



Learning from the monitoring of NPS popularity on drug users' forums: The I-TREND experience

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I-TREND: 5 partners

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■ France – OFDT (coordinator)

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■ Poland – SWPS

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University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw.

■ The Netherlands – TRIMBOS

Daan VAN DER GOUWE

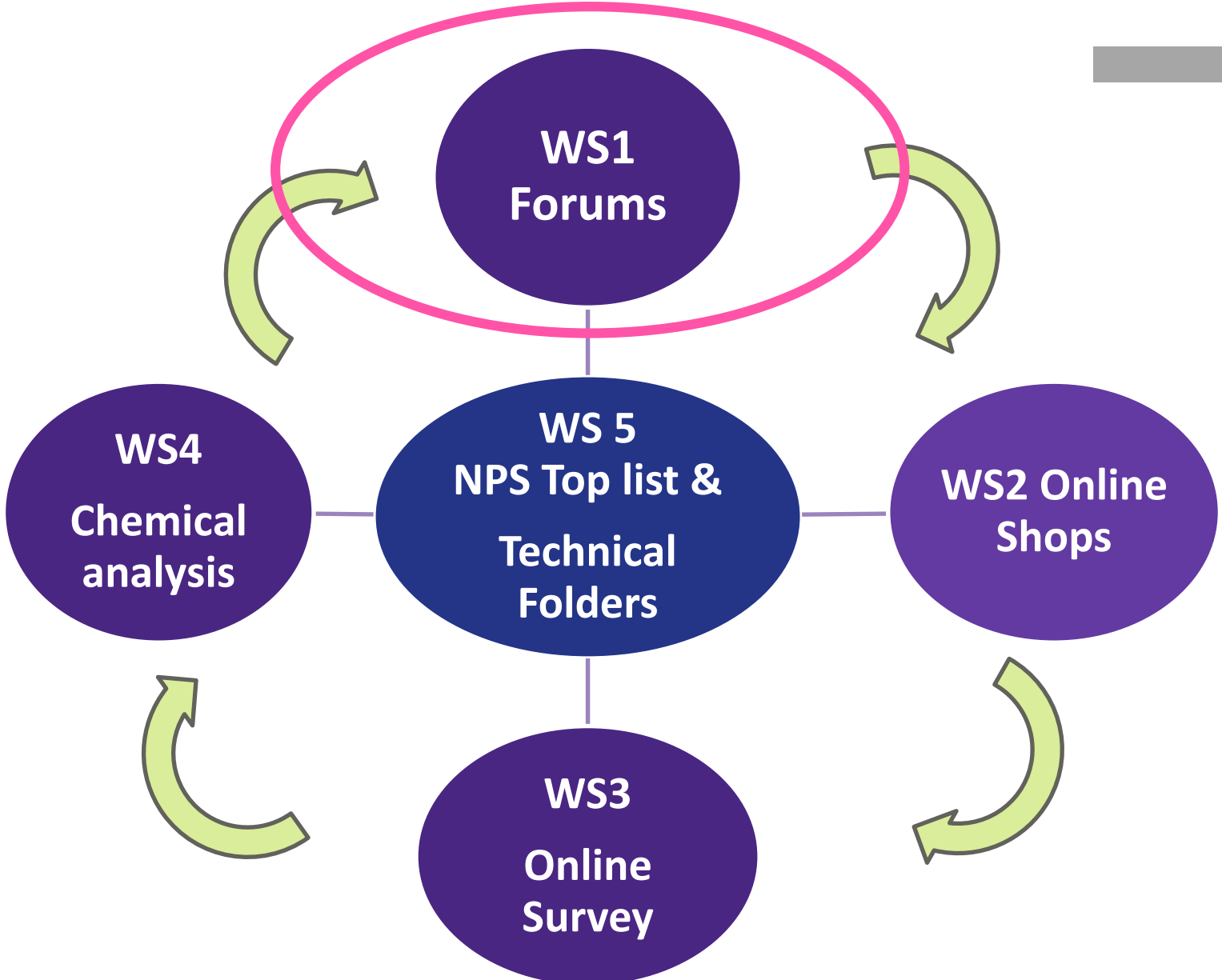
TRIMBOS Institute, Utrecht.

■ United Kingdom – LJMU

Emma BEGLEY, Amanda ATKINSON

Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University.

Internet Tools for Research in Europe on New Drugs



WS 1: Monitoring online drug discussions

- Initial assumption:

- + Forums are frequented by specific sub-groups of expert-consumer of drugs - *geeks gourmet*

- + Their discussions are followed by 10 to 50 times more readers than members - *The silent majority / the lurkers /*

- = Detection of peaks in the number of views/ activity will provide accurate information on what could become a trend on the drug market

- **Process – to “easily” collect each month NPS threads and numbers of views on selected forums for each country**

Freebies & Competitions

Every now and again we give away free stuff such as scales, shirts, stickers and other souvenirs and on occasion our spouses.

16
Topics

323
Replies



Last Post: DMC and rc-po ...
by [BCP](#)
23 hours 33 minutes ago

Harm reduction

Reducing harm

Reducing and avoiding both mental and physical harm.

Moderators: [BB Ronifka](#)

251
Topics

2202
Replies



Last Post: So Far N ...
by [trip_talkin](#)
5 hours 45 minutes ago

A&E

symptoms of OD. Advice, remedy, antidote, help, first aid.

Moderators: [BB Ronifka](#)

18
Topics

195
Replies



Last Post: Worst trip ...
by [pedrorevano](#)
1 day 2 hours ago

Addiction & Habitual use

Need help with addiction? Questions about addiction or fending?

46
Topics

687
Replies



Last Post: habits ...
by [gandafe](#)
1 week 2 days ago

Research Chemical discussion (legal highs)

Combos

Have you got anything to say about combining certain chemicals in your research attempts? What is right and what is downright dangerous.

161
Topics

1005
Replies



Last Post: 5-MAPB + ...
by [Them](#)
12 hours 55 minutes

Stimulants

6-apb, 5-apb, ethylphenidate, 2-fa, 3-fa, 4-fa, MPA, 4-MEC, 3-MMC, the list goes on...













840
Topics

9111
Replies



Last Post: Replacer ...
by [Rat King](#)

TOPICS IN CATEGORY: PSYCHEDELICS

256 Replies		LSZ (Lysergic acid 2,4-dimethylazetidide) Topic started 1 year 9 months ago by Capt. Spaulding Page: 1 ... 24 25 26	 93.5k Views		Last Post by d00dster 10 hours 29 minutes ago
6 Replies		2c-p Topic started 2 years 1 month ago by BB Ronifka	570 Views		Last Post by Them 17 hours 44 minutes ago
2 Replies		1p-lsd Powder to blotter Topic started 5 days 2 hours ago by Darthndach	98 Views		Last Post by Them 4 days 15 hours ago
7 Replies		DOC, degraded? underdose? bad batch? Topic started 3 months 2 weeks ago by seeklight	 260 Views		Last Post by Entropy 5 days 1 hour ago
43 Replies		4-HO-MET Topic started 5 months 2 days ago by MagickaKat777 Page: 1 ... 3 4 5	1216 Views		Last Post by mattmattmatt 6 days 12 hours ago

WS 1: Monitoring online drug discussions

- 13 forums monitored between October 2013 and 2014, 4 countries – UK, NL, PL, FR
- 5,169 collected threads
- Typologies used:
 - EDND classification, based on chemical families
 - Forums classification, based on main self-experienced effects
- Measurement: the number of views per day for each month

WS 1: Results

Ranking
(max-min of new views per day)

	UK	NL	PL	FR
Aminoindanes				
Benzodiazepines				
Branded Products				
Cannabinoids				
Cathinones				
Indolalkylamines				
Others				
Phenethylamines				

The heatmap displays the ranking of ten drug classes across four countries. The ranking is determined by the maximum minus the minimum number of new views per day. The color scale indicates the ranking, with darker blue representing a higher ranking (more views) and lighter blue representing a lower ranking (fewer views). Grey cells indicate no data or a ranking of zero.

Drug Class	UK	NL	PL	FR
Aminoindanes	Grey	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
Benzodiazepines	Light Blue	Grey	Grey	Grey
Branded Products	Dark Blue	Grey	Light Blue	Grey
Cannabinoids	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Cathinones	Grey	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Indolalkylamines	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Others	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey	Grey
Phenethylamines	Grey	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue

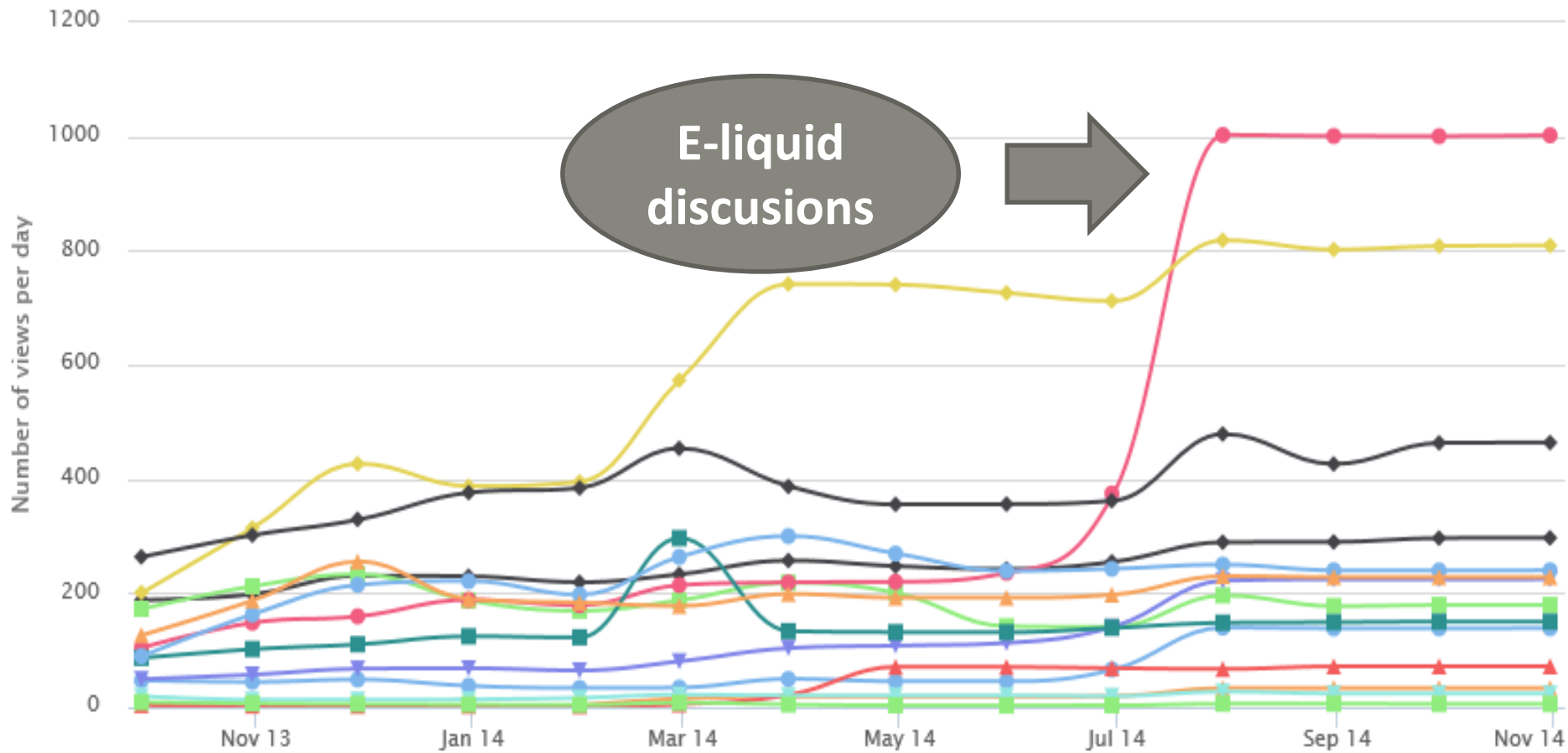
WS 1: Results

Ranking
(max-min of new views per day)

	UK	NL	PL	FR
Aminoindanes	4 (1000 - 500)	2 (200)	5 (400 - 200)	4 (300 - 200)
Benzodiazepines	3 (900 - 500)			
Branded Products	1 (1500 - 1000)		3 (800 - 200)	
Cannabinoids			2 (1000 - 600)	1 (1000 -150)
Cathinones	3 (900 -500)		1 (3000 -2000)	2 (800 - 400)
Indolalkylamines			4 (600 - 300)	
Others	2 (1200 - 700)			4 (300 - 200)
Phenethylamines		1 (1200)	2 (1000 - 600)	3 (500 - 300)

WS 1: Results

FR - Number of views by EDND classification




- Aminoindanes
- Arylalkylamines
- Arylcyclohexylamines
- Benzodiazepines
- Branded Product
- Cannabinoids
- Cathinones
- Indolalkylamines (fe tryptamines)
- Irrelevant
- Opioids
- Others
- Phenethylamines
- Piperazine derivates
- Piperidines & pyrrolidines

WS 1: Results

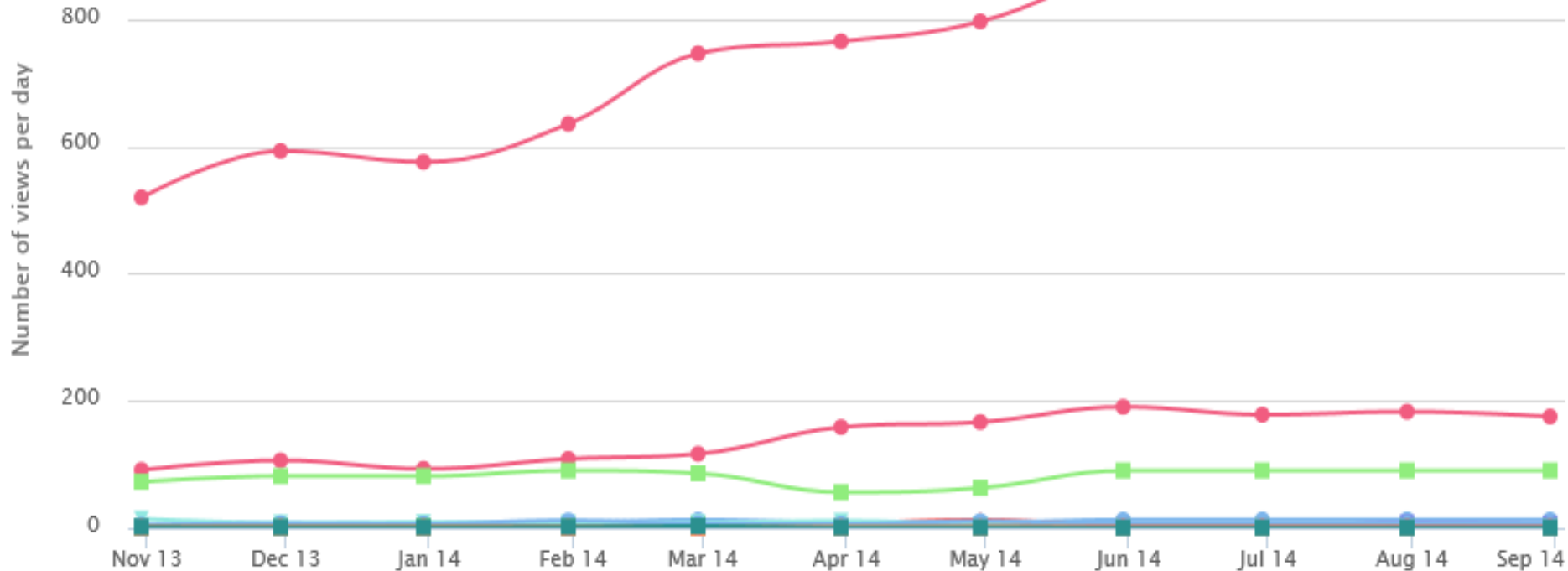
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WS 1: Results

NL - Number of views by substance in the phenethylamines family



Legend for substances:

- 2-FA, 2-FMA, 25B-NBOMe, 25C-NBOMe, 25I-NBOMe, 2C-B, 2C-C, 2C-D, 2C-E
- 2C-I, 2C-P, 2C-T-2, 2C-T-7, 3-FA, 3C-E, 4-FA, 4-MA, AL - allylescaline, DOC
- DOI, DOx, Escaline, Mixed 2C-x, Mixed Psychedelic, Mixed Stimulant, Mixed x-FA
- Proscaline, TMA-6

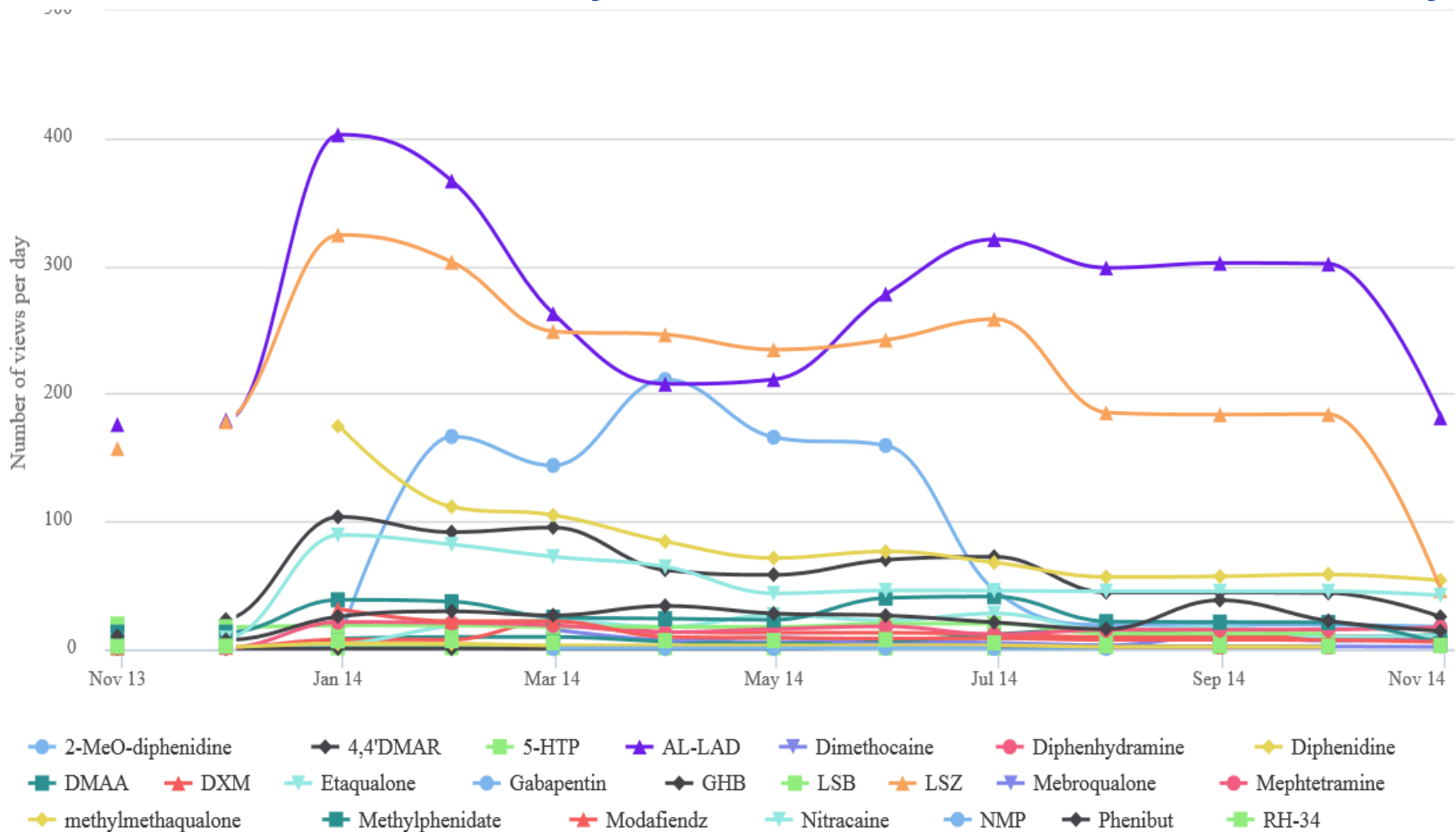
WS 1: Results

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Others	2 (1200 - 700)			4 (300 - 200)
Phenethylamines		1 (1200)	2 (1000 - 600)	3 (500 - 300)

WS 1: Results

UK - Number of views by substance in the « Others » family

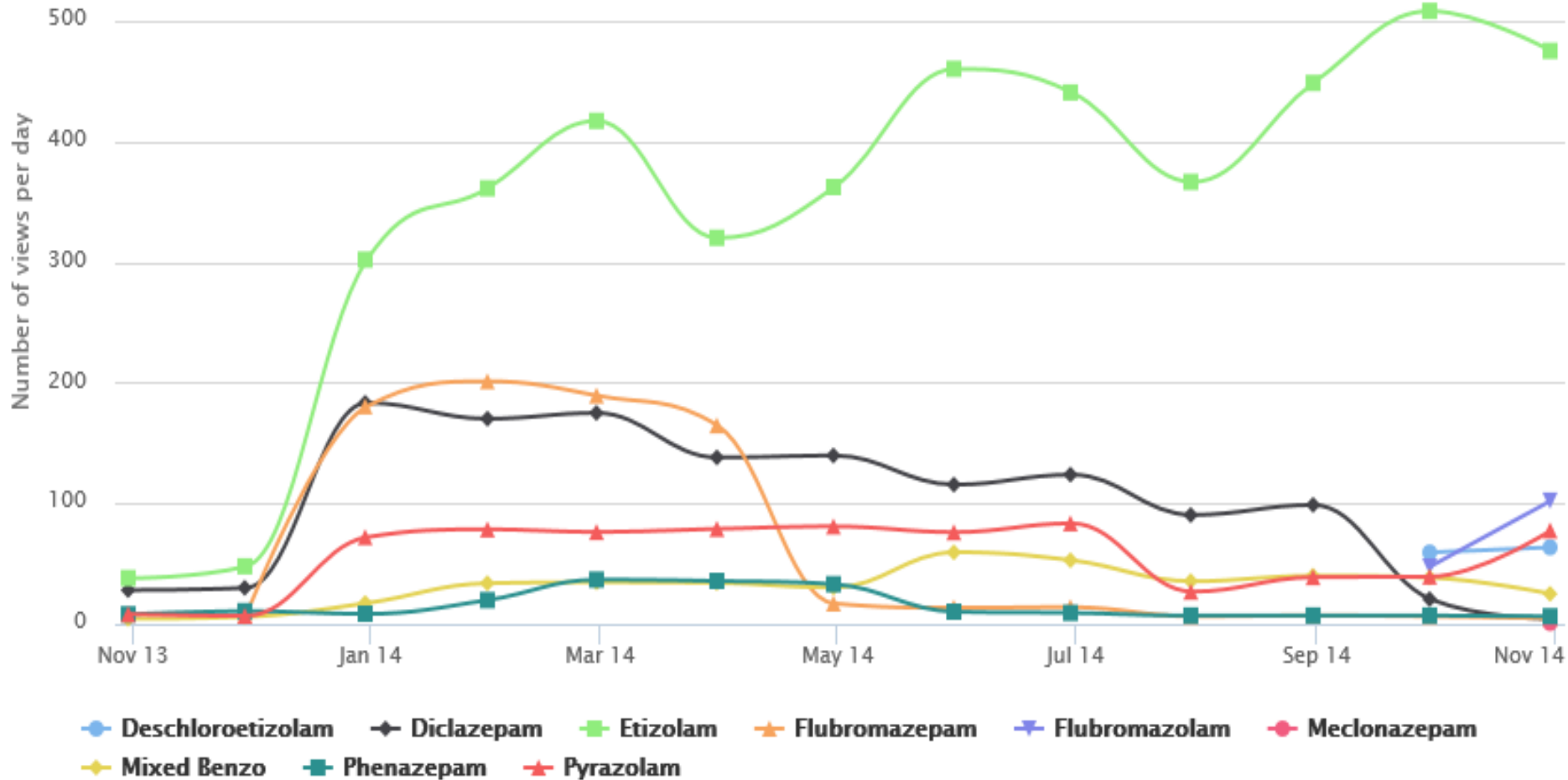


Highcharts



WS 1: Results

UK - Number of views by substance in the benzodiazepines family



- Comparing the number of identified NPS by the EMCDDA and forums
 - Most of NPS raised a low activity
 - Few of them raised a remarkable activity
- The activity on national forums is focused on one or two groups of substances

- For each group of substances – the reading is focused on one or two substances – depending on “national preferences”
 - UK, Branded Product
 - NL, 4-FA, 6-APB and 2C-B
 - PL, 4-MMC and Branded Product
 - FR, 3-MMC and SC e-liquid

- **Maybe the peculiarity of the NPS phenomenon is that it won't be a tsunami as monitoring forums demonstrates that few NPS find an audience**
- **There is no direct links between the number of NPS identified and the demand**

- So if it is better to take in consideration that supply dynamics are not the same for than demand dynamics,
- What makes one NPS rather than another one spread?



www.i-trend.eu

Thanks for your attention
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trend

Internet tools for research
in Europe on new drugs



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