



# A test of the EMQ module about New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

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# The ESPAD Validity Study: Purpose

- The second ESPAD Validity study  
(Classroom and directly after an interview)
- Goals
  1. Study the validity of the ESPAD questionnaire
  2. Study the validity of some key variables
  3. Test some possible new questions, including the NPS module

# Data collection

- Data collected in the autumn of 2013
- Successfully conducted in Iceland, Italy, Montenegro and Ukraine
- The Czech Republic had to drop out
- No representative samples

# Number of participating students

Iceland 243

Italy 199

Montenegro 266

Ukraine 430

**Total 1 138**

# The NPS module

1. New substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs [such as cannabis or ecstasy] may now be sometimes available. They are sometimes called ['legal highs', 'ethno botanicals', 'research chemicals'] and can come in different forms for example – herbal mixtures, powders, crystals or tablets. Have you ever used such substances?
  - Yes, I have used such substances
  - No, I never used such substances
  - Don't know/ Not sure
2. Have you used such substances in the LAST 12 MONTHS?
3. What was the appearance/form of the new substance you used in the LAST 12 MONTHS?
4. Thinking about your use of new substances in the LAST 12 MONTHS, how did you get them?

**How did the students understand  
the initial question of the NPS  
module?**

**Interpretation of the interviewers**

# Understanding about new psychoactive drugs

	<b>Understood correctly</b>	<b>Misunderstood</b>
Iceland	64	36
Italy	70	29
Montenegro	78	22
Ukraine	77	23
<b>Average</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>28</b>

# Who did not understand? 1(3)

**Iceland:** Non-consumers who have never heard of these drugs

**Montenegro:** Most students who said that they did not understand the question had never heard about these drugs




# Who did not understand? 2(3)

**Proportion of non-consumers among the students that did not understand the question about new psychoactive drugs: 99%**

# Who did not understand? 3(3)

## Conclusions

1. Students who did not understand answered in the student questionnaire that they had not used any of them and the “problem” was that they had not heard about them
2.  We have to accept that many ESPAD students have never heard of these new drugs and as long as they give the correct answer that they have never used them this is not an important problem

# Substance use in 2013 and 2011

	Cigarettes Lifetime	Alcohol 30 days	5+ drinks 30 days	Drugs Lifetime
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Iceland	8/26	4/17	4/13	3/11
Italy	57/59	60/63	32/35	29/22
Montenegro	32/32	34/35	23/27	5/5
Ukraine	55/62	43/54	22/30	12/11

# Lifetime use of new psychoactive substances and any illicit drug

	<u>NPS</u>		<u>Any illicit drug</u>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	
Iceland	2	2	3
Italy	4	4	29
Montenegro	2	6	5
Ukraine	4	5	12

# Appearance/form and source

## In nearly all cases

- Smoking mixture
- Given/bought from a friend