Darknet markets are largely anonymous platforms for trading in a range of illicit goods and services. It is estimated that around two-thirds of the offers on darknet markets are drug-related. Drug sales on these markets, although modest when compared to the overall retail drug market, are significant and appear to be expanding. EU-based suppliers are important players in the darknet ecosystem, the evolution of which is shown in this timeline.

The joint report prepared by the EMCDDA and Europol ‘Drugs and the Darknet: Perspectives for enforcement, policy and research’ considers the latest findings from international research, fresh empirical data, and operational information and intelligence in order to illuminate how darknet markets function and how they relate to criminal behaviour. The analysis provides a policy-orientated review intended to facilitate discussions at EU level on how to respond to the phenomenon. It also presents recommendations in the areas of law enforcement, monitoring and policy.

13 marketplaces operated between one and two years: Hansa, Agora, Nucleus Marketplace, TheRealDeal, Acropolis, Middle Earth Marketplace, Apple Market, BlackBank Market, House of Lions Market, Evolution, Silk Road Reloaded, Silk Road 2.0 and Anarchia.

Nine marketplaces have made it for a period of between two and three years: Silk Road, AlphaBay, Silk Road 3.0, BlackMarket Reloaded, Tychka, Diabolus/SR3, The Farmer’s Market, Darknet Heroes League and Crypto Market.

At the time of writing there are 14 marketplaces that appear to be active and operational: Valhalla, Dream Market, Silk Road 3.0, Tychka, Darknet Heroes League, Apple Market, House of Lions Market, TradeRoute, Wall Street Market, RSClub Market, Zion Market, Infinite Market, CGMC and OW Market.

Notes: Market status last checked on 30.6.17 (except for AlphaBay and Hansa, for which data and information were updated to reflect closure on 4.7.17 and 30.7.17 respectively).
Sources: EMCDDA (2016a); DarkNet Stats (2016); DarkNet News (2017); DeepOnWeb (2017); Gwern Archives (2017); Read 2017.

Read the full report at emcdda.europa.eu/darknet