

# NATIONAL DRUG HEADQUARTERS

## Annual Report 2009



Pomáhat a chránit



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# 1. Introduction

In keeping with its mission of a national police unit responsible for law enforcement in the field of illegal handling of narcotic, psychotropic and toxic substances in the Czech Republic, the National Drug Headquarters of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic is also a centre of collection of criminal-law data on such activities. It is at the same time the guarantor of this type of data within the framework of the international net of National Focal Points, associated in the European REITOX network through the Czech National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

The present Annual Report 2009 of the Police of the Czech Republic National Drug Headquarters of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service (PCR NDH CPIS) maps crucial developmental trends in the illegal production and trade in narcotic, psychotropic and toxic substances in the Czech Republic, including specific regional aspects. Within the international context of really open Europe, it describes the activities of individual crime groups involved in the illegal production and trade in drugs and endeavours to predict the main risks associated with the possible future development of the Czech drug scene. The Annual Report comes complete with statistical and casuistry data to support the described situation.

Massive illegal production of methamphetamine in domestic "kitchen" laboratories remains a most serious problem in the Czech Republic. This is closely associated with the problem of availability of over-the-counter medicines with pseudoephedrine in the Czech Republic and the neighbouring countries except for Austria. An alarming phenomenon is the steady upward trend of industrial cultivation of cannabis by means of "indoor" methods, with frequent harvests and the THC psychoactive substance content of 15-20%. This type of criminal activity possesses a classic criminal essence; production more than saturates the home market and the number of cases of exporting marijuana to neighbouring countries is growing. The organized import of heroin from West Balkan countries to the Czech Republic, whose quality has been decreasing over years, remains a traditional, persistent problem. A similar situation prevails in the case of cocaine, whose popularity is rising due to increased availability and more favourable price, mostly paid for by its massive dilution by various often hazardous substances. The availability of synthetic drug tablets with the MDMA psychoactive substance has been dramatically reduced; by contrast, the incidence of pills containing piperazine, which has yet to be added to the Czech list of prohibited substances. From the angle of law enforcement, prosecution of drug-related crimes prevails over crimes associated with the possession of drugs for personal use by the percentual ratio 87/13. The standard of law enforcement in the field of drug-related misdemeanors is very low in comparison with other European countries; this significantly helps increase the subjectively perceived availability of some types of drugs and encourages disrespect for the law and mandatory standards.

The development of drug-related crime, i.e. the number of drug offences and prosecuted persons, is determined by the numbers of forces and means deployed to enforce law, and in view of the high level of illegal substance abuse in the Czech Republic and the latent characteristic of this phenomenon, we are working with statistics with a very limited telltale value regarding the essence and scope of the Czech Republic's drug problems.

Jakub FRYDRYCH,  
Director

## 2. Executive summary

In 2009 the previous year's trend of growing popularity of cocaine was corroborated by the Czech drug scene. Demand for this drug is increasing and so are the quantities of cocaine smuggled into the Czech Republic. At the same time its market price decreased and its availability to a wider circle of potential customers increased.

Marijuana is currently the most readily available drug in the Czech Republic, and the availability of methamphetamine (pervitin) has long been broad, too. Traditionally, the highest number of interceptions was reported in connection with the two drugs (see the chapter on statistical data). Domestic cultivation of high-THC marijuana has been growing; cannabis plants are produced in indoor facilities, increasingly in large quantities. The amount of intercepted marijuana has increased above the past figures and so has the number of detected indoor facilities and confiscated cannabis plants.

The volume of intercepted methamphetamine was smaller than in the previous years, nevertheless many home labs were discovered and large quantities of methamphetamine precursors were seized. The sale of over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine in pharmacies was restricted in the period from May to September 2009; in this connection an increase was recorded in individually imported medicines from neighbouring countries. The prices of most drugs remain stable according to the available data (see Chapter 6); the average potency of marijuana increased and the average purity of cocaine decreased year on year.

Alarming facts are provided by the international comparative study of ESPAD<sup>1</sup>, indicating that the Czech Republic ranks in the European context among the countries with the highest prevalence of use of most drugs under surveillance except for volatile substances, with 45% of 16-year-olds known to have had experience with drugs, according to the study<sup>2</sup>.

In connection with drug abuse and drug-related crime the problem of secondary drug-related crime should be mentioned. Drug-related crimes are committed above all by problem drug users in an effort to gain money to buy narcotics and psychotropic substances (NPS).

Responsibility for the formulation and implementation of national drug enforcement policies rests with the Government of the Czech Republic. Its chief advisory body is the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination (hereinafter the "Council"). "National Drug Policy Strategy 2005-2009" and "Action Plan of National Drug Policy Strategy 2007-2009" continued to be the basic documents sanctioning the implementation of the government's drug policy in 2009. In late 2009 the Secretariat of the Council started to prepare the backgrounds of the "National Drug Policy Strategy 2010-2018". National Drug Headquarters delegates participated in formulating this strategic material in several working groups of the Council.

The Czech Republic held the rotating EU presidency in the first half of 2009; therefore the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination discussed a series of documents on the preparation and discharge of EU presidency and its Secretariat provided guidance to the European Union Horizontal Working Party on Drugs.

A new penal code was passed in early 2009 and published in the Collection of Laws as Act 40/2009, Coll., Penal Code, effective from 1 January 2010. The new penal code

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<sup>1</sup> European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs

<sup>2</sup> Source: Annual Report on Czech Drug Situation in 2008; National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Secretariat of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination

ushers important changes into the handling of illegal drugs. Lower penal rates than before shall be applied to persons holding larger than small amounts of cannabis drugs. Radical change comes in the form of a new provision concerning the illegal growing of plants containing a narcotic or psychotropic substance: the cultivation of certain plants or mushrooms for personal consumption will carry milder penalties and the growing of a small amount of plants or mushrooms will not be prosecuted under the penal code but rather the misdemeanors act. Pursuant to the act on medicines the over-the-counter sale of medical drugs containing less than 30 mg of pseudoephedrine per tablet without a prescription has been limited by the ban on mail order sale, setting the maximum monthly dose of 1,800 mg of pseudoephedrine (i.e. 60 tablets per 30 mg) per one person and introducing dispensary control procedures in the central electronic recipe storage point. The Office for Personal Data Protection described this as a measure transcending the legal framework and this policy was subsequently abandoned in October 2009.

### **3. Description and development of drug-related crime in 2009**

#### **3.1. Methamphetamine (pervitin)**

Methamphetamine can be considered a "domestic" drug. It was first synthesized in Japan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was mass-produced in wartime Germany. Methamphetamine reached the national scene at the turn of the 1970s/1980s and is still illegally produced today.

In 2009, almost 99 percent of methamphetamine was produced from pseudoephedrine extracted from over-the-counter (OTC) drugs (Modafen, Nurofen). Sporadic cases of production from ephedrine were reported. In the aftermath of changes, introduced in May 2009 into the sale of pseudoephedrine-containing OTC drugs and reducing the maximum permitted amount of tablets to 60 per person per month (and introducing evidence of buyers to reduce repeat sale to one and the same customer), an increase in the import of these pharmaceuticals from the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland was recorded. Methamphetamine producers bought large quantities of these drugs abroad to maximize their profits. After the Office for Personal Data Protection described customer data collection (conducted as part of the above-mentioned restriction of sale of pseudoephedrine-containing drugs) as unlawful, the controls on the sale of these drugs were lifted in October 2009. Methamphetamine producers redirected their attention to Czech pharmacies and bought most of their pervitin precursors on the domestic market. As a result, the amount of pseudoephedrine-containing drugs sold increased again. This corroborated the fact that most of the pseudoephedrine-containing drugs sold in the Czech Republic are misused for the production of methamphetamine. However, pervitin producers never quite abandoned foreign sources and some of them still buy pseudoephedrine-containing drugs<sup>3</sup> for multiple reasons. Firstly, these drugs are often available abroad not only in pharmacies

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<sup>3</sup> Sudafed, Acatar, Disophrol, Zyrtec-D

but also at chemist's or petrol stations (Poland), second, they are cheaper than in the Czech Republic and thus more economical when purchased in large batches and third, the pseudoephedrine contents of pills are not only 30 mg but also 60 mg and even 120 mg! (Permitted maximum amount of pseudoephedrine per pill is 30 mg in the Czech Republic.)

NDH has launched, in cooperation with the Czech Chamber of Pharmacists, a crime-prevention project under the keynote "I don't support drug production". Pharmacists and pharmacy owners and operators were asked to take a uniform position on the sale of pseudoephedrine-containing medicines in order to prevent their sale to obvious producers of pervitin. Pharmacists and pharmacy owners and operators were also asked to publicly declare their position by distributing publicity materials. It is safe to say that most pharmacists duly recognize the fact that a customer on the market for larger amounts of medicines containing pseudoephedrine probably intends to misuse them for the production of methamphetamine. Some pharmacy employees refuse to sell larger amounts of these drugs per custom and thus to encourage methamphetamine production. This is also a reason why Czech methamphetamine producers buy drugs abroad.

Small methamphetamine home labs are cropping up; their output is intended both for the saturation of the domestic market and for export. A typical lab is operated by a small team, whose individual members pursue precise tasks. One of them produces methamphetamine, another one procures medicines, and then there is somebody to sell the final product. As a rule, all of them are addicted to this drug. "Drug tourists" from abroad, mostly Germans and Austrians but sometimes also Slovaks, also visit the Czech Republic to buy methamphetamine. They either consume methamphetamine where they have bought it in Czech territory or take it with them. Czech-produced methamphetamine is sometimes exported, usually to Germany but a case of exporting methamphetamine to the United Kingdom has been registered. Poland is an exception among the neighbouring countries; methamphetamine is not exported there as its production is quite widespread in that country. Methamphetamine in the form of crystals is preferred abroad, as it is considered purer than crystalline powder methamphetamine.

The purity of Czech-produced methamphetamine is fairly high, between 70 and 80 percent. It is produced exclusively by Czechs but methamphetamine production instructions in Vietnamese have also been seized. Czechs sell methamphetamine in the streets, while Ukrainians smuggle it to Ukraine. Vietnamese nationals also sell methamphetamine, albeit often in addition to their other illicit activities. Roma also distribute methamphetamine, especially to members of their community.

The incidence of methamphetamine is not limited to the Czech Republic. In Europe the drug is traded in the United Kingdom and of late also in the Scandinavian countries, in considerable extent. Methamphetamine most likely reaches Scandinavia from Lithuania, where it is produced.<sup>4</sup> Most of the methamphetamine distributed in the United States originates in Mexico, where its production and trade is controlled by feuding drug cartels. Interpol findings point to large quantities of ephedrine distributed in the states along the West African coast. This ephedrine most likely comes from China and is intended for the production of methamphetamine.

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<sup>4</sup> In Lithuania, pervitin is produced by means of lithium, unlike in the Czech Republic, where iodine and red phosphorus are used (the "Czech way" is actually a modification of the Nagai way of producing pervitin – Japan 1880).

## Security risks and development outlook - methamphetamine

Czech pervitin producers (called "cooks") profit from the good availability of precursors and auxiliary substances. In the Czech Republic, the overwhelming majority of pervitin is produced from pseudoephedrine extracted from over-the-counter medicines. Until their sale is restricted the availability of methamphetamine precursors to the producers will remain good. The impact of limiting free distribution of these medicines was demonstrated by the policy implemented from May to September 2009, when the lack of methamphetamine made producers buy large quantities of pseudoephedrine-containing drugs abroad. It should be noted that without restricting the sale of these OTC drugs throughout the Central European region and the whole European Union it will not be possible to completely prevent producers from accessing pseudoephedrine. It is therefore to coordinate restriction of the sale of medicines containing pseudoephedrine in all European states.

Another way to restrict pseudoephedrine production in the Czech Republic is to reduce the availability of chemical substances such as red phosphorus, iodine, phosphoric acid and hydrochloric acid. All these substances are necessary to produce methamphetamine "the Czech way". It is to be assumed that if access to some of these substances is denied, producers will find another method of producing methamphetamine (e.g. without red phosphorus in the "Moscow way" or with the help of lithium). However, as either more complex chemical process is involved or some substances required by these variants are not available, a reduction in the production of methamphetamine on the domestic drug scene can be expected. scéně.

### 3.2. Heroin (opiates)

Over the past few years, a decline in heroin popularity has been recorded among drug users. This could be ascribed to high mortality among long-term heroin users as well as to the fact that unlike the previous generation of young people and potential users of drugs including heroin, the present generation is discouraged by the warning example of long-term heroin users. Young people inclined to test or use drugs today rather avoid heroin.

Heroin reaches Czech territory in amounts not exceeding 10 kg per shipment. The Czech Republic is both a target and transit country. Heroin is shipped across Czech territory via the "Balkan route" to Western Europe. The import and distribution of heroin in the Czech Republic is organized mainly by Albanian-speaking criminal groups; lower-level distribution is carried out also by Roma and Vietnamese groups. Couriers are recruited mainly among the citizens of Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Heroin of mostly Turkish provenience<sup>5</sup>, of up to 90 percent purity, is transported across Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and elsewhere. Criminal gangs trade heroin between themselves, the drug gets diluted and its quality worsens. As a result, the purity of street heroin traded in the Czech Republic is usually between five and 10 percent. Heroin is

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<sup>5</sup> Opium, the source raw material for heroin production, originates exclusively in Afghanistan.

most frequently diluted with a paracetamol and caffeine mix that dealers trade in on the illegal market. The street price of one kilogram of the "diluted mix" is around CZK 15,000. Among the other substances used to dilute heroin are anesthetics (procaine or mesocaine). Strongly diluted heroin of inferior quality, or even faked heroin have lately appeared on the street. Poor-quality heroin is sold by some heroin users in order to gain money for the satisfaction of their personal needs.

In some cases recorded in Czech territory, especially ethnic Albanians have imported highly concentrated pressed heroin, diluted the drug to twice or three times its original volume, pressed the product again and re-exported the drug to West European countries. A special mechanical device is used for pressing heroin batches.

The National Drug Headquarters has launched a dedicated project, codenamed "Reliéf" (see 5.1.1.1.), involving a European database of criminological-mechanoscopic traces found in pressed drug shipments.

### **Security risks and development outlook - heroin**

Demand for heroin among its users in the Czech Republic is expected to further stagnate. Therefore we are not expecting an increase in the number of heroin users. Although the Czech Republic is a target country and the amount of heroin supplied will continue to satisfy domestic demand, far larger amounts of imported heroin (pure and diluted) will continue to be shipped to Western Europe.

### **Security risks and development outlook - opiates**

Mention should be made of the problem of Subutex<sup>®</sup>, as this preparation, intended to cure opiate addiction, is abused by drug users. Subutex<sup>®</sup>, intended for oral (sublingual) application, is crushed, diluted and applied intravenously. The Central Register of Substitution Substance Users should have prevented multiple Subutex<sup>®</sup> prescriptions; however, this is not happening due to its lack of functionality. Users often trade doctor-prescribed Subutex<sup>®</sup> on the illegal market. A remedy is seen in prevention consisting in consistent prescription of Subutex<sup>®</sup> or alternative treatment, e.g. by means of Subuxon<sup>®</sup>.

## **3.3. Marijuana**

In 2009 the number of cases of detected indoor cannabis sativa growing facilities continued to increase. Cannabis growers utilize miscellaneous facilities for the purpose. They rent family houses, warehouses, agricultural buildings and various other premises (halls, barns, disused industrial buildings and production halls, greenhouses and also prefab apartments). Would-be cannabis growing facilities receive structural modifications that often render them useless for any other purposes. Aluminium foil is applied to walls and ceilings to enhance the heat generated by powerful fluorescent lamps. A single indoor space may contain hundreds of cannabis plants. Every plant is watered in its individual flowerpot by a system supplying water and nutrient solutions.

The lights are switched on and off in certain intervals to ensure that the plants mature to their florescent stage (best time for harvest due to high THC<sup>6</sup> content in flowers) three times faster than in standard outdoor conditions. The THC content in hydroponically grown plants may be as high as 20 percent!

In this way, as many as three cannabis plant harvests may be reaped within a single normal vegetative period. The acquisition costs of an indoor growing facility (construction works, light sources, irrigation systems, seedlings, fertilizer etc.) are covered by the profit from the sale of the first "harvest". The revenue from subsequent cannabis harvests are pocketed by the growers. Profits from the sale of cannabis (marijuana) grown in this way are quite enormous. In the Czech Republic, one kilogram of dried marijuana sells for about CZK 60,000, but this quantity may fetch up to EUR 4,000 abroad!

This cannabis-growing method is mainly practiced, in the Czech Republic, by Vietnamese nationals (up to 80%), the remaining business is done by Czechs. Most of the Vietnamese nationals involved have until recently engaged in other types of criminal activity, notably the manufacture of counterfeit cigarettes, forgery of official stamps, etc. The growers' hierarchy is quite specific. Growing facilities are manned by "second-rate" Vietnamese growers – mostly illegal aliens or persons wanted (even in other European countries) for other criminal activities, who often do not speak Czech. These "workers" stay in the growing facility for the duration of the vegetative period of the cannabis plants, often for several consecutive growing cycles. In addition to watering and tending for the crops they also act as protective guards. This is to ensure supervision of the vegetative cycle as well as to prevent theft of plants or entire harvests by rival groups of growers and dealers.

The "workers" are visited by other Vietnamese nationals, who supply them with seedlings, fertilizer and food. Other Vietnamese collect the harvest from the growing facilities and distribute the crops, while still others finance and control the whole operation. All these groups usually do not know one another; or rather the "workers" certainly do not know the organizers of the growing business. From the police vantage point it is very difficult to properly document the hierarchy of a raided cannabis growing facility, to uncover its organization and to prosecute either individual criminals or, in the best case, prosecute all of them as one organized group.

Plants in the growing facility are always divided to batches of several hundred specimens in various stages of the vegetative period, so that some plants are always ripe for harvesting to produce marijuana. This arrangement ensures continuous supply of marijuana for distribution in all seasons of the year. Small amounts of marijuana grown and produced by indoor growing facilities in the Czech Republic are sold in the country, but most of the product is exported, especially to Germany, The Netherlands and Great Britain. Paradoxically then, a prospective Czech buyer travels to The Netherlands to purchase quality marijuana only to find out that he has actually bought a product originating in the Czech Republic. There is also some evidence about Russians organizing the export of Czech-produced marijuana to Russia.

There are a few other risks associated with indoor cannabis growing facilities. As indicated above, the process requires high-intensity illumination (which is costly) and offenders very frequently fashion illegal hook-ups to the public power supply networks. This exposes local residents to the risk of fire or electrocution. High humidity and temperature, required for the cannabis to grow, render thus misused indoor facilities

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<sup>6</sup> Δ 9 tetrahydrocannabinol – major psychoactive chemical compound in marijuana

inhabitable. Unless the property is reconstructed at high cost, its market price is quickly sent plummeting.

NDH has launched a crime prevention project under the keynote "STOP indoor cannabis growing facilities", distributing informative letters inviting the citizens of a selected region with the highest incidence of illegal indoor cannabis growing houses (Cheb region) to work with the police to discover these facilities. NDH has also offered cooperation to town halls and municipalities (with extended powers) in detecting indoor cannabis growing facilities. The outcomes of the project will be evaluated in the course of 2010.

## **Security risks and development outlook - marijuana**

It is to be expected that the number of illegal indoor cannabis growing facilities in the Czech Republic will not decrease. Marijuana is a very profitable commodity. Steep profits in combination with minimal costs are sufficiently motivating for the growers to carry on their business on a large scale. From the police vantage point, the effort to detect illegal indoor growing facilities has been successful. This is thanks largely to interaction with utility companies, which are often the first to detect suspicious circumstances (e.g. inadequately high electric power consumption at a metering point or large-scale leaks from the power distribution grid on one site). NDH expects the "STOP indoor cannabis growing facilities" project to yield information discouraging property owners from letting premises for dubious purposes and to encourage citizens to inform the police about dangerous sites.

The situation of "smalltime" cannabis growers (with only several cannabis plants) will also change. The new penal code<sup>7</sup> introduces penalties for "unauthorized cultivation of plants containing NPS<sup>8</sup>" (Section 285 paragraph 1, Act no. 40/2009 Coll.), prohibiting cultivation of cannabis plants for personal use in larger than small quantity. Until the coming into effect of an amendment to the act, growing was considered the crime of illegal possession. It could be assumed that most small-scale growers will grow their cannabis precisely in small quantities, but this will be considered an offence anyway (under Act no. 200/1990 Coll., on Offences). However, if they dry and prepare for consumption (i.e. produce) this "offence-grade" quantity of cannabis, they will have committed a criminal act under the provision of Section 283 paragraph 1 of Act no. 40/2009 Coll. (Penal Code), consisting in unauthorized production of NPS. This includes also cases of producing a smaller than small amount in the effort to escape criminal liability for a crime under the provision of Section 284 paragraph 1 of Act no. 40/2009 Coll. (Penal Code), consisting in unauthorized possession of the narcotic substance cannabis (THC) in a larger than small quantity.

It can be assumed in light of the above facts that most small-scale growers, who cultivate cannabis for the purpose of producing marijuana (usually for personal use only) will not risk prosecution, cease to grow cannabis and buy their marijuana on the illegal market. However, they will always buy small quantities so as to possibly assume responsibility for an offence, but not a criminal act.

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<sup>7</sup> Penal Code – Act no. 40/2009 Coll.

<sup>8</sup> NPS – narcotic or psychotropic substance under Act no. 167/1998 Coll.(on Dependency-producing substances)

### 3.4. Cocaine

The popularity of cocaine among drug users has increased in the past two or three years and as the trend continues, we consider it alarming! Cocaine has ceased to be the prerogative of "high society" users and become popular among the broader clientele, i.e. the users of common drugs. The price of cocaine on the illegal market has dropped to around CZK 1,500 per gram and the drug has become more affordable for a greater number of users, including even less well-to-do young people.

The falling prices of cocaine should be ascribed to the dealers' effort to make it more affordable for a broader circle of users, as well as to increase the competitiveness of cocaine against methamphetamine.<sup>9</sup> The falling price also has to do with the global overproduction of cocaine.

Concerning the ethnics organizing the import and distribution of cocaine in the territory of the Czech Republic, the West Africans are chief among these. Thus, tens of millions of Nigerians live in diaspora. This provides for good connectivity with Nigerians and their international activities. Nigerians in the Czech Republic usually employ couriers among other Africans, or even Czechs. They import cocaine mainly from West European countries (The Netherlands, Great Britain, Spain and France). The couriers often smuggle cocaine in cars, buses, and to a lesser degree also by air. Individual consignments smuggled by the couriers are between one and three kilograms of the drug. The reason why cocaine is not smuggled to the Czech Republic in greater batches of tens of kilograms at a time is that cocaine purchased abroad must be paid for and have customers. The Czech Republic is too small to absorb greater amounts of cocaine.

Cocaine is produced in South American countries, from where the bulk of it is smuggled to North America and further on to Europe, which it reaches mainly by ships (often concealed in elaborate hidden consignments)<sup>10</sup> calling at big European ports (Spain, France or The Netherlands) or by planes landing at international airports. New cocaine-smuggling routes to Europe have been recorded as well – from South America through East Africa and the Balkan countries (Romania, Bulgaria). Cocaine purity often depends on the smuggling route. In the country of origin the cocaine mix traded contains up to around 90 percent of pure cocaine<sup>11</sup>, 50 percent in The Netherlands, and around 10 percent in street-sold cocaine in the Czech Republic. Cocaine is frequently diluted with phenacetin (a derivative of the medicine paracetamol) or levamisole (a veterinary preparation to treat worm infestations in farm animals).

Street distribution of cocaine in the Czech Republic is controlled mainly by Nigerians and other West Africans, chiefly operating in central Prague and its nightclubs. However, Czech citizens are also involved in the street distribution of this drug.

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<sup>9</sup> Cocaine and pervitin are stimulant drugs with very similar effects on human psyche. Some users prefer pervitin because of its allegedly more intensive and longer-lasting effects. Until recently a gram of pervitin sold for half the price of cocaine and it was more readily available, since it was domestically produced. Due to this, pervitin more or less had no competitors.

<sup>10</sup> In some registered cases cocaine was pressed into semi products resembling plastics or diluted and soaked into textiles to be re-extracted upon reaching its final destination, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Cocaine hydrochlorid base

## Security risks and development outlook - cocaine

As noted above, the price of cocaine on the Czech illegal narcotics market has dramatically decreased and cocaine has become more readily available to the less affluent clientele, including young people without stable incomes. Young people are especially perceptible to the risk of developing addiction to narcotic and psychotropic substances, cocaine notwithstanding. Global overproduction and increasing possibility of acquiring cocaine, together with the growing availability of the drug on the street, incur a growing risk for those potential users that are not actively seeking experience with this illegal drug but are being offered it nevertheless.

### 3.5. Ecstasy (amphetamines)

Amphetamine drugs such as ecstasy (tablets most often contain MDMA – 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine or some other derivate of PEA – phenethylamine) are abused in the Czech Republic especially in connection with musical productions. They are used at open-air festivals, in music clubs and at dance music concerts and shows. Typical users of these drugs are young people around 20. They are not problematic users; they do not apply drugs intravenously or commit secondary drug-related crimes. They buy their drugs from legal earnings (temporary jobs, pocket money from parents etc.).

Ecstasy is not produced in the territory of the Czech Republic, or at least we had no information about its domestic production in 2009. It is imported to the Czech Republic mainly from The Netherlands but also Poland and Slovakia (where it was previously imported from Poland or The Netherlands). As a rule, import and distribution is individual, often utilizing public transport means (trains, buses, planes), and ecstasy tablets are imported in batches from tens to hundreds of doses). The imported drug is further distributed mostly at musical events.

There have been cases of distributing fake ecstasy. Dealers sell compressed tablets without MDMA or similar substances. Usually they mix commonly available substances and medicines (paracetamol, diazepam, caffeine and ibuprofen), compress them into tablets and sell them as ecstasy. "Dummy" tablets are sometimes imported from abroad and unwittingly sold as ecstasy.

The past few years have seen more widespread trade in ecstasy tablets containing piperazine<sup>12</sup> (sometimes called "rainbow pills" due to their colourful appearance). Piperazine is not included in the list of banned substances enclosed to Act no. 167/1998 Coll. (On dependency-producing substances), and although its effects on human psyche are similar to MDMA, its distribution is not criminal. It is safe to say that the amount of mCPP ecstasy distributed in the Czech Republic significantly exceeds that of the "classic" ecstasy (MDMA).

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<sup>12</sup> Piperazine – chemically 1-3-chlorophenyl piperazine (mCPP)

## **Security risks and development outlook – ecstasy, amphetamines**

No significant turn in this field should be expected in the future. As long as there is demand for ecstasy, illegal import will continue. In view of the characteristic of a typical ecstasy user, an increase in secondary drug criminality is not expected, either.

Attempts have been repeatedly made to put piperazine on the list of banned substances (under the dependency-producing substances act). If it happens, the distribution of tablets containing the substance will be prosecuted analogously to the distribution of other ecstasy tablets.

In connection with the above-mentioned amphetamine drugs it is necessary to state the following: Tolerance for the use of this type of drugs by young people is currently very high and the risks associated with their use is being played down. As these substances have a relatively short history of use, their effects have not yet been fully verified and their impact on the human body, especially the central nervous system (CNS) has yet to be discerned. Consequently, the manifestations of their long-term future use cannot be defined. In our opinion, greater caution should be exercised and less tolerance for these drugs displayed in society.

### **3.6. Hallucinogens (LSD, fungi, plants)**

A minimum of cases of LSD<sup>13</sup> distribution on the Czech drug scene was registered in 2009, which however does not mean that this drug did not appear in the Czech Republic. Its incidence is not as frequent today as a couple of years ago.

Hallucinogenic drugs are represented on the domestic scene mainly by "magic mushrooms", namely psilocybe, panaeolus, inocybe, stropharia, conocybe etc. Narcotic and psychotropic substances are present also in toxic plants, such as thorn-apple (Datura), henbane (Hyoscyamus) or deadly nightshade (Atropa bella-donna). Exotic qat (Catha edulis) is also abused.

However, the police have not detected any trade in these mushrooms and plants. Users (often experimenting with, rather than regularly consuming fungi) pick the mushrooms exclusively for personal use). The police have investigated an attempt to distribute seer's sage (Salvia Divinorum) on the internet.

## **Security risks and development outlook - hallucinogens**

We believe no remarkable change will occur in the realm of hallucinogenic drugs. As far as LSD is concerned, we do not expect organized import and trade to develop in the Czech territory. It is to be expected that individual collection and consumption will continue to prevail in case of mushrooms and other plant drugs.

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<sup>13</sup> LSD – chemically lysergic acid diethylamide

### 3.7. Precursors and anabolic steroids

Pseudoephedrine used in the production of methamphetamine could be considered the most widely abused precursor in the Czech Republic. The situation in the wake of restricting pseudoephedrine-containing medicine distribution in the Czech Republic was discussed in Chapter 3.2. Also mentioned was the departure of Czech methamphetamine producers to foreign medicines containing pseudoephedrine. Namely the following medicines are involved:

- **Poland:** Nurofen Antigrip, Acatar, Acatar anti tabs, Ibum Extra, Disophrol Retard, Ibuprom Zatoki, Zatoprom, Cirrus, Zyrtec-D, Gripex, Gripex Max, Grypostop, Tabcin Impakt, Tabcin Trend, Gripex Noc, Grypostop mix, MaxFlu, Grippokaps, Sudafed
- **Slovakia:** Disophrol repetabs, Panadol Plus Grip, Paralen Plus, Modafen, Nurofen Stopgrip
- **Germany:** Reactine duo, Rhinopront Kombi Tabletten, Aspirin komplex (Německo).

Regarding trade in precursors and other chemicals misused for drug production, several dubious transactions were registered last year together with signals indicating possible leaks of these substances from the legal environment. In cooperation with economic entities and after the mutual exchange of information we obtained and verified about 14 findings. Certain positive findings were referred to the appropriate segments of the Police of the Czech Republic; other findings were processed by the National Drug Headquarters.

Chief among them were acetanhydrid consignments shipped from the Czech Republic via Poland and Slovakia probably to Southern Europe. Suspicious shipments were monitored where possible, and 860 kg of acetanhydrid<sup>14</sup> were seized in Slovakia. There were grounds for suspicion that the consignment had been intended for export to Turkey and subsequently to Afghanistan, for the purpose of illegal drug production. The amount seized could have produced at least 400 kg of heroin, whose street value (measured in terms of its end-user) would have been EUR 8,000,000. Four Slovak nationals held on suspicion of committing the crime of illegal production and trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances, toxic substances or precursors face jail sentences of 15-20 years.

In the field of anabolic steroids a change was registered in 2009 whereby an amended penal code defined the criminal act of "production and other manipulation of substances with hormonal effects" in accordance with the provision of Section 228 of Act no. 40/2009 Coll. Until now, handling anabolic substances was criminal only if they were administered to 18 year old and younger persons. As of 1 January 2010, the actions rendered criminal include also criminal acts in connection with NPS (import, production, brokerage, selling etc.).

#### Security risks and development outlook – precursors and anabolic steroids

The risks and outlook in connection with pseudoephedrine contained in medicines were discussed in Chapter 3.2.1. It should be noted that it is possible to expect also the

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<sup>14</sup> Acetanhydrid – key chemical substance in the production of diacetylmorphine (heroin)

import of ephedrine produced in the Balkans or South East Asian countries including China, intended for the production of methamphetamine, which could be sold in the Czech Republic but is in all likelihood slated for export.

In connection with acetanhydrid, talks were held within the framework of relevant European Union bodies, with the aim to consider the adoption of restrictive measures, based on a study (on the effects of trade in this substance), which would make national bodies introduce a stricter control of acetanhydrid production, distribution and movements within the EU space.

Until 2009 substances with anabolic or other hormonal effects were routinely traded, especially on the internet. Since, however, this activity became criminal as from 1 January 2010 the possibility to obtain these substances on the web has ceased to apply. It is to be expected that trade in these substances will assume an illicit character and organized groups may step into the import and distribution process. NDH is working to outline methodology of police action to effectively prevent illegal trade in these substances. Practical experience gathered in the implementation of the amended penal code and police action in this field will show just how widespread the illegal trade in anabolic substances will become.

## 4. Regional specifics of drug-related crime

### 4.1. Prague, Capital of the Czech Republic



In 2009 Prague was the focus of interest of persons engaged in drug criminality. The contemporary Prague drug scene and its manifestations in the form of secondary criminality (disturbances, property crimes and transgressions, violent crime) exercises impact on the daily life of Prague citizens and visitors to the city. Drug taking in public, which may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor, is also causing public outrage.

The street drug scene is particularly active in the city centre, where it spreads not only to wide open spaces such as Wenceslas Square, Old Town Square or Charles Square, but also to important central transfer junctions (Main Station, Masaryk Station etc.). Drug dealers in these localities operate chiefly from gambling parlours and smaller barrooms in the vicinity of the city centre. These areas of central Prague are also the venues of secondary expressions of drug-related crime, such as pickpocketing and petty theft in shops. In regard of pickpocketing it should be noted that it may easily become robbery when a drug-addicted offender uses violence after his victim finds him/herself being robbed and starts to defend his/her possession.

Marijuana and heroin are one of the most widespread "street drugs". Attempts to peddle cocaine in the street have been repeatedly registered as well. Very problematic is the abuse of SUBUTEX medicine sold between drug addicts in order to obtain cash to purchase heroin.

In documenting drug-related street crime in 2009 we encountered a problem inherited from the previous years, namely the presence of a relatively high number of drug dealers in the interest localities. The problem involves mainly heroin and hashish, as it was found on the face of a closer scrutiny that the dealers themselves take drugs and try to peddle fake drugs (asphalt, caffeine or paracetamol) in order to obtain cash to buy drugs for personal consumption. Logically, they cannot be prosecuted for committing drug-related crimes.

In addition to Czech citizens, foreign nationals and members of ethnic minorities based in the territory of the Czech Republic continue to engage in drug-related criminality. Street drug trade is controlled mainly by Roma and Arab gangs.

Another aspect of drug-related criminality in Prague is the activity of Vietnamese crime gangs that organize production and distribution of marijuana. These people have been ascertained to attempt to distribute stimulation drugs (methamphetamine). The Vietnamese usually conceal their activities within their community and it is quite difficult, in terms of economical and time requirements, to document this type of criminal action.

However, large cannabis grow houses in Prague have become dormant, in a degree, and cannabis growing facilities have been detected "only" in flats or family homes. Really large indoor growing facilities are being forced to relocate to areas outside Prague and become a national security risk. Their products are destined partly for the Prague drug scene and partly also for distribution abroad.

Roma groups operating in Prague are mostly involved in the distribution of heroin, with which they satisfy most of the demand within the Roma ethnic community. The quality of heroin distributed in the territory of Prague is poor due to dilution and the addition of largely toxic and hazardous substances poses a security as well as health risk to users. Due to intravenous heroin application, hepatitis and other infectious diseases are spreading among drug addicts. Heroin is also a significant factor of drug addiction mortality.

The club drug scene mainly involves the sale and abuse of stimulation drugs and marijuana. However, cocaine distribution has been registered in some clubs in downtown Prague.

Amphetamine, the incidence of which was registered all over the territory of Prague in 2009 remains a critical problem. When the distribution of medicines containing pseudoephedrine was restricted the methamphetamine production became the object of conspiracy of producers and links were established with influential drug-dealer groups active throughout the Czech Republic. Medicines containing pseudoephedrine are usually imported from Poland and other neighbouring states. It is evident that this particular business activity was targeted by certain groups that profit from providing these precursors. They may either derive fiscal profit as middlemen or organize the whole methamphetamine production and distribution process. Such groups are able to supply methamphetamine to all Czech regions, including Prague. (In 2009 the Prague Regional Police Directorate detected a gang capable of supplying drugs to customers in Prague and its vicinity as well as throughout the East Bohemian Region. In this case, the medicines containing pseudoephedrine originated in Poland.)

As from 1 December 2009, the Prague Regional Police Directorate ordered by item 231/2009 the establishment of the "DROGY" (Drugs) working group with the aim to collect especially the core information about dependency-forming substances, their distribution sites and the persons involved in this activity. The working group was tasked to probe into and document such criminal action and to identify its perpetrators.

## **4.2. Central Bohemian Region**



The incidence of indoor cannabis growing facilities remains the same, which means that the number of indoor cannabis grow houses detected in the region is comparable to last year's figures. It should be noted that the grow houses run by the Vietnamese community are better concealed (due to increased use of heat-insulation materials). The grow houses contain fewer cannabis plants and the facilities are smaller in order to obstruct the detection of increased or illegal electricity consumption. In case the police raid such cannabis grow house, the loss of the plants cultivated and thereby also the costs invested is not as severe as in the case of large-scale cultivation premises.

At the same time, there is a growing number of cannabis sativa growing facilities run by Czech citizens, resulting from the growing number of grow shops in the territory of Prague. These shops sell all the technology and means needed to establish indoor

cannabis sativa facilities, but these shops claim the equipment is intended for growing exotic plants and fruits.

Criminality regarding other drugs remains the same as in the previous years and the same goes for its structure. Methamphetamine and marijuana are still the most widely spread drugs, followed by less well used heroin (predominantly distributed by Roma and Vietnamese peddlers); a single case of cocaine imported from Prague was registered but the sale of other drugs was not registered in principle. Curiously, a case of distribution of seer's sage (*Salvia Divinorum*) in the Central Bohemian Region was intercepted on the internet in Beroun.

Methamphetamine producers are being pushed out of Prague by the police to Central Bohemia. Methamphetamine is produced mainly in weekend houses and in other remote facilities (former and present army quarters). It should be noted that dealers often dilute metamphetam with the piracetam medicine to increase the weight of the consignment.

Regarding the number of unexplained drug delicts it should be noted that they mostly concern drugs seized in mail to convicts in prisons in the territory of the Central Bohemian Region. The police have retrieved information from persons related to the drug scene indicating a significant increase in street sale of cocaine in the region. The findings correlate the discerned localities mainly with Mělník, Beroun, Prague Country-West, and Kladno. However, this cocaine is of poor quality as it has been diluted by cocaine dealers. Another trend on the regional drug scene is the import of pseudoephedrine-containing medicines from Poland. These medicines are intended to saturate demand among the local producers of methamphetamine.

Central Bohemian police significantly benefited from the precautions taken in 2009. On As from 1 November 2009 the director of the Regional Directorate of Central Bohemian Police Headquarters ordered the establishment of a "Toxi Team" composed of criminologists from all regional units. The purpose of the team is to more effectively suppress drug crime in the territory of the Central Bohemian Region. The team currently comprises 31 criminologists and analysts; a further expansion is planned during the spring months of 2001.

### **4.3. Plzeň and Karlovy Vary Regions**



It follows from the drug crime cases tackled in the Plzeň and Karlovy Vary regions that the biggest lingering problem is posed by indoor cannabis growing facilities organized by the Vietnamese community. These facilities operate mainly in former border districts (Cheb, Sokolov, Karlovy Vary and Plzeň.). Locally produced marijuana partly supplies the domestic market but most of the product is slated for export to West European countries. Grow house equipment and technologies are mostly imported from the Netherlands.

In view of the problematic situation the NDH has launched the Cheb area project "STOP indoor cannabis growing facilities", the purpose of which is to alert the general public to the risks associated with the production and consumption of marijuana and to engage all citizens, who wish to share in the building of a safe living environment.

Another problem is the growing number of small methamphetamine labs in the border areas and the Plzeň region. Czech citizens travel to Germany to buy medicines with which they subsequently produce methamphetamine in their country. In many cases, residents of Germany have travelled to the Czech Republic to make bulk purchases of medicines (in pharmacies or on the internet) to be exported to the Czech Republic. They have Czech "cooks" produce methamphetamine for their personal consumption and leave a part of the medicines to the producers in reward.

Third in the problematic pecking order is heroin, which is increasingly becoming the domain of the Vietnamese community in the Plzeň and Karlovy Vary regions and is chiefly imported from Prague and North Bohemia. Distribution is taken care of either by the Vietnamese themselves or the Roma, who sell heroin to gain money for their own consumption of the drug. The smaller part of heroin trade is carried out by people from the former Yugoslavia.

Distribution of dance drugs (ecstasy) was found to be sporadic. The manner of acquisition of these drugs remains unchanged and most of it is imported mainly by Czech citizens from The Netherlands.

Most of the cases solved by NDH police officers in 2009 were concerned with the international trade in methamphetamine; in a single case a Czech courier was arrested in Bolivia with a consignment of cocaine. He was found to be in possession of 4.1 kg of cocaine intended for the Czech market. In addition to Czech citizens, persons from France were implicated in the transaction.

Concerning the frequency of drug seizures and studies conducted by the Police of the Czech Republic, it follows that the most problematic areas of drug production and distribution in the Plzeň and Karlovy Vary Region are Plzeň, Karlovy Vary, Cheb and Sokolov. Vietnamese citizens are massively involved in trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances, notably marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin. It is safe to say that the Vietnamese community has virtually seized the drug trade and pushed out the competition in some areas.

#### **4.4. Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions**



Most cases in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions were associated with the production and distribution of methamphetamine and indoor cannabis growing facilities. There were also cases of organized heroin and cocaine shipment to the Czech Republic and subsequent distribution of the drugs in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem Region.

The seized pervitin labs and the expertise of the substances seized there in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions clearly point to the fact that over-the-counter substances with pseudoephedrine content were mostly misused to produce methamphetamine. These OTC substances came from Czech pharmacies and some were imported from the neighbouring countries. We are talking mainly about the medicines Reactine Duo, Acatar and Sudafed, originating in Germany and Poland. Pervitin is then sold in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions, especially in the areas

bordering the Federal Republic of Germany. There were recorded cases of trading methamphetamine crystals for medicines containing pseudoephedrine.

The Vietnamese community was massively involved in the business of indoor cannabis growing in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions in 2009. Territorial departments of the Police of the Czech Republic detected and eliminated many indoor grow houses. Czech citizens have been more massively involved in the initiative. The products of these grow houses are distributed in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Slight increase in shipments and imports of heroin and cocaine to the Czech Republic was recorded. The quality (purity) of the seized cocaine was approximately 15 percent. Due to the current trend towards cocaine it is expected that demand for cocaine will increase even in the territory of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions.

Sporadic cases of seizing ecstasy and similar effective substances were registered. In some cases the seized substance was mCPP-piperazine, which was not included in the list of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

#### **4.5. Hradec Králové and Pardubice Regions**



No significant change regarding regional drug issues occurred in the territory of the Hradec Králové and Pardubice Regions during 2009. Characteristically, methamphetamine is the most frequently abused/traded drug in the area. The basic input raw material for the production of methamphetamine is pseudoephedrine extracted from medicines. They are imported *en masse* to these two regions from neighbouring Poland. The import of thousands of batches of over-the-counter medicines (Acatar and Sudafed) has also been registered. The pseudoephedrine content of both medicines is 60 mg per tablet. The purchases were made by persons known to be associated with methamphetamine producers. As a rule, one person purchases medicines on behalf of more than one producer. Purchases in Poland are made near the Czech border, where medicines can be bought not only in pharmacies but also in hypermarkets and at petrol stations.

The quality of methamphetamine marketed in the region is high as the product contains about 70-80 percent of the methamphetamine base. Therefore demand is high among German and Polish drug users. The methamphetamine is available in the form of white powder or white crystals.

Organized Roma gangs are getting increasingly involved in the metamphetamine trade. The proceeds of this illegal trade are the only income to feed ramified Roma families and to maintain unusually high living standards.

Production and distribution of marijuana is a thriving business in Eastern Bohemia. Persons of Vietnamese nationality engage in the indoor growing methods. In 2009 two large cannabis grow houses were raided in the Havlíčkův Brod District. The marijuana grown in this way sells well due to its high quality. Marijuana is favoured by young people due to its availability and good price.

Ecstasy only sporadically occurs on the local markets. Consumers are less interested in ecstasy, mainly because the drug is mostly imported from Poland. The "Polish pills" contain the effective substance mCCP, which has similar effects as MDMA, but consumers cite nausea after consumption, which discourages them from taking more of the drug.

Ecstasy is mainly smuggled by seasonal labourers working in the region. They are Poles and Slovaks.

The incidence of other drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, was very rarely recorded. No evidence about the distribution of these substances was recorded but individual users of these drugs mostly visit Prague to acquire drugs for personal consumption only.

#### **4.6. South Bohemian Region**



Virtually all drug types are available to users in the South Bohemian Region. Chief among them is marijuana grown both outdoors and in flats, houses and various industrial buildings. Members of the Vietnamese community have lately been ascertained to hold a growing share of the indoor industry, especially in the border areas. This seems to corroborate the tenet that marijuana will in future be grown indoors, largely by citizens of the said Asian country.

Another frequently abused drug in the region is methamphetamine produced from over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine. Chief among the medicines used for pseudoephedrine production are Modafen and Neurofen Stop Grip. It was ascertained that ever more people (mostly users) have learned how to produce methamphetamine. They are smalltime brewers. They produce small amounts of methamphetamine and often change production sites. Methamphetamine is produced in households, weekend houses, garages and in the open. The latter option concerns especially the production phase producing heavy smell that could identify home production. According to our information, methamphetamine is produced from imported medicines with a higher content of effective substance pseudoephedrine. The pseudoephedrine content of medicines sold over the counter in the Czech Republic is 30 mg, compared to up to 120 mg in foreign OTC medicines. Pervitin is mostly peddled on the street and is ever more frequently used "only as a weekend drug". Methamphetamine is frequently bought by tourists visiting brothels close to the Czech borders.

The presence of hashish, cocaine, heroin and ecstasy was also registered in these two regions. In order to eliminate damage caused to them when apprehended by the police, the drug dealers always carry only a small amount on them and prefer to often and repeatedly supply their customers unless the consumers themselves wish to personally collect the merchandise. The police have lately employed a DrugWipe 5+ testing kit to identify motor vehicle drivers under influence. Most of the intercepted cases involved the use of marijuana and methamphetamine.

## 4.7. South Moravian, Zlín and Vysočina Regions



During the last year all the police segments preoccupied with drug crime in the territory of the South Moravian Region most frequently tackled cases of production and distribution of methamphetamine as well as cases of distribution of marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

Illegal methamphetamine producers continue to use as the input material exclusively medicines containing pseudoephedrine (Modafen). In the Brno and Jihlava areas, Polish-made Sudafed tablets were intercepted. The cases tackled in association with methamphetamine involved "home" production whereby the producer also supplied his product to a small group of persons in his neighbourhood, who then sold the methamphetamine to other customers. Methamphetamine is still mostly available in powdered form of very good quality.

The distribution of heroin in Brno and throughout the South Moravian Region is mostly in the hands of Vietnamese nationals and Roma people. The Vietnamese prevail in organizing heroin distribution within the confines of the region. Their fairly well organized groups operate not only in the South Moravian Region but indeed also throughout the Czech Republic. Vietnamese nationals team up with ex-Yugoslav citizens in the capacity of suppliers and people of Roma origin as dealers of an already well-diluted drug. As before, the Roma link acts as the final seller of heroin. The heroin they peddle is of very poor quality.

Regarding members of the Vietnamese community in the region, they continued to engage in drug production and distribution and started to specialize in indoor cannabis growing in the territory of Brno and trade in methamphetamine.

Cocaine started to appear in the South Moravian region more frequently than before, especially in the more affluent groups of citizens. Foreigners mainly from the Balkans share in the import and distribution of cocaine, while Czech citizens are couriers or end-of-the-line distributors. Personal delivery by couriers is employed together with the shipment of orders by transport and mail-order companies. In this case heroin is addressed to Czech citizens and the consignments usually originate from a Latin American country. A case of cocaine import by ship across the Atlantic Ocean through a private subject was registered.

Due to its good availability and low price, the dance drug ecstasy remains popular with young people, being imported from the Netherlands to the region. As a rule, couriers use mass transport means, especially buses to import the drug. Ecstasy continues to be imported in the form of tablets, but growing import and distribution of tablets containing another substance with similar stimulation and hallucinogenic effects to MDMA was registered as well. Tablets containing amphetamine instead of MDMA appeared on the Brno market.

Marijuana is still a very widespread drug in the region. It is produced by individuals privately growing limited amounts for personal consumption (usually not more than 20 cannabis plants). However, as mentioned above, the activity of members

of the Vietnamese community has been on the increase, these people organizing and running quantity marijuana production in indoor grow houses.

#### 4.8. North Moravian and Olomouc Regions



Methamphetamine was the most widely abused drug in the territory of the Moravian-Silesian Region. In this territory methamphetamine is exclusively produced from pseudoephedrine obtained from over-the-counter medicines (Modafen, Paralen Plus, Nurofen), as well as from medicines sold in nearby Poland. No information suggesting that methamphetamine is produced from ephedrine in the region was ascertained.

The pervitin produced in the region is distributed both in the Czech Republic and abroad. Slovak customers are supplied on the basis of previous orders or upon the delivery of raw materials (medicines containing pseudoephedrine). Methamphetamine produced in the Czech Republic in this way is "re-exported" to Slovak customers.

Methamphetamine is variously produced in the region in flats and other residential quarters, weekend chalets and houses as well as uninhabited and abandoned buildings.

The second-ranking drug in the region is marijuana with a fairly high content of THC. Although individual cases of cannabis growing in indoor facilities were registered in the Moravian-Silesian Region, their number was not as high as in other regions of the Czech Republic.

However, a steep increase of interest in cocaine, the distribution of which became more widely spread than before, in the region was registered. Cocaine is imported and distributed in the region from the Netherlands, Poland and Prague. Ethnic Albanians are mainly involved in the import and distribution of cocaine in the region, in cooperation with Poles and also Czechs. The Czechs are contracted couriers importing cocaine from the Netherlands.

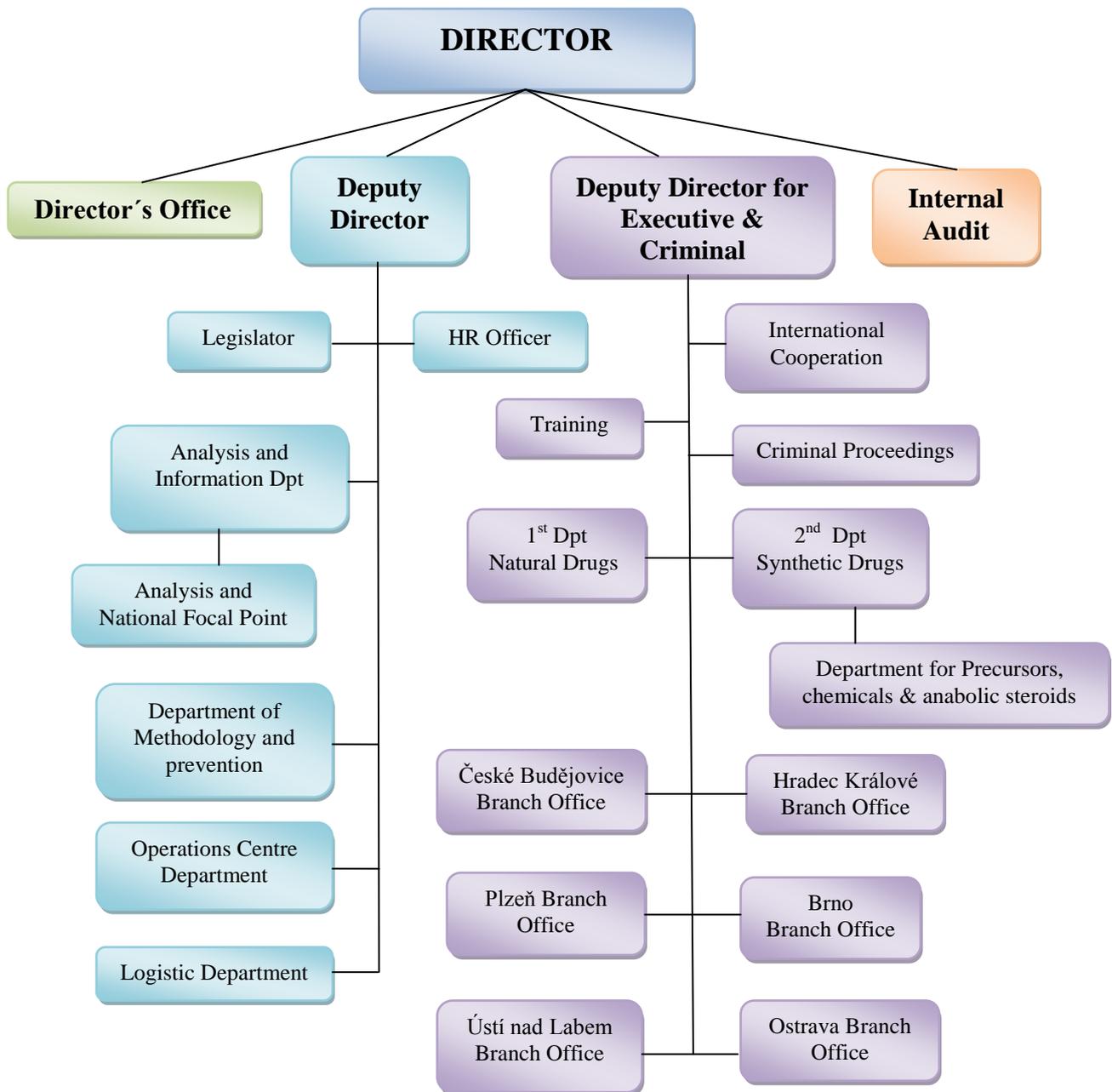
Trade in ecstasy is thriving mainly in the Ostrava area. Ecstasy has been a constant phenomenon on the Czech drug scene and no significant change over the previous years was reported. The same applies to heroin, the demand for which is stagnating in the region. Ecstasy is mainly traded by Czechs, Poles and Slovaks, while heroin continues to be peddled mostly by ethnic Albanians, Vietnamese and Roma.

Similarly as in the previous year, the increase in cocaine and methamphetamine consumption was the most intensively marked phenomenon in the North Moravian and Olomouc regions. The trend is enhanced by the presence of an ethnic Albanian community in the areas of Ostrava, Olomouc and Těšín and their vicinity, as well as by the presence of this community in the border regions of the Polish Republic. Also in the game is the common border with Poland and Slovakia, a minimal language divide and perfect penetrability of the state borders. All this is very conducive to the smuggling of drugs into the territory of the Czech Republic. Ostrava itself and its night life, focusing on downtown Stodolní Street, is an area with a high degree of drug-related crime.

## 5. Organization and activities of the National Drug Headquarters

### 5.1. NDH structure

The organizational structure of the National Drug Headquarters corresponds with the individual demanding tasks posed on this organization. The executive components (directly engaged in the detection of organized drug crime) currently fall under two Prague departments and six regional offices.



## **5.2. First Department – Natural and semi-synthetic drugs**

This department deals with the detection, documentation and investigation of drug crimes in the sphere of natural and semi-synthetic drugs such as heroin, marijuana, cocaine and hashish. It also studies ethnic elements engaged in trading and importing drugs to the Czech Republic, and importing drugs to the whole territory of the Czech Republic. It deals among others also with the ethnic groups engaged in trade and import of drugs to the Czech Republic and organizing drug trade, smuggling and distribution in the Czech Republic, recruiting couriers among Czech citizens etc. We are talking about crime rings in the West African countries (Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire) and Vietnamese crime rings engaged in cultivating cannabis and growing marijuana in large indoor grow houses and increasingly involving in trade in other drugs, namely heroin. Much of the heroin trade is organized by ethnic Albanians.

NDH experts on natural and poly-synthetic drugs cooperate with experts from the regional police departments reporting to Prague and the Central Bohemian Region as well as with police officers from individual territorial departments. These officers worked with their international colleagues in Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia and Hungary.

Some of the interesting cases tackled by this department were Operations Kano, Tatuin, Drba, X5, Hue, Dao and Bao (see Chapter 7).

### Project Reliéf

Project Reliéf is one of the activities successfully completed last year by First Department officers. The project aims at the application and use of a new mechanoscopic method of proving internationally organized illegal trade in narcotic and psychotropic substances.

International organized groups active in more than one country compress drugs with the use of various metal compression devices. Drug consignments are compressed for many reasons and it is not to be expected that this particular treatment of drug consignments will be abandoned in the future. The assertion of compressed drug shipments is the daily chore of police drug enforcement units all around the world.

The core idea of Project Reliéf is derived of the time-proven and verified fact that on the surface of compressed drug consignments of heroin, cocaine, hashish and methamphetamine, etc. there exist imprints of the relief of compressed substances bearing individual identification marks to enable the identification of the reliefs of the metallic parts of the pressing device. These presses bear specific traces of wear and tear of the metal parts applied to the contours of the pressed product and the wrappers inserted between the metallic parts of the press and the compressed material.

The aim of the Reliéf research project is to help compose an international criminological collection of reliefs of compressed drug shipments. In this way it will be possible to compare traces in their relief in order to find out if a similar shipment with identical individual marks was included in the collection of traces of a previous case on national or international level. It should be noted that these traces have not been purposefully made by crime perpetrators in order to publicize drug quality (various logos etc.) but they were left in the form of various indentations and imprints inadvertently made by the producers. Any and all compressed shipments of narcotic and psychotropic substances seized by the Czech Police National Drug Headquarters and

studied by the Prague Institute of Criminology show signs fit for individual investigation.

The Czech Republic for the first time presented the outcomes of Project Reliéf on international scale on 8 April 2009 to the European Police Chiefs Task Force in Brussels. The police presidents of all 27 participating countries and leading Europol officers rated the project a very perspective new method of proving and a possible proving link of international police action on drugs. The conclusions of the meeting indicate the need of the further creation of conditions for the involvement of all European Union member states in the Reliéf project with the aim of compiling an international collection in this field.

### **5.3. Second Department – synthetic drugs**

This department is engaged in the discovery, documentation and investigation in the field of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine (pervitin), including the import and trade in pervitin precursors (pseudoephedrine, ephedrine). Furthermore this department is preoccupied with drugs such as ecstasy (MDMA, mCCP) etc.

NDH officers in the field of synthetic drugs work with the Regional Directorates of Prague and Central Bohemian Regional Police Headquarters as well as with officers in various territorial departments of criminal investigation corps (SKVP). The officers from this department have also interacted with their colleagues in Austria and Germany.

The department has tackled interesting cases including the operations Dalimil, Strouha, Stone, Strouha II and Potok (see Chapter 7).

### **5.4. Department of precursors, chemicals and anabolic steroids**

Police officers in this department significantly share in the interdepartmental negotiations concerning restriction of the availability of substances to produce certain drugs. Chief among them is pseudoephedrine contained in medicines, red phosphorus and iodine in case of pervitin, and acetanhydrid in case of heroin.

In the first half of 2009 our status was changed in anticipation of new definition of penal law and the need to react to new criminal offences regarding unauthorized manipulation with substances with hormonal effects. Thus, the precursor and chemicals group was transformed into the department for precursors, chemical substances and anabolic steroids. Newly recruited specialists are prepared to engage in the solution of new issues.

By the end of the year and in cooperation with the Czech Anti-doping Committee we completed the training of most police officers to monitor toxicological criminality in their respective areas. .

In 2009 the department completed Operation Ivan (see Chapter 7).

## **5.5. Methodology and Prevention Group**

The Methodology and Prevention Department (hereinafter the MPD) represents the NDH within the Police of the Czech Republic and in contacts with the public through lecturing, educational, methodological and publication activities. Another, practical daily activity of the MPD is to ensure the communication of the NDH with the public and the media.

In 2009 the MPD participated in the training of police officers in the framework of the educational and training system of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and the Police of the Czech Republic within the specialization courses and lectures at the Police Academy of the Czech Republic in the Bachelor and Master programmes. At the end of the year another in the series of regular seminars for secondary police school teachers was held.

As part of its permanent management activities within the NDH the MPD provided organizational support to instructional and methodological training of NDH members and to the unit's important annual events. It also organized methodological training for police officers working in the area of detecting drug crime within the Police of the Czech Republic.

Outside the Ministry of the Interior and Police of the Czech Republic the MPD members participated in the education of judicial and legal trainees of the Judicial Academy in Kroměříž and members of city and municipal police forces and the Army of the Czech Republic, as well as participating in prevention educational programmes.

The MPD cooperated with government and nongovernment organizations and participated in the formulation of strategies of the Czech Republic's national anti-drug policy in the future period.

The MPD's publication activities in 2009 concentrated on the preparation and publishing of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual NDH Bulletin – a specialized quarterly intended particularly for officers of the Police of the Czech Republic, members of judiciary and other involved professionals.

In 2009 the MPD guaranteed the implementation of two Czech crime prevention projects, focusing respectively on methamphetamine production<sup>15</sup> and marijuana growing.<sup>16</sup>

## **5.6. Department of Informatics and National Focal Point**

In 2009 the National Drug Headquarters continued to perform the tasks of the National Focal Point. It is a joint analytical centre of the NDH and the General Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Finance, established by the supplement to the Implementation Protocol to the Agreement between the Police of the Czech Republic and the General Customs Directorate. The main output of the work of this office is complete statistics regarding all narcotic and psychotropic substances seized and offenders accused in the Czech Republic. These data are entered in a separate section of the NDH Annual Report for 2009. In 2009 the data collecting methodology was

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<sup>15</sup> For details see <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/projekt-nepodporuji-vyrobu-drog>

<sup>16</sup> For the project details see <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/narodni-protidrogova-centrala-skpvtiskove-zpravy-projekt-stop-pestirnam-marihuany>

improved in order to refine the drug price indicator and the data collected were enriched by an indicator of drug amounts used as evidence in criminal proceeding, serving as an indicator of success scored by the law-enforcement bodies in suppressing drug supply. The data acquired were also processed and used as a source material for the Annual Report on Drug Situation in the Czech Republic, released by the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

### Indicators of evaluation of police success in suppressing the supply of NPS

The present state of evaluation of police success rate in the field of suppressing the supply of narcotic and psychotropic substances is based especially on indicators of the number of cases and offenders as well as on the amount of seized narcotic and psychotropic substances. For the sake of more objective assessment of the success rate of law enforcement bodies in this field the evaluation should be based on further indicators of the success of repressive components. They are namely: the drug amount proved in the course of criminal proceedings, the seized assets and the final judgement.

Within the framework of Czech EU presidency the minister of the interior selected drugs as one of the priorities; consequently the issue of indicators of evaluation of the repressive bodies' success was presented first in February and then in June 2009 at the Brussels sessions of the HDG<sup>17</sup>. In February the issue was concretized on the basis of cases tackled by the NDH in 2008, in which prosecution was suggested. The preliminary results of the analysis of NDH cases revealed a visible discrepancy between the amounts of seized and proven narcotic and psychotropic substances in individual cases, which goes to show that analysis of these data was not groundless. The June data were evaluated for the first quarter of 2009 for the whole Czech Republic. The idea of extending the range of indicators of evaluation of police success in checking the supply of narcotic and psychotropic substances, especially as concerns proven drugs, met with understanding and interest among both the EU Member States and representatives of the EMCDDA<sup>18</sup>.

## **5.7. International cooperation**

We are pleased to state that similarly to the previous year, international cooperation was one of the NDH priorities in 2009 and maintained its traditionally high standard. A significant positive change was ushered thanks to the presence of additional international cooperation coordinator in this field. This helped us to more efficiently cope with a considerable workload and to ensure personnel replaceability in case of need.

In 2009 we continued to rely chiefly on the use of liaison officers as well as on direct contacts with our foreign partners. We regard this as the confirmation of a long-term useful trend. However, a measure of improvement was registered in 2009 in our communication with the national Interpol headquarters and the national Europol unit. In

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<sup>17</sup> Horizontal Drug Group coordinating drug policies of EU Member States and the European Commission

<sup>18</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

our opinion, this improvement reflected in better operability and flexibility of the established contacts. However, there is still considerable room for improvement in this area.

Cooperation with Czech representatives to Eurojust was again very positively appreciated. In the field of legal assistance their flexible and cooperative attitude is a significant help, since we certainly cannot do without cooperation in justice. However, in spite of the efforts of our unit and the Czech representatives to Eurojust, significant problems persevere in some EU Member States regarding the processing of our requests for legal assistance. Significant delays and protractions have been recorded in some cases in the Netherlands and Spain. In 2009, certain problems arose concerning legal assistance from Latin American countries. With mixed results, we tried to overcome these problems by means of existing direct contacts with the police of these countries.

Our cooperation with Slovak partners from the National Drug Unit in Bratislava maintained its exceptional above-standard character last year. It was characterized by flexibility and was as informal as the mutual personal contacts between the two parties. Even in 2009 we took part in a meeting Slovak police officers working on drug crime, this time focusing on the role of ethnic Vietnamese groups in drug trade. It is worth mentioning in this context that Prague and Bratislava completely refrain from the use of police liaison officers of the two countries.

We were satisfied with the performance of all our colleagues within the ranks of liaison officers in charge of the Czech Republic. Traditionally we invite them twice every year to meetings in Prague, which always proceed in the spirit of fruitful, informal exchange of opinion and experience from our field. In 2009 we started publishing an irregular informative bulletin in English on their behalf, called Drug News and distributed by electronic mail. This form of spreading information about specific cases tackled by our unit and new trends in the Czech Republic has proved extremely helpful in complementing the above mentioned meetings. Our cooperation with liaison officers especially from Germany, Austria, France, the United States, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Romania, Canada, Israel and Bulgaria was on a traditionally good level.

In 2009 very useful exchange of information and simple requests was achieved through centres for police cooperation with neighbouring countries. This applies specifically to the centres in Schwandorf, Germany and Drasenhofen, Austria. These quick and flexible contacts with the police information networks of the neighbouring countries represent among other things also the optimal method of processing simple requests about persons, vehicles, telephone connections etc. We would sincerely welcome establishing a similar level of cooperation in the future with similar centres along the Polish border.

In 2009 we maintained manifold direct contacts with police drug enforcement formations of the countries, which have not assigned liaison officers for the Czech Republic, notably Sweden, Macedonia, Croatia, Hungary, Ukraine, Norway, Ireland or Russia. The further development of direct contacts with Peru and the establishment of a direct contact with Venezuela are seen as very positive signals.

Within the framework of Czech EU presidency we worked with the Addictological Centre of Charles University in Prague to formulate, distribute and evaluate the outcomes of a questionnaire distributed within the QADAP project. This Czech initiative was a follow-up to the decision of the Working Group of the European Police Chiefs Task Force and dealt with the rather sensitive but very urgent problem of participation of ethnic crime gangs in international drug trade in the EU. The questionnaire yielded some interesting information, even though the answers often did

not meet our expectations. We are expecting soon to see a publication containing a detailed evaluation of the project.

During the Czech EU presidency an expert from our unit spent a time abroad on the request of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help formulate joint EU positions at the Vienna session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

During September and October 2009 an officer from our unit worked together with his colleagues from Spain, the USA, Colombia and El Salvador on a project within the framework of the Mérida Initiative. Its purpose was to train Mexican Federal Police officers at the Federal Police Academy in San Luis Potosi. The project focused largely on drug trade, one of the main security treats Mexico is facing.

We cannot but appreciate our interaction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, in 2009. We especially value our cooperation with the consular services operating in the countries of our interests. We were also able to participate in a conference of Czech ambassadors to the various Latin American countries and to present our issues to them. Personal contacts with Czech ambassadors are considered very helpful as Latin America is doubtlessly one of the important interest areas to the Czech Republic.

## **5.8. Legislation and criminal proceedings**

The NDH officers in the field of legislation and criminal proceedings provide valuable comments on draft legislation (especially the amendments to the Penal Code), binding instructions of the police president, as well as the regulations and documents issued by the government ministries, inter-ministry commissions and the Government of the Czech Republic. They participate in the efforts to more efficiently handle criminal proceedings within the NDH framework and to facilitate direct communication with the State Attorney and the courts. They also assist lecturing activities in favour of the police and the NDH.

## **5.9. Regional offices**

### **České Budějovice National Drug Headquarters Branch Office**

This branch office looks for and documents organized drug crime in the territories of the South Bohemian Region and partly also the Vysočina Region. In detecting, documenting and investigating into criminal offences this branch office cooperates chiefly with the officers of the South Bohemian Police Headquarters and the officers of the territorial sections of the Criminal Police and Investigation services. This branch office cooperates namely in the documenting of and investigating into drug-related criminal offences with the officers of the South Bohemian Regional Police Headquarters and the officers of the Criminal Police Service and Investigation coming from the various territorial sections. The office keeps constant contacts with them by means of telephone conferences or regular meetings to analyze the situation in the region and to exchange the findings of their operative search activities.

In the field of drug crime prevention the České Budějovice Branch Office officers cooperate with anti-drug coordinators from the regional and municipal offices.

They also work with police officers from the prevention/information groups of attached to individual territorial departments of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Chief among the projects implemented in 2009 by the officers of this particular NDH branch office was Project Caputo (see Chapter 7).

### **Plzeň National Drug Headquarters Branch Office**

This branch office is responsible for stamping out drug crime in the Plzeň and Karlovy Vary areas. In detecting, documenting and investigating into drug-related crimes the branch office cooperates mainly with officers from the Regional Directorates of the Police of the Plzeň and Karlovy Vary Regions and the officers of the territorial departments of the Service of Criminal Police and Investigation.

Officers from this branch office cooperated with their partners in Germany and Peru.

In the field of drug crime prevention the officers of the Plzeň branch office cooperate with drug prevention coordinators on the level of regional and municipal offices. They also work with the officers of preventative information groups of the individual territorial departments of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Chief among the projects implemented in 2009 by this NDH branch office were "Fast", "Merhaba" and "Lisa" (see Chapter 7).

### **Ústí nad Labem National Drug Headquarters Branch Office**

This branch office is tasked to fight drug crime especially in the territories of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regions, but its activity transcends the borders of neighbouring Germany. It cooperates in detecting, documenting and investigating into drug-related crimes especially with the officers of the Ústí nad Labem and Liberec Regional Police Headquarters and the officers of the territorial departments of the Service of Criminal Police and Investigation. The office also cooperates with colleagues abroad, especially in Germany's Saxony.

In the field of drug crime prevention the officers of the Ústí nad Labem National Drug Headquarters Branch Office work with the anti-drug coordinators attached to regional and municipal offices. They also work with the officers of preventative and information groups of individual territorial components of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Chief among the projects implemented in 2009 by the Ústí nad Labem National Drug Headquarters Branch Office was the "Cohiba" project (see Chapter 7).

### **Hradec Králové National Drug Headquarters Branch Office**

This branch office is tasked to fight drug crime especially in the territories of the Hradec Králové and Pardubice Regions. It cooperates in detecting, documenting and investigating into drug-related crimes especially with the officers of the Hradec Králové and Pardubice regions and the Regional Police Headquarters and the officers of the territorial departments of the Service of Criminal Police and Investigation.

In the field of drug crime prevention the officers of the Hradec Králové drug prevention office cooperate with anti-drug coordinators attached to regional and municipal offices. They also work with the officers of preventative and information groups of individual territorial components of the Police of the Czech Republic.

### **Brno National Drug Headquarters Branch Office**

This branch office is tasked to fight drug crime especially in the territories of the South Moravian, Zlín and Vysočina Regions. It cooperates in detecting, documenting and investigating into drug-related crimes especially with the officers of the regional police headquarters and with the officers of the territorial departments of the Service of Criminal Police and Investigation.

Officers of this branch cooperated with their foreign partners in Austria, Germany, Great Britain and Spain.

In the field of drug crime prevention the officers of the Brno branch office work with anti-drug coordinators attached to regional and municipal offices. In the field of drug crime prevention the officers of the Hradec Králové drug prevention office cooperate with anti-drug coordinators attached to regional and municipal offices. They also work with the officers of preventative and information groups of individual territorial components of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Chief among the projects implemented in 2009 by the Brno National Drug Headquarters Branch Office were operations "Nick", "Macek" and "Geryk" (see Chapter 7).

### **Ostrava National Drug Headquarters Branch Office**

This branch office is tasked to fight drug crime especially in the territories of the Moravian-Silesian and Olomouc Regions. It cooperates in detecting, documenting and investigating into drug-related crimes especially with the officers of the regional police headquarters and with the officers of the territorial departments of the Service of Criminal Police and Investigation.

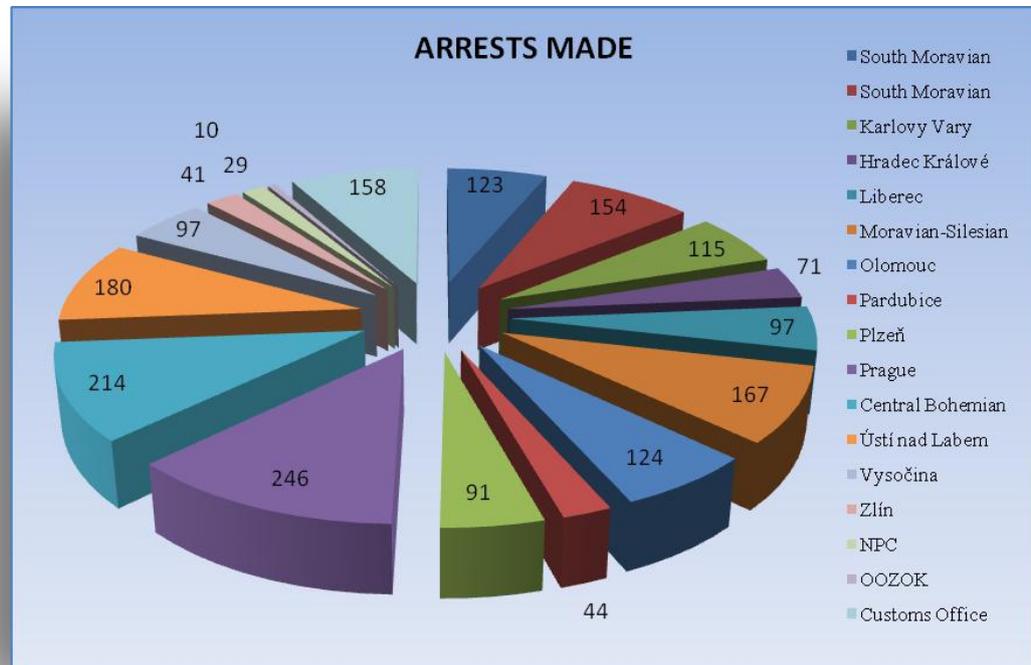
In the field of drug crime prevention the officers of the Ostrava Branch Office cooperate with anti-drug coordinators attached to regional and municipal offices. They also work with the officers of preventative and information groups of individual territorial components of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Chief among the projects implemented in 2009 by this branch office were operations "Nick", "Macek" and "Geryk" (see Chapter 7)

## 6. Drug crime statistics

Czech Republic – total arrest operations, offenders and unknown offenders

Region	Arrest operations	Offenders	UO <sup>19</sup>
South Bohemian	123	164	0
South Moravian	154	190	0
Karlovy Vary	115	142	0
Hradec Králové	71	88	0
Liberec	97	102	0
Moravian-Silesian	167	246	1
Olomouc	124	142	1
Pardubice	44	49	0
Plzeň	91	114	3
Prague	246	284	6
Central Bohemian	214	238	18
Ústí nad Labem	180	216	2
Vysočina	97	98	1
Zlín	41	54	0
NDH <sup>20</sup>	29	89	0
SGCD <sup>21</sup>	10	12	0
Customs Admin <sup>22</sup>	158	112	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1961</b>	<b>2340</b>	<b>92</b>

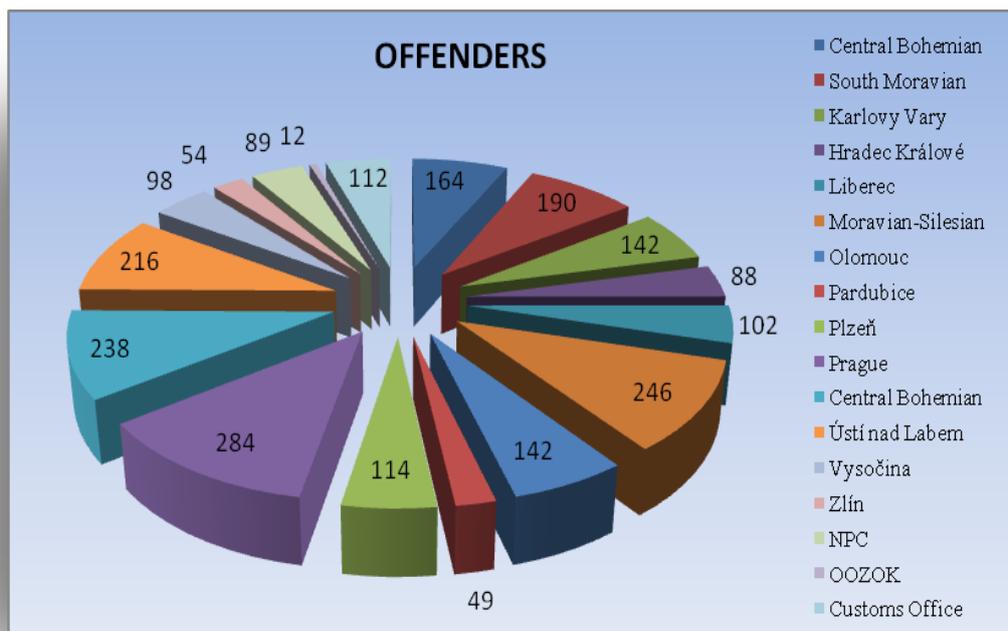


<sup>19</sup> UO –unknown offender

<sup>20</sup> NHD participated in other cases within the country. To avoid duplicity, relevant data are counted in the cooperating districts.

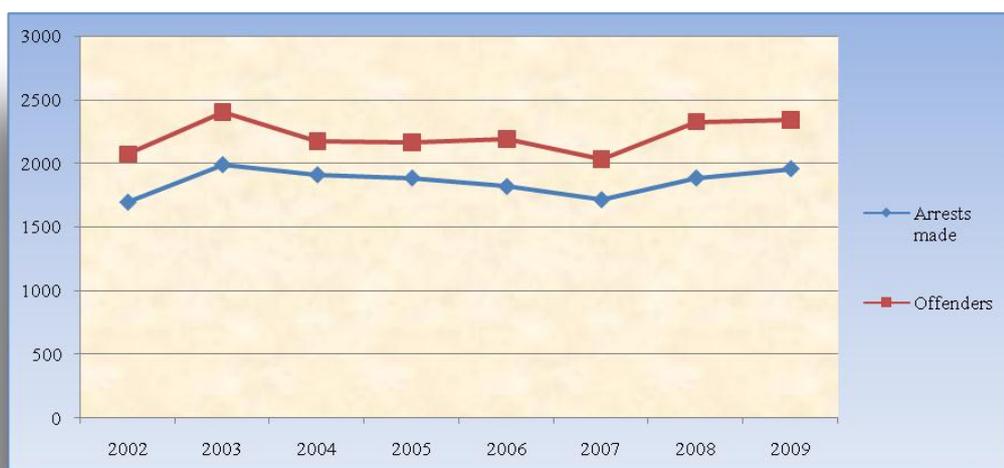
<sup>21</sup> Only drug cases worked on independently in the TOXI line; other cases investigated in cooperation have been counted in the relevant districts to avoid duplicity.

<sup>22</sup> Only cases worked on independently without participation of the Police of the Czech Republic.



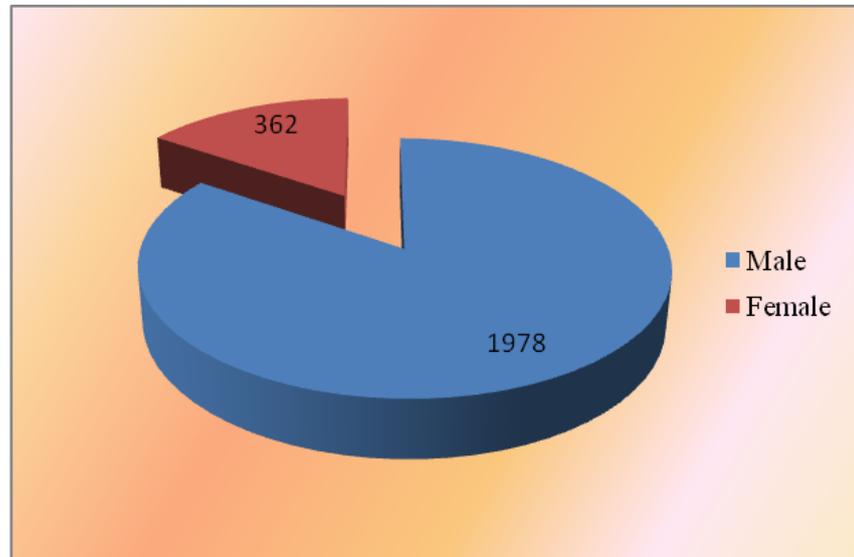
#### Drug crime development 2002-2009

Year	No. of cases	Offenders
2002	1698	2071
2003	1993	2402
2004	1913	2172
2005	1888	2163
2006	1821	2191
2007	1717	2031
2008	1888	2326
2009	1961	2340



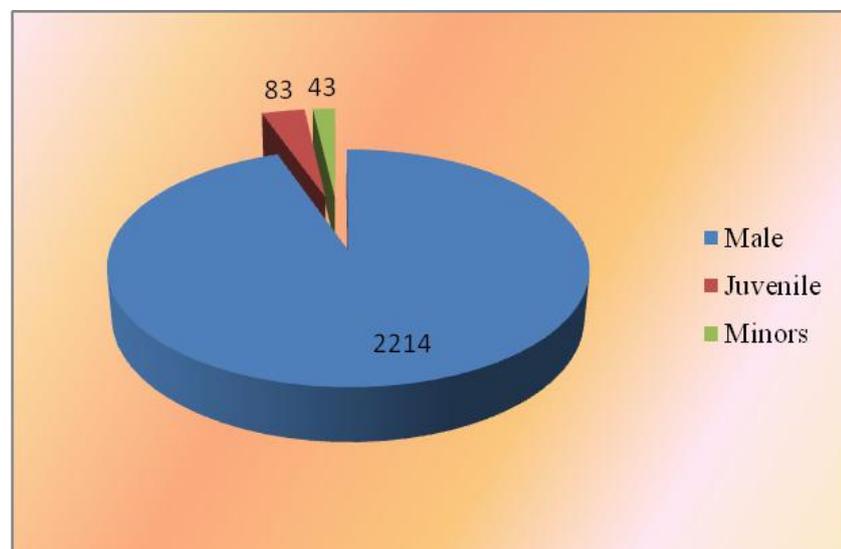
### Offenders according to gender

Sex	No. of cases
Male	1978
Female	362



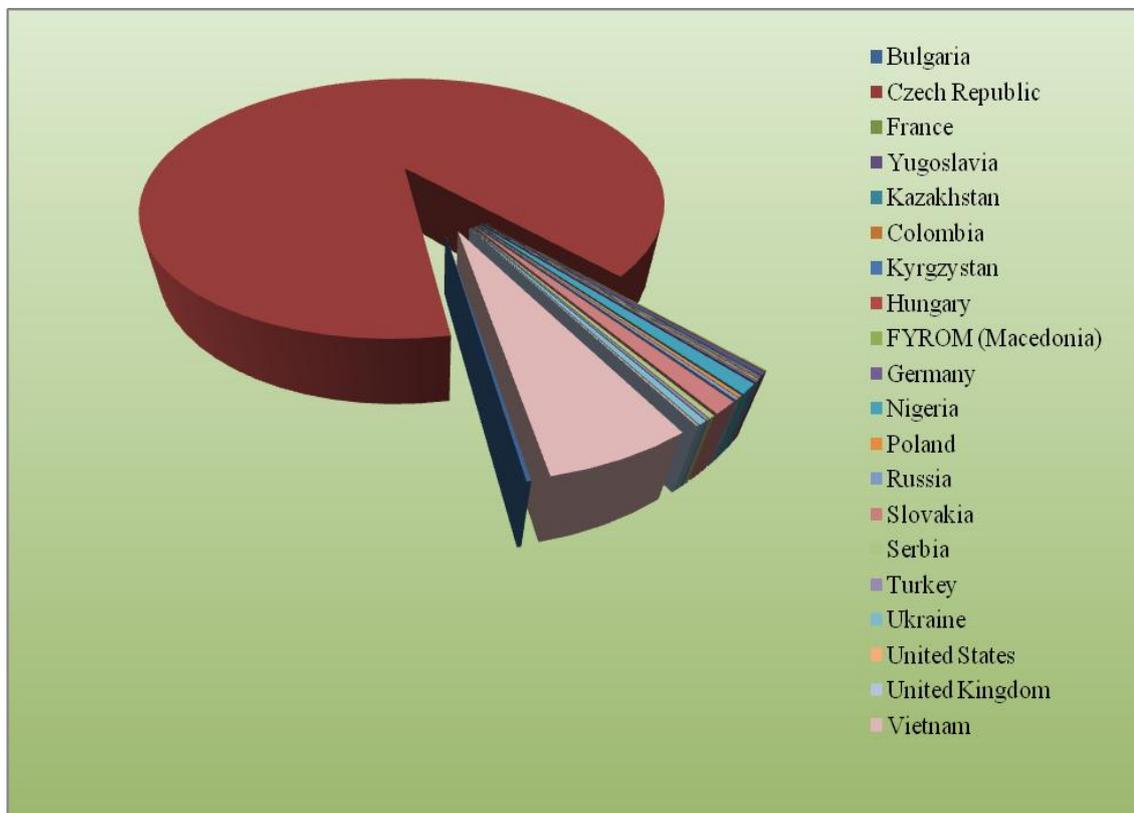
### Offenders according to age

Adults	2214
Juveniles	83
Minors	43



## Offenders according to nationality

Nationality	Number
Bulgaria	4
Czech Republic	2 114
France	2
Yugoslavia	7
Kazakhstan	2
Columbia	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Hungary	1
Macedonia	2
Germany	3
Nigeria	20
Poland	4
Russia	4
Slovakia	25
Serbia	6
Turkey	3
Ukraine	8
USA	1
United Kingdom	1
Vietnam	131



Substance	NDH +SGCD	South Bohemian	South Moravian	Karlovy Vary	Hradec Králové	Liberec	Moravian-Silesian	Olomouc	Pardubice	Plzeň	Prague	Central Bohemian	Ústí nad Labem ý	Vysočina	Zlín	Customs Admin	TOTAL
Amphetamine (g)	7.0				2,0											0.9	10
Cannabis (g)	19 270,5	13 058	16 891	266,8	5 797,8	1 116,8	1 400,8	10 462,5	722,5	21 983,4	4 972,5	13 254,8	28 977,1	3 896,3	1 772,9	27 956,5	171 800
Cannabis-plants	1 998	1 406	134	4 213	19	55	114	588	31	5 989	1 774	3 676	10 080	91	101	3 158	33 427
Cannabis-grow house	6	4	6	4	1	2	2	7	1	9	7	11	16	2	3	3	84
Diazepam (tbl.)											26						26
Ephedrine (g)			20.0								6 001,8		1,6				6 023,4
Ephedrine (ml)																	0
Hashish (g)		0,50					109,80				83,55					12 305,5	12 499,3
Heroin (g)	26 293,1	49,4	21,93	54,66		1,1	212,3			11,9	1 184,2	22,04	12,7	0,58		3 393,7	31 258
Cocaine (g)	3 667,3										3 236,8					5 999,7	12 903,8
Cocaine-leaves (g)																906,5	906,5
LSD (trip)					3						100					39	142
Psilocybes (g)												1,10		0,02		80,20	81,3
Methamphetamine (g)	694,3	72,7	416,2	98,3	45,9	142,9	35,2	61,9	30,0	38,9	346,4	265,4	295,7	157,5	48,5	845,8	3595,6
Methamphetamine-lab	5	10	54	12	7	21	32	28	8	23	37	45	35	11	14		342
Acatar (tbl.)	204					340					564					2 400	3 508
Cirrus (tbl.)	6																6
Ibuprofen (tbl.)					80												80
Ibuprom (tbl.)																22 080	22 080
Modafen (tbl)			240					540			60						840
Nurofen Stop grip (tbl)			168								708						876
Panadol Plus Grip (tbl)			1 224														1 224
Paralen Plus (tbl)									1 440								1 440
Sudafed (tbl.)					1 914			300			5 337					4 680	12 231
Paracetamol																	0
Pseudoephedrine (g)																	0,00
Opium (g)			0,50														0,5
Rivotril (tbl)				239							54						293,00
Subutex (tbl)						4,25					97,50						102
Anabolic lab																	1
XTC/MDMA (tbl)	101		33				12	13,5			12			2	9	16	198,5

**Approximate drug street prices**

<b>NPS</b>	<b>Street price per gram</b>
<b>Amphetamine</b>	CZK 1500
<b>Ecstasy</b>	CZK 100-500
<b>Hashish</b>	CZK 100-300
<b>Heroin</b>	CZK 800-2500
<b>Cocaine</b>	CZK 1000-3500
<b>LSD</b>	CZK 100-300
<b>Hallucinogens</b>	CZK 100-300
<b>Marijuana - indoor</b>	CZK 170-500
<b>Marijuana - outdoor</b>	CZK 50-250
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	CZK 600-4000 <sup>23</sup>
<b>Opium</b>	CZK 100-200
<b>Subutex (2 mg tablet)</b>	CZK 100-250
<b>Subutex (8 mg tablet)</b>	CZK 300-800
<b>Other drugs</b>	

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<sup>23</sup> CZK 4000 per gram of methamphetamine was registered as having been paid in a prison.

## 7. Solved cases

### 7.1. Operation "KANO"

On 20 January 2009 the officers of the First Department of the National Drug Headquarters of the NPC completed the operation codenamed "KANO". Following many months of investigation of criminal activities an organized group, preoccupied with the import and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances in the Czech Republic was detained.

The suspects were detained in Tylovo náměstí in Prague 2. Three Nigerians were detained selling 200 grams of cocaine originating in South America. The detainees themselves had managed the delivery of the drug to the Czech Republic to distribute the drug to various Prague clubs.

In the course of subsequent home search additional tens of grams of cocaine were seized, along with dozens of ecstasy tablets, more than one kilogram of marijuana, several thousand CZKs and other currencies and means to distribute drugs. One of the offenders was illegal alien and two other offenders had applied for asylum in the Czech Republic. The chief offender, who was in charge of drug supply and was detained one month previously with 15 grams of cocaine, had said he lived from the sale of drugs; however, he had not been taken into custody.

The offenders sent the proceeds of their criminal activities to other countries, such as the Netherlands, Spain or Nigeria. These countries are usually associated with the import of cocaine to Europe. The drugs were packaged in the way suggesting they are carried by couriers smuggling them on their bodies. Dozens of Czech nationals have been detained in South American and European countries in this connection because they had attempted to smuggle drugs to Europe. In most cases the couriers are dispatched by organized Nigerian gangs residing in the Netherlands or Spain.



## 7.2. Operation "DAO"

The international operation codenamed "DAO" was launched in August 2009 with the aim of targeting an organized group of Vietnamese and Turkish nationals active in the territories of the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. They exported marijuana grown and produced in the Czech Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany, where the marijuana was distributed.

This international operation involved the participation of members of the First Department, the Drug Unit of the General Customs Directorate, members of GER Nuremberg (Federal Republic of Germany) and members of the Customs Criminal Office in Selb (Federal Republic of Germany).

Operation "DAO" proceeded in two phases:

### Phase One

On 5 September 2009 a citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany was detained at the Selb border point in cooperation with employees of the Czech General Customs Directorate and members of GER Nuremberg. This courier hired by Vietnamese and Turkish organizers smuggled in the boot and back seats of his AUDI A3 a total of 14.5 kg of marijuana. During the house search at his address in Plauen, other narcotic and psychotropic substances were seized. The courier is currently in the custody of the judicial bodies of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### Phase Two

Between 23 and 27 November 2009 and in cooperation with the Operative Group of the Czech General Customs Directorate, all organizers of this criminal activity were detained, numbering three Vietnamese nationals and one citizen of Turkey. A Vietnamese woman and another Vietnamese national, both residing in Prague, negotiated purchases of marijuana produced in unidentified Czech-based indoor cannabis growing facilities and sold this marijuana through a Vietnamese citizen, resident in Berlin, to a Turkish citizen resident in the FRG city of Plauen, who organized marijuana shipments from the Czech Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany by hired couriers.



### 7.3. Operation "BAO"

Codenamed "BAO" and commenced in August 2009, this international operation was targeted on the organized gang of Vietnamese nationals operating in the territories of the Czech Republic, Federal Republic of Germany and Hungary and engaging in large-scale cannabis growing in indoor facilities to produce marijuana smuggled by hired couriers for subsequent sale in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Hungary.

Officers from the First Department – members of the Anti-drug unit of the General Customs Directorate participated in this international operation in conjunction with officers of the Criminal Police Service and Investigation of the Havlíčkův Brod Territorial Section, officers of the GER Nuremberg Service in the Federal Republic of Germany and members of the Hungarian drug enforcement squad.

Operation "BAO" proceeded in the following four phases:

#### Phase One

On 7 October 2009 a Czech citizen was detained at the Selb border checkpoint with the help of officers of the Czech General Customs Directorate and the Selb Customs Criminal Office. This courier, hired by Vietnamese organizers, smuggled a total of 29 kg of marijuana in the luggage compartment and on the back seats of his Audi A6. The product would have sold on the German drug market for EUR 4000 per kilogram. The courier was arrested and is in custody pending prosecution by the justice organs of the Federal Republic of Germany.



#### Phase 2

On 9 November 2009 a Hungarian citizen was detained in Bratislava in cooperation with the officers of the Slovak Republic Customs Administration; this courier had smuggled in his BMW car 15 kg of marijuana intended for the Hungarian drug market, where it would have fetched CZK 70,000 per kilogram. The courier was arrested and is in custody pending prosecution by the justice organs of the Slovak Republic.

#### Phase Three

On 17 November 2009 officers of GER Nuremberg detained a man of Vietnamese nationality permanently resident in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, who organized the distribution of marijuana smuggled from the Czech Republic. The detainee had also organized the establishment of two large-scale cannabis grow houses in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was placed in custody pending trial in the Federal Republic of Germany.



#### Phase Four

In the period from 27 November to 1 December 2009 four Vietnamese nationals were detained in conjunction with members of the Operative Group of the General Customs Directorate, officers of the Havlíčkův Brod Criminal Investigation Department and

members of the Task Force of the Hradec Králové Police Department. They had organized the cultivation of cannabis and established cannabis indoor grow houses in the territory of the Czech Republic. A single offender was detained in Cheb and another three were arrested in miscellaneous places in Prague. During the household search in a Prague 4 flat used as a marijuana storage room 15.5 kilograms of the drug were seized. Subsequently three large scale cannabis grow houses were detected, in which marijuana was produced for export from the Czech Republic. The grow houses were established in the municipalities of Rudná, District Prague-West; Krucemburg, District Havlíčkův Brod; and Habry, District Havlíčkův Brod. In the Habry grow house, three Vietnamese citizens, who worked as "gardeners", were detained. They had been responsible for growing marijuana and producing cannabis. A total of 3,000 cannabis plants were seized in the grow houses. Also seized were three turnkey indoor cannabis-growing systems the acquisition value of which was at least CZK 3 million.

A total of 56 kg of marijuana with a high content of THC effective substance (between 18% and 25%) were seized during the operation, along with five large-scale cannabis growing facilities equipped with turnkey indoor-growing technologies valued at least at CZK 5 million. A total of 10 persons were detained.



## 7.4. Operation "X5"

On 6 April 2009, after three months of preparations, the officers of the First Department of the NDH in conjunction with the Swiss police launched an operation codenamed "X5", during which two offenders from North Bohemia were detained. One of them had organized the import of marijuana with the help of two Czech couriers, who were supposed to smuggle eight kilograms of marijuana from Switzerland. The couriers carrying the drug were arrested by the Swiss police near the border of the Federal Republic of Germany.

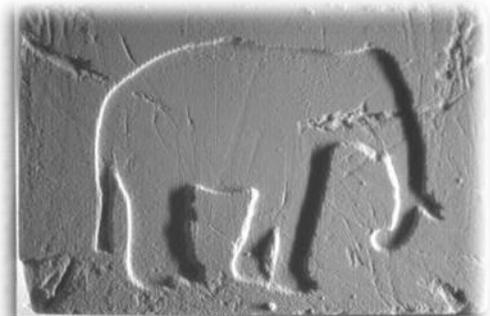
The two North Bohemian offenders were later detained in Prague after stealing a total of 23 kg of raw cannabis from an illegal large-scale grow house located in Prague 6. This growing facility was operated by an organized group of Vietnamese nationals. Information about this particular grow house was forwarded to the officers of the Criminal Police and Investigation Department of the Prague 1 District Police Directorate, who subsequently arrested the offenders of Vietnamese nationality and seized turnkey indoor marijuana growing technologies together with several hundred cannabis plants.



## 7.5. Operation "TATUIN"

On 12 August 2009 the officers of the First Department of the Ústí nad Labem Branch Office, acting in concert with the Řehlovice Highway Police Department launched an operation codenamed "TATUIN". In the course of this operation a citizen of the Slovak Republic was detained on Highway D8. He carried in his car from the Federal Republic of Germany two packages of total weight of 1.053 kg, containing cocaine.

The packages with cocaine had a symbol pressed on them, replacing a certain "goods quality mark" used by drug cartels to footprint their goods and to assure the customer about the origin of the product.



## **7.6. Operation "STROUHA" (DRAIN)**

In the evening hours of 19 March 2009 our task force detained three persons from the former Yugoslavia in a parking place outside the BAUMX store in Prague 4. Officers from the Second Department of the NDH had checked their criminal activities since the start of 2009. They had been suspected of importing the heroin narcotic substance to the Czech Republic and subsequently distributing the product here. PCR NDH CPIS officers had worked with their Austrian police partners to check on this particular case of criminal action.

One person (born in 1972) was detained during the act of trading 3.5 kg of the narcotic substance heroin; another two persons (born in 1965 and 1978 respectively) were arrested as they were going to leave the site in a motor vehicle.

During subsequent house searches another 3.5 kg of heroin were seized together with equipment used for diluting the substance.

## **7.7. Operation "STROUHA II" (DRAIN II)**

Officers of the PCR NDH CPIS had been checking since mid-2008 the criminal activities of a group of persons coming from the countries of the former Yugoslavia and suspected of organizing the import of the narcotic substance heroin to the Czech Republic and its subsequent distribution here.

On 26 June 2009 one person (born in 1958) was detained when leaving an apartment known to be used as a hideout for the narcotic substance heroin. During subsequent house searches three kg of the narcotic substance heroin were found together with two presses, about five kilograms of substance used for diluting and components designed for compressing the narcotic substance heroin.

At the time of arresting the first-named person his/her accomplice lived in the territory of the state of Kosovo, and having learned that the first-named person was arrested, the assisting offender (born in 1968) refrained from returning to the Czech Republic for fear of being arrested by the Czech Police. That person arrived in the Czech Republic in the night hours of 24 December 2009 with the intention to stay there for only two days. This person was detained during the night hours of 25 December 2009.

The persons indicated above were taken into custody and if proved guilty they may face prison terms between two and 10 years.

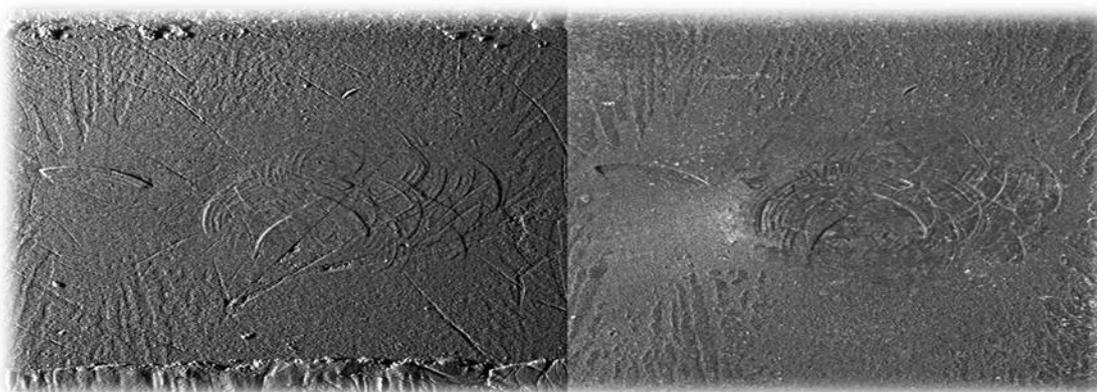
## **7.8. Practical implications of Project "RELIÉF" (RELIEF)**

Within Operation "DRBA", officers of the First Department of the NDH detained in 2009 a Kosovo Albanian; during the house search of his apartment various items were seized, including 11 half-kilogram packages of compressed heroin and a metallic press containing two metallic press matrixes. This raid was preceded by Operation "MALI", during which three half-kilogram heroin consignments were found buried underground.

In 2009, the officers of the Second NDH Department launched an operation codenamed "STROUHA II", during which two leading Kosovo Albanian heroin dealers were arrested. During the subsequent house search carried out in the apartment of one of them a metallic compression device was found. On the face of expert opinion within the framework of Project Reliéf we were able to prove a connection between Operation "MALI" (buried heroin found) and Operation "STROUHA II". It was found out that the buried consignments had been treated with the help of the pressing device seized during Operation "STROUHA II". Some of the compressed heroin consignments within the framework of Operation "DRBA" had been certainly treated with the help of the press seized during the operation. Our findings were accepted by the office of the supervising state attorney and the two cases were made the subject of a single criminal proceeding.

**Pattern of compressed heroin consignment within Operation "MALI" with obvious traces of a compression device**

**Pattern of metallic pressure plate in Operation "STROUHA" with identical prints in the pattern of traces detected in the pattern of the Operation "MALI" heroin consignments**



## **7.9. Operation "CAPUTO"**

In the evening hours of 15 December 2009 the PCR NDH CPIS officers completed the operation codenamed "**CAPUTO**".

After many months of verification a total of seven persons was detained. They were citizens of the Czech Republic, who had supplied the markets of Prague and the Central Bohemian Region for many years with cocaine, marijuana and pervitin. The chief offender was arrested in his apartment in Kralupy nad Vltavou together with a fellow offender as they were fixing one kilogramme of cocaine. Another two offenders were later detained in the Kladno District and three persons were arrested in the Prague-East District.

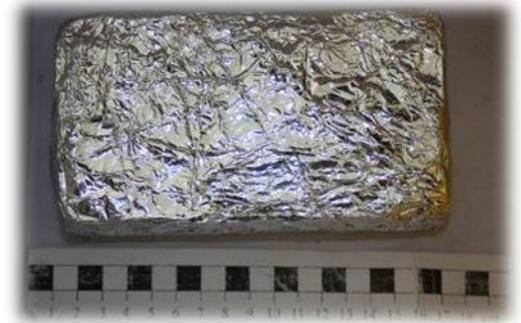
During the subsequent searches of their homes and other premises and land owned by individual offenders, a total of 1,200 grams of cocaine, 150 grams of pervitin, 631 cannabis sativa plants, 23.8 kilogrammes of harvested green cannabis, cash amounting to CZK 470,000 and EUR 3,000 and two vehicles were seized. Furthermore three turnkey cannabis growing facilities were seized together with one turnkey pervitin lab and two turnkey cocaine pressing devices.

The chief offender had been known to the NDH officers for at least 10 years in the context of other drug cases, but his criminal behaviour could only be documented in this scope on the basis of this particular case, rewarding the commencement of criminal proceedings against him.

## 7.10. Operation "DRBA"

On 27 August 2009 and after three months of preparatory work the members of the First Department of the NDH launched the operation codenamed "DRBA", during which a Kosovo national and his Czech girlfriend were detained. They had spent many months importing and trading the narcotic substance heroin in the territories of Prague and the North Moravian Region.

During a house search in their apartment a total of 5.8 kg of narcotic substance heroin, 4.4 kg of caffeine/paracetamol mix used to dilute heroin and a device for compressing heroin into half-kilogramme bricks were seized.



## 7.11. Operation "LISA"

In October 2009 criminal proceedings on the suspicion of committing the crime of illegal production and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and toxic matters according to the provision of Section 187, Paragraph 1.2 Letter a) and Paragraph 4, Letter c) of the Penal Code, since it was found on the face of the proceedings carried out that a group of persons temporarily resident in Plzeň and its vicinity, together with other persons abroad, organized the import of the narcotic substance cocaine through Czech couriers from South America to the Czech Republic and its subsequent distribution in the territory of the Plzeň Region and other parts of the Czech Republic. In the course of investigation a Czech citizen was arrested at Lima airport in conjunction with the Peruvian police, who had attempted to smuggle 4.11 kilograms of cocaine in his luggage from Bolivia to the Czech Republic. Subsequently other persons reputedly involved in illegal cocaine trade were identified and arrested, whereupon two Czech citizens and one French person resident in the Czech Republic were served subpoenas regarding illegal production and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances (NPS).

## 7.12. Operation "MERHABA"

Criminal proceedings for the illegal production and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poisons in accordance with Section 187 Paragraph 1 Letter a) and Paragraph 4, Letter c) of the Penal Code were launched against a group of persons trading in pervitin. Under a previous arrangement the drug was produced in and exported from the Czech Republic to customers in the Federal Republic of Germany, who distributed in that country. In July 2009 a man and a woman from the Cheb area were arrested and placed in custody, pending investigation. Two other members of the gang, temporarily residing in the Federal Republic of Germany were detained by the German police.

## 7.13. Operation "FAST"

Criminal proceedings on the suspicion of committing the crime of illegal production and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances according to Section 187 Paragraph 1 Letter a) and Paragraph 4, Letter c) of the Penal Code were started against a group of persons, who had organized at least since January 2009 the production of pervitin in the towns of Aš and Cheb and their export and sale to other persons especially in the Federal Republic of Germany under previously negotiated conditions. On 4 May 2009 five Czech nationals were arrested, including one woman and four men. During a house search two pervitin kitchens were found together with chemicals to make the drug and made pervitin in the quantity of about 20 grams mobile telephones and cash.



## 7.14. Operation "COHIBA"

In March 2009 National Drug Headquarters officers in conjunction with URNA officers arrested an organized group trading heroin in the Ústí nad Labem Region in general and Teplice in particular.

Three offenders were arrested during the operation and about 250 grams of heroin were seized in house search operations together with two kilograms of dissolvent, a NPS mill, a digital scale, mobile telephones and CZK 200,000 in cash. The National Drug Headquarters launched criminal proceedings against the accused persons, who could be sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to 10 years.



## 7.15. Operation "GERYK"

On 20 April 2009 Czech Customs Administration officers arrested two persons at the Lanžhot border checkpoint – a man and a woman in the seventh month of pregnancy. They had attempted to smuggle a total of 11 kilogrammes of heroin in 45 packs to the territory of the Czech Republic. The drug was stored in the rear bumper of a Škoda Octavia car. The purity of the seized heroin was 40 percent of the effective substance.



The arrest of these two persons and the seizure of smuggled heroin led to the culmination of a several month-long operation of the Prague-based National Drug Headquarters and its Brno branch office, codenamed "GERYK". Their detention by the Customs Administration subsequently led to the arrest of two organizers – a former Soviet army officer and a woman. The two arrestees had engaged in smuggling heroin to the Czech territory and its subsequent distribution in this country and other European Union Member States.

The main organizer, a man of Turkish nationality was detained in Hungary four months later under a European arrest warrant and was extradited to the Czech Republic. He was also told he is accused of committing the above mentioned crime.



## 7.16. Operation "NICK"

On 15 December 2008 and upon a communication from the London Customs and Revenue Office through the National Europol Unit it was found that a cocaine consignment weighing 450 grams and being of 80.5% purity of effective substance was seized at Gatwick International Airport. The consignment had been sent from Colombia

by DHL. The sender was a person from Bogota in Colombia, and the recipient was a woman in Uherský Brod in the Czech Republic. Upon agreement with the British justice bodies the consignment was sent to Prague, where it was ordered seized by the Brno state attorney. The Brno City Court ordered the consignment opened and its contents altered. The consignment was subsequently posted to DHL for delivery. On 8 January 2009 three suspects collected the package from DHL in Zlín. In cooperation with the Police of the Kingdom of Spain the organizer of the transaction was identified as a Slovak woman permanently residing in Spain. After collecting sufficient evidence arrests were made on 10 April 2009. Three persons were detained and had police prosecution proceedings opened against them on the indictment of illegal production and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and toxic matter in accordance with Section 187, Paragraph 1.2a of the Penal Code. A European arrest warrant was issued for the woman organizing the drug transaction.



## 7.17. Operation "MACEK"

The PCR NDH CPIS received information from the Czech Republic Embassy in Lima about the detention of a Czech national, said to have been arrested on 21 July 2008 at Bolivia's La Paz International Airport on the grounds of a state-controlled substance concealed in his luggage, in the amount of 3.300 grams of cocaine.

The officers of the Brno Branch office of the PCR NDH CPIS started criminal procedures on the suspicion of illegal production and possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and toxic matter in accordance with Section 187, Paragraphs 1.2a and 4c of the Penal Code. During the verification period it was discerned that a woman was looking for persons around the Czech Republic to be sent or otherwise dispatched by her to contact a Czech organizer of the transaction in the Netherlands. Supposedly carrying corporate mail from the Netherlands such persons fly to South American countries where accommodation is secured for them for about 11 days. Upon leaving such countries they are requested to carry large amounts of cocaine in previously prepared luggage against the reward of EUR 10,000.

The woman suspected of this criminal wrongdoing had hired a courier who travelled to the Netherlands on 7 February 2009 and proceeded to travel to Ecuador, ostensibly to rest in the Salinas holiday resort. He stayed in Ecuador for 10 days and was detained on our request by the local police at the Guayquil International Airport. A total of 11,614 grams of cocaine was found concealed in his luggage.