

MedNET “10 years and beyond”

**10 years of co-operation
in the Mediterranean Region
on Drugs and Addiction**

Impact of MedNET

Council of Europe, Strasbourg



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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
REPORT	9
In brief	9
Background	10
Impact Evaluation	10
Methodology	10
Attained results	11
Budget and Functioning Support	17
Conclusions	17

Executive Summary

■ The Mediterranean Network for cooperation on drugs and addiction known as MedNET facilitates the dialogue between Europe and its Southern Mediterranean neighbouring countries through co-operation, exchange and capacity building, fostering not only North-South and South-North exchanges, but also South-South co-operation. It accomplishes this by promoting awareness for coordinated policy strategies, sharing experiences and practices, training and technical support, fostering institutional design, agencies and stakeholders' cooperation and communication, and paving the way for the introduction of human rights based policies. MedNET draws extensively from the classic “bridging” function of **the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, which coordinates and manages the MedNET Network**.

■ The network per se was set up informally during a conference organised in Malta in 1999 by the Pompidou Group on “co-operation in the Mediterranean region on drug use: setting up networks in the Mediterranean region”. Following the positive outcome of a feasibility study conducted by France and the Netherlands, the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addiction (MedNET) was formalised with participation of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Malta in Amsterdam in 2006, under the coordination and management of the Pompidou Group.

■ **MedNET has pursued its objectives based on the core values of the Council of Europe**; those of human rights, democracy and rule of law. The 12 member countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia), from both the northern and southern rim of the basin, exchange experience based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policy, providing training for the development of treatment and care services respecting human rights. MedNET is ultimately meeting the needs of drug users and recognising the importance of understanding addiction as a healthcare issue, in order that people suffering from drug problems be treated as patients and not criminals.

■ MedNET has been instrumental to all countries involved, in that in the South, it has been active during the Arab Spring and for those countries on the northern rim it has continued its actions during times of austerity.

■ The impact evaluation of MedNET actions on Southern Mediterranean countries was conducted in three ways:

1. Analysis of MedNET yearly activity reports
2. 2016 Country reports from MedNET correspondents in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon assessing the impact of MedNET
3. Survey among MedNET's correspondents and a number of participants involved in the activities to date (around 300). The response rate was 20 %. (Evaluation by the participants, P-PG MedNET (2016) 13)

■ Achievements are the following:

1. Research, Data Collection and Analysis

Drug use among teenagers in the Mediterranean is now being revealed by the MedSPAD the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools (MedSPAD).

■ National MedSPAD School Surveys have been conducted in Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

■ A first report covering data from nine countries on the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs by adolescent students was published in 2015.

■ The MedSPAD committee was extended in 2016 to include Israel and Turkey, Pompidou Group member states.

Observatories on drugs and addiction are being created in the Mediterranean Region: in Morocco, in Egypt and in Lebanon

2. National drug strategies

Legislation on drugs are evolving and national drug strategies are coming to the fore.

■ This followed on from the 2012 Rome conference on the promotion of drug national strategies and action plans in the Mediterranean region and in 2013 and 2015 round tables on the topic.

■ Tunisia is drafting a national drug strategy and revising its drug law. Lebanon is launching a strategy on the prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse. In 2017, Algeria will develop its third drug strategy.

3. Prevention and treatment of addiction

Targeted prevention activities are being implemented.

■ National drug prevention systems are now in place, with health-centred and scientific based prevention programmes. Opiate substitution treatment is provided in Morocco and Lebanon and, by the end of 2016, it will be available in Algeria.

4. Law enforcement and Supply reduction

Cooperation in this field is being extended.

■ Regional seminars in Algeria and Lebanon on synthetic drugs and drug precursors have taken place as far back as from 2008. Since 2014, MedNET countries have been part of the Pompidou Group's Airports Group and also participate in the precursor network, thus joining the Pompidou Groups Law enforcement activities. MedNET countries also participated in the Pompidou Group Symposium on New Psychoactive Substances, hosted by Italy in 2016.

5. Training and education

Capacity building is multiplying.

■ Specialists are being trained, through university level courses on addictions created in Morocco and Tunisia, increasing the number of qualified staff working in treatment centres, and as a consequence improving the quality of service delivery.

■ Various training seminars and study visits were hosted in PG current or former countries such as Belgium, Ireland, France, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Independent experts hailing from these countries as well as Croatia have also participated in regional seminars.

6. Human Rights

Access to care for all drug users is being extended and the gender dimension is gradually being integrated into drug policy.

■ As far back as 2008, MedNET countries initiated concrete initiatives that promote drug users' health and address theirs and their families' social issues, leading to innovative solutions adapted to cultural traditions. These include the introduction of opiate substitution treatment in Morocco and Lebanon. In Egypt, the projects supported the introduction of women's treatment special services, supplemented by a follow-up project proposing specific care directed

to pregnant women who use drugs. In addition, other projects have aided the development of services specific for adolescents and, in 2016, a specific project directed at HIV patients who use drugs was put in place.

7. MedNET cooperates with civil society and international organisations at national and regional level

Co-operation with civil society and international organisation is extending

■ The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the European Commission in particular, have participated in its annual committees.

■ Civil society also plays an active role in the Mediterranean region and participates in MedNET national and regional activities.

Budget and operational support of the Network

In 10 years MedNET raised over 2 million Euros to implement its annual work programmes based on the demands of its participating countries.

■ Expertise and participating countries hosting study visits represent valuable contributions, as well as the administration and coordination support given by the Pompidou Group' Secretariat funded by Pompidou Group ordinary budget.

Conclusion

■ In essence, the Mediterranean Network has functioned because of the need of the countries concerned and the realisation of the donor countries that the issue at stake is at the core of what the Council of Europe values most, that of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

■ MedNET provides a political decision mechanism, with the representatives of the Network countries' meeting twice a year to decide upon the work program, budget and external financial lines that can be subscribed, adopting an annual report and calling upon expertise and cooperation from countries that are members or non-members of the Pompidou Group.

■ For this positive contribution, it is now time that the Pompidou Group further acknowledges this fact and is proud of the work conducted to date which is at the forefront of what has been done thus far among the leading international organisations. Thus its activities as far as funding are concerned, should be matched by the Group to acknowledge this veritable achievement in order to sustain the momentum in the foreseeable future.

Report

In brief

■ The Mediterranean Network for cooperation on drugs and addiction known as MedNET stems from a conference organised in Malta in 1999 by the Pompidou Group on “co-operation in the Mediterranean region on drug use : setting up networks in the Mediterranean region”.

■ The creation of a network of cooperation in the Mediterranean region was then discussed and MedSPAD (Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) was launched. The network per se was set up informally during this conference.

■ Following the positive outcome of a feasibility study conducted by France and the Netherlands, the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addiction (MedNET) was formalised with participation of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Malta in Amsterdam in 2006, under the coordination and management of the Pompidou Group.

■ At the first MedNET High Level Conference held in Strasbourg in 2009, the participating countries acknowledged the Pompidou Group’s role in fostering co-operation between the countries of the Mediterranean, while calling for consolidation of the MedNET network.

■ The MedNET Network extends to twelve countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia) and it has started cooperation with Palestine and Turkey. The exchanges of experience have now been extended to beyond these countries and have now included Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom who have participated and continue to do so, in Network activities.

Background

■ MedNET facilitates the dialogue between Europe and its Southern Mediterranean neighbouring countries through co-operation, exchange and capacity building, fostering not only North-South and South-North exchanges, but also South-South co-operation. It accomplishes this by promoting awareness for coordinated policy strategies, sharing experiences and practices, training and technical support, fostering institutional design, agencies and stakeholders' cooperation and communication, and paving the way for the introduction of human rights based policies. MedNET draws extensively from the classic "bridging" function of the Pompidou Group, which coordinates and manages the MedNET Network.

Impact Evaluation

■ The objective of MedNET is to promote cooperation and mutual exchange of knowledge between Mediterranean countries (North-South and South-North) and within Mediterranean countries (South-South) in particular through:

- ▶ Developing and implementing coherent and balanced policies on drugs which respect human rights and incorporate the gender dimension and are based on evidence collected by national observatories
- ▶ Strengthening the political and democratic process in the region, by promoting the rights to health of drug users and supporting the necessary legislative reforms
- ▶ The purpose of this report is to evaluate the impact of MedNET based on the activities developed to attain the objectives established

Methodology

■ The impact evaluation of MedNET actions on Southern Mediterranean countries was conducted in three ways:

1. Analysis of MedNET yearly activity reports
2. 2016 Country reports from MedNET correspondents in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon assessing the impact of MedNET
3. Survey among MedNET's correspondents and a number of participants involved in the activities to date (around 300). The response rate was 20 %. (Evaluation by the participants, P-PG MedNET (2016) 13)

Attained results

1. Research, Data Collection and Analysis

■ For the design of any given policy, it is important in the first instance to have an understanding and the knowledge of the situation at hand. It's certainly not incidental that the first joint activity of the Mediterranean countries in parallel with the creation of a MedNET Network was the development of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools (MedSPAD), which provided an insight into drug use and attitudes towards drugs among adolescents in the Mediterranean region.

■ From 2000 to 2006, Algeria, Morocco, France and Malta developed the MedSPAD methodology. The official launch of the MedSPAD took place in Rabat in 2003 and was facilitated by the Moroccan Minister of Health. The validity and reliability of school surveys based on ESPAD methodology was demonstrated and the first MedSPAD school surveys were conducted in 2005 in Rabat, Morocco and in Algiers, Algeria, showing that it is feasible to conduct such activities in the Southern Mediterranean countries and possible to exchange such information. MedSPAD guidelines were developed progressively and first issued in 2011. They are updated regularly according to the expertise gained after each country survey. In 2008, a national MedSPAD survey was carried out in Lebanon. Morocco conducted a national MedSPAD survey in 2009 and re-conducted it in 2013. Also in 2013, Tunisia carried out its first national MedSPAD school survey, while Algeria and Egypt conducted national MedSPAD surveys in 2016.

■ In 2015, the MedSPAD Committee published its first report covering data from nine countries on the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs by adolescent students in the region.

■ In 2016, the MedSPAD committee was extended to include both Israel and Turkey, Pompidou Group member states.

■ In order to establish policies based on scientific evidence, a regional seminar was held in Rabat in 2010 to explore this matter and following which MedNET countries started the work to set up national observatories. In 2011, Morocco laid the foundations for a national drug observatory. In 2014, Egypt established its national drug observatory. In 2015, MedNET held round tables in Egypt and Tunisia, enabling experiences' sharing with other MedNET countries to prepare the grounds for the setting up of national drug observatories. Jordan introduced a methodology to collect treatment demand

data in 2012, which became operational in 2016. One of the missions of the Office National de Lutte contre la Drogue et la Toxicomanie in Algeria, is to collect and analyse data and training was provided along the years to further develop its capacity to do so. In particular, in 2016, Algeria further enhanced its expertise by participating in training seminars on data collection, analysis, communication and use of research for designing policy. In Lebanon, in 2016, the national observatory on drugs and addiction is undergoing a process with the aid of the EMCDDA, to develop an information map based on separate drug related databases.

■ The development of these activities has fostered research, either through the initiation of data collection in some countries or by consolidating data collection, collation and analyses. The results have provided policy makers with the necessary data and report analysis, enabling decision making to develop more effective drug policies.

Drug use among teenagers in the Mediterranean has been revealed by the conduct of the MedSPAD survey and observatories on drugs and addiction are being created in the Mediterranean region.

2. National Drug Strategies

■ The development of a national strategy in the fight against drugs is legally based on three United Nations Conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, modified by the Protocol of 1972; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

■ A national strategy stands for cross cutting areas of public policy and service delivery which brings together departments, agencies and the community and voluntary sectors to provide a collective response to tackling the drugs problem. It maximizes existing resources, prioritizes needs and defines clear lines of intervention.

■ In 2006, Algeria hosted the first MedNET international seminar on the role of research in the design of drug policies.

■ In 2012, Italy organised a conference on the promotion of drug national strategies and action plans in the Mediterranean region, with the participation of MedNET countries. Round tables on the role and functions of a national drug observatory and articulation amongst national structures to design and implement a national drug policy were held in 2013 and 2015 in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt following that initiative. These round-tables replied to the needs and demand of those countries and were animated by experts from Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal. In parallel, in 2014, country profiles on the

“drug situation and drug policy” for Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and, Tunisia, were drafted in collaboration with MedNET correspondents.

■ In 2017, Algeria will develop its third strategy and this will follow on from the ones of 2005 and 2012.

■ In 2016, Tunisia started drafting a national drug strategy whose main directions were first discussed in 2012 during a national consultation conference with the participation of the Pompidou Group Secretariat along with representatives from France, Italy and Portugal, which took place just after the revolution. Lebanon adopted its national strategy for the prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse in cooperation with stakeholders in 2012. The development of the drug strategies in both countries took place within the framework of MedNET and input from various MedNET experts.

Legislation on drugs is evolving and national drug strategies are coming to the fore.

3. Prevention and Treatment of Addictions

■ MedNET countries have been shaping their national drug prevention systems based on scientific evidence. Grounded on the MedSPAD survey, the MedSPAD committee was set up in 2012 to look at the use of school surveys in prevention policy.

■ Prevention programmes and projects put into place are health-centred. A national Conference on the reinforcement of the role of civil society took place in 2007 in Algeria; Targeted prevention actions include the publication by Morocco of prevention leaflets and training of prevention officers in Lebanon in 2012. Lebanon started a prevention project in 2013 at a youth drug counselling centre in a high risk area and initiated it in 2014. Program Life Skills in Lebanese schools, was further pursued in 2015 and 2016; a training program for recreation night patrons and consumers was developed in Lebanon in cooperation with Portugal.

More relevant than identifying the most important activities that focus on treatment developed at national and regional level by MedNET, which are far too many to single out, a common pattern emerges, that of building capacity, exchanging experiences, establishing drug users oriented treatment centres, providing opiate substitution treatment in Morocco, Lebanon and Algeria and prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug injecting users.

Targeted prevention activities are being implemented.

4. Law Enforcement / Supply Reduction

■ A balanced drug policy includes both the demand and supply reduction perspectives. Due to the transnational aspect of the drug problem, the fight against drug trafficking and counteracting emerging threats, such as new psychoactive substances, need to be articulated in a regional framework.

■ In 2008, Algeria organized a seminar on synthetic drugs, with participation and exchange of expertise from other MedNET countries. Lebanon held regional seminars on synthetic drugs and drug precursors in 2010 and on the fight against drugs in the airports in 2012.

■ From 2014, MedNET countries participated at the Pompidou Group's Airports Group. MedNET countries are progressively participating in the PG Law enforcement activities such as the precursor network.

■ In 2016, MedNET countries also participated in Pompidou Group Symposium on New Psychoactive Substances, hosted by Italy in Venice.

Cooperation in the field of Law enforcement is being extended.

5. Training and Education

■ Morocco launched university courses in addictology in 2009 in the Faculties of Medicine at Casablanca and Rabat. These courses have been regularly conducted and, as a result, the number of persons trained to work in treatment centres throughout Morocco has risen, as well as the quality of service delivery. In 2013, Tunisia launched a course in addictology, following a pilot-phase.

■ Training and acquisition of expertise in the field has also been achieved within other MedNET activities due to the professional input of Pompidou Group Member countries outside MedNET. Study visits were indeed hosted in Pompidou Group current or former member countries such as Belgium, Ireland, France, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Independent experts from other Pompidou Group current or former member countries such as Croatia, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands, have also participated in regional seminars.

Capacity building is multiplying.

6. Human Rights

■ As far back as 2008, MedNET countries initiated concrete initiatives that promoted drug users' health and their families' social issues, leading to innovative solutions adapted to cultural traditions.

■ Effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and the social consequences of drug abuse were introduced. These include the creation of a methadone maintenance program in Rabat, Morocco in 2008, which then was rolled out on a national basis in 2013. In 2009, Lebanon introduced opiate substitution treatment. With the support of Malta which held a specific training programme, Egypt introduced in 2013 a project to create women's treatment special services. In 2016, this project in Egypt was supplemented by a follow-up project proposing specific care directed to women who use drugs and are pregnant. Egypt also introduced in 2015 a project to develop services specific for adolescents and in 2016 another specific project for HIV patients who use drugs.

■ Algeria in 2015 and 2016 conducted seminars, training initiatives and study visits to prepare for the launch of the Opiate Substitution Treatment Programme which will be put in place at the end of 2016.

■ The participation of MedNET on the Pompidou Group's study on «gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs in Europe and the Mediterranean Region» enabled MedNET countries to be acquainted with this problem that calls for the need for special attention and service delivery on this issue. MedNET countries are therefore progressively taking into account the gender dimension in their drug policies

■ In 2011, Morocco became the first non-member of the Council of Europe to become a member of the Pompidou Group, an expression of the adhesion to the values of the Council of Europe, those of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

■ Morocco's, Tunisia's and Egypt's national drug strategies also incorporate human rights and gender-oriented perspectives.

Access to care for all drug users is being extended and the gender dimension is gradually being integrated into drug policy.

7. MedNET cooperates with civil society and international organisations at national and regional level

■ Regional activities are important to address and discuss common problems and share expertise. They are an occasion for networking and to establish informal contacts between participants.

■ In 2010, Jordan organised a regional seminar on data collection and Morocco organised a regional seminar on the setting up of national observatories. In 2012, Lebanon organised a regional seminar, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Customs Organisation on airports trafficking.

■ MedNET developed activities in partnership with other European and international organizations, namely the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in particular in the field of gender with participation in DADNET's Drugs and Alcohol Women Network Project.

■ In 2015, MedNET countries participated at the Pompidou Group Seminar on Women, Violence and Drugs, raising even further the awareness on gender issues and the need for integrating a gender dimension into their drug policies.

■ The participation of civil society stakeholders in MedNET countries national activities fosters the role and visibility of the associative community.

■ Between 2009 and 2011, MedNET cooperated with MENAHRRA – Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association, a regional, not-for-profit non-governmental organisation, active in civil society's capacity building initiatives. Their sub-regional knowledge hub for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia thus received funding from MedNET for the provision of training activities on advocating the needs of drug injectors among NGO's.

■ Algeria organised in 2007 a conference on the role of the associative movement in drug addiction in which other MedNET countries participated. In 2009, training on how to develop projects in the field of drug addiction was offered to 150 associations in three different Algerian locations. In 2015, Algerian experts undertook a study visit to Paris, France on how to put into place an Associations' Forum. Tunisia, in 2011, hosted a workshop on "national harm reduction strategy for injecting drug-users", targeted to address the articulation between public and civil society reintegration facilities. Also in 2011, a training course for health professionals of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia on opiate substitution therapy was held.

Co-operation with civil society and international organisation is extending

Budget and Functioning Support

■ MedNET budget for implementing the annual work programme is mainly fed through voluntary contributions from member countries that have totalled some 2 million Euros over 10 years.

■ MedNET activities also benefit from the South Program I and II, a program funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe's South Program to strengthen "democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood".

■ In 2016, MedNET also benefited from a voluntary contribution from Norway to the Council of Europe neighbourhood policy for Morocco and Tunisia. In 2016, too, one study visit was funded by TAIEX.

■ Other than funds' donated, valuable contributions include expertise from MedNET and other countries hosting study visits, as well as the administration and coordination support given by the Pompidou Group' Secretariat funded by Pompidou Group ordinary budget.

In 10 years, MedNET raised over 2 million Euros to implement its annual work program based on the demands of its participating countries.

Conclusions

■ The Pompidou Group is a Council of Europe entity and therefore upholds the core values of the Council of Europe; those of human rights, democracy and rule of law. This is reflected in the types of actions undertaken by the Pompidou Group over the years. One shining example is that of the MedNET in which 12 member countries, from both the northern and southern rim of the basin, exchange experience based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policy, providing training for the development of treatment and care services. In so doing, MedNET is ultimately meeting the needs of drug users and recognising the importance of understanding addiction as a healthcare issue, in order that people suffering from drug problems be treated as patients and not as criminals.

■ It is tantamount at this point in time to acknowledge that this Network has been instrumental to all countries involved, in that in the South it has been active during the Arab Spring and for those countries on the northern rim, it has continued during times of austerity. Despite the economic crisis,

MedNET and the Pompidou Group have continued to conduct projects with the aid of voluntary contributions from a number of countries to carry out its mandate. Thanks to the cooperation in the Mediterranean Region through MedNET, the Pompidou Group is involved in the recent EU initiative to fund the Council of Europe under its South Programme to strengthen democratic reform in the countries of the Mediterranean. Its role in this joint EU Council of Europe action has been positively assessed enabling MedNET to continue to be part of the Second Programme focusing on democratic governance.

■ All this has been achieved in the main due to the constant professional and personal commitment of the representatives of the MedNET countries and that of the Pompidou Group Secretariat.

■ The results in brief per se to date speak for themselves. The next few examples provide just but a glimpse of the work conducted by the Pompidou Group and the members of the Network over the last few years:

- ▶ Morocco has become a member of the Pompidou Group
- ▶ Morocco has set up some nine clinics through which substitution treatment for heroin addiction has been made available which was a first for the region. Lebanon followed and both Algeria and Tunisia are on the way to considering setting up such facilities
- ▶ Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon have set up a National Drug Observatory and Tunisia is considering creating one
- ▶ Egypt has set up an inpatient facility for women using drugs which again is a first and has now seen some 200 women attend the service for their drug problem. They are now putting in place services for minors which is also another bold step in an attempt to help those most vulnerable
- ▶ Tunisia is in the process of changing the law to enable drug users to seek help for their problem rather than being sent to prison. Legal expertise was provided through MedNET
- ▶ The gender project initiated by Italy has made great strides in alerting all that the drug problem in women and men needs to be tackled in a different manner
- ▶ MedNET country representatives have participated regularly since 2014 in the meetings of the Pompidou Group's "Co-operation Group of Drug Control Services at European Airports and in General Aviation" (airports group) and since 2015, in the precursor's network

- ▶ Research, through initiation of data collection via MedSPAD and use of research in policy via the MedSPAD committee has brought together more and more countries. Thus Israel, which participated with Palestine in the Malta conference in 1999, and who became a Pompidou Group member state in 2013 just joined the MedSPAD committee in 2016

■ In essence, the Mediterranean Network has functioned because of the need of the countries concerned and the realisation of the donor countries that the issue at stake is at the core of what the Council of Europe values, that of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

■ MedNET provides a political decision mechanism, with the representatives of the Network countries' meeting twice a year to decide upon the work program, budget and external financial lines that can be subscribed, adopting an annual report and calling upon expertise and cooperation from countries that are members or non-members of the Pompidou Group.

■ For this positive contribution, it is now time that the Pompidou Group further acknowledges this fact and is proud of the work conducted to date which is at the forefront of what has been done thus far among the leading international organisations. Thus its activities as far as funding are concerned, should be matched by the Pompidou Group to acknowledge this veritable achievement in order to sustain the momentum in the foreseeable future.

The Pompidou Group

The Pompidou Group provides a multidisciplinary forum at the wider European level where it is possible for policy-makers, professionals and researchers to exchange experiences and information on drug use and drug trafficking. Formed at the suggestion of the French President Georges Pompidou in 1971, it has become a Council of Europe partial agreement in 1980. In 2016, it gathers 38 countries: 36 among the 47th Member States of the Council of Europe and Morocco and Israel.

MedNET

MedNET is the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group. Created in 2006, it aims to foster co-operation, exchanges and mutual transfer of knowledge between the countries on both sides of the Mediterranean Basin. It supports the development of drug policies which respect health and human rights and address gender equality issues, based on evidence gathered by national observatories. In 2016, twelve countries are members of the network.



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