



P-PG-Training (2013) 1
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Pompidou Group 2013 Executive Training on Drug Policy on Developing tools to reach regular and irregular migrants

Training course outline

Dates: 09 – 11 May 2013, needs assessment seminar (1st module)
16 – 20 September 2013, qualifying seminar (2nd module)

Place: Council of Europe EYCB, Budapest, Hungary

Political scope

A priority for the Council of Europe: Managing the challenges of cultural diversity

The Council of Europe expects challenges of cultural diversity in the midst of European societies to remain prominent in 2013. The promotion of living together in diversity as well as the provision of intercultural skills and competencies remains a political priority for the Council of Europe in 2013, as reflected in the Secretary General's initiative "Living together - Combining diversity and freedom in 21st-century Europe."

A priority for the EU Commission: The need to reach specific risk groups in drug policies

The EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 recognised the need to develop effective and differentiated drug demand reduction measures that correspond to the needs of specific groups, particularly those vulnerable and marginalized, as one of its priorities (para. 19.8.). Immigrants, especially irregular immigrants, as well as ethnic populations at risk of being marginalized, are among the most vulnerable and difficult to reach groups in drug prevention and treatment. In many countries, these groups experience the highest risk of becoming involved with illegal substances.

An indispensable competence: Recognising and managing cultural differences

In dealing with specific target groups in drug policy (supply and demand reduction), it is indispensable to note cultural specificities, clients' norms and values in planning and implementing treatment and social rehabilitation. Developing dialogue with ethnic populations and migrants is essential, taking into account their cultural identity. The key to successful integration of these vulnerable groups into social welfare and health care lies in the trans-cultural competences of professionals and institutions that interact with regular and irregular drug using migrants (PG Handbook on Transcultural Drug Work).

Training needs

Globalisation, and its associated decrease in travel restrictions, has led to an increase in mobility throughout Europe. All countries face growing immigrant groups with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. These communities encounter a variety of problems in their new society, such as the loss of safety in their homes, language barriers and new cultural environments. At the same time, they experience subjection to many obstacles and resistance from their new surroundings

and environments. Migrants are, for these reasons, regarded as one specific group that is likely to develop social and psychological problems in their new environment.

As a result of this difficult situation, substance abuse among migrants ranks third among the psychological disorders observed in this population. However, access to care offers is not sufficient. Different ethnic and migrant groups are often difficult to reach with the existing drug policy interventions and programmes. In addition, immigrants are frequently reluctant to accept formal help, including emergency interventions. In many cases, help offered is initially rejected based on a deeply rooted general fear of official organisations.

Societies must meet this challenge and develop answers and solutions for these problems. The development of appropriate strategies and specialised programs for this target group is urgently needed and effective approaches must be developed in meeting the target groups' needs.

In dealing with drug users in ethnic groups, it is necessary to note cultural specificities, clients' norms and values during the process of planning and implementing prevention, treatment and social rehabilitation; and to develop forms of dialogue with migrants while taking into account their cultural identity. A key to successful integration of this vulnerable group into social welfare and health care lies in transcultural competence of professionals and institutions that deal with regular and irregular drug using migrants. Thus, the primary task is to develop specialized services aimed at meeting special needs of various ethnic groups of drug and alcohol users with a high level of cultural competence.

The translation of evidence based on scientific knowledge into solid and effective policies and programmes at the state, regional and local level is only as successful as the knowledge and skills of drug policy managers who ultimately implement and administer these policies and programmes. The 2013 Executive Training for Drug Policy Managers seeks to link policy, research and practice to develop specific tools to better reach the target groups of different ethnic populations. As the cooperation of law enforcement agencies and national immigration services with social and health care institutions is a crucial issue in dealing with regular and irregular migrant populations, the aspect of cooperation between different sectors will be focused on as well.

Objectives

- Providing improved access to prevention, care and social integration offers for regular and irregular migrants.
- Providing knowledge and skills for further development of transcultural competent services for populations from other cultures.
- Identification and development of specific tools (manuals, handbooks, networks) that can serve as support in achieving better access for migrants with substance abuse problems to care offers.

Benefits

- Recognising prerequisites, understanding obstacles and strategies to overcome barriers in cooperation between law enforcement agencies, social and health services and other stakeholders in developing and implementing strategies to reach the specific target groups.
- 30-40 specialists with a high level of transcultural competence who can assist organisations and professionals in increasing their level of transcultural competence in working with specific target groups.

Participation

The Programme targets managers from governmental institutions that are responsible for developing and/or implementing drug policies and/or coordinating related programme implementation, service delivery and cooperation with stakeholders. To ensure a highly participatory learning process the training is limited to a maximum of 40 participants (from Council of Europe member States and non-member States). High-profile facilitators will be identified and engaged on the basis of the elaborated topics.

Working methods

The Executive Training consists of a preparation phase and 2 seminar modules. The work is conducted in plenary sessions and working groups in a highly participatory format. The activities are planned and organised by a group of experts. Participants are required to commit themselves to participate in and prepare for both modules.

Languages: To ensure a highly inter-active training and to allow for direct communication between all participants at all times the main working language will be English. Based on need and feasibility certain working groups can be organised in other languages (e.g. Russian, French or German) on an ad hoc basis during the seminars.

Preparation: A detailed participation form filled out by participants along with their CVs will help the group of experts to get an overview on the individual profiles of participants and serve as a basis to prepare the programme for the first seminar that will focus on needs assessment (1st module).

Module I: Needs Assessment Seminar

During this seminar, participants will explore the issues and aspects of their work related to prevention, care and social integration offers for the target group of drug consuming migrants. They will identify factors and competences that are needed to reach the target group (different ethnic populations) more effectively and to develop specific offers. They will set up means of cooperation with other involved agencies and stakeholders. At the end of the seminar, participants will prepare a list of proposals as to what they see as needed to support them to overcome the obstacles and barriers in their work.

Following the needs assessment seminar the group of experts will assess the process and the outcomes in order to prepare a list of topics that are feasible for the qualifying seminar (2nd module) and identify relevant experts as facilitators.

Module II: Qualifying Seminar

The qualifying seminar will be a training activity based on the participants' previously identified needs and their suggestions for supportive action that can be achieved in a training context. The activity will consist of two parts. Part I will provide input sessions and reflection sessions in which the relevance of the topics to the individual work context of participants is discussed. During part II, on-site visits to selected projects and institutions will be facilitated. Following the training, participants will have further improved their capacities and competences that are directly relevant to their day-to-day work.

Additional value

In addition to the capacity building effect of the training activity, the seminars will produce information of interest to policy makers. In particular, knowledge on how to overcome barriers and obstacles in policy implementation, as well as ways to improve the quality of work, is a valuable source of information for the decision making level.

Follow-up

The Executive Training will also serve as a starting point for continued networking between participants, thus setting an impulse that will be prone to deliver further beneficial insights and understanding on all relevant aspects. The Secretariat of the Pompidou Group will assist in facilitating this process.

Contact and further information

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