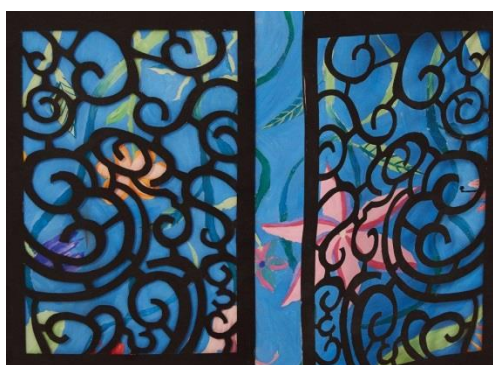


## *MedNET Newsletter: May – June 2017*

To friends of the Mediterranean network, please receive our third MedNET newsletter.



### **Pompidou Group Working Party on General Aviation, 26 and 27 April 2017, Madrid**

Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia participated to the Pompidou Group working party on general aviation in Madrid on the 26 and 27 April 2017. The event focused on the threat of general aviation. The event welcomed over a hundred participants from ten international organisations and thirty-five countries of Europe, North and South America, Africa, The Middle East and Asia.

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### **In 2017, MedNET is expanding its activities to address the specific issue of women and drugs, 21<sup>st</sup> MedNET meeting, 9 May 2017, Paris**

This meeting was chaired by Nicolas Prisse, the new president of France's Interministerial Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (Mildeca). The participants welcomed the implementation of the ambitious MedNET work programme for 2016-2018.

The network – which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016 – continues to expand its scope, focusing on women's issues in drug policies. Its activities are constantly expanding thanks to contributions from its donors, France and Italy, and thanks to the expertise brought by all its members. Indeed, the sharing of knowledge and experience is not confined to the network: expertise is also provided by the Pompidou Group's member states: Belgium, Croatia, Ireland and Switzerland, as well as non-member states such as Spain.

The model of cooperation set up by the network is inspiring other regions of the world such as West Africa and Latin America.

Palestine, the 14th member of MedNET which joined in 2016, outlined its priorities for the years to come.

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## **Expert Group on framework and support measures for opioid dependence treatment including the prescription of agonist medicines – 4th meeting May , Paris 10 2017**

MedNET participated in this expert group.

## **MedNET Workshop on prevention tools, 23-25 May 2017, Algiers**

This workshop took place at the Office National de Lutte Contre la Drogue et la Toxicomanie in Algiers. Under the joint supervision of experts from Lebanon and Morocco, Algerian NGOs, medical and social professionals exchanged their experience and expertise in the field.

## **Participation of MedNET to the 32th annual meeting of the Airports Group, 6-8 June 2017, Strasbourg**

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## **Seminar “Women and Drugs: from policy to good practice”, Rome, 26-27 June 2017,**

This event, co-organised by the Italian Department for Anti-Drug Policies (Dipartimento politiche antidroga) and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, took place on 26 June, on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The importance of appropriately mainstream gender in drug-related policies and programmes is recognized in the outcome document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem and in the CND 59/5 resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug related policies and programmes. At the opening of the seminar by Ms Maria Elena Boschi, Undersecretary of State, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, stressed in a video address that “women who experience the coincidence of drug use and violence are among the most marginal voices in our societies” and that their interest and rights “are the most easily ignored”. Policy-makers, researchers and practitioners presented good practices in women and drug addiction research, prevention, care and treatment and, drug related offences with the ultimate aim of integrating a gender dimension in drug policy. Italy, Spain and Sweden presented how the gender dimension was introduced into their national drug strategies. The issue of women in prison was discussed for the first time in this seminar taking into account the increase of the global female population in prison by 50 % in the last 15 years while the general prison population only increased by only 20 % with drug related offences being the main cause of this increase. 25 countries covering Europe and including former Pompidou Group Members such as the Netherlands and Spain along with neighbouring MedNET Mediterranean countries, Israel and representatives of the Palestinian National Authority were present along with Mexico, which joined PG in 2017. International governmental organizations: United Nations Organization on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INCB (International Narcotics Control Board), UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute) and the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), EU agency, were associated to this event

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## **International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, 26 June 2017**

To celebrate this international day, Tunisia held a conference supported by MedNET on the topic: “is addiction a consequence of violence or does it create violence? “.attended by 100 participants.

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## **Croatia joins MedNET**

On 27 June, Croatia which participated in the first 1999 PG Conference in Malta on co-operation in the Mediterranean Region on Drug use: setting up networks in the Mediterranean Region” and has been very active in promoting and facilitating drug policy cooperation and dialogue in the South East Europe in the last few years joined MedNET. Participation of this country will certainly represent an opportunity for both regions through which Croatia might be able to play a bridging role in bringing closer together these two regional cooperation mechanisms.

WE WISH YOU A VERY NICE SUMMER 2017