



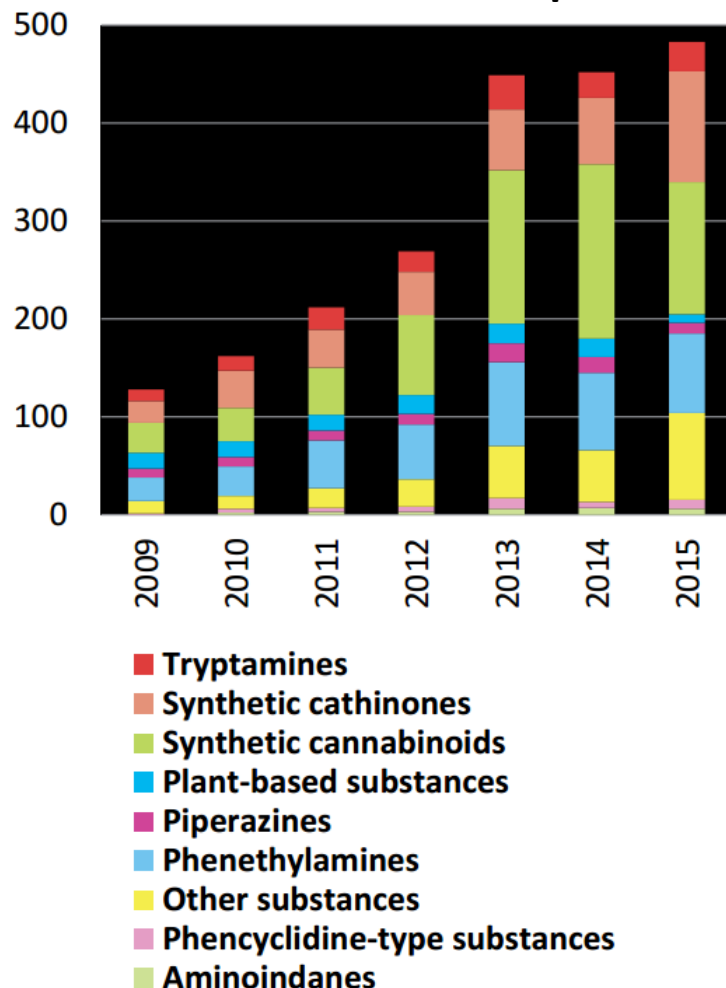
# **COPOLoad Working Group 1.3**

## **Developing Early Warning Systems (EWS)**

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**&**  
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# Background: Expanding market for New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

No. of different NPS reported each year

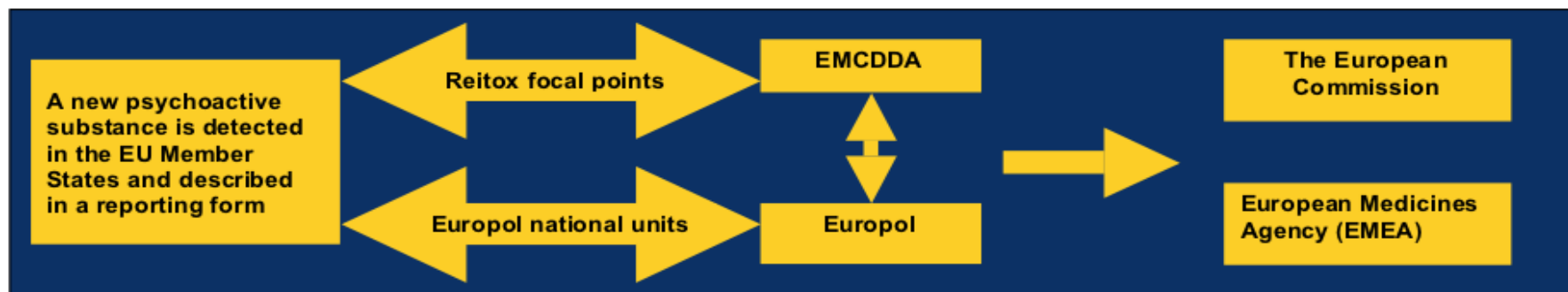


- Between 2009-2016, 739 different NPS reported
- In 2015 alone, almost 500 NPS were on the market worldwide
- Core group of about 80 persistent NPS
- Innovation continues but at slower pace
- NPS with stimulant properties expand in number
- Recent emergence of NPS mimicking medicines (fentanyl analogues, benzodiazepine derivatives) with high potential to cause harm

# A three step approach

## Council Decision 2005/387/JHA: a three-step process

### Information exchange/Early-warning



### Risk assessment



### Decision-making



# Background

- ❑ Significant difference in Caribbean drug situation compared to Latin America and Europe - New Psychoactive Substances largely absent in the Caribbean landscape
- ❑ We can monitor new methods of using “traditional” substances
- ❑ Prepare for possible emergence of NPS

# EWS Working Group Objectives

## General

Improve the response of CELAC countries towards the threat of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and/or new uses of substances based on the implementation and/or strengthening of Early Warning Systems (EWS) in the National Drug Observatories

## Specific

- ✓ Identify current state of NDOs regarding EWS implementation
- ✓ Strengthen existing EWS in CELAC & Develop a guide for the development of EWS
- ✓ Build capacity for the design and launch of EWS – identification of actors, structuring the system, definition of pathways and protocols
- ✓ Promote chemical characterization processes of new substances and of drugs defined as relevant in national contexts, as part of EWSs
- ✓ Form a regional network of EWSs for the rapid exchange of alerts and information and consistent methodological support

# COPOLAD: English & Spanish Groups

## **English Target group - 5 countries:**

- ✓ Antigua and Barbuda
- ✓ Bahamas
- ✓ Barbados
- ✓ Jamaica
- ✓ Trinidad and Tobago
- ✓ Leading CELAC country: Trinidad and Tobago
- ✓ Leading EU country: Czech Republic

## **Spanish Target Group – 8 Countries**

- ✓ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay
- ✓ Leading CELAC Countries: Uruguay & Colombia
- ✓ Leading EU Country: Poland

## Definition of EWS

An established communication network, the purpose of which is:

- ✓ Systematic collection and processing of the information on the occurrence of NPS
- ✓ Monitoring of the situation in terms of signals of harms related to NPS use

Typically EWS on NPS, but any kind of system identifying emerging trends/threats covering also “old” established drugs

# Working Group Definition

EWS:

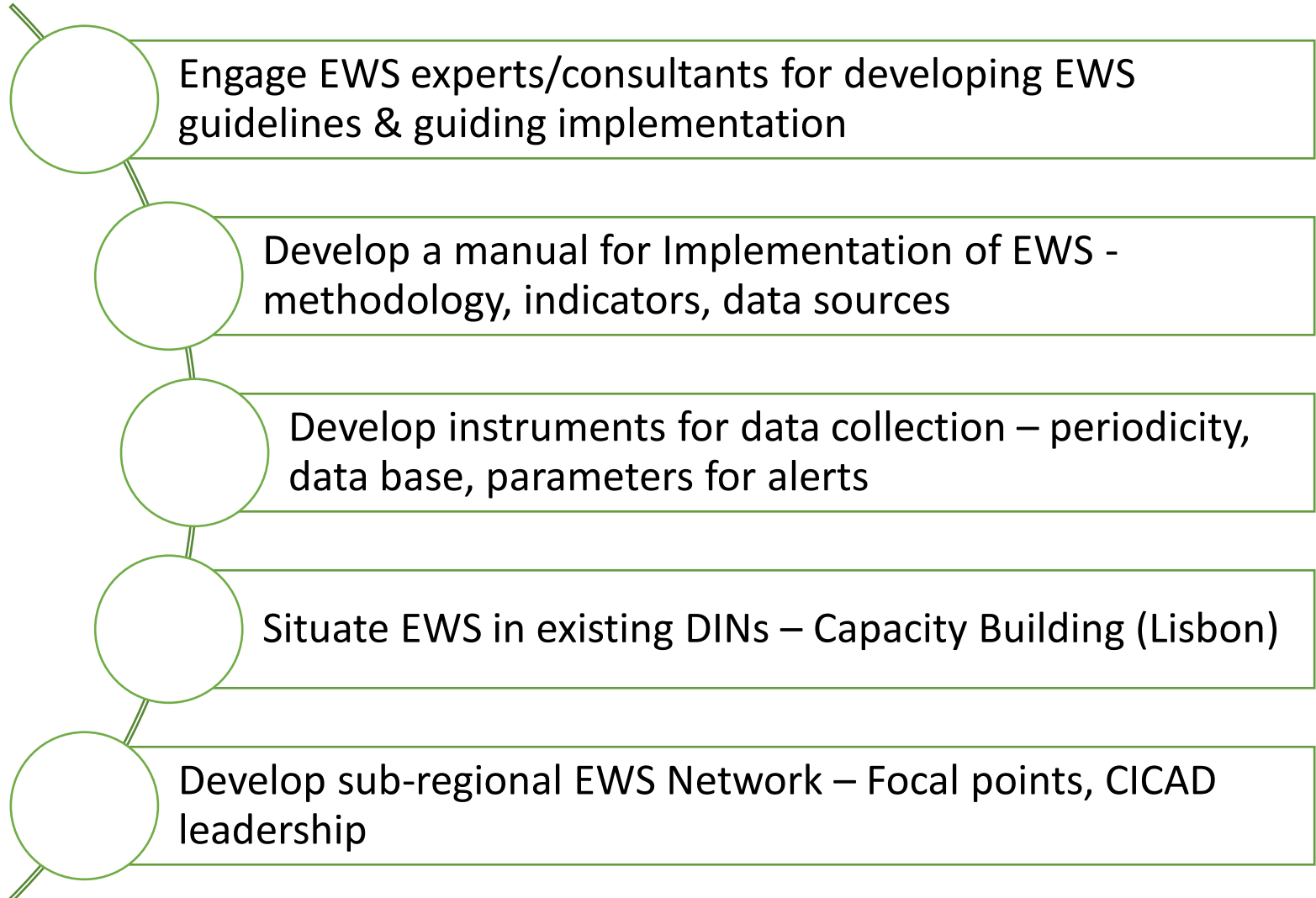
- ✓ Tools that allow for the rapid generation of information
- ✓ Dynamic methodology that includes the rapid identification, assessment, and classification of new phenomena (also designated as emerging drug phenomena)
- ✓ Ultimate goal of producing relevant, timely information
- ✓ Disseminated between determined actors.
- ✓ Recommended that the EWS be managed by the NDOs.



# Recent Working Group Meeting in Colombia

- ✓ Review results on survey on NPS and EWS in Caribbean Countries
- ✓ Determine & discuss base conditions for implementing EWS – experiences from Colombia and Argentina
- ✓ Determine & discuss initial conditions for EWS implementation in participating countries (Information sources, institutional framework, available resources, political decision)
- ✓ Achieve consensus on conceptual and methodological design – objectives, main information sources
- ✓ Determine plan for capacity building of working group members

# Next Steps



# Implications for DINs

- ✓ Do we think an EWS is necessary and relevant for the Caribbean?
- ✓ Would you want to participate in capacity building opportunities for developing an EWS?
- ✓ How is the development of an EWS different from current DIN functions?
- ✓ How can EWS function within our DINs