

## *MedNET Newsletter: March – April 2017*

To friends of the Mediterranean network, we have the pleasure to send you the second MedNET newsletter.



### **Spain collaborates with MedNET and hosts a study visit of an Egyptian delegation in Madrid from 27 February to 3 March 2017**

Following the participation of Spain in MedNET 10th Anniversary in 2016, the Delegación del Gobierno para el Plan Nacional sobre Drogas has shared its expertise in drug policy, addiction treatment and risk reduction with a team of Egyptian experts from the General Secretariat of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment from the Ministry of Health.

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### **Women and drugs in Algeria: Pompidou Group supports the International Women day on 8 March 2017**

With a first seminar in Algeria on the topic on women and drugs, the Pompidou Group has contributed to the International Women Day on 8 March

Within the MedNET 2017 work programme and at the initiative and in cooperation with the Office National de Lutte contre la Drogue et la Toxicomanie of Algeria, the Pompidou Group held a first seminar on women and drugs in Algiers. 80 Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Prison Administration, Police and Gendarmerie and the Civil Society have participated in this seminar along with experts from Egypt and Greece.

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### **MedSPAD III Morocco**

The MedSPAD survey III took place in Morocco from 27 February to 3 March 2017. 7636 students have been interviewed.

It is the third survey organized in Morocco, after the survey of 2009 and the survey of 2013.

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## Evaluation of the South Programme II by the European commission

The Secretariat participated to the evaluation by the European commission of the South Programme II on 28 February 2017.

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## Seminar “Support to staff working in Opioid Substitution Treatment centers” in Algeria

A seminar took place in Algeria the 11 and 12 April “support to staff working in Opioid Substitution Treatment centers” with the participation of an expert from Morocco, an expert from Lebanon and an expert from Switzerland. It was organized by the Office National de Lutte Contre la Drogue et la Toxicomanie in collaboration with the Pompidou Group in order to introduce the opiate substitution treatment in Algeria.

It followed seminars on the introduction of opiate substitution treatment in Algeria in 2015 and 2016 and study visits which took place in Belgium, France, Morocco and Lebanon.

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## Workshops in addictology in Tunisia

- The first workshop concerning **cognitive behavioral therapy on cannabis** took place on 8 April 2017 in Tunis. It was facilitated by Professor Berrada (Morocco)
- The second workshop concerning **the reduction of risks inside and outside prisons** took place on 26 and 27 April 2017. It was facilitated by Doctor Vanmeerbeek and Mr. Meurant (Belgium).

Those two workshops were open to students of the university degree in addictology of the faculty of medicine of Tunis, chosen among different sectors (ministry of social affairs, national board for family and population, NGO, prison medical services).

# *Special mention*

## INCB report chapter women and drugs

The INCB (International Narcotics Control Board) 2016 report released on 2 March 2017 calls for drug policies that take women into account, as countries register disproportionate rise in overdoses among females.

In its chapter one devoted to women and drugs, the report on the world drug situation refers for the first time to PG publications of 2015 on the Gender Dimension of Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs and 2016 on Improving the Management of Violence Experienced by Women who use psychoactive substances.

The INCB calls for gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes, better health-care access for drug-dependent women and more funding to prevent and treat drug abuse women.

<https://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2016/LAUNCH/PressRelease2017.pdf>

[https://www.incb.org/incb/en/news/AR2016/annual\\_report\\_2016.html](https://www.incb.org/incb/en/news/AR2016/annual_report_2016.html)