized materials and in biological samples.**

**But,**

the still low number of documented NPS cases in biological fluids is **only due to:**

- **lack of routine analytical protocols** to search these substances
- **difficulties encountered by laws enforcement in identifying and seizing them**

**and not** because they are not present among the population