



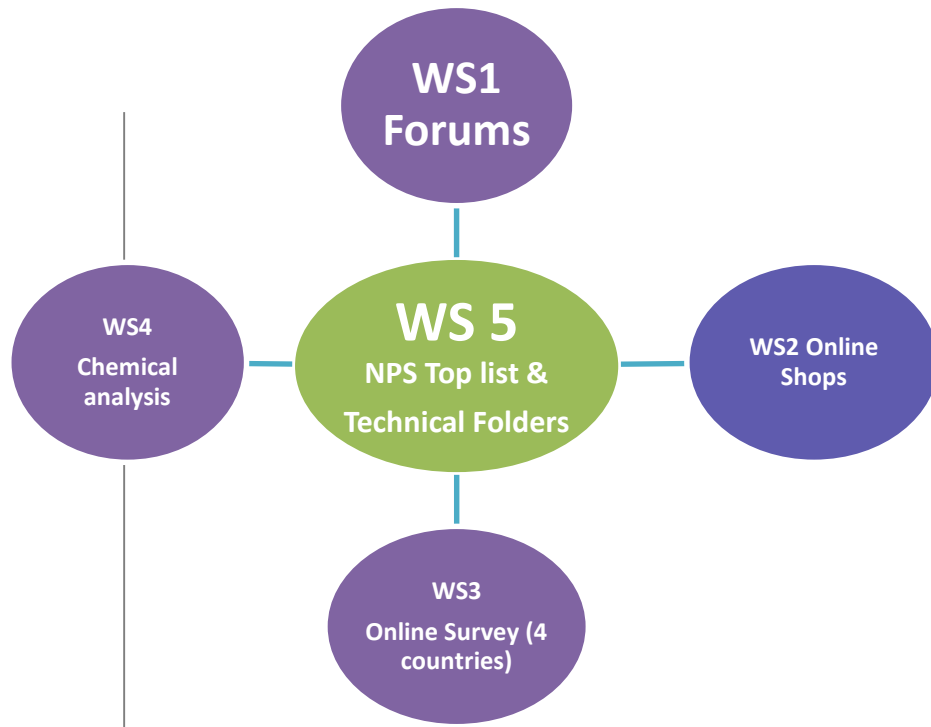
# NPS users – attitude, behaviours and recommendation for response

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# I-TREND: 5 partners



## ■ Czech Republic – CUNI

First Faculty of Medicine Charles University and General University Hospital, Prague.

## ■ France – OFDT (coordinator)

French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Paris.

## ■ Poland – SWPS

University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw.

## ■ The Netherlands – TRIMBOS

TRIMBOS Institute, Utrecht.

## ■ United Kingdom – LJMU

Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University.

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Co-funded by  
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# **Internet Tools for Research in Europe on New Drugs (I-TREND): interdisciplinary and integrated approaches to substances, users and markets,**

## **Workstream 3 - Online survey for people who use new psychoactive substances (Deliverable No. 1)**

International survey report

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*in cooperation with: Vendula Belackova (Cz), Tibor Brunt (NL), Marta Jabłońska (PL), Sławomir Mandes (PL), Agnes Cadet Tairou (Fr), Emmanuel Lahaie (Fr)*

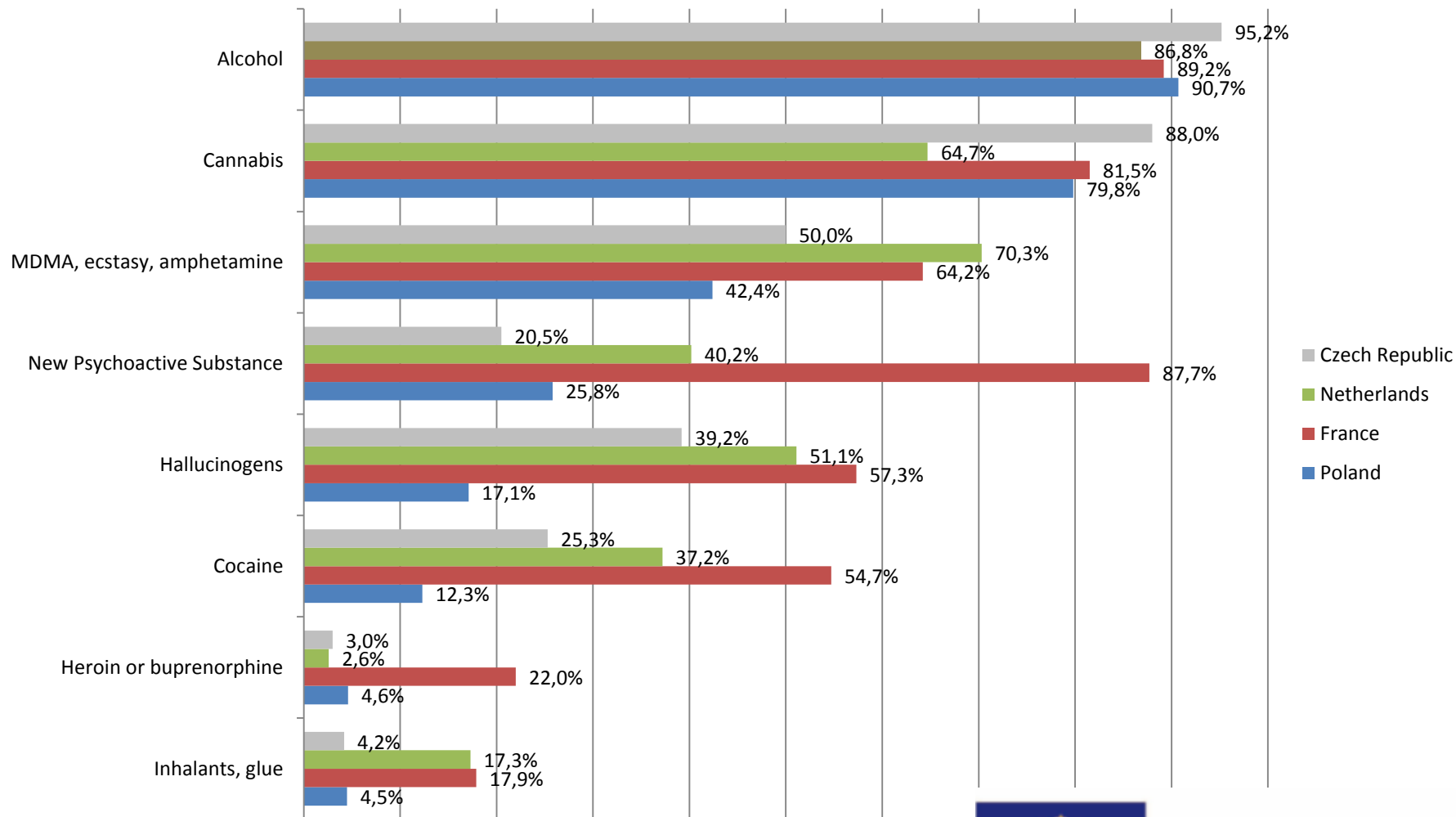


# On-line survey

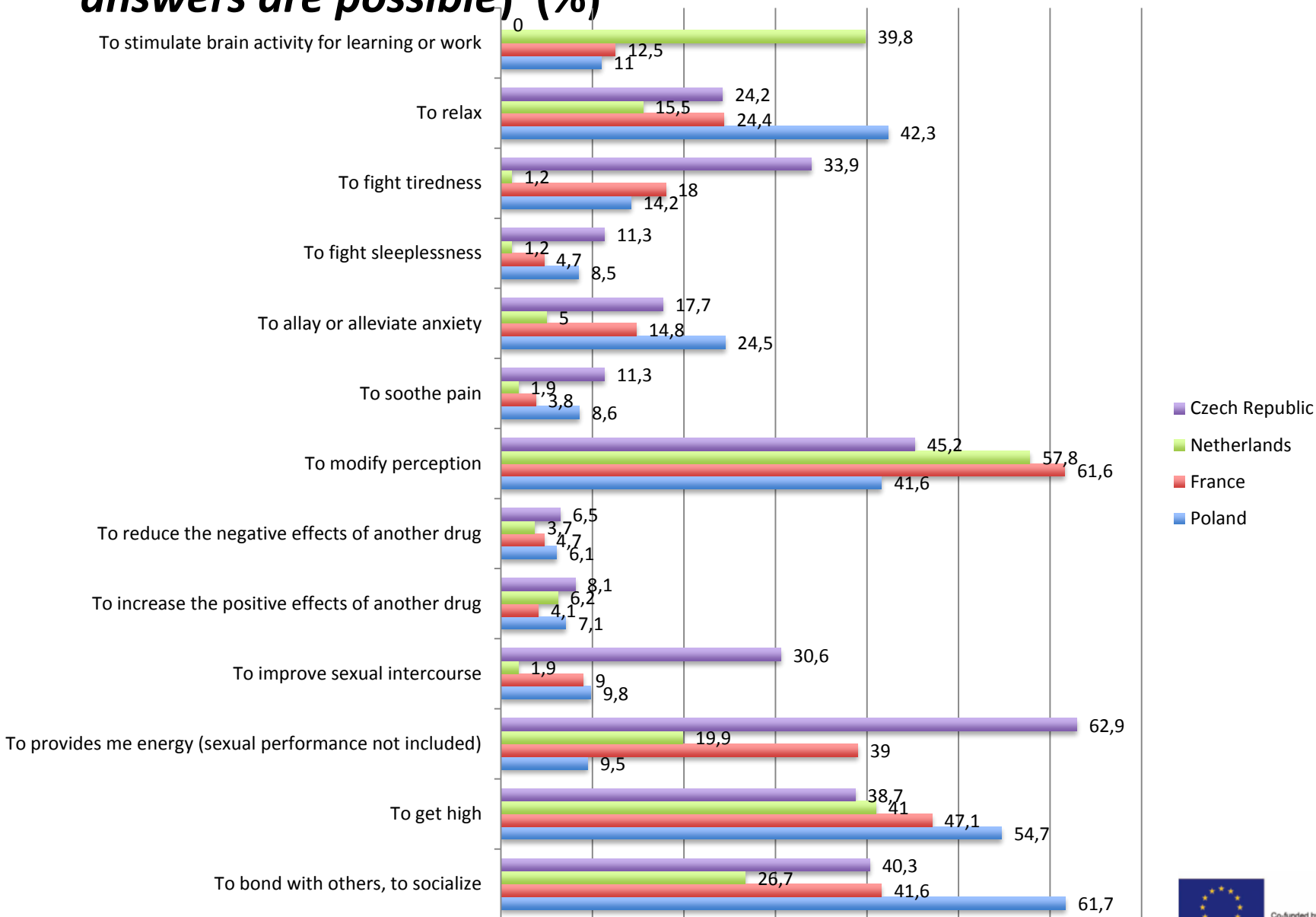
- The I-Trend online survey was conducted between July and November 2014
- Promotion of the survey began 7 July 2014 in most of the country during different channels: webpages, facebook, emails, general media etc
- The general rule was that the survey was addressed to people who had had experience with NPS (have used at least once)
- Comparison of results in different countries was subject to restrictions.
- The total number of respondents is 2 323; Poland – 1355; France – 536; the Netherlands – 266; and the Czech Republic – 166.
- Male respondents represent the majority (72%). The age 15 – 24 age group predominates among respondents (72%).
- Average age: Polish respondents it is 20 years; for French respondents it is 28; for Dutch respondents it is 26; for Czech respondents it is 24.



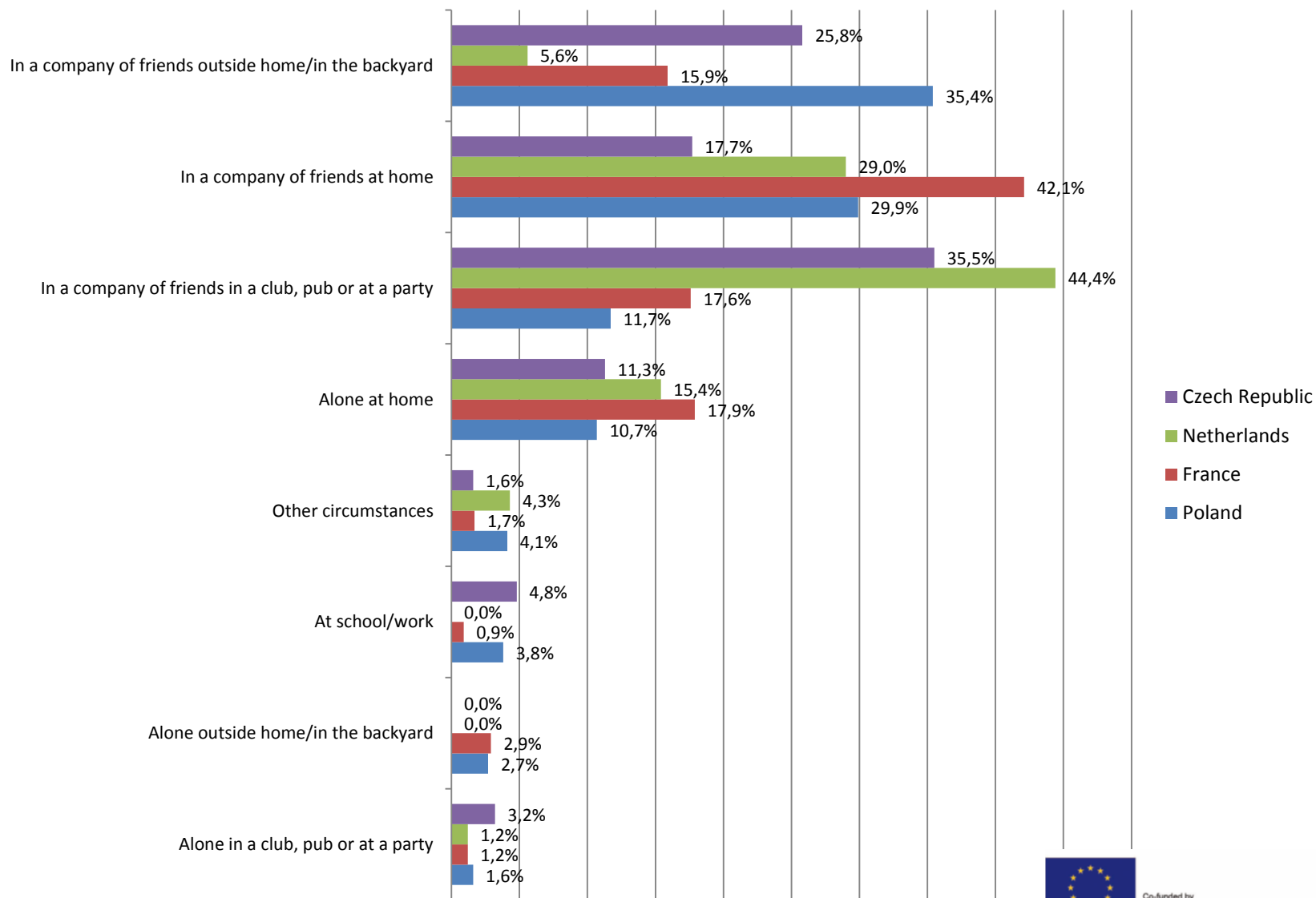
# Have you used the following substances in the last 12 months?



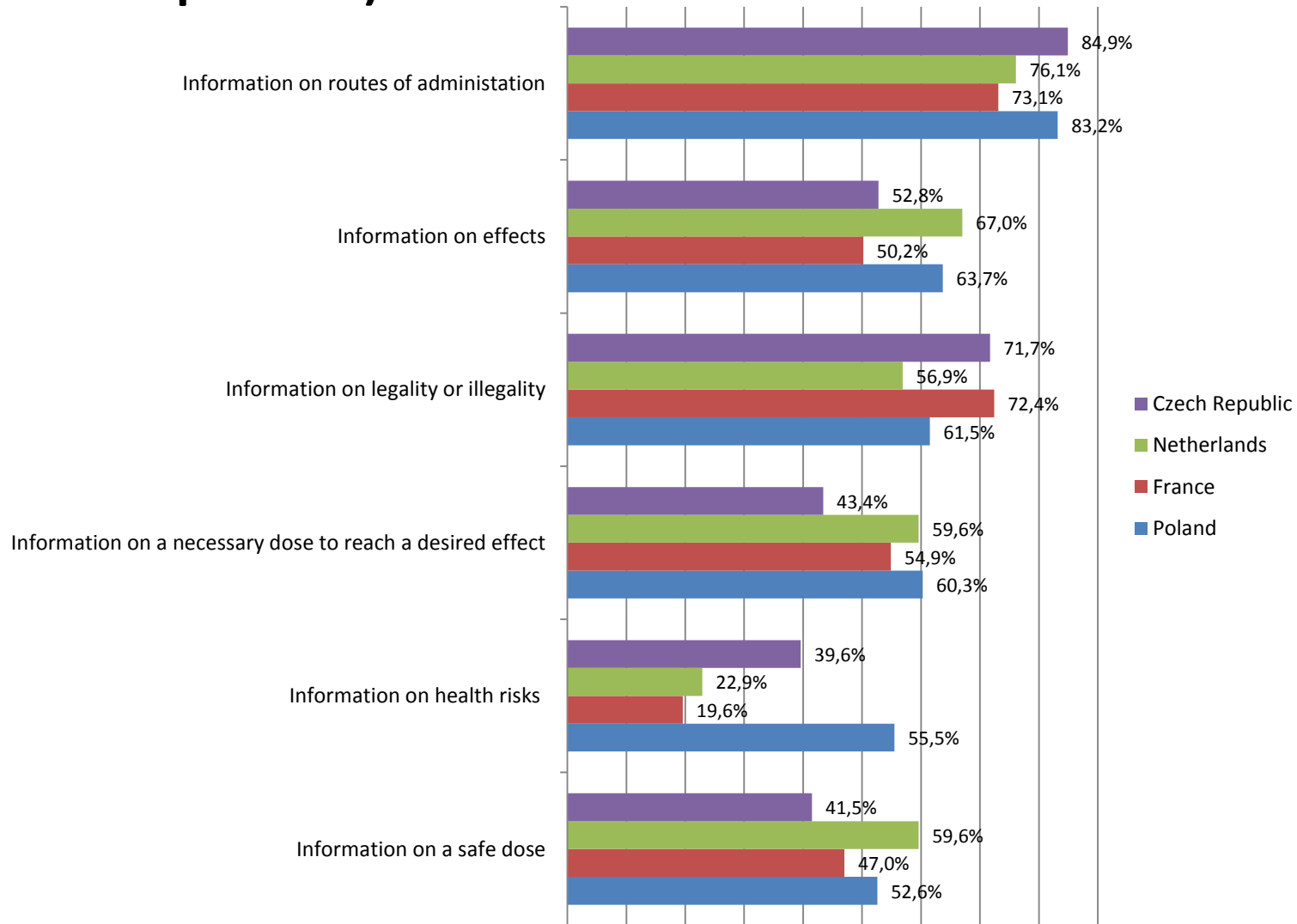
# What are the most important intended effects that you seek when you used the substance (NPS) you selected? (*several answers are possible*) (%)



# What were the circumstances the last time you used the substance you selected (NPS)? (several answers possible)

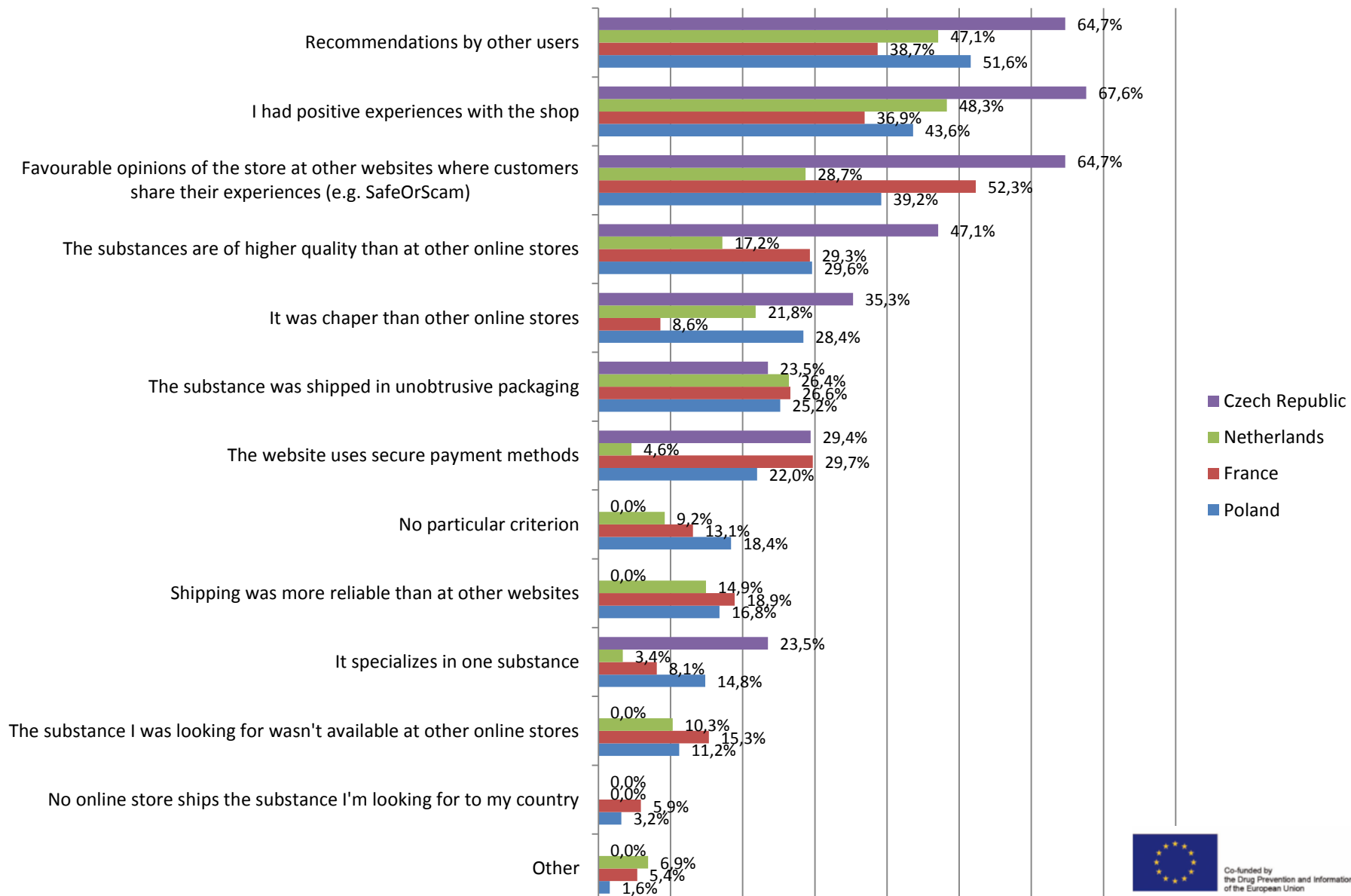


# In relation to the NPS you last used, do you consider that you had enough information on the following aspects? (several answers possible)

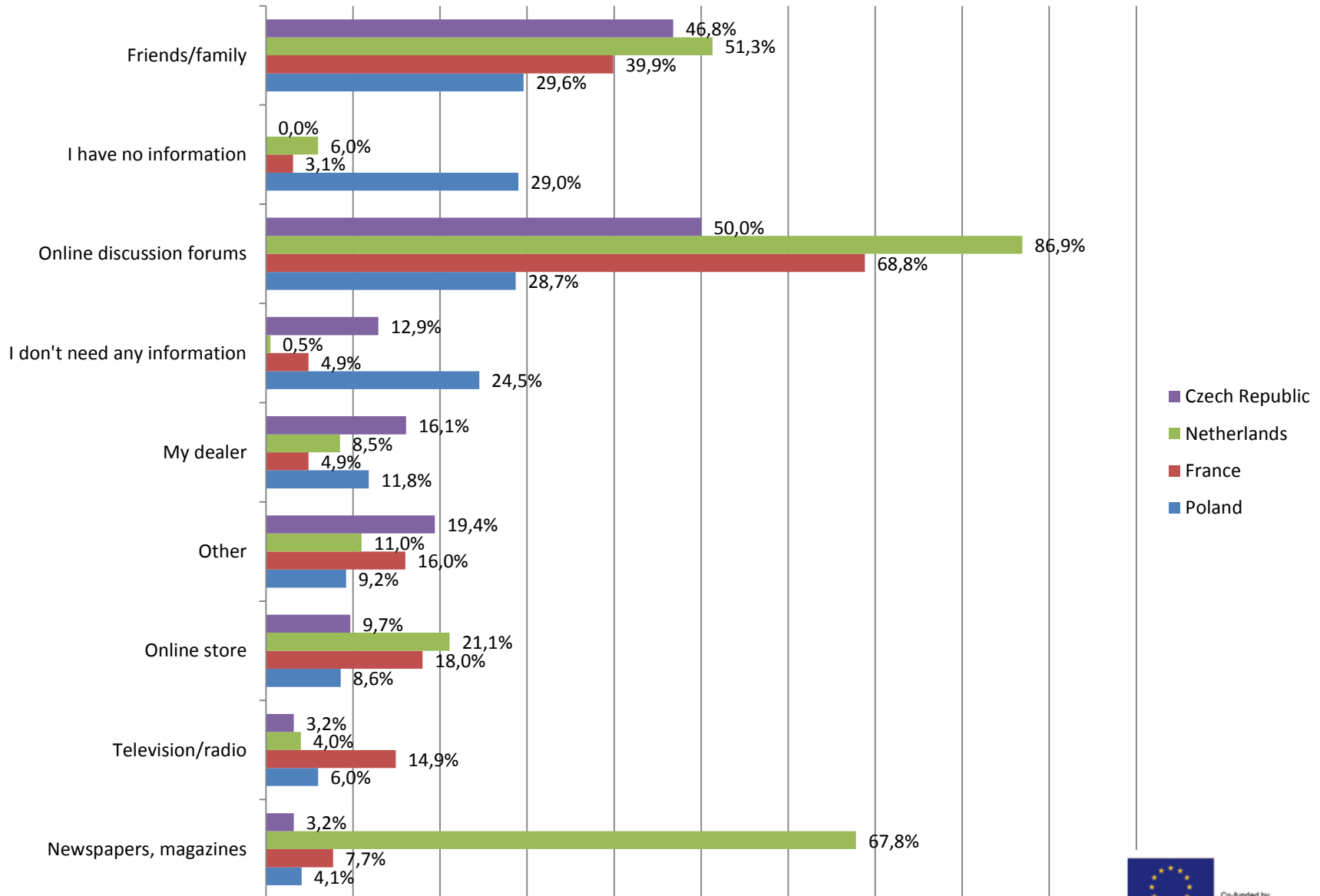




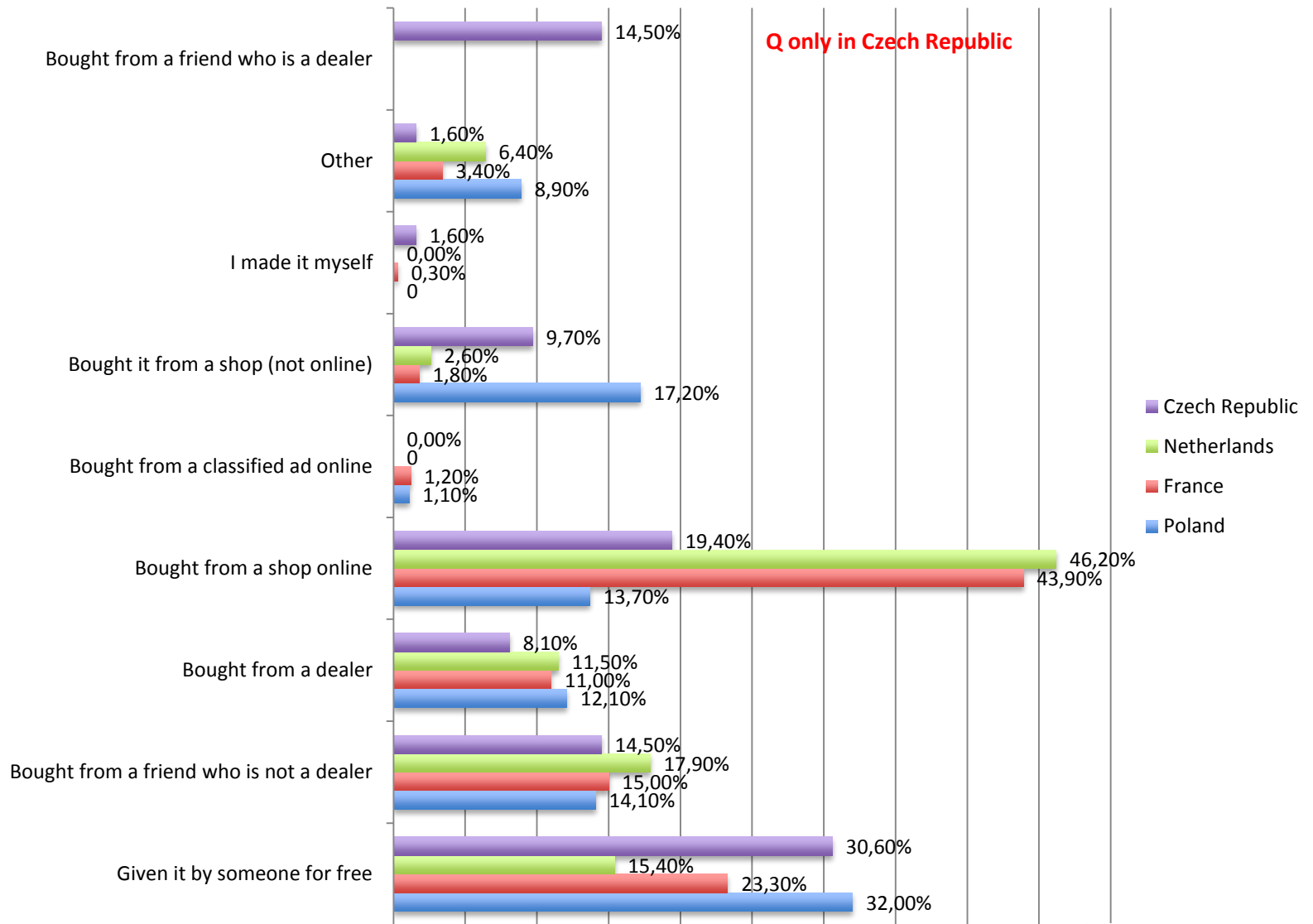
# What were the most important criteria for you when you selected NPS shops in the last 12 months? (no more than 5)



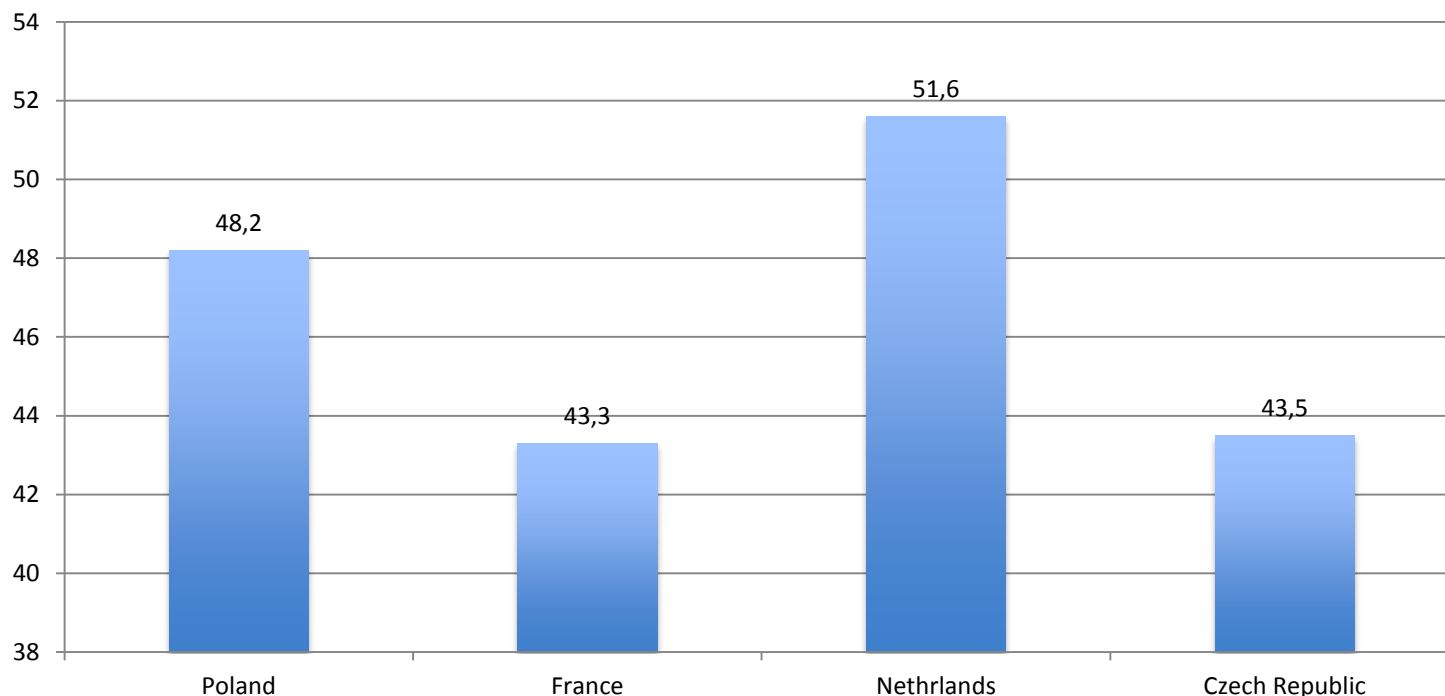
# Where did you look for information about NPS? (several answers possible)



# Mode of purchasing selected NPS

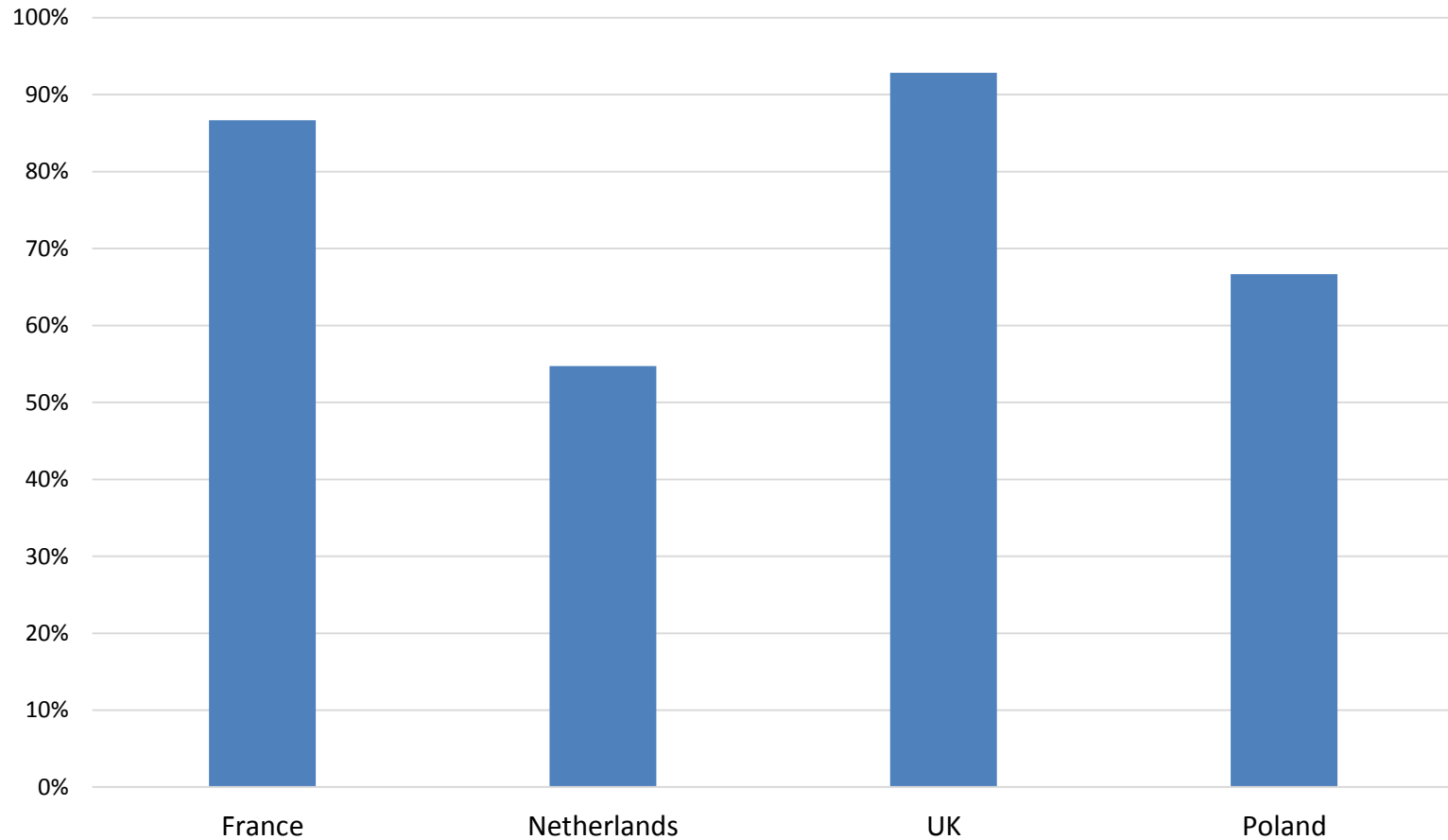


# Did you feel anything unpleasant after used the NPS last time (yes answers)



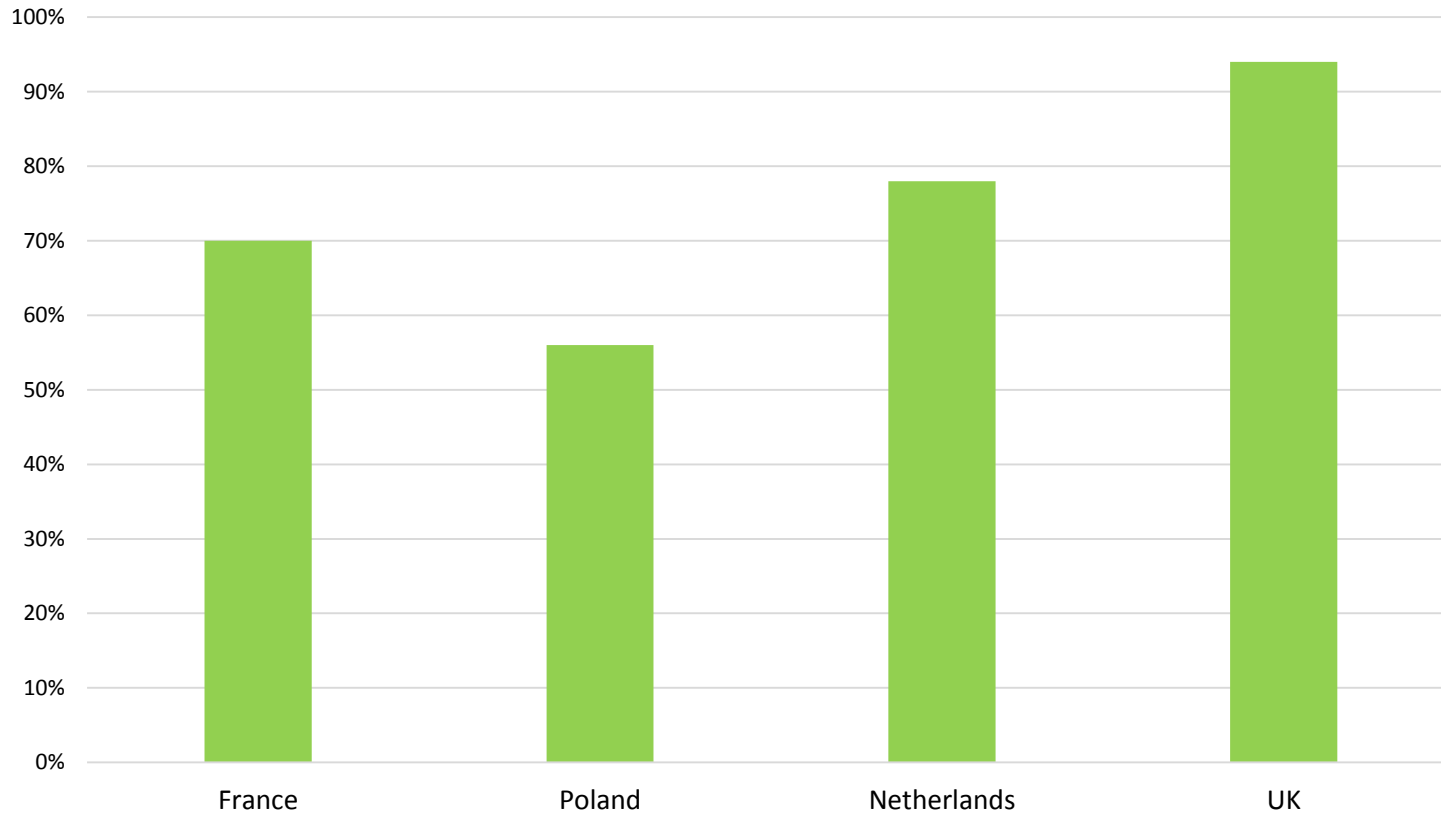
The most frequent negative consequences related to the NPS use varied across countries: strong paranoia, fear, anxiety (PL – 52%; FR – 37%), sweating (NL – 41%), extreme agitation and excitement (CZ -56%). Few NPS users who felt negative consequences sought medical assistance (PL-6%, FR -4%, NL -5%, CZ -4%).

# NPS detected as labelled



Source: I-TREND report on substance analysis (Workstream 4)

# Purity NPS



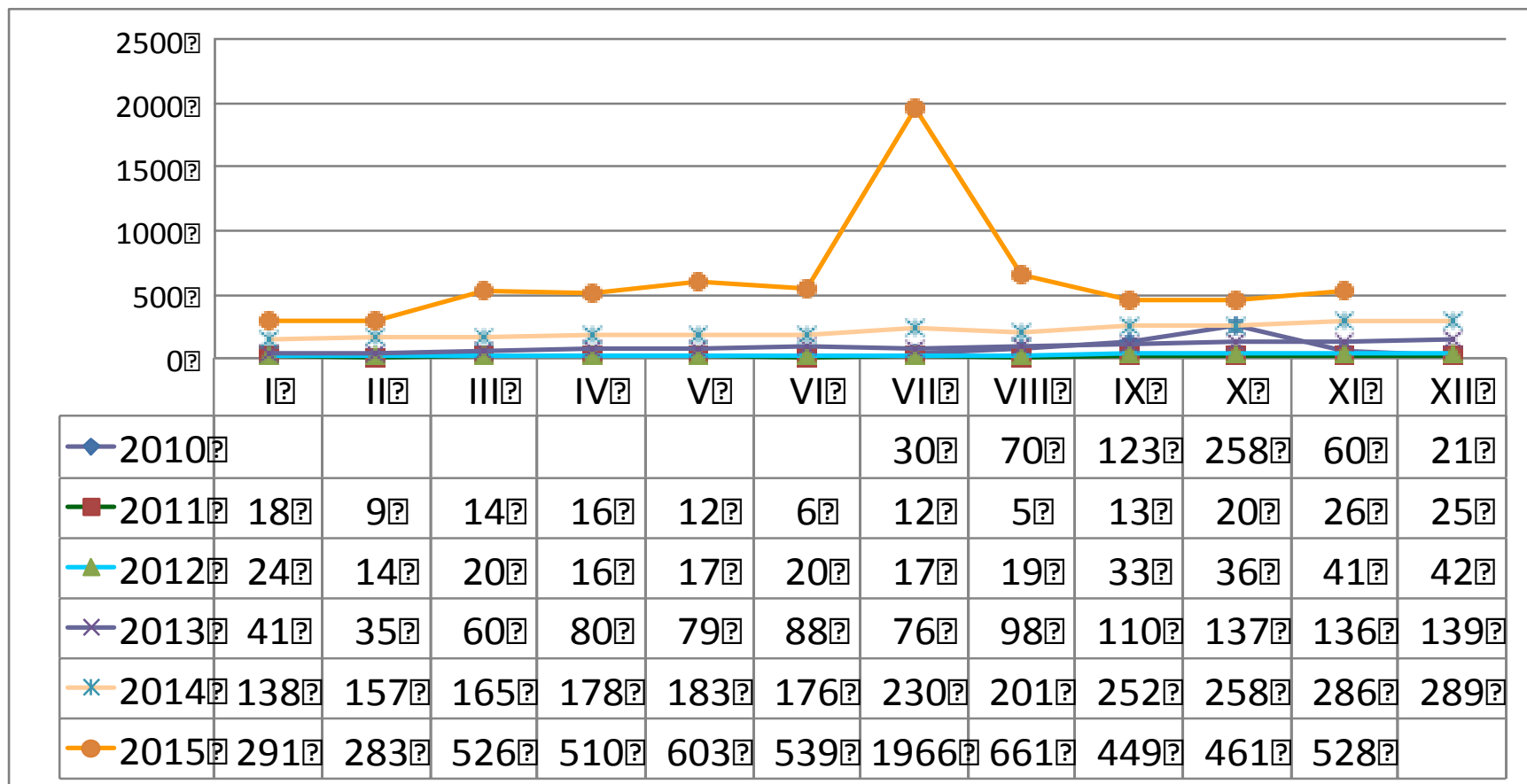
**Source: I-TREND report on substance analysis (Workstream 4)**



# NPS in Poland – purchase results

- ease of purchase: swift shipment, no joke parcels
- benefits: free samples, loyalty points
- selling products other than advertised e.g. product contained penthedrone instead of alpha-PVP
- the same price per gram, the same store but different potency (one parcel – two products): 1. ETH-CAT: 37%, 2. ETH-CAT: 99%
- slightly cheaper but 50% less potent: UR-144 for PLN 70 per gram (70%) and PLN 60 per gram (34%)
- AM-2201 – cheaper with similar potency: 53%-PLN 50 per gram, 51%-PLN 70 per gram
- 3,4-DMMC. One store offered a gram of this substance for PLN 19 (70%) and at another outlet equally potent substance was sold for over a dozen zlotys more – PLN 35 (71%). Anyway, the buyer got penthedrone in both cases 😊

# Medical interventions due to NPS using in Poland



Source: dr.n.med. Piotr Burda, Krajowy Konsultant ds. Toksykologii Klinicznej,



# Conclusions/recommendations

- In view of the fact that one of the distribution channels is the Internet, it is worth considering this environment as a platform for preventive and educational interventions, especially harm reduction. The latter should be based on the knowledge and experiences of psychonauts, who often share their knowledge at online drug forums.
- The survey results have shown that recommendations of others have impact on the choice of shops among users. Peer-to-peer education may help to decrease the number of overdoses.
- it is worth introducing education and harm reduction action before next strong action against NPS.
- NPS testing programmes might prove useful, if we consider that e.g. every third NPS (research chemical) purchased under the I-TREND project in Poland contained a substance other than the one reported by the seller.

