

MedNET “10 years and beyond”

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

Timeline

Council of Europe, Strasbourg



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1999

At the initiative of the Maltese authorities, the Pompidou Group held a Conference in Malta on “Co-operation in the Mediterranean region on drug use: setting up networks in the Mediterranean region”.

2000

The countries which participated in the 1999 Conference in Malta took part in the Group of Experts in Epidemiology of the Pompidou Group in Strasbourg in 2000 and in Athens in 2001. Between 2000 and 2006, the MedSPAD project laid the foundations for the establishment of the MedNET network.

2002

From 2002 to 2006, development of the MedSPAD project, Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs, with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, France and Malta.

2003

Launching of the MedSPAD project in Rabat during the meeting between the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group and the Moroccan Minister of Health.

2005

School surveys were conducted in Rabat and Algiers.

2006

A feasibility study conducted by France and the Netherlands led to the establishment of the Mediterranean Network for co-operation on drugs and drug addiction (MedNET). Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, France, the Netherlands and Malta are members of the network. The first MedNET International Seminar on the role of research in devising drug policies was held in Algiers.

2007

As from this date, the countries of the MedNET network took part in the Ministerial Conferences of the Pompidou Group. The flexibility and functioning of the MedNET network for the period 2006-2007 were assessed positively and its co-ordination by the Pompidou Group was confirmed.

2008

MedSPAD survey carried out at national level in the Lebanon. Seminar on synthetic drugs in Algiers and training seminars on drug treatment in Algiers, Annaba and Oran (Algeria).

2009

First High-level MedNET Conference. The participants, recognising the Pompidou Group's role in developing co-operation between the Mediterranean countries, called for the consolidation of MedNET. MedSPAD survey conducted at national level in Morocco. In Morocco an addictology qualification was introduced at the Casablanca and Rabat Faculties of Medicine. The Lebanon introduced opiate substitution treatment.

2010

Seminar on drug treatment in Egypt, co-organised with the Regional Office of the UNDCP in Cairo. Regional seminar on synthetic drugs and precursors in the Lebanon. Regional seminar on the collection of data in Jordan. Regional seminar in Morocco to prepare the foundations for the establishment of national observatories.

2011

Morocco becomes the first non- member of the Council of Europe to become a member state of the Pompidou Group
It introduced a pilot phase of opiate substitution treatment and distributed prevention material.
An official visit was made to Tunisia in the wake of the revolution.

2012

MedNET contributes to strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood, becoming thus a partner in the South I Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.
Italy held a conference on the implementation of a national drug strategy and action plans.
Establishment of the Moroccan national drug observatory and inclusion of opiate substitution treatment in the national programme.
MedNET regional seminar with the participation of the INCB and the World Customs Organization on combating drug trafficking in airports in the Lebanon.

2013

MedSPAD II in Morocco and MedSPAD I in Tunisia
Round tables in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia on national observatories, the implementation of a national strategy and the role of research in drug-prevention policies.
Targeted prevention activities in the Lebanon.
Creation of an Addictology qualification in Tunisia.
Plan to set up specific services in Egypt in collaboration with Malta to cater for female drug addicts.

2014

The MedNET countries take part in the Pompidou Group's "Co-operation Group of Drug Control Services at European Airports and in General Aviation".
Establishment of the national observatory on drugs and drug addictions in Egypt.
MedNET contributed to the Pompidou Group's study on the "gender dimension of non medical use of prescription drugs in Europe and the Mediterranean Region".

2015

The MedSPAD committee published the first and only report on the prevalence of the use of drugs alcohol and tobacco by teenagers using data from nine countries.

The MedNET countries took part in the Pompidou Group Precursors network.

MedNET continued its partnership with the South Programme II "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean".

Round tables on the observatories in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The Palestinian National Authority took part in the activities of the MedNET network.

MedNET took part in the Pompidou Group seminar on women, drugs and violence, held in Rome.

MedSPAD survey carried out in Algeria and Egypt.

Algeria introduced opiate substitution treatment into its health-care system.

Launching of a national drug strategy by Tunisia and the Lebanon.

2016

MedNET 10 year anniversary, Rabat, 30 November : Algeria, Morocco, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia along with other invited countries and international organisations celebrate the event.

MedNET supports the *Conférence TDO5 : cinquième colloque international francophone sur le traitement de la dépendance aux opioïdes*, Rabat (30 November- 2 December), first conference organized in a country of the Mediterranean Region.

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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