

The Gender Dimension of Non-Medical-Use of Prescription Drugs

*The role of the Pompidou Group in integrating a gender
dimension of drug policies*



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**The Pompidou Group started activities in the
field of gender and drug abuse many years ago**



DAD.NET

P R O J E C T

An International Network to promote:

1. Specific interventions targeted to the female gender for prevention of the risks related to alcohol and drugs consumption and related pathologies.
2. The re-orientation of social and health services towards gender-oriented prevention, treatment and rehabilitation strategies to better meet the specific needs of drug addicted women.



DAD.NET Targets

TARGET 1

Young women
at risk
of drug use

TARGET 2

Women who
use drugs
occasionally

TARGET 3

Women with drug
dependence
problems and/or
related pathologies

Primary Target

TARGET 4

Training to
health service professionals, to
mainstream gender issues

Secondary Target

DAD.NET Plenary Conferences :

- FAO Headquarters, 2-4 March 2011
- FAO Headquarters, 20-21 June 2012



DAD.NET Project for Mednet

Drugs, Alcohol and Women

Creating a network of Southern Mediterranean countries

Project Objectives: Training of trainers & situational analysis

Resolution 7/2012/L.8

Supported by the Pompidou Group

“Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies”



**Approved during the 55th Session of the CND
Vienna, 12-16 March 2012**

Content:

→ Correct the lack of gender-oriented programmes, particularly on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation aimed to meet the specific needs of women, as well as programmes addressing the issues of addiction and drug-related diseases as they affect women



The “Gender dimension of drug policies” project

Athens, November 2013, welcome Italy’s initiative of a gender-specific project, funded by an Italian voluntary contribution.

The Pompidou Group decided to launch a gender-specific project covering Europe and the Mediterranean Region.

The “Gender dimension of drug policies” project



Focus on



**Gender Dimension of Non-Medical-Use
of Prescription Drugs**



Prescription drugs abuse means

NIH/NIDA

Prescription drug abuse is the use of a medication without a prescription, or in a way other than as prescribed.

Lithuanian Presidency

Use of prescription drug, whether obtain by prescription or otherwise, other than in the manner of for the time period prescribed, or by a person for whom the drug was not prescribed

Study Objectives

- Explore gender differences in the field of **Non-Medical-Use of Prescription Drugs** in Europe and the Mediterranean region.
- Identify gaps in the data available in Europe and the Mediterranean.
- Make recommendations for further research.
- Make recommendations for policy development and practice

17 Participating countries

Cyprus	Ireland	Morocco
Czech Republic	Israel	Serbia
Egypt	Italy	The Netherlands
France	Lebanon	Tunisia
Germany	Lithuania	Wales
Greece	Malta	

Teamwork

Key researcher:

Marilyn CLARK

Expert working group members:

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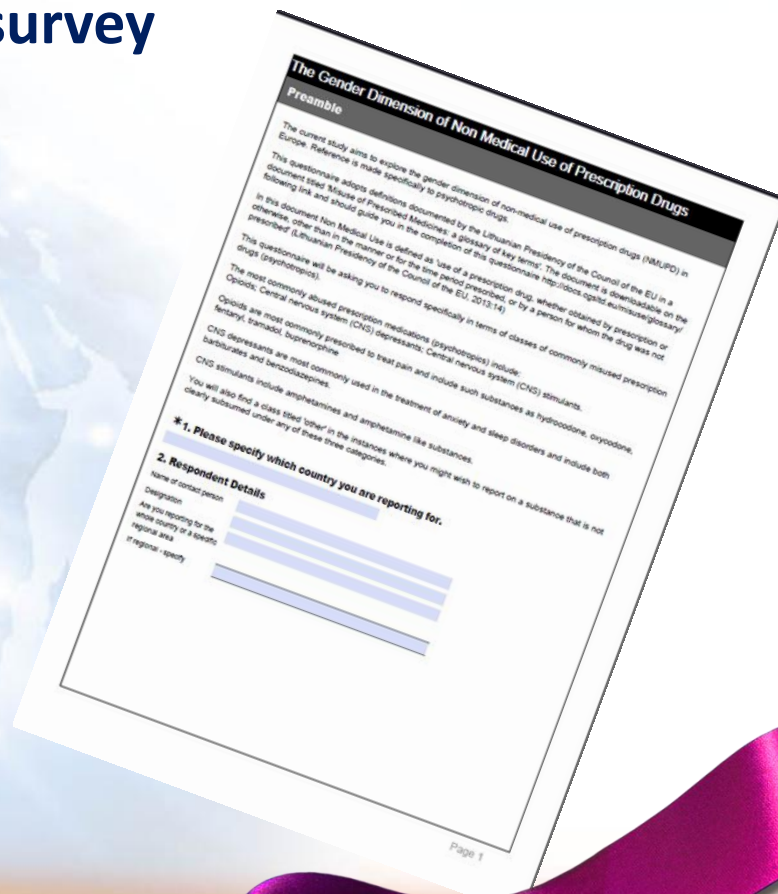
Study development

- Nomination of experts



Study development

- The experts replied to the survey



The Gender Dimension of Non Medical Use of Prescription Drugs

Preamble

The current study aims to explore the gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs (NMUPD) in Europe. Reference is made specifically to psychotropic drugs.

This questionnaire adopts definitions documented by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU in a document titled 'Misuse of Prescribed Medicines: a glossary of key terms'. The document is downloadable on the following link and should guide you in the completion of this questionnaire <https://docs.op.europa.eu/glossary/prescribed> (Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, 2013:14).

In this document Non Medical Use is defined as 'use of a prescription drug, whether obtained by prescription or otherwise, other than in the manner or for the time period prescribed, or by a person for whom the drug was not prescribed' (Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, 2013:14).

This questionnaire will be asking you to respond specifically in terms of classes of commonly misused prescription drugs (psychotropics).

The most commonly abused prescription medications (psychotropics) include:

- Opioids: Central nervous system (CNS) depressants; Central nervous system (CNS) stimulants.
- Opoids are most commonly prescribed to treat pain and include such substances as hydrocodone, oxycodone, fentanyl, tramadol, buprenorphine.
- CNS depressants are most commonly used in the treatment of anxiety and sleep disorders and include both barbiturates and benzodiazepines.
- CNS stimulants include amphetamines and amphetamine like substances.

You will also find a class titled 'other' in the instances where you might wish to report on a substance that is not clearly subsumed under any of these three categories.

*** 1. Please specify which country you are reporting for.**

2. Respondent Details

Name of contact person: _____

Designation: _____

Are you reporting for the whole country or a specific regional area? _____

If regional - specify: _____

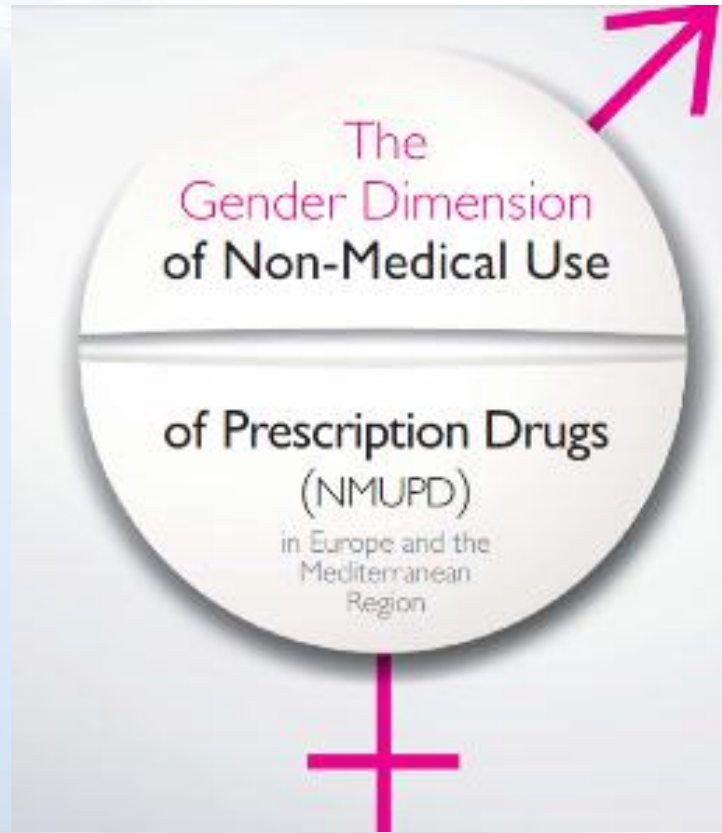
Page 1

Study development

- The coordinator researcher Prof. Marilyn Clark, presented the draft report on the survey results in Rome in September 2014.
- The conference was attended by researchers from participating countries as well as UNICRI and EMCDDA.
- Press conference during the 16th Pompidou Group Ministerial Conference held in Strasbourg in November 2014



Study publication in 2015



Statement by the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe Special segment on the preparations for the UNGA Special

Session on the World Drug Problem
Vienna on 9-12 March 2015
58th CND session

**“...In order to reach their full potential of effectiveness,
coherent policies need to appropriately address
gender dimensions...”**

... and will go ahead!

The Pompidou Group will present the review of literature on violence and traumas on female drug users among the countries which participated in the Gender Dimension of NMUPD study.

The way is still very long



BUT.....

“even Snow White knew that work well-organized can provide great results.....”





Thank you for your attention!

