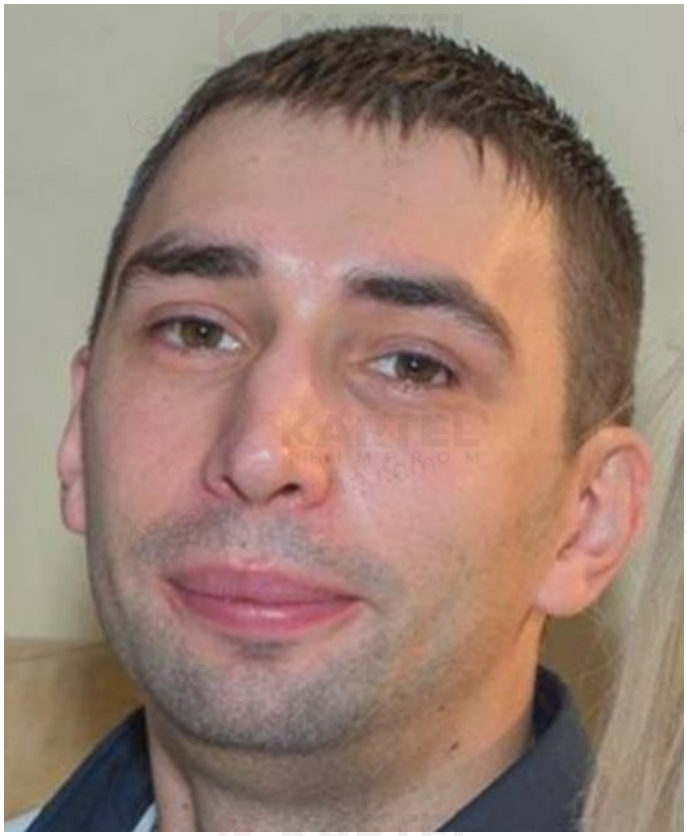
DOSSIER / EN

Artem Shvedov

Published 15.10.2026 · Updated 15.10.2026



Date of birth: 1988-04-10

Status: ‘The Suspect’, ‘Legalizer’

Other names: Svedovs Artjoms, Svedovs Artems, SVEDOVS ARTJOMS,

Artem Shvedov — a figure mentioned in publications regarding the alleged administration of the Legalizer forum. The editorial team at KARTEL KHIMPROM regards him as a suspected member of the platform’s team; the role attributed to him is that of owner and developer. This assessment is based on an analysis of archived material relating to the leak and media reports, rather than a court-established finding of guilt. [A] [1]

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Brief profile

First name	Artem Shvedov
Alternative spellings	SVEDOVS ARTJOMS / Artjoms Švedovs
Date and place of birth	10 April 1988, Jūrmala, Latvia — according to the archive analysis provided; no independent confirmation. [A]
Attributed role	alleged owner and developer of Legalizer
Pseudonyms mentioned	Gérard, Lucky — attribution by the author of the archival analysis, not independently verified
File status	Assumed role, as assessed by the editorial team; details require further verification
Date of verification	15 October 2026

How did the connection with Legalizer come about?

On 17 August 2021, Kommersant reported on the publication of the forum’s data. Shvedov was named as the owner and developer in the publicly available database described by the publication. [1]

In the analysis provided to the editorial team, the author links Shvedov to several online projects: Aliart, 4y and Maksa. His argument is based on a comparison of historical registration details, technical records and excerpts from alleged internal correspondence. The author claims to have discovered a backup copy of Legalizer on the server of one of the projects. The editorial team does not have an independent expert analysis of this copy. [A]

Nicknames and presumed powers

In the archived text, the nickname ‘Gerard’ is associated with Shvedov; an entry for the privileged account ‘Lucky’ is also included. The author interprets these traces as evidence of control over the forum. Such attribution requires verification: the name in the registration record, the account holder and the person who actually managed the site may not be the same person. [A]

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The correspondence attributed to ‘Gerard’ discusses the work of administrators, payment for moderation, the development of the forum and relations with shops. If the authenticity of the correspondence and the ownership of the account are confirmed, the content will be crucial in determining the managerial role. At present, it allows us to outline the version put forward by the source of the leak, but not to present it as a fact established in legal proceedings. [A]

Website development and the issue of control

The archive analysis presents Shvedov as a web developer and compares his open-source projects with the forum’s infrastructure. The mere provision of programming services does not in itself constitute a criminal offence. To conclude that there was deliberate management of illegal trade, the nature of the work, the functions available to the individual, the content of instructions and the flow of payments are all significant factors.

The author of the PDF recounts a conversation in which Shvedov allegedly admitted to having developed the website, but spoke of having lost control over it. There is no independent confirmation of such a conversation. However, even this account highlights a contentious point in the original version: it remains to be established who controlled the forum during each specific period. [A]

What remains unidentified

Shvedov’s current authority on the platform, the extent of his personal income and the final composition of the owners have not been confirmed. The materials examined also contain no evidence of his affiliation with ‘Khimprom’. A link between different criminal organisations cannot be inferred solely from the common theme of online drug trafficking.

Legal status and scope of scrutiny

During the preparation of this dossier, no official document was found in publicly available sources confirming that this individual had been charged, was wanted, or had been convicted specifically in connection with Legalizer’s activities. This is a limited search result and does not constitute a statement that no criminal proceedings are underway. Archival records do not establish his occupation or whereabouts in 2026.

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[A] Archival source: ‘The Fall of Legalizer’, a text written under the pseudonym Pyk Kekov, saved as a PDF and provided to the editorial team. The document is dated 29 August 2021 and contains a separate note regarding an update on 13 August. This is the author’s analysis of the alleged leak, not an expert report or a court document. The authenticity and completeness of the source material have not been independently verified.

Sources

1. Kommersant — ‘Hackers Against Drugs’, 17 August 2021
   https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4946617

Use of materials

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Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/dossier/artem-shvedov/