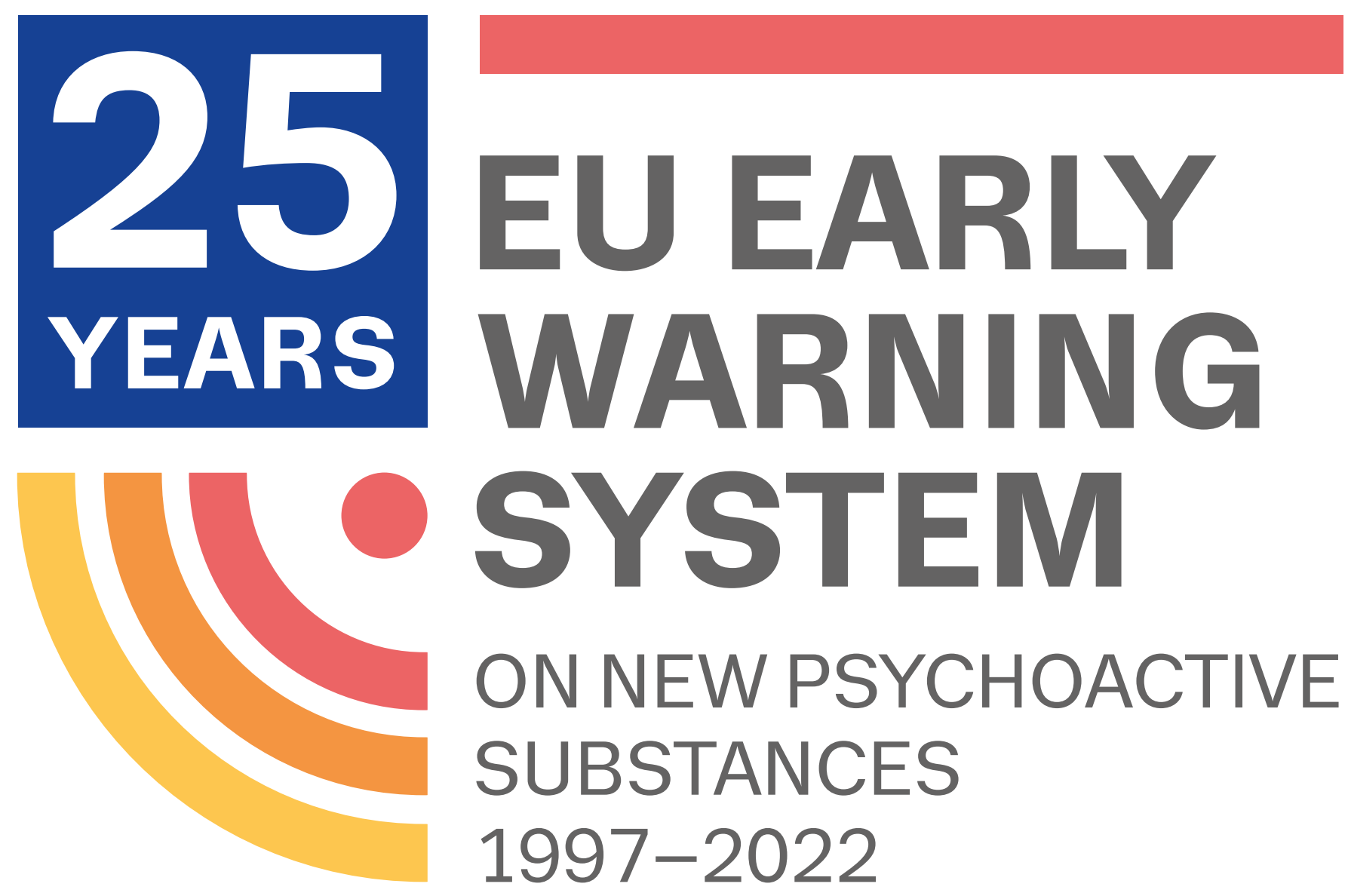




# EU Early Warning System on NPS — 25 years

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In 2022, the EU Early Warning System (EWS) on new psychoactive substances (NPS) celebrates its 25th anniversary. Operated by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) in close cooperation with Europol and other partners, it was the first regional early-warning mechanism set up to monitor and respond to uncontrolled new drugs.

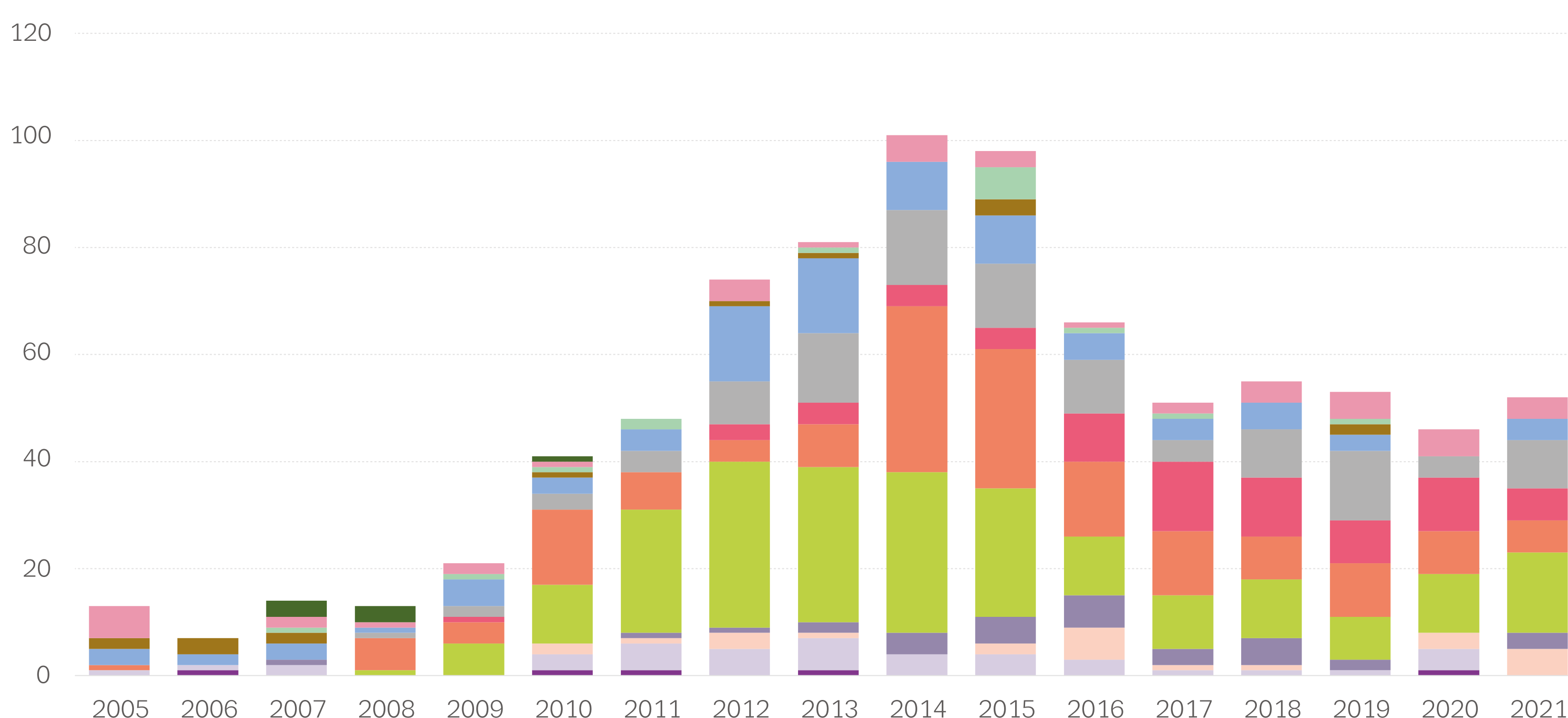
### EU Early Warning System on NPS

Early warning is the first stage in a three-step legal framework designed to allow the European Union to rapidly detect, assess and respond to health and social threats caused by NPS.

### Definition of NPS

A new psychoactive substance is defined as a new narcotic or psychotropic drug, in pure form or in preparation, that is not controlled by the United Nations drug conventions, but which may pose a public health threat comparable to that posed by substances listed in these conventions.

Number of NPS notified for the first time, 2005–2021 (EU 27, Turkey and Norway)



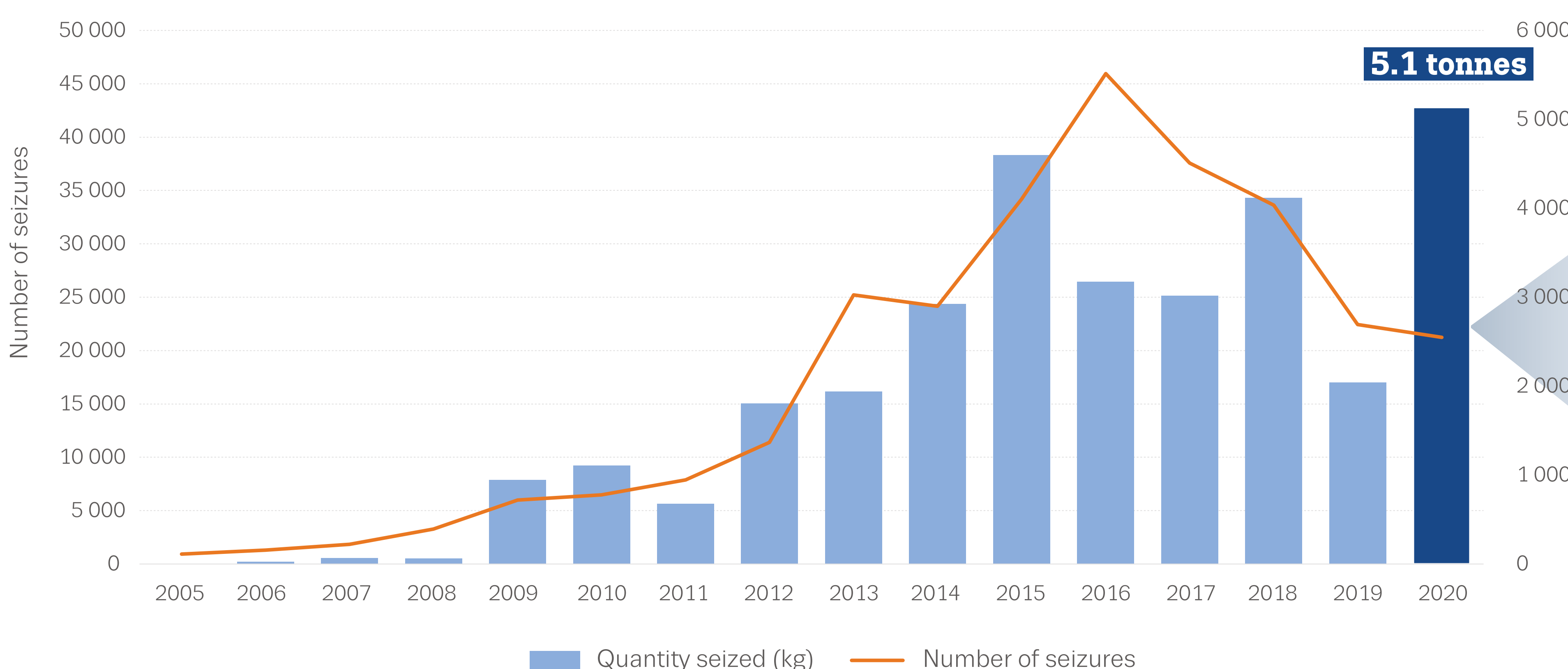
**> 880 NPS**  
currently monitored

**52 NPS**  
reported for  
the first time in 2021

**37 substances**  
risk assessed  
by the EMCDDA

- Aminoindanes
- Arylalkylamines
- Arylcyclohexylamines
- Benzodiazepines
- Cannabinoids
- Cathinones
- Opioids
- Others
- Phenethylamines
- Piperazines
- Piperidines and pyrrolidines
- Indolalkylamines (tryptamines)
- Plants and extracts

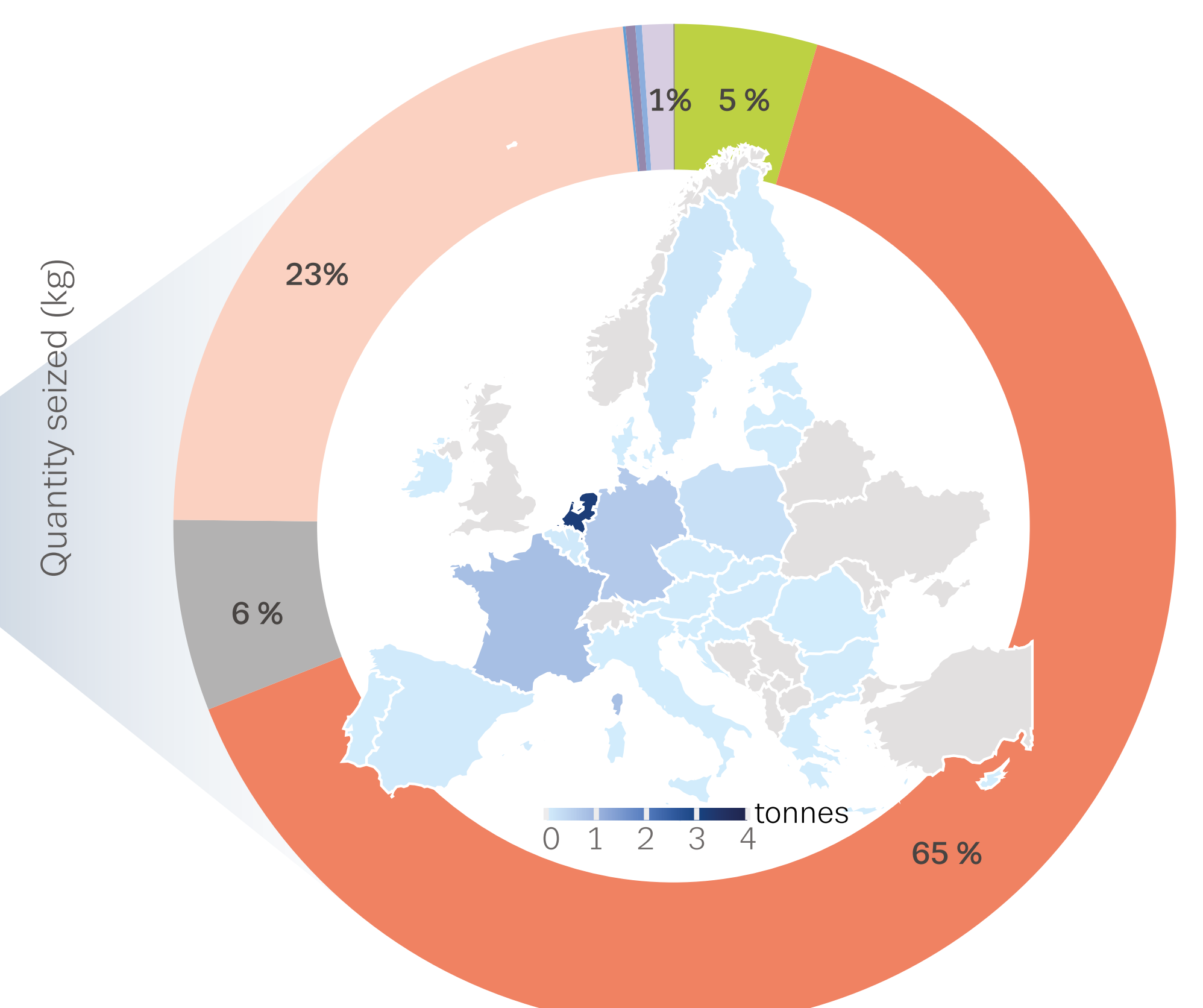
Trends in the number of seizures and quantities seized for all physical forms reported in weight, 2005–2020 (EU)



**21 200 seizures**  
amounting to more than  
**5.1 tonnes of NPS**  
in the EU in 2020

**168 public health**  
**risk communications**  
were issued by the EMCDDA (1997–2021)

Quantity of NPS seized by country and substance, 2020 (EU)



**5.1 tonnes of which:**  
3.3 tonnes of cathinones  
1.2 tonnes of arylcyclohexylamines  
0.2 tonnes of cannabinoids

