

Changing drug market requires new priorities for Moldova's law enforcement authorities

The presentation contents are the sole responsibility of Mr. Vladislav Cojuhari and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



**LISBON
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Up-to-date information

Statistical data on *illegal circulation of drugs, ethnobotanicals or their analogues* indicate that in the first semester of 2022, BP subdivisions recorded 11 cases of illicit drug trafficking with detection of 14.73 kg of drugs, compared to 3 cases in the same period of the year 2021. The significant increase in the amount of seized drugs is due to the cases registered at the green border, on the Moldovan-Ukrainian segment of the border

The possession data show the increase in the number of users of synthetic drugs (so-called SPICE, ETHNOBOTANICALS, ECSTASY) on the national market (widespread among young people) due to: affordable price (about 2-3 times lower than the classic drug) and simplicity of purchase (widespread use of communication networks/social media applications - Telegram, Viber that ensure high conspiracy and vigilance).

Following the analysis of the data, it was found that the following types of drugs are prevalent on the territory of the Republic of Moldova: marijuana, hashish/hash oil, hemp plants, amphetamine and ethnobotanicals.

Methods of distribution



Modus operandi

In the Republic of Moldova, the drugs are picked up by couriers or courier warehousemen who then pack them in small doses of 0.5 g to 1 kg. Subsequently, by the method of placement in different locations (*zakladka*) they are handed to couriers, who in turn place them in different locations throughout the territory of the Republic of Moldova, including the districts, and payment for them is made in cryptocurrencies. Then the accumulated cryptocurrency is liquefied via online currency exchanges, which are created in the same way on the Telegram application, thus making it impossible to identify the owners of the online shops.

Online marketplace



cryptocurrency mixer



Digital Wallet

Payment confirmation by photo



Drug users

Drug payment



ATM

Pick up drugs "ZAKLADKA"

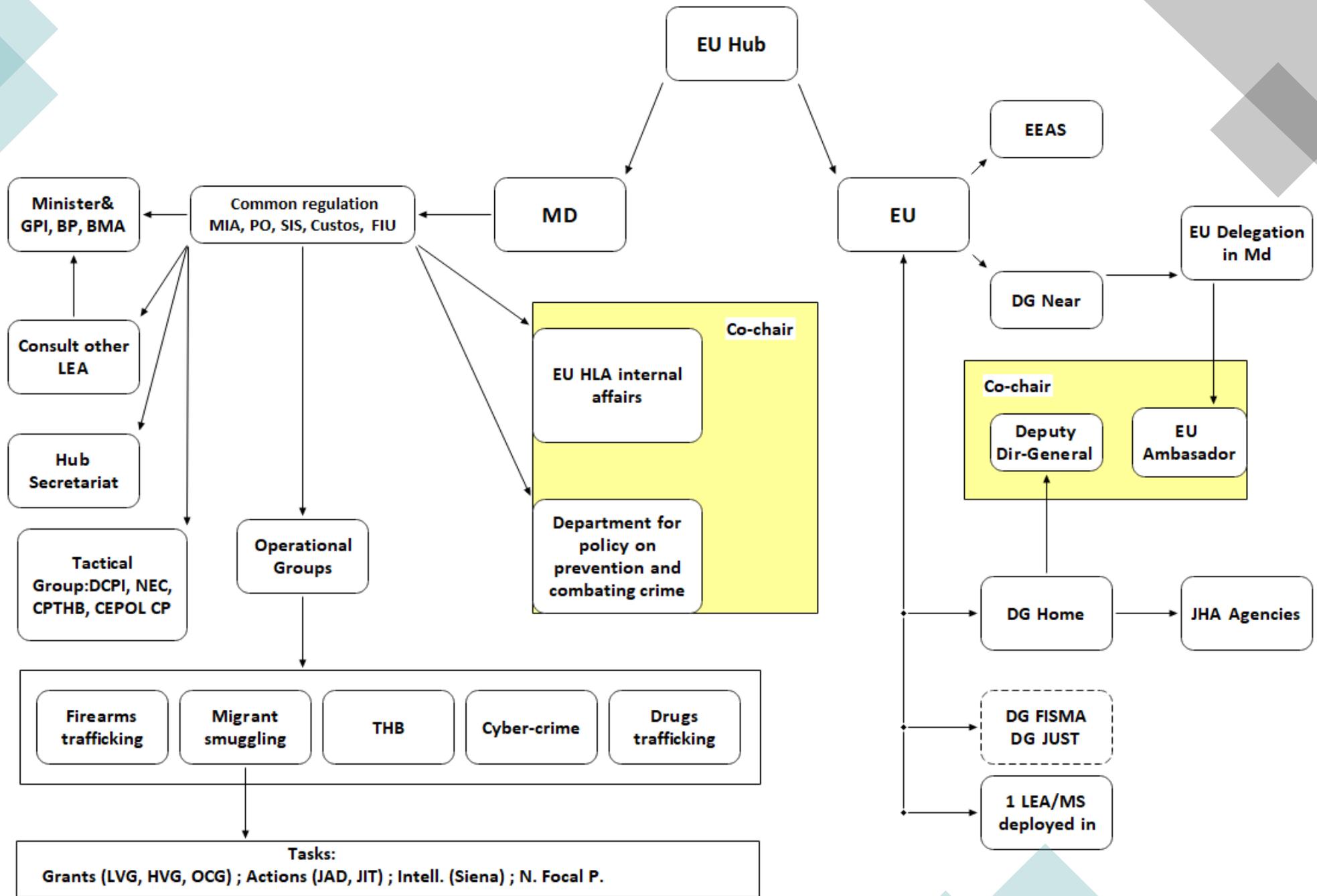


NPS



Location of drugs

The EU Support Hub is based on regular cooperation and hosting of regular meetings between the actors from the EU, its Agencies and its Member States that are deployed to Moldova to support the cooperation on internal security and border management and their counterparts in the Moldovan authorities. With each meeting of the Hub focusing on a specific priority area, the meetings of the Hub would facilitate operational action such as the launch of investigations or targeted exercises





**Thank you for your
attention**