



# The Pompidou Group: role, organisation and its activities in the drugs field

*International Conference*

*“New Trends in the area of alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention and control”*

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# I. General information



## Council of Europe

- Set up in 1949, it is the oldest political organization in Europe
- It aims at creating a common
  - democratic and legal area
  - ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- 47 member countries with 800 million citizens
- Seat is in Strasbourg
- The Council of Europe is an entirely separate body from the European Union, which has only 27 member states and unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws
- ① **Pompidou Group (PG):** Incorporated into the Council of Europe in 1980 as an 'Enlarged Partial Agreement'



### **Pompidou Group (1/3)**

(Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs)

- **Intergovernmental body** set up in 1971 at the suggestion of the French President George Pompidou
- Initially informal co-operation forum of 7 European countries (France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom) to share experience in the field of **combating drug abuse and drug trafficking**
- Incorporated into the Council of Europe in 1980 as an '**Enlarged Partial Agreement**', allowing countries outside the Council of Europe and outside Europe to become a member of the Group and to pursue certain activities not supported by all member states of the Council of Europe
- Annual budget : ca. 1.300.000 €



### **Pompidou Group (2/3)**

- Now 36 member states
- List of member states:

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey



### Pompidou Group (3/3)

- **Morocco** joined the Group on 1st July 2011 (first non European country to become PG member)
  - The **European Commission** is also a member of the PG / ad hoc participation to the activities of Canada, USA, Holy See
  - Cooperation extends to non member countries towards Central and Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean Region with the MedNET network
  - **Not members yet** : Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Latvia, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine - but technical co-operation with Ukraine
  - **Monaco** will join the Group on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011
  - Currently also under discussion: participation of **Israel** in the PC
- ① **France** is chairing the Group for the mandate 2011-2014

### III. The Role of the PG

- The role of the PG, and its added value in comparison to other international organizations and agencies, continues to lie with its capacity to be
  - a **forum of open debate, a think-tank for innovative ideas**, and to be a **facilitator for linking policy-research-practice**.

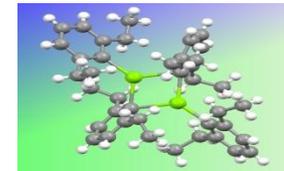
**This will be achieved by:**

- ***Bringing together government expertise*** from different levels (national, regional and local) and disciplines to ensure real-time connection with developments and trends
- ***Linking in expertise*** from research and professional practice to ensure cohesive and efficient policy implementation
- ***Incorporating contacts*** with civil society and the private sector as actors of increasing relevance in areas of concerns for policies in different spheres (health care and social services, trans-frontier transport and aviation, manufacturing of precursor products etc.)
- ***Bridging EU and non-EU countries in Europe***, connecting Europe with neighboring countries and regions, and by being the inter-face between European countries for the exchange of new ideas and models of best practice



## IV. Aims of the PG (1/2)

- In fulfilling its **core mission** to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs the PG contributes to the **development of effective and evidence-based drug policies** in its member states.



This is **achieved by (1)**:

- **Linking policy, practice and research:** developing perspectives based on scientific evidence, professional experience and political feasibility by engaging policy makers, researchers and practitioners in the work of the Group
- **Bridging in Europe and beyond:** fulfilling the mission of an Enlarged Partial Agreement by cooperating with all countries in Greater Europe, beyond the Council of Europe, and with its neighboring regions
- **Providing a forum for open debate:** facilitating a multidisciplinary forum for policy makers and policy advisors to exchange information and ideas on drug abuse and trafficking problems by engaging in an open debate

## IV. Aims the Pompidou Group (2/2)

This is achieved by (2) :

- **Identifying proposals for action** : promoting examples of best practice and developing models for effective responses to drug-related problems
- **Facilitating knowledge**: empowering policy managers and professionals responsible for implementing drugs policies by supporting knowledge transfer, training and capacity building
- **Working with concerted action**: providing a mechanism for regular consultation between key European and international stakeholders on an institutional level to foster increased cooperation, synergy and avoid duplication



## V. Expected results

- The overall expected results from the work of the Pompidou Group are primarily aimed at **serving governments** and **policymakers needs**, but are also addressed to **researchers** and **professionals**.

### Expected overall results include:

- **Better understanding** of different drug policy concepts across Europe
- **New insights** from research and practice on psychoactive substance abuse
- **Enhanced capacity** and competences of prevention and care services to deal with the drug abuse
- Enhanced capacity and competence in combating drug-related organized crime and illicit drug trafficking
- **Cooperation strengthened** with third countries within and neighboring Europe, which are not members of the Pompidou Group
- **Enhanced competences** for more effective cooperation across sectors and among stakeholders
- **Increased professional capacities** for developing, implementing and managing drug policies



## VI. The Pompidou Group's organisation

- **Secretariat** in Strasbourg, Council of Europe
- **Ministerial Conference** (held every 4 years) -> adopts work programme
  - Last Ministerial Conference took place on 3-4 November 2010 in Strasbourg; adoption of **work programme 2011-2014**
- **Permanent Correspondents (PCs)**= representatives of the 36 member states; senior officials in ministries in charge of drug issues
  - PCs meet twice a year to ensure the implementation of the work Programme
  - next PC-meeting in **December 2011** will include a **special high level segment** with Ministers participation and the adoption of the “Declaration on the reinforcement of international cooperation among drug authorities, in particular in the region of South-Eastern Europe” and the launch of the Drug Prevention Prize 2012

## VIII. The Pompidou Group's activities

The Pompidou Group *carries out activities* in the following areas:

a.) *Prevention*

b.) *Treatment*

c.) *Research*

d.) *Ethics*

e.) *Drug Supply Reduction*

f.) *Cooperation at local level,  
EXASS Net*

g.) *Mediterranean  
Cooperation MedNET*

## VII. a Prevention (1/7)

***Aim: Look for innovative and evidence-based practices***

### **1. Topics 2010 in the field of prevention according to the current work programme**

***Healthy live style and drugs, evaluation of drug prevention activities***

#### ***Publications 2010:***

##### **– Evaluation of the drug prevention activities: theory and practice (2010)**

This PG-study addresses the ways that evaluation can be made more effective, define what is meant by “**evaluation**” in different contexts and helping policy makers and their advisors to ensure that evaluation is not “a dogma” but “**a useful tool**” in the decision-making process about the allocation of scarce resources for drug prevention.

##### **– Prevention interventions in recreational settings (2010)**

This publication from the PG explores a range of possible drug misuse prevention activities that could be delivered to young people and families during their holidays as well as in the recreational settings.

## VII. a Prevention (2/7)

### 2. Topics 2011 in the field of prevention according to the work programme

#### *2.1. Prevention of drug use in the workplace*

Therefore an ad hoc expert working group has been installed mid 2011 and its aim is to achieve the following outputs:

- to understand, and hence deal better with, ***individual factors*** (such as personal vulnerabilities and skills) and ***environmental factors*** (such as the social, economic and cultural context) conducive to drug consumption in the workplace
- to ***provide benchmarks*** for all active partners to strengthen the framework in which any monitoring or checks may be conducted, regulated or prohibited
- to ***improve exchanges of information*** between member countries and co-operation with other international bodies active in this field, particularly the International Labour Organization and World Health Organization, to make the entire body of texts and conventions which clarify or govern this matter at international level available;
- to ***rectify any shortcomings*** noted in prevention and safety measures



① The ***results*** of the work will be presented at a ***high level international conference in December 2012*** and will be used as a basis to set up a ***policy to prevent addictive behavior*** with due regard for personal freedoms and a lever to improve working conditions.

## VII. a Prevention (3/7)

### 2. Topics 2011 in the field of prevention according to the current work programme

#### 2.2 European Drug Prevention Forum and European Drug Prevention Prize

Under the PG-work programme 2011 – 2014, point 4 it is intended to carrying out the **European Consultative Youth Forum on Drug Prevention 2012** as well as to **award the European Drug Prevention Prize 2012**.

##### 2.2.1 Drug Prevention Forum

To effectively **promote youth participation** in drugs prevention it is designated to carry out a European Prevention Forum in November 2012.

Two fora had already been organized in 2004 and 2006 each of them bringing together over 100 youngsters, politicians and experts from all over Europe to **encourage a profound and open dialogue** between **young people** and **policy makers**.



### 2.2.2 The European Drug Prevention Prize (1/4)

#### 1. General information



- In connection with the Youth Forum also created in 2004 to recognise the importance of active youth participation in drug prevention projects.
- awarded every 2 years -> 2004-2012 by a jury of 6/7 young people
- 3 drug prevention projects led by youth for youth are rewarded for their innovative work.
- monetary benefit of 5.000 €, trophy and diploma

## 2.2.2 The European Drug Prevention Prize (2/4)

### 2. Awards 2004 - 2010

Prize 2004	Prize 2006	Prize 2008	Prize 2010
44 applications 18 countries	31 applications 18 countries	34 applications 15 countries	80 applications 26 countries
Slovenia Switzerland United Kingdom	Ireland Norway	Bulgaria Greece Netherlands	Spain United Kingdom Belgium 11 shortlisted projects

- The award ceremony of the 4th European Drug Prevention Prize took place on 3 November 2010 in Strasbourg during the PGs 15th Ministerial Conference.
- The Prize was awarded to three projects for their innovative work in drug prevention with the active involvement and participation of youth.
- A jury of 6 young people from Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Russian Federation and Turkey examined 80 applications from 26 European countries and selected the most innovative.
- 11 other worthwhile projects were shortlisted and given a certificate of recognition for their work.

### 2.2.2 The European Drug Prevention Prize (3/4)

#### 3. Winning projects 2010 – contents:

- *“Energy Control” in Barcelona (Spain)*

Peer-to-peer interventions, school workshops, use of telephone, email, websites, internet discussion forums, etc. to prevent drug use and reduce the risks associated with drug use. Support to young people who use drugs and to people who are not drug users but who have friends or family members who are . Young volunteers trained by EC set up stalls at parties to give information on drugs, drug testing and advice on how to use drugs as safely as possible – including alcohol tests.

- *“RecceR’ Resilience Coaching” in Ghent (Belgium)*

builds resilience (the universal capacity which allows a person, group or community to prevent, minimize or overcome the damaging effects of adversity) in young people who suffer from EBD (emotional and behavioural disorders). They use a game where Billy, main character is prisoner of 3monsters (aggression, impulsivity, and low self-esteem). The youngsters play the game to acquire ‘resilience’ skills to allow them to combat the monsters and free Billy. The skills include capacity to solve problems as a group, concentration skills, tolerance, and respect.

- *“Smoke & Mirrors” in Manchester (United Kingdom)*

*Smoke and Mirrors* draws young people’s attention to the negative practices of the tobacco industry and encourages them to challenge these as a way of dissuading them to start or encourage them to stop smoking. It does so by launching a film competition and by ‘campaign weekends’ which serve to raise awareness but also to develop the youngsters’ skills and self-confidence.

### 2.2.2 The European Drug Prevention Prize (4/4)

#### 4. Preparation of the 2012 Prize

- Recruitment of new members for the Jury 2012: taking into account the "roll-over" procedure for the jury's composition, the Secretariat recruited four new members for the Jury 2012.
- The jury is composed of three members from the 2010 Prize from **Finland, Ireland** and **Lithuania** and four new members from **Austria, Bulgaria, Russian Federation** and **Spain**.
- The **Preparatory jury meeting** was held in **Strasbourg** on **17-18 October 2011**: its aim was to set the rules and procedures, agree on the criteria for the selection of winning projects, and elaborate a work plan for the organization of the **European Drug prevention 2012**.
- **Morocco**, which became a member of the Pompidou Group in July 2011, and the **MedNET** countries from the Southern rim of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia) are now eligible to apply for the Prize 2012.
- **Launching of the Prize 2012 on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in Ljubljana** in the frame of the high level meeting of the PG

### Aim:

- to improve the **treatment and care of specific groups**, by adapting treatment to new trends, substances and patterns of consumption
- to assess the results of different modalities of treatment
- to evaluate risk reduction interventions and measures to reduce harm to society

### Recent work:

- providing an overview of **how treatment systems function in different countries**, how **treatment guidelines are developed** and **implemented**, how to **respond to new trends in drugs consumption**, notably to the use of stimulant drugs.
- Two overviews **presenting the treatment systems of 28 countries** were published: **Treatment systems overview** in PG-MS (October 2010) and Treatment systems overview in South-East Europe (March 2011). They **provide a description of the epidemiology**, the **history of drug treatment** and **the organization of treatment services across Europe**.

- ① The **PG acknowledges that examples of the effective treatment include offers of treatment services** that combine all available sources of support, at various levels, including from peer groups, from family and from others.
- ① The **common denominators of examples of good practice** include: a high level of flexibility and the possibility for effective, intersectoral cooperation between law-enforcement, social and health services.

**Aim:** *Assess and support the use of research evidence in policy and practice.*

The **current questions** are addressed by an integrated policy expert group:

- “what are the best structures to reach coherent drug policies?”
- “what models could be used to measure a coherent policy’s effectiveness?”



### **Previous Activities:**

- Creation of the **Register on Drug Research** in 2007 as an online networking tool for the research community
- **ESSD Summer School**- Intensive Course on Qualitative Drug Research for young researchers

### **Ongoing activities:**

- **Co-operation with ESPAD** European school survey on alcohol and other Drugs
- **Application of ESPAD methodology to Mediterranean context** : MedSPAD in Lebanon and Morocco and others.

**Aim:** *reflect and devise opinions on ethical issues*

### **1. Opinion on “Vaccines” against drugs (published in 2010)**

The anticipated availability of drug “vaccines” opens up interesting prospects in terms of treatment but the implications have not yet been sufficiently investigated and weighed up. The use of such “vaccines” should take full account of the psychological and social background of the persons concerned and be subject to the same ethical principles which underlie individual autonomy, showing due regard for the fundamental rights enshrined in international treaties.

Consequently, immunotherapy treatments for addictions should be treated with the utmost caution and could have possible side effects. If “vaccines” were put on the market, very strict application frameworks would have to be set up to avert the risk of misuses.

As to preventive treatment, it should not be considered.

### **2. Opinion on the practice of drug testing (published in 2008)**

***Drug testing in schools*** : it is not a preventive function, risk of stigmatization and exclusion: not recommended

## 1. Criminal Issues:

**Aim:** *Co-operation with justice, health and care services, social services to find alternative measures to imprisonment*



## 2. Airports Group: ( customs and law enforcement officers from 35 countries)

**Aim:** *Improve drug detection in European airports, and inter-airport cooperation*

- Annual reviews of the development of drug seizures at airports
- Development of an Airport Crime Risk Register
- Promote the undertaking of multilateral drug seizure operational activities
- Regular updates of contacts, crime figures, and the Passenger Control Handbook

## 3. Precursors:

**Aim:** *prevention of licit and illicit drug precursors diversion towards the manufacture of illegal psychoactive substances*

## VII.f EXASS NET



- Set up in **2007** as a European network between stakeholders at the frontline level. It works at the urban, regional and national levels
- **Aim:** *Connecting professionals and Permanent Correspondents to provide insights into policy implementation on topics that are of immediate concern to governments.*
- Addresses specific topics, last meetings:
  - Berlin, May, 2011 - “Legal and Illegal Immigrants”
  - Berlin, October, 2011- “How Services Deal with Poly-Drug Use”
- Member countries: Germany, Croatia, Russian Federation, Finland, Hungary, Moldova, Norway, Netherland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine, United-Kingdom
- Member cities: Amsterdam, Budapest, Cracow, Frankfurt, Koper, Oslo, Preston, Turku, Viseu, Zagreb, Zaporozhye

## 1. General information



Set up in **2006**

**Aim:** promote cooperation exchange and two transfer knowledge on drugs and drug addiction between the ***Mediterranean*** and ***European countries***

**13 countries** = Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia

Activities meet ***countries needs for capacity building*** and ***information exchange*** through, national surveys, training seminars, addictology courses and study visits.

### **2. Activities 2010-2011**

- **Algeria:** Seminars to train doctors and paramedics in the treatment of drug users, seminars on law enforcement
- **Lebanon:** Project to identify the needs concerning treatment of drug users and drug centers. Visit in France and recommendations to change the law.
- **Morocco:** Addictology courses, Training in substitution treatment centers, Prevention, information leaflets, MedSPAD
- **Jordan:** Visit to identify areas of co-operation, development of MedSPAD methodology
- **Egypt:** Study visits in UK and Italy to observe the judicial system, treatment admission process and treatment centers
- **Tunisia:** Workshop on Harm Reduction, Study visit, Regional seminars on treatment, on data collection, on precursors, on setting up national monitoring centers

## VIII. Conclusions (1/2)

- Innovative, multidisciplinary structure of the PG
- ***profound impact on European countries anti-drug policies for over 30 years with its wide-ranging activities***
- **priority of human rights and fundamental freedoms as a basis**
- importance of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as multidisciplinary and a ***balanced approach to solving drugs problems***
- **linking theory, practice and policy remains an important strength of the Group**

## VIII. Conclusions (2/2)

- The ***Group's functions*** and ***working methods*** allow with comparatively small investments to yield timely and practical results for various stakeholders
- The ***bridging role*** to the ***greater Europe beyond the European Union*** and the freedom of its deliberations from the constraints of legally binding instruments and political commitments, make the ***PG a valuable forum*** for ***policy development*** and for ***filling gaps*** that other organizations cannot easily fill

**One problem remains: Still low level of the Group's visibility, and the need for it to sharpen its profile vis-à-vis other international bodies and the European Union's institutions in particular (HDG, EMCDDA, EC).**

This will be a ***key challenge for the future of the PGs work!***

For further information, please visit our website

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/pompidou/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/pompidou/default_en.asp)

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# Thank you for your attention!

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