

Decision of the Management Board 26/2020/MB

**ADOPTING OF THE UPDATED CONTENT DESCRIPTION OF THE ONLINE
MODULE: “SYNTHETIC DRUGS” AND REPEALING DECISION
01/2017/MB**

Adopted by the Management Board

on 12 November 2020

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2005/681/JHA¹, and in particular Article 9(1)(s) thereof,

Having regard to the Management Board Decision 01/2017/MB adopting the Content Description of the Online Learning Module Synthetic Drugs, adopted on 07 February 2017,

Having regard to the Executive Director Decision 10/2020/DIR appointing experts for content update of the online module: "Synthetic Drugs", adopted on 17 February 2020,

Having regard to the list of training activities planned for 2020²;

Whereas:

- (1) The steps to be taken and matching responsibilities in the development of the online learning modules are based on Governing Board Decisions 2/2009/GB and 18/2010/GB.
- (2) The update of the online module content on Synthetic Drugs was planned to take place in 2020. This has been set in the list of training activities for 2020.
- (3) The content of the module was developed by experts appointed through Executive Director's Decision 10/2020/DIR.
- (4) CEPOL National Units, National and Organisational, Contact Points and the Commission DG HOME have been involved in the final validation of the content of the online learning module.
- (4) It is for the Management Board on the basis of Article 9(1)(s) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 of the European Parliament and of the Council to adopt the content descriptions of the online learning modules.

¹ OJ L319, 4.12.2015, p.1.

² See quality document LI PLAN 001-1: List of training activities for 2020

- (5) Therefore, there is a need to repeal Decision 01/2017/MB adopting the existing content description of the Online Learning Module on Synthetic Drugs.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The Content Description of the Online Learning Module Synthetic Drugs as detailed in the Annex to this Decision is hereby adopted.
2. Decision 01/2017/MB is hereby repealed.

Article 2

The present Decision shall take effect on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Lisbon, on 16 November 2020

For the Management Board
<< Signature on file >>

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Mr José Leitao
Chair of the Management Board

Annex

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A. Product Breakdown Structure

The Product Breakdown Structure (PBS) represents the content of the *Synthetic Drugs* module as it is set up in the online learning environment. Key sections of the PBS are displayed below, covering the online learning module's topics of the Knowledge Landscape and the keywords.

Synthetic Drugs Knowledge Landscape:

1. Introduction
 2. Types of Synthetic Drugs
 3. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
 4. Precursors, Pre-precursors and other Chemicals
 5. Production Processes and Equipment
 6. Safety Measures
 7. Diversion and Trafficking
 8. Internet, Social Media and Communication Apps
 9. Organised Crime Groups
 10. Investigations
 11. International Cooperation
- Glossary

B. Elaboration of the Content – Knowledge Landscape

The online module is targeted at all law enforcement, judicial and other regulatory officers, including police, customs and prosecutors as well as forensic experts, who are engaged in the fight against drugs crime, and in particular those dealing with the production, smuggling and selling of synthetic drugs.

The module aims to give users an understanding of the main topics and issues related to synthetic drugs. These include the main types of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS), and the types of substances and production methods. It also covers the nature and *modi operandi* of the organised crime groups, and the investigative and cooperative approaches used to combat them.

In addition to the introduction, the online module on synthetic drugs contains ten further chapters covering various key topics within the subject area as well as a glossary of related terms and abbreviations. Chapter 2, *Types of Synthetic Drug*, addresses the main synthetic drugs: amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA, as well as some other important types. Chapter 3, *New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)*, covers the NPS phenomenon, including what NPS are, the challenges they present, and how these challenges are being met. Chapter 4, *Precursors, Pre-Precursors and other*

Chemicals, deals with various types of substances that are used in the production of synthetic drugs. Chapter 5, Production Processes and Equipment, describes the most common manufacturing methods used in the production of synthetic drugs. Chapter 6, Safety Measures, details the hazards related to the production, handling and use of synthetic drugs, and the different measures taken so that law enforcement operatives can work more safely. Chapter 7, Diversion and Trafficking, outlines the issues relating to the diversion and trafficking/smuggling of synthetic drugs and the raw materials used to produce them. Chapter 8, Internet, Social Media and Communications Apps, describes the use of the internet – both surface web and darknet – to facilitate the production, buying, selling and trafficking of synthetic drugs. Chapter 9, Organised Crime Groups, depicts the mechanisms behind the illicit market of synthetic drugs and the main *modi operandi* of the organised crime groups (OCGs) involved in their production and distribution. Chapter 10, Investigation, covers the various aspects of investigations made on crime related to synthetic drugs, including the agencies involved, the selection and prioritisation of investigations, types of investigation and the techniques used. Chapter 11, International Cooperation, deals with the cooperation involved in combating synthetic drugs phenomena at EU and international level, including the tools and organisations that support it, forensic laboratory networks and cooperation with the private sector.

C. Self Evaluation: Test my knowledge

Users can test their own knowledge on *Synthetic Drugs* at any time while using the online module through the test my knowledge sections of the module. Test items are pooled according to the topics of the knowledge landscape. A random selection of the items will be offered to users every time they decide to take the self-test for each of the individual topics. Based on the outcomes of the self-test, users will receive feedback and reflection possibilities, which enable them to increase their further professionalisation in the domain of the module.

D. Glossary

The keywords and acronyms from individual chapters are listed together (in alphabetical order) in the online module and are provided to the user to aid navigation through the material.

Annex I

Synthetic Drugs Online Module Content

(The content of the module will be made **available only** in a restricted area in CEPOL's LEEd),