

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Drugs
Country	Denmark
Year	2019 (reporting year)

1. Overview of the field

Definition of drugs

Substances listed as illicit drugs according to the Danish Euphoriant Act

Assessment of trends and developments

Cannabis:

2017 has been a record year with 16,678 seizures of cannabis resin, the highest number the last 15 years. A very large part of the cannabis market in Copenhagen is concentrated around a specific area in central Copenhagen called "Christiania". Even though distribution of cannabis has spread to different areas of Copenhagen, "Christiania is still a hub for all smuggling and distribution of cannabis in Denmark. The area is controlled by several OCGs and OMCGs. For some years a special police unit has been conducting targeted operations in this area on a regular basis. The number of marihuana seizures was 1,803 in 2017. Even though the concentration of THC has increased the last few years, the prices on cannabis has been stable. The average THC concentration today is 25 % due to better quality resin from Morocco and an increase of domestic indoor grown cannabis. In 2017, 6.6 metric tons of resin and 293 kilograms of marihuana were seized.

Cocaine:

Today, cocaine is the most frequent drug seized on the street. 150 kilograms were seized in 2017 spread over 4,786 seizures, which is estimated to reflect the demand and supply on the drug market in Denmark. In these cases the purity is 70-90 %, while the average purity at street level was 60 % in 2017. The wholesale price is 2,000 – 5,000 euro per kilogram.

Heroin:

The total amount of seized heroin in 2017 was 15,8 kilogram which is almost equal to 2016. It is a significant decrease compare to 29 kilogram in 2015. We have no exact explanation for that. It is estimated that some black market pharmaceuticals and synthetic opioid types have replaced or to some extent substituted heroin among addicts, but it is also known that other drug types have greater focus among LEAs due to the fact that amphetamine, cocaine and cannabis are related to more heavily organised crime and crime groups. Around 80 % of heroin seizures are heroin base. The average purity at street level is 11 % for heroin base and 31 % for heroin chloride. The wholesale price for heroin base is 26,670 – 40,000 euro per kilogram and 33,300 – 53,000 euro for heroin chloride.

NPS:

There are no new trends in the distribution of NPS in Denmark. NPS are still purchased on

the Internet and shipped by mail to the consignee. We are not aware of any OCGs involved in the distribution of NPS in Denmark. Seizures of NPS only make up fragments of the total drug market. In 2017 the total seized amount of NPS was 0.15 kilograms and 455 tablets compared to 0.48 kilogram and 455 tablets in 2016. We are unable to specify types/content/purity. Even though we seize more synthetic opioids, also very potent types, the NPS situation is so far not considered a major problem. We keep on monitoring the situation. We have seen a minor increase in seizures of synthetic opioids, while seizures of synthetic cannabinoids are almost none. A recent trend spotting study concluded that both the demand and the supply of synthetic cannabinoids in Denmark is very low.

New psychoactive substances (NPS) appear on the market more rapidly than they can be prohibited by law. In order to meet the problem with the hastily increasing number of new types of NPS, Denmark introduced a generic legislation in 2012, as 10 complete chemical groups were prohibited by legislation. This means that some types of NPS already may be prohibited when they appear in Denmark.

Furthermore, Denmark is part of the Early Warning System under the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). In order to handle the obligations to the EMCDDA a national project monitoring NPS and other new drug types has been established in 2001. The project is a cooperation between the Danish National Police, Danish Health Authority (Focal Point), the Danish Customs Agency and the forensic institutes. The project continuously contributes to achieve an overview of the drug area and also to exchange information with the EMCDDA and other countries.

In addition to this, the Danish Customs Agency has set up its own Drug, Doping and Weapons Project aiming at the detection and control of the said commodities. The results from the physical controls are used in the drafting of risk analysis, modus operandi information etc. The project has been particularly successful in discovering NPS in mail consignments in particular coming from countries mentioned elsewhere in this workbook. This includes new and never-seen-before NPS.

Finally, in cooperation with the other Nordic countries, Denmark conducts joint customs and police operations targeting distribution of drugs via the Internet, including NPS. These operations have been successful resulting in a number of NPS seizures and seizures of other illegal substances, e.g. amphetamine, cocaine, cannabis oil and even explosives materials. The operations have been published afterwards, which is believed to have had a significant preventive effect making the public aware that drug trading via the Internet is not without risk.

Recent overview of statistics and research

Number of drug cases 2018

Aggravated distribution: 1.239

Trafficking: 229

Minor possession: 22.244

Minor distribution: 5.431

Number of drug charges 2018

Aggravated distribution: 2.148

Trafficking: 488

Minor possession: 22.031

Minor distribution: 4.879

2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

Main objective is to monitor the illicit drug market in Denmark. Furthermore to investigate, intervene and arrest criminals to be brought to trial.

Also to monitor substances on the illicit market in co-operation with The Danish Health Authority, EMCDDA and Europol.

Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level

Danish Health Authority is the supervisory authority on prevention.

Prevention is not directly mentioned as part of the crime strategy.

Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)

Danish prevention policy is handled by the Social Agency and the Health Authority.

Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

Danish Custom Agency
Danish Health Authority
Danish Medicines Agency
Europol
EMCDDA

Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.

As a Europol partner Denmark is taking part in the EMPACT co-operation

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.