

Darknet markets ecosystem

Lifetimes and reasons for closure of over 100 global darknet markets offering drugs, sorted by date

Darknet markets — also known as cryptomarkets — provide a largely anonymous platform for trading in a range of illicit goods and services. It is estimated that around two thirds of the offers on darknet markets are drug-related. Drug sales on these markets, although modest when compared to the overall retail drug market, are significant and appear to be expanding. EU-based suppliers are important players in the darknet ecosystem, the evolution of which is shown in this timeline.

The joint report prepared by the EMCDDA and Europol 'Drugs and the Darknet: Perspectives for enforcement, policy and research' considers the latest findings from international research, fresh empirical data, and operational information and intelligence in order to illuminate how darknet markets function and how they relate to criminal behaviour. The analysis provides a policy-orientated review intended to facilitate discussions at EU level on how to respond to the phenomenon. It also presents recommendations in the areas of law enforcement, monitoring and policy.

Notes: Market status last checked on 28.6.17 (except for AlphaBay and Hansa, for which data and information were updated to reflect closure on 4.7.17 and 20.7.17 respectively).

Sources: EMCDDA (2016a); DarkNet Stats (2017); DarkWebNews (2017); DeepDotWeb (2017); Gwern Archives (2017); Reddit (2017).

