



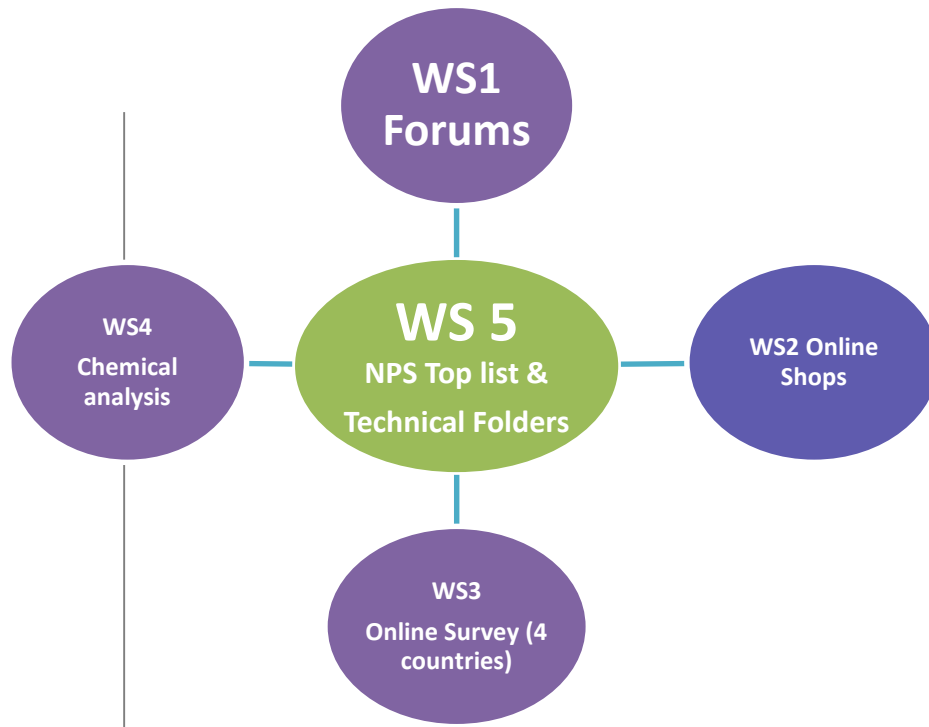
NPS users – attitude, behaviours and recommendation for response

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I-TREND: 5 partners



■ Czech Republic – CUNI

First Faculty of Medicine Charles University and General University Hospital, Prague.

■ France – OFDT (coordinator)

French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Paris.

■ Poland – SWPS

University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw.

■ The Netherlands – TRIMBOS

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■ United Kingdom – LJMU

Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University.

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Internet Tools for Research in Europe on New Drugs (I-TREND): interdisciplinary and integrated approaches to substances, users and markets,

Workstream 3 - Online survey for people who use new psychoactive substances (Deliverable No. 1)

International survey report

Authors: Piotr Sałustowicz, Artur Malczewski

in cooperation with: Vendula Belackova (Cz), Tibor Brunt (NL), Marta Jabłońska (PL), Sławomir Mandes (PL), Agnes Cadet Tairou (Fr), Emmanuel Lahaie (Fr)

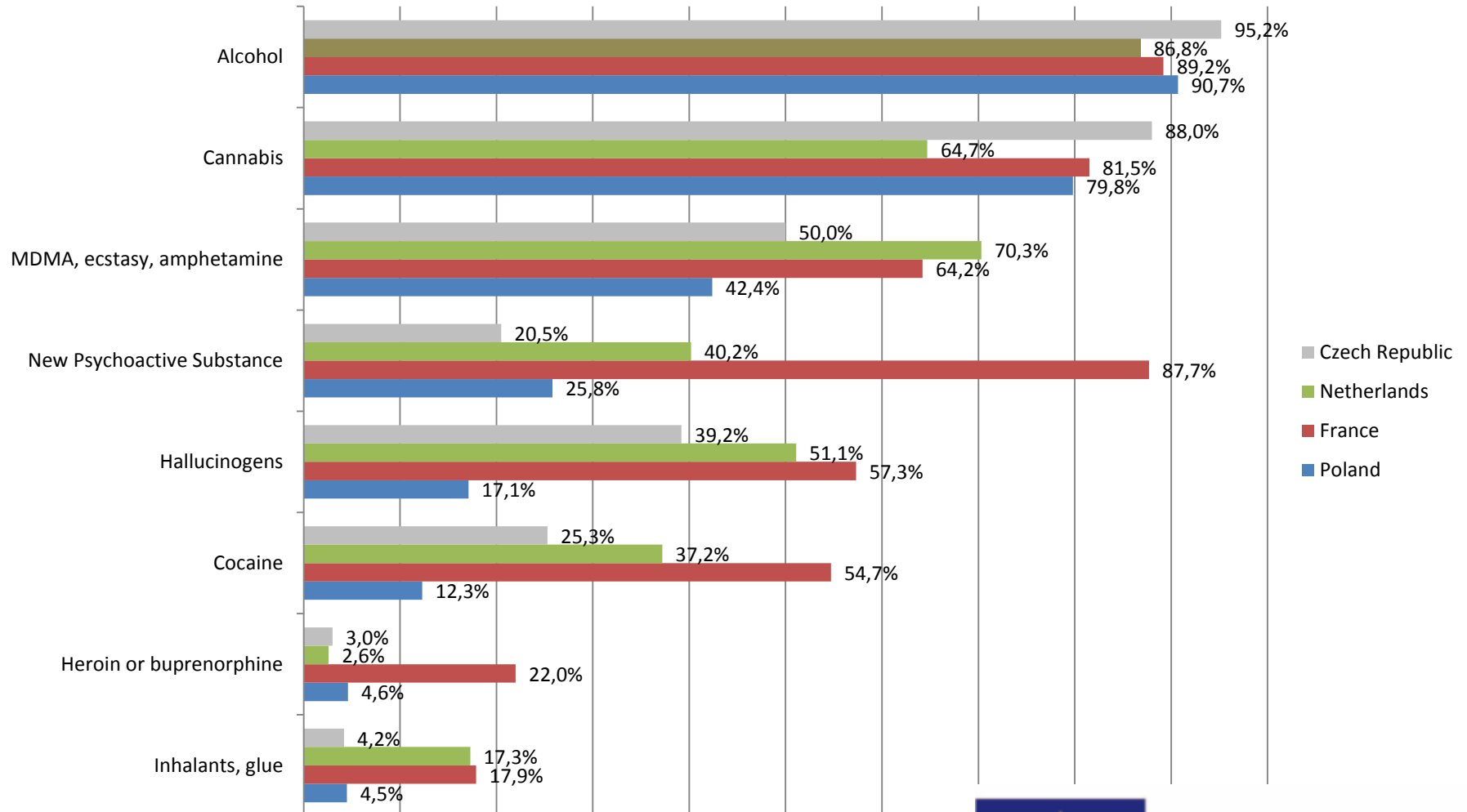


On-line survey

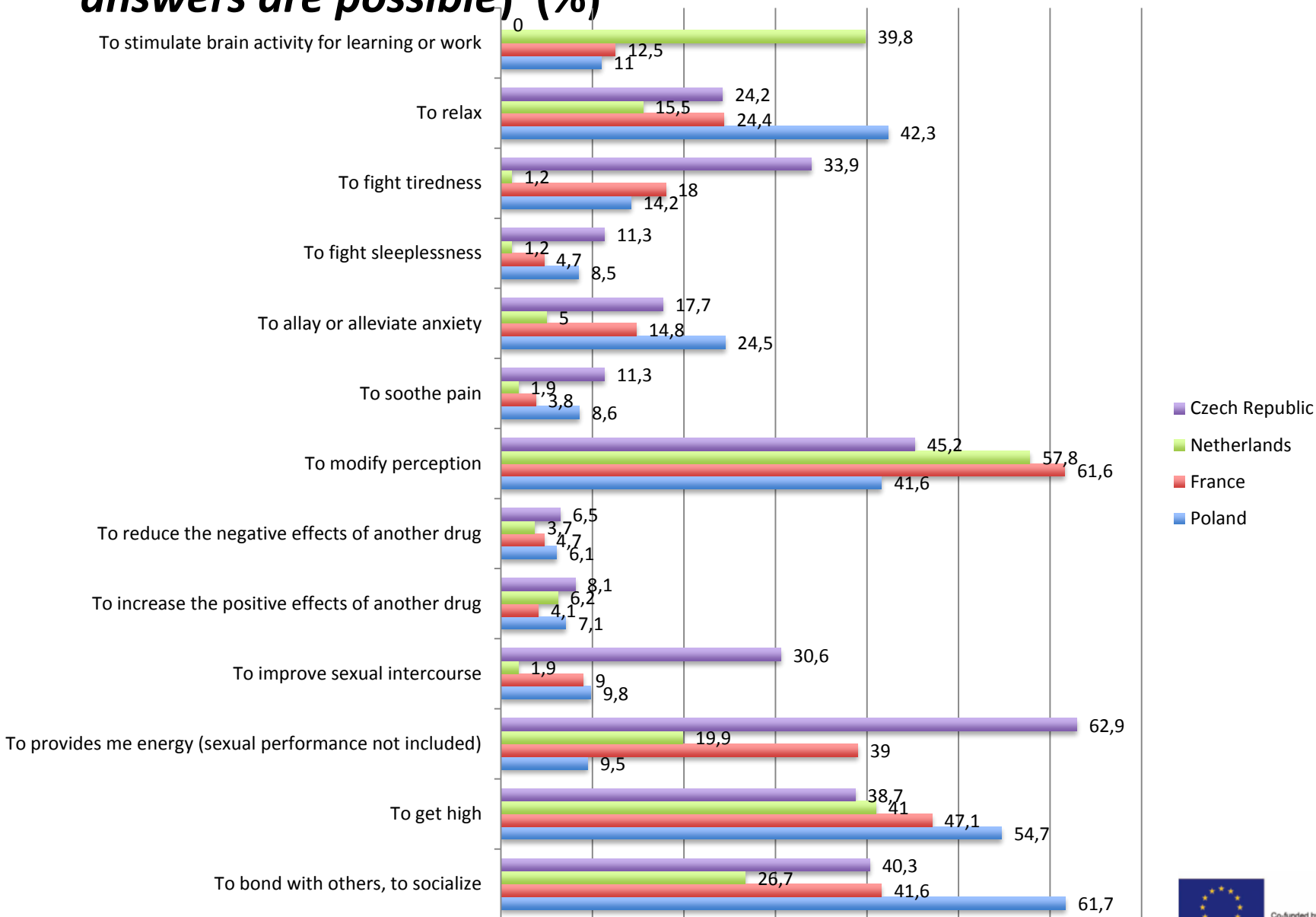
- The I-Trend online survey was conducted between July and November 2014
- Promotion of the survey began 7 July 2014 in most of the country during different channels: webpages, facebook, emails, general media etc
- The general rule was that the survey was addressed to people who had had experience with NPS (have used at least once)
- Comparison of results in different countries was subject to restrictions.
- The total number of respondents is 2 323; Poland – 1355; France – 536; the Netherlands – 266; and the Czech Republic – 166.
- Male respondents represent the majority (72%). The age 15 – 24 age group predominates among respondents (72%).
- Average age: Polish respondents it is 20 years; for French respondents it is 28; for Dutch respondents it is 26; for Czech respondents it is 24.



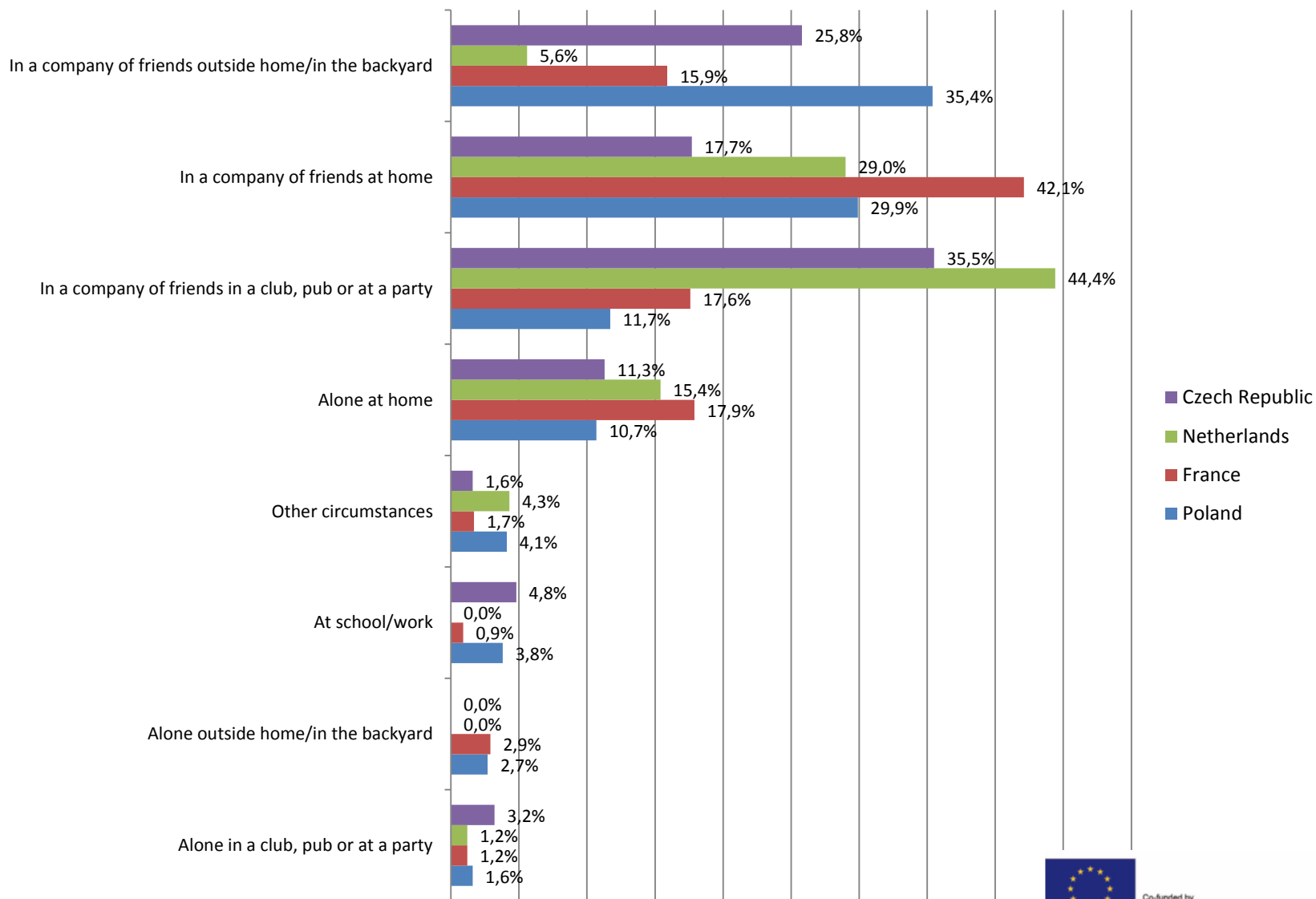
Have you used the following substances in the last 12 months?



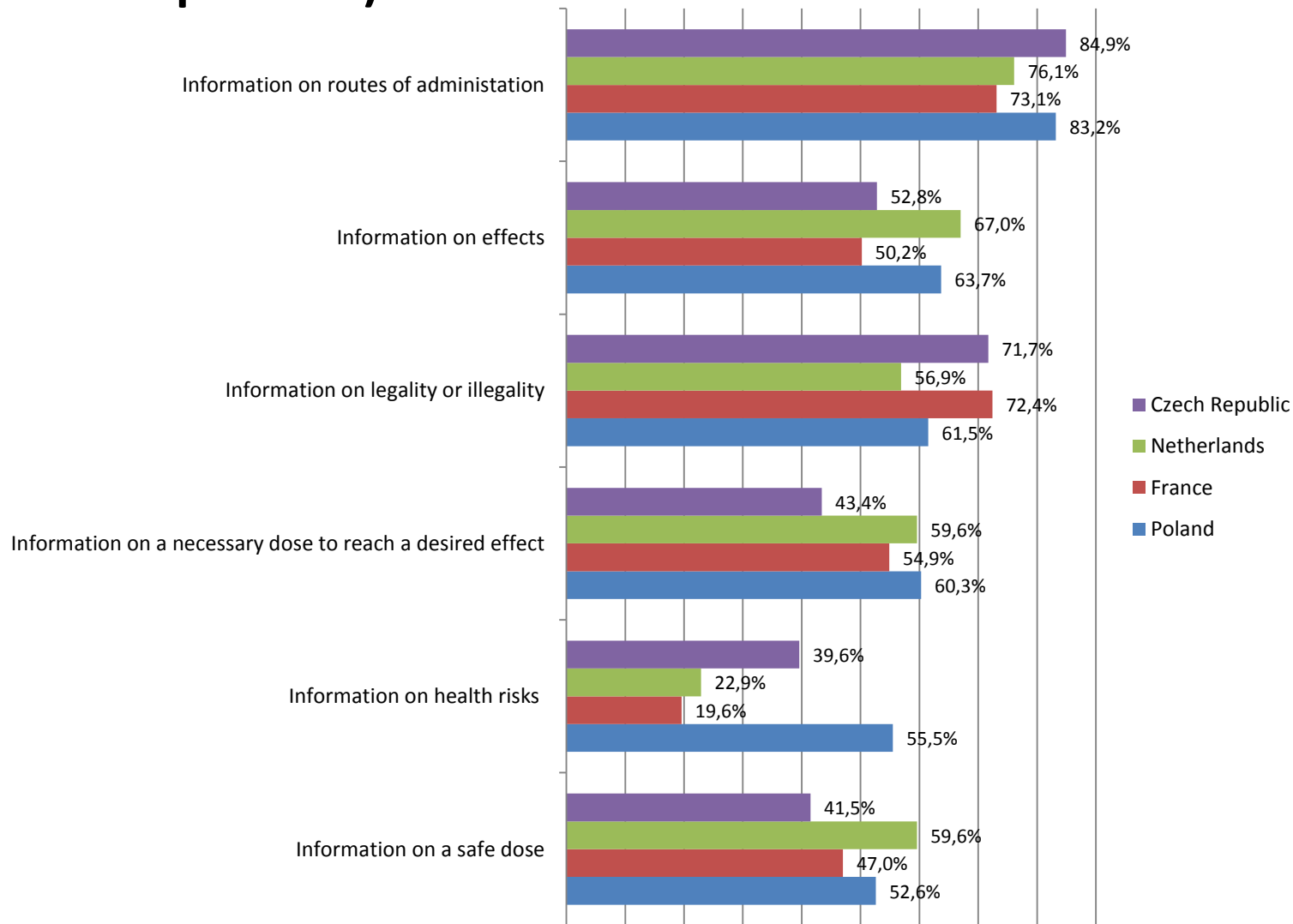
What are the most important intended effects that you seek when you used the substance (NPS) you selected? (*several answers are possible*) (%)



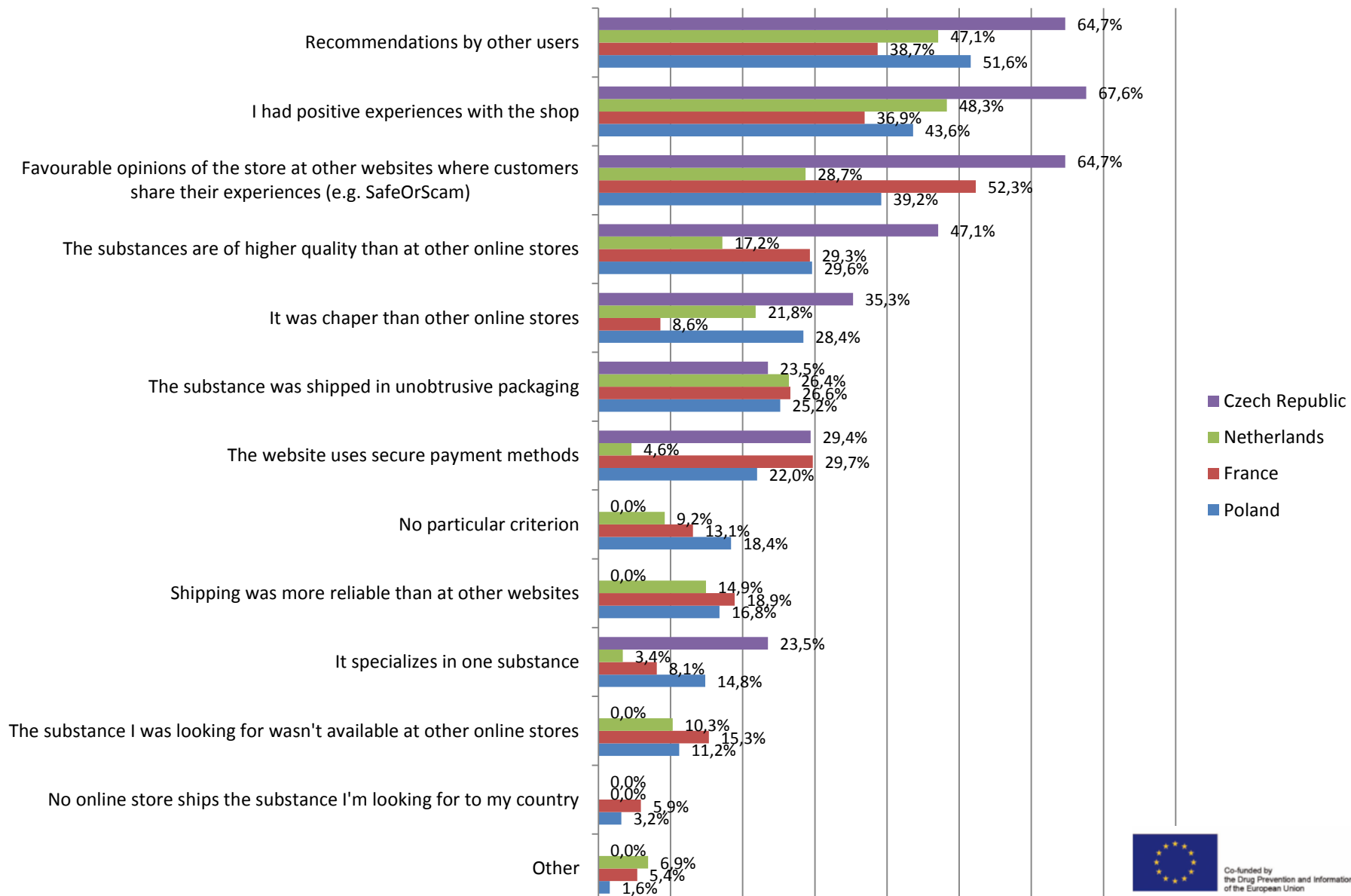
What were the circumstances the last time you used the substance you selected (NPS)? (several answers possible)



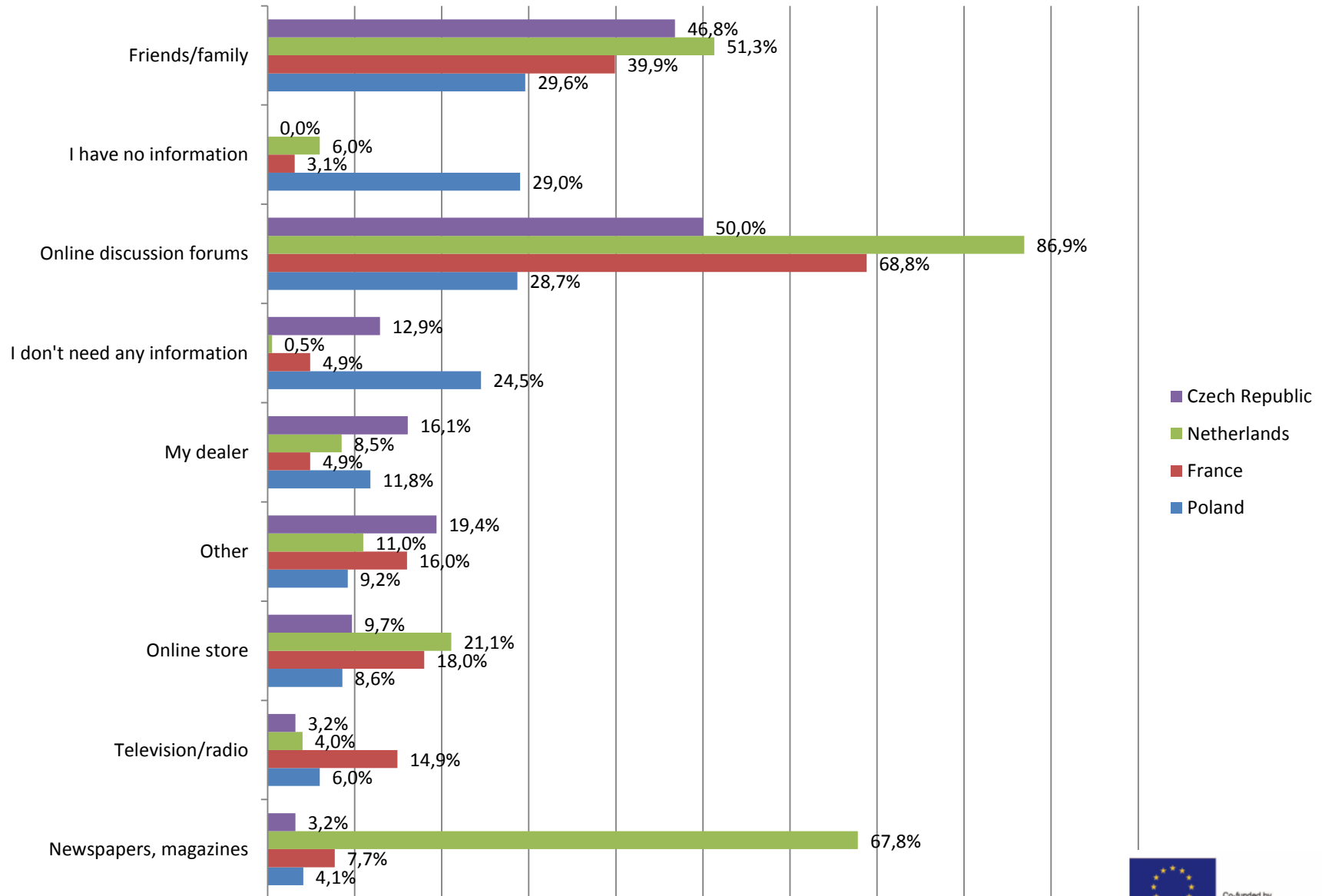
In relation to the NPS you last used, do you consider that you had enough information on the following aspects? (several answers possible)



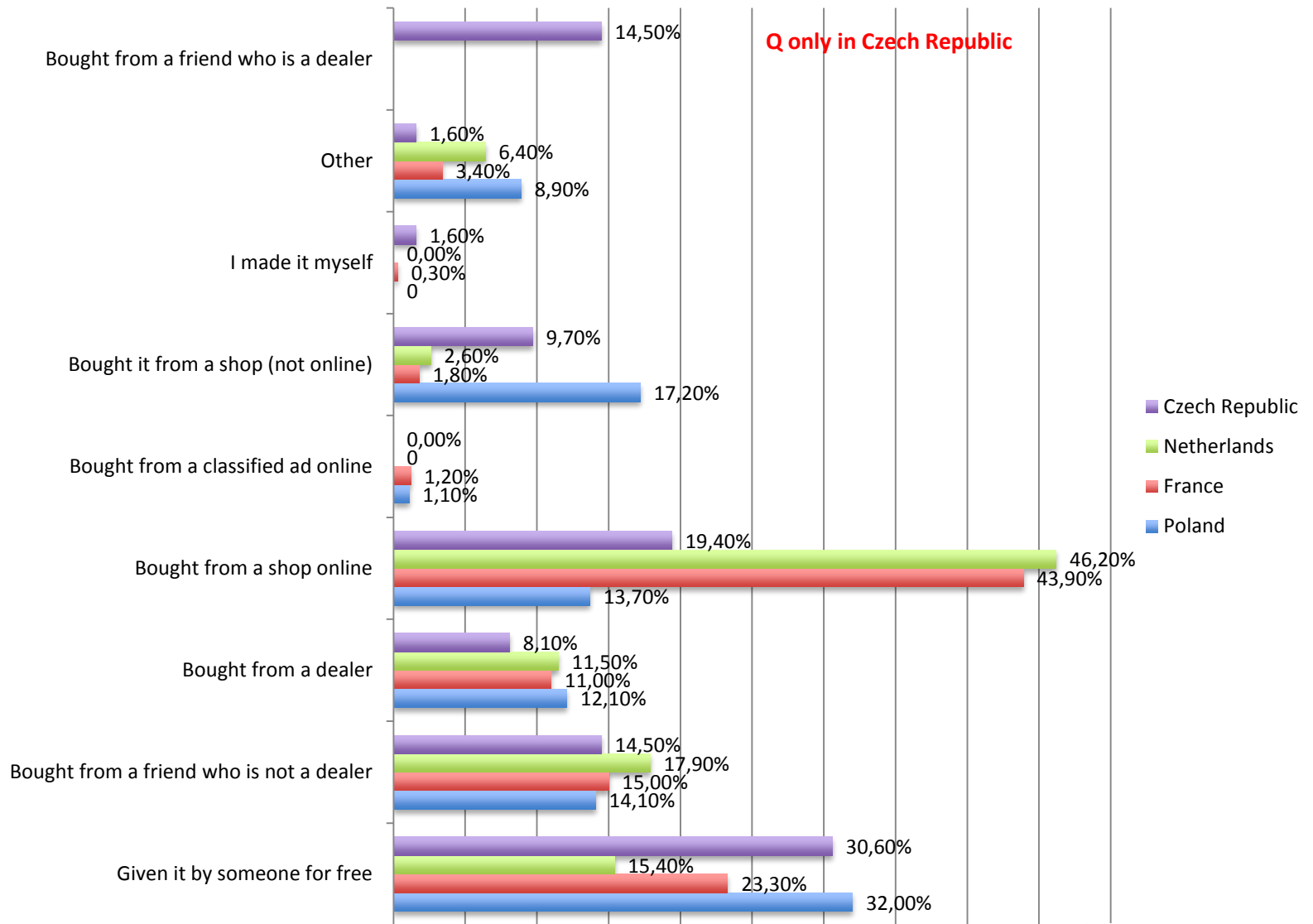
What were the most important criteria for you when you selected NPS shops in the last 12 months? (no more than 5)



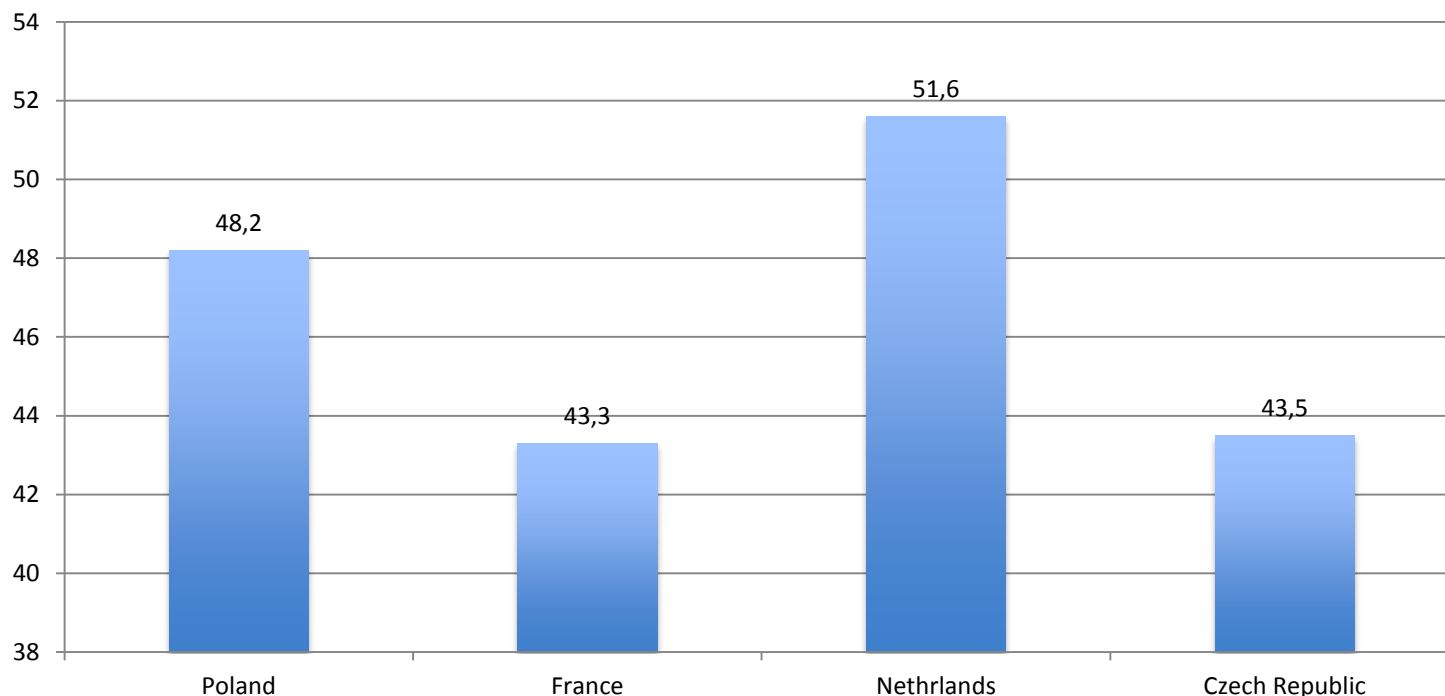
Where did you look for information about NPS? (several answers possible)



Mode of purchasing selected NPS

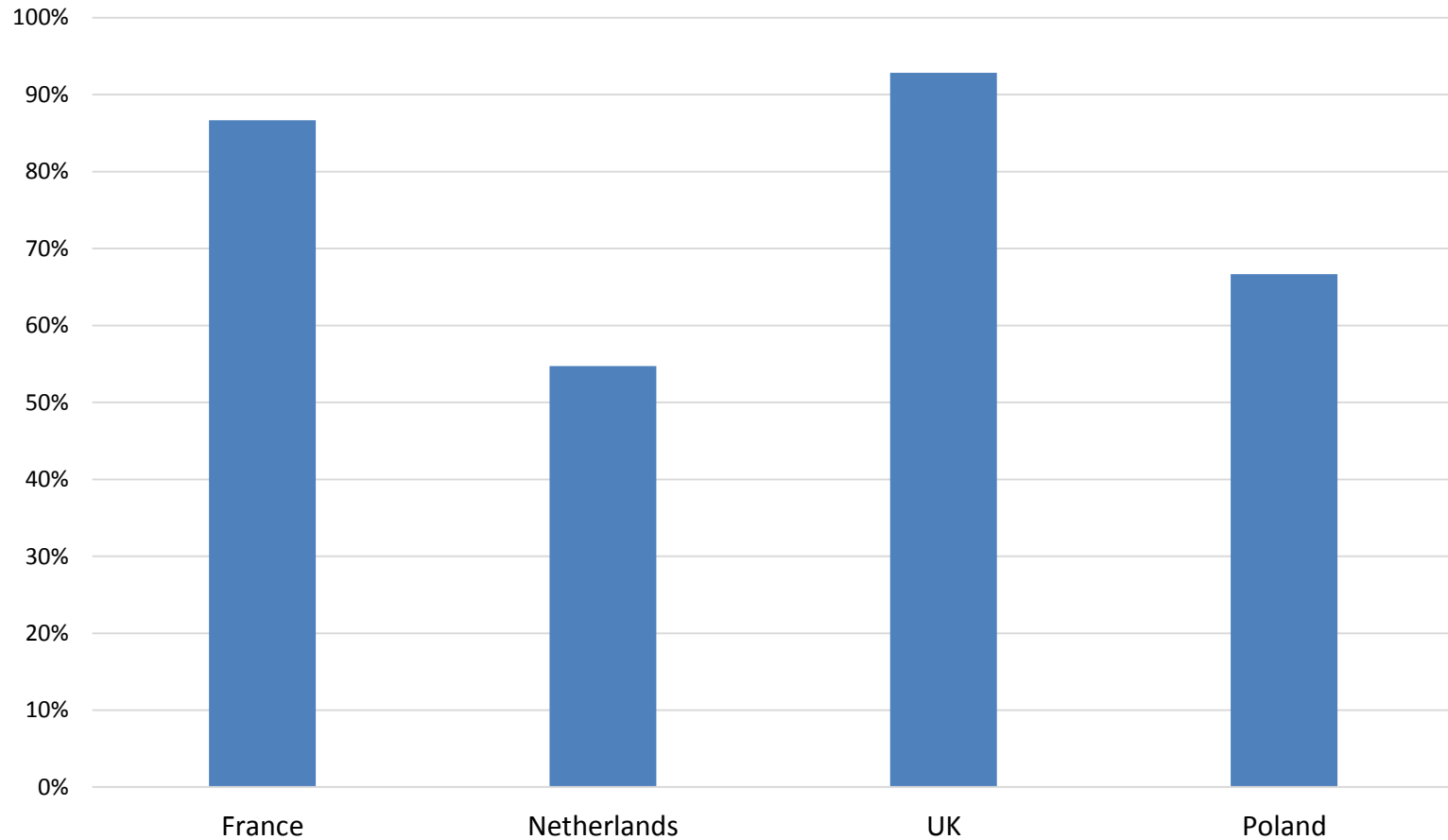


Did you feel anything unpleasant after used the NPS last time (yes answers)



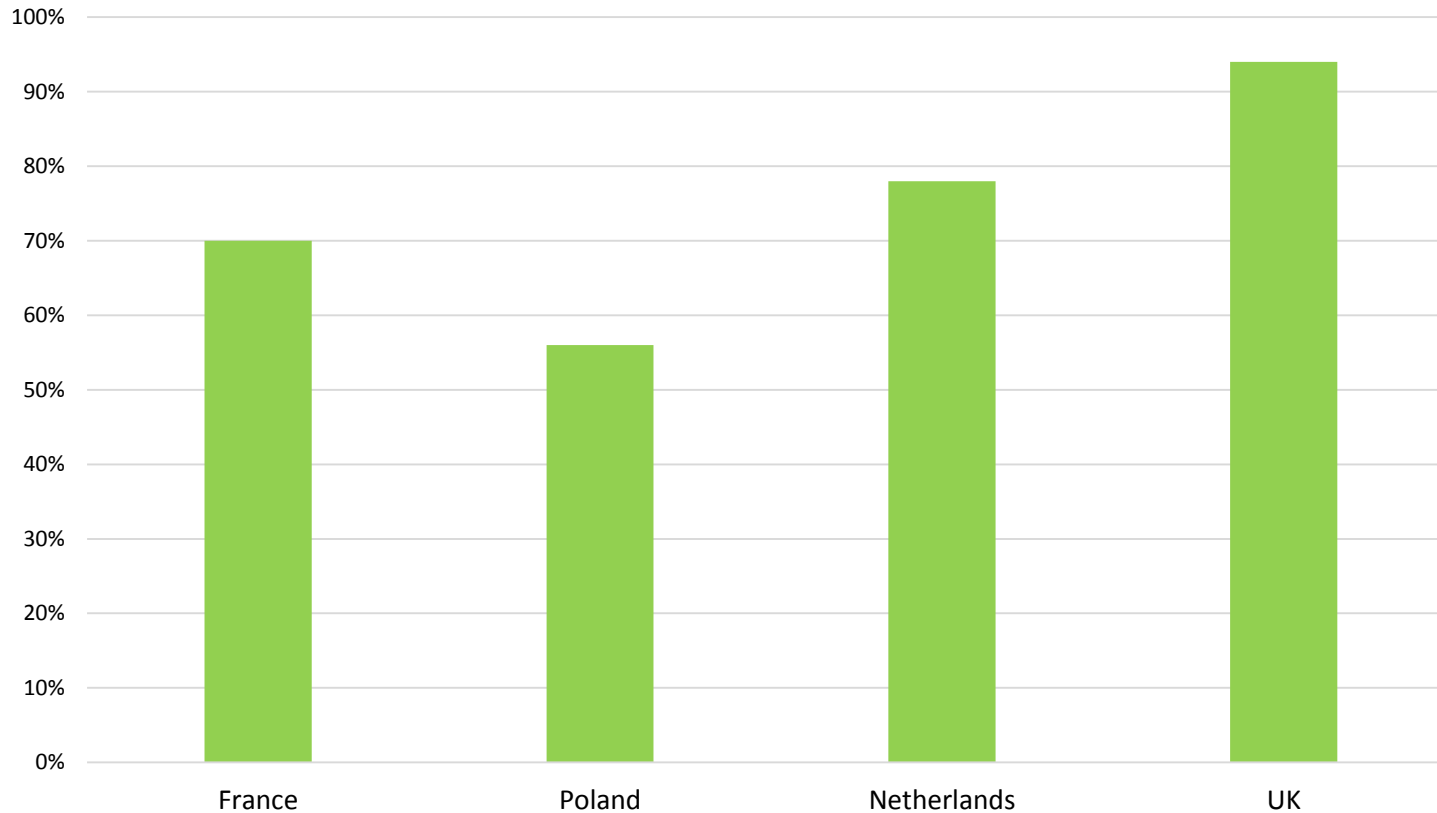
The most frequent negative consequences related to the NPS use varied across countries: strong paranoia, fear, anxiety (PL – 52%; FR – 37%), sweating (NL – 41%), extreme agitation and excitement (CZ -56%). Few NPS users who felt negative consequences sought medical assistance (PL-6%, FR -4%, NL -5%, CZ -4%).

NPS detected as labelled



Source: I-TREND report on substance analysis (Workstream 4)

Purity NPS



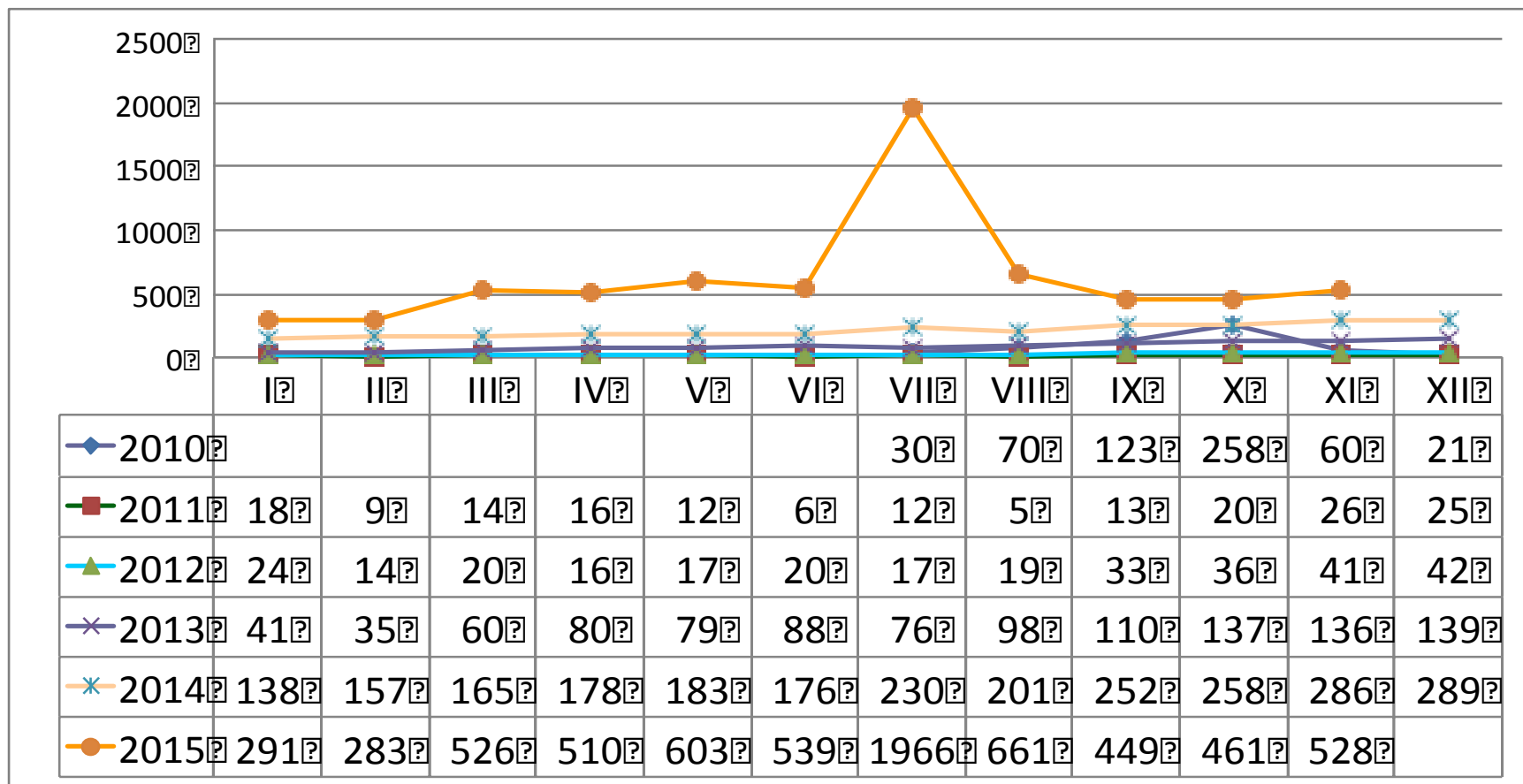
Source: I-TREND report on substance analysis (Workstream 4)



NPS in Poland – purchase results

- ease of purchase: swift shipment, no joke parcels
- benefits: free samples, loyalty points
- selling products other than advertised e.g. product contained penthedrone instead of alpha-PVP
- the same price per gram, the same store but different potency (one parcel – two products): 1. ETH-CAT: 37%, 2. ETH-CAT: 99%
- slightly cheaper but 50% less potent: UR-144 for PLN 70 per gram (70%) and PLN 60 per gram (34%)
- AM-2201 – cheaper with similar potency: 53%-PLN 50 per gram, 51%-PLN 70 per gram
- 3,4-DMMC. One store offered a gram of this substance for PLN 19 (70%) and at another outlet equally potent substance was sold for over a dozen zlotys more – PLN 35 (71%). Anyway, the buyer got penthedrone in both cases 😊

Medical interventions due to NPS using in Poland



Source: dr.n.med. Piotr Burda, Krajowy Konsultant ds. Toksykologii Klinicznej,

Conclusions/recommendations

- In view of the fact that one of the distribution channels is the Internet, it is worth considering this environment as a platform for preventive and educational interventions, especially harm reduction. The latter should be based on the knowledge and experiences of psychonauts, who often share their knowledge at online drug forums.
- The survey results have shown that recommendations of others have impact on the choice of shops among users. Peer-to-peer education may help to decrease the number of overdoses.
- it is worth introducing education and harm reduction action before next strong action against NPS.
- NPS testing programmes might prove useful, if we consider that e.g. every third NPS (research chemical) purchased under the I-TREND project in Poland contained a substance other than the one reported by the seller.

