

from the backstreets
to the internet

Online Gaming Platforms New Drug Marketplaces

Side event at the 67th CND

Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 14:10 h

Room M6 – Language: English



Drug sales via online games


In the rapidly evolving landscape of the internet, online gaming platforms, initially designed for entertainment, have unwittingly become new marketplaces for the illicit trade of drugs. While these platforms provide a virtual space for gamers to connect and engage, a dark underbelly has emerged, with individuals exploiting the anonymity and interconnected nature of these environments to facilitate drug transactions. Recent case studies and criminal intelligence show a concerning trend and highlight the challenges it poses to law enforcement and the gaming community.

Recruitment of dealers in online games

Recently another disconcerting phenomenon has emerged—the recruitment of young individuals by criminal networks via online gaming platforms. Acknowledging the dynamic nature of the internet and emphasizing the need for continuous awareness and vigilance, criminal networks have used online gaming platforms to complement existing activities on the darknet and social media. While online gaming platforms have been utilized by organized criminal network recruitment, we increasingly witness the occurrence of peer-to-peer sales and small-scale dealing requires.

Meeting these challenges requires special collaboration between providers of online gaming platforms, law enforcement, and parents to address.

Organized by

 Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in Vienna

Speakers: Franz Pietsch, Austria
Ambassador Luis Javier Campuzano, Mexico
Thomas Kattau, Pompidou Group
Angela Crowdy, OAS-CICAD
Moderation: Elena Hedoux, Pompidou Group

Co-Sponsors

