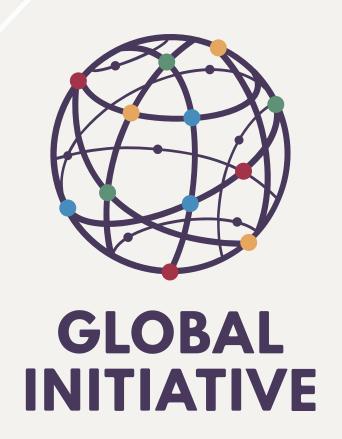
# THE GEOGRAPHY OF DRUG MARKETS

**HOTSPOTS OF VIOLENCE** 

LxA22 November 2022 Tuesday Reitano, Deputy Director





Onloids

ATS/NPS

Cocaine

Cannable

### GLOBAL DRUG MARKET EVOLUTIONS 2000-2020

May 2020: largest ever seizure of meth in South East Asia (Myanmar): 200 million meth tablets; 3 750 litres of methyl fentanyl; and 500 kg crystal meth.

950 NPS reported to UNODC's Early Warning Advisory, Largest methamphetamine seizure in Australian history (1.6 tonnes). 2019–2020: Afghanistan becomes significant producer of ephedrine and methamphetamine, supplying global consumer markets.

Number of deaths from opioid overdose increase by 120% between 2010 and 2018. Two-thirds of opioid-related overdose deaths in 2018 in the US involved synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and its analogues.

Opium cultivation increases by 63% in Afghanistan,

from 201 000 hectares in 2016 to an estimated

328 000 hectares in 2017.

0% of American heroin users are first introduced to opioids inrough prescription drugs.

Fentanyl enters drug supply in US and Canada, often sold deceptively. From 2013-2016, US overdose deaths from fentanyl and similar substances increase by 88% a year.

Mexican opium cultivation grows substantially in 2010 to meet North American market demand.

The bulk of Afghan-produced opium reaches Western consumer markets by three distinct routes: via the Balkans through Iran and Turkey; from Pakistan to east coast of Africa; and north through Russia.

Seizure of 1.1 tonnes of heroin is made on a vessel docked in Mombasa Kenya

'Spice', the first synthetic marijuana

product, appears in Europe in 2004,

1998-2006: Increasing interdiction

cocaine seizures grows dramatically.

en route to Europe. Quantity of European

and in the US in 2008.

Opium-production in Afghanistan is estimated to account for 62% of the country's GDP.

US crackdown on pseudoephedrine/ep hedrine-based pharmaceuticals and domestic small-scale meth producers.

By 2000, Mexican groups control estimated 70–90% of meth production and distribution in the US.

4 750 tonnes: estimated global potential opium production in 2000.

Late 1990s: California legalizes medical cannabis market. Next two decades see moves towards legal regulation, while many countries continue to outlaw cannabis production and sale.

US initiates Plan Colombia, providing \$300 million, making Colombia the third largest recipient of US foreign aid.

768 tonnes: potential cocaine production in 2000:

0 to meet rket demand.

Escalating identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in EU: between 2011 and 2015, **402** NPS are identified; **113** had been identified over the previous five years.

Latin American cartels shift to routes transiting West Africa; cocaine seizures in West Africa grow from 3 tonnes in 2004 to 47 tonnes in 2007.

Between 2009 and 2010,

1 billion methamphetamine tablets are

Global cocaine production hits record levels, at 1976 tonnes of 100% pure cocaine.

1 723 tonnes: estimated global cocaine production.

2016-2017: Meth production and distribution

by Mexican cartels is uncovered in Nigeria.

June 2019: largest cocaine seizure in the history of the US - 16 tonnes seized from a ship in Philadelphia.

32 vendors on Alibaba,

advertising two precursors that can be used to make fentanyl but are not banned in either the US or China.

Chinese wholesale e-commerce platform,

7 610 tonnes: estimated global opium

largest-ever heroin seizure (1.3 tonnes)

production in 2019. By 2019, two-thirds of global drug-related deaths are from opioids. China, a top producer of fentanyl, bans the

production and sale of fentanyl and many of its variants. September 2019: the UK records its

> November 2019: First transoceanic narco-submarine is caught off the coast of Spain carrying three tonnes of cocaine.

Uruguay legalizes recreational cannabis market.

Flows through West Africa contribute to

political instability, including the so-called 'cocaine coup' in Guinea-Bissau.

Colorado: the first US state to approve legal recreational market

Canada legalizes recreational cannabis market. South Africa decriminalizes private personal use and cultivation. Marijuana seizures by US Customs and Border Protection fell by more than half since 2012, while heroin and methamphetamine seizures held steady or markedly increased.

Global seizures continue: 4 303 tonnes (herb); 1 307 tonnes (resin).

UN reclassifies cannabis, removing it from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

More than 50 countries have adopted medicinal cannabis programmes, and recreational markets are legal in Canada, Uruguay and 15 US states.

2020

000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



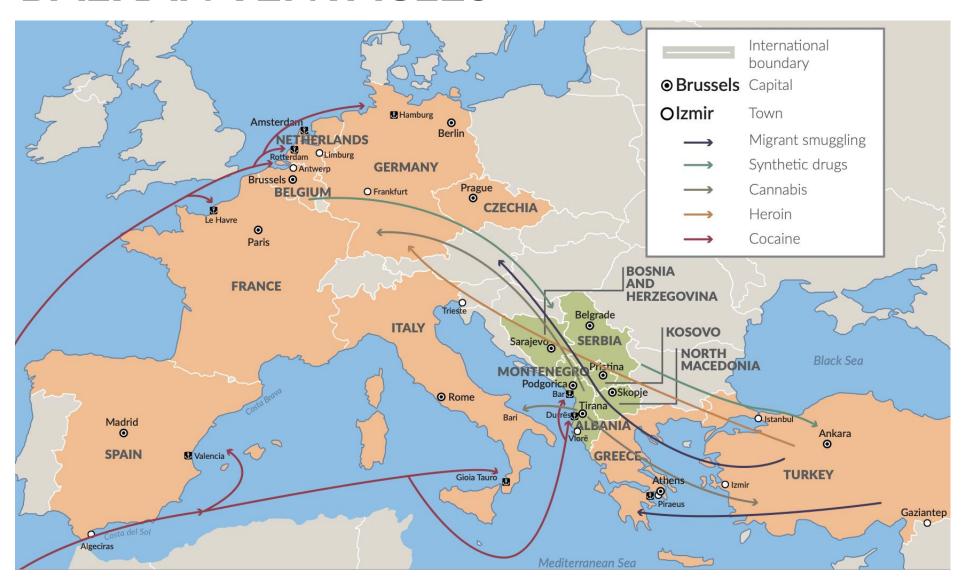
#### **ABOUT THE GI-TOC**



The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) is a network of prominent law enforcement, governance and development practitioners dedicated to seeking innovative policy responses to organized crime.



#### **BALKAN TENTACLES**



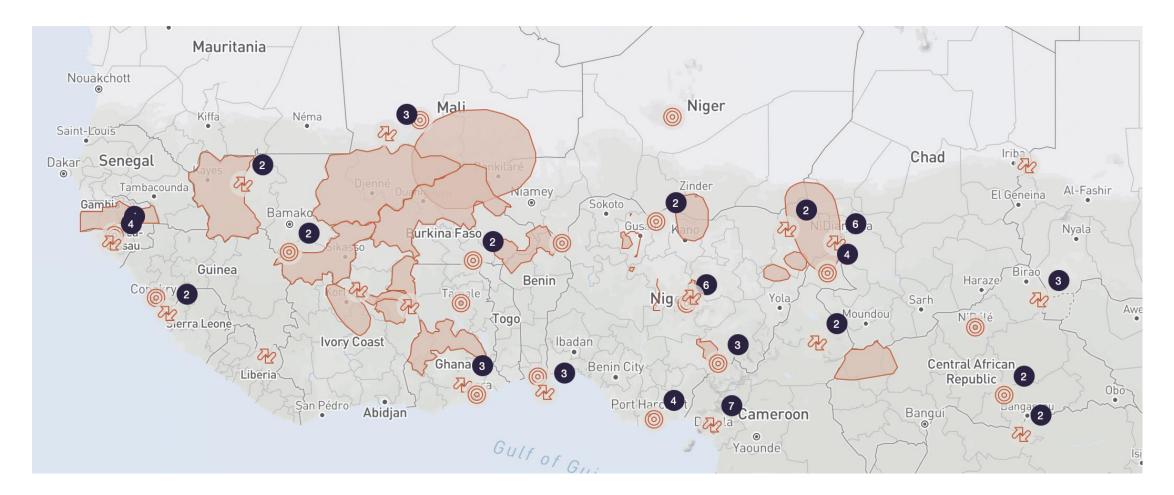


#### **UKRAINE**





#### **HOTSPOTS WEST AFRICA**











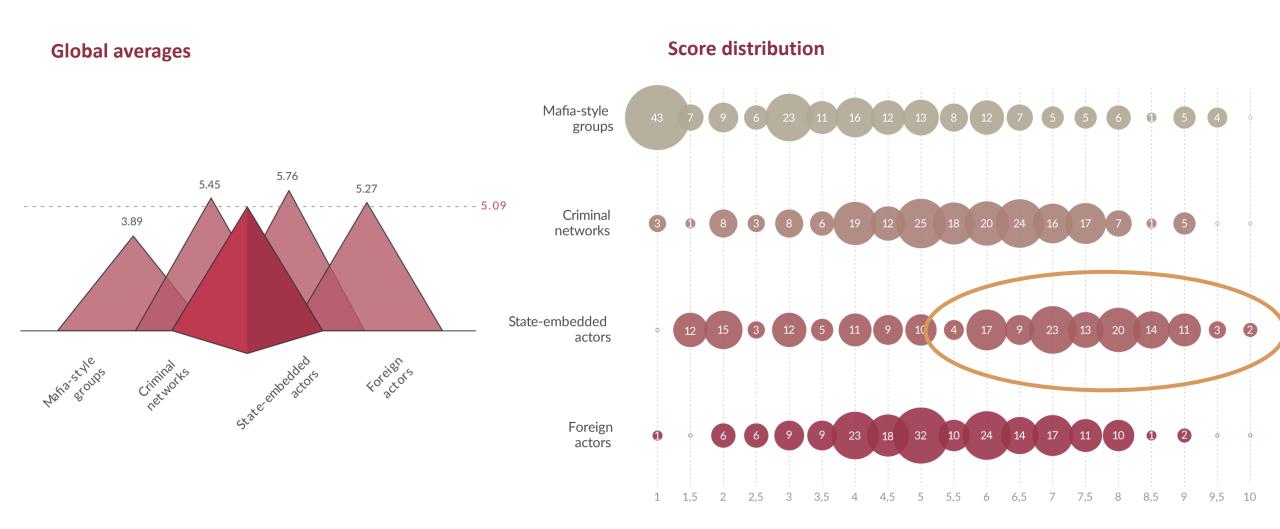








#### **CRIMINAL ACTORS**





## THANK YOU

#### **Contact**

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