

EU DRUG MARKETS REPORT

A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Case study 2

Methamphetamine production and trafficking increasing in Europe

Production and trafficking of methamphetamine is increasing in Europe, and it is spreading outside its traditional consumer markets of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Manufacturing of methamphetamine is now occurring or increasing in countries where it was previously absent or low-level, including Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.

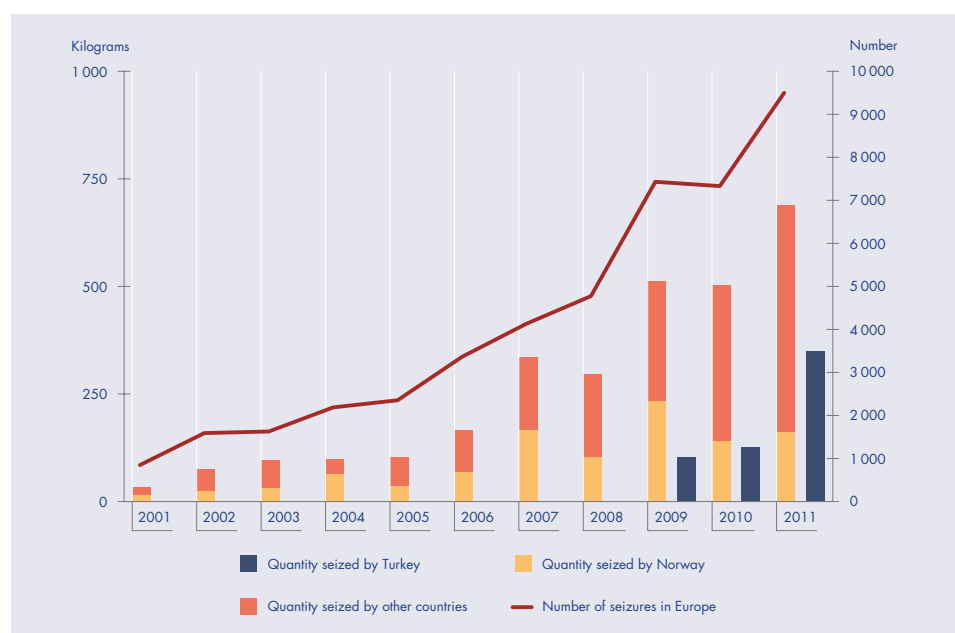
Europe is also now used as a transit territory for methamphetamine made in Africa and the Middle East and trafficked by air to East Asia. For instance, Turkey, a country traditionally associated with the heroin trade, is now a significant transit area for methamphetamine exports to Asia.

As a result, the quantities of methamphetamine seized in Europe, including Turkey, have increased six-fold since 2006, while the number of seizures was multiplied by three during that period (see graph).

The main new consumer markets for the drug are in Central Europe and Scandinavia. They include Germany, Norway and Sweden, three countries traditionally associated with the use of amphetamine.

Although compared to other world regions, such as Asia and North America, production and use of methamphetamine is limited in Europe, the spread of this drug is worrying and warrants careful monitoring.

Seizures of methamphetamine in Europe, 2001–2011



Note: All 26 European countries reporting methamphetamine seizures are included, except the Netherlands and Poland where *Number of seizures* data are not available. The total amounts represent the sum of the quantities of methamphetamine seized under different forms; for calculation purposes, tablets were assumed to weigh 250 mg. Four countries—Spain, Malta, the United Kingdom and Croatia—do not report methamphetamine seizure data.

Source: EMCDDA/Reitox national focal points, EMCDDA (2012a).

