



**Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse
and illicit trafficking in Drugs**

P-PG/Med (2017) 24 E

MedNET consensus paper

***Version 2
8 November 2017***

MedNET is the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group. It promotes cooperation, exchange and mutual transfer of knowledge between countries from both sides of the Mediterranean, respecting human rights and gender equality. It was created in 2006, after a feasibility study carried out at the initiative of France and the Netherlands. The group was assessed positively and has developed ever since, geographically and thematically, to promote effective and appropriate answers. Its terms of reference are adopted within the framework of the Pompidou Group Work Programme.

The network consists of fifteen countries in 2017: Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine¹, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey.

The European Commission and the European Monitoring Centre for drugs and drugs addictions (EMCDDA) participate as observers to the meetings.

Since 2006, MedNET countries have worked together to initiate and conduct ambitious projects. To ensure their success, they are based on South-South, North-South and South-North cooperation. The MedNET network aims to promote interaction between policy, practice and science, to adapt their implementation to the context of different countries.

The question of addictive behaviours represents a central issue for our societies and calls for a global answer taking into account Human Rights combining prevention, health, fight against drug trafficking, law enforcement, as well as training and research. It is therefore crucial to develop a dynamic cooperation, to include civil society, which reflects the commitment taken by all members of the network.

This document lays out some of the fundamental principles of this cooperation and defines common objectives. It is not intended to create legal rights or obligations for the participating countries and is based on the principle of consensus.

Main objectives of the cooperation

The long-term objective of MedNET is to promote the elaboration and to implement coherent policies on addictive behaviours, based on scientifically validated knowledge.

Participating countries are committed to submit projects that will represent a real added-value for the network. All the projects will have to be conceived and implemented with a special focus on human rights, and taking into account gender equality issues.

Priorities

Priority shall be given to the following topics:

- Prevention of addictive behaviours
- Promotion of the collection of reliable, objective and comparable data and creation or support to national observatories
- Development of national balanced strategies
- Socio-sanitary health care of addictive behaviours, risk and harm reduction
- Law enforcement and fight against drug trafficking
- Training and research

¹ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

Participation

Adhesion to MedNET is the result of a voluntary commitment and a mutual interest. Any Mediterranean country and any country interested in this cooperation willing to join the network can become a member. The Minister competent for drug policy shall send a commitment letter to the Pompidou Group's Executive Secretariat and shall appoint a national representative with the authority to commit on the behalf of the government.

Chair

The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be assumed during a period of one year alternately by a Northern Mediterranean country and a Southern Mediterranean country. In order to ensure the continuity of the work undertaken, the Vice-Chair will assume the Chair the following year. The election is done by consensus.

Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Pompidou Group shall ensure the implementation of the work programme and the network operation, by ensuring synergy between other working groups from Pompidou Group and other Council of Europe's entities.

It manages the MedNET budget, made up of voluntary contributions from Pompidou Group member countries and other sources of funding (Council of Europe, European Commission, etc.).

Meetings

The steering committee made up of the representatives of the participating countries meets at least once a year to adopt the work programme based on projects submitted by each country, review the implementation of on-going projects and discuss future activities

The EMCDDA participates in the steering committee and shares its expertise in particular concerning data collection and analysis and the support to national observatories.

Working methods

MedNET facilitates the recognition, diffusion and appropriation of good practices and experiences which had proved successful in partnership with other key national and international actors working in the region. Thus, participating countries through their representatives share and exchange their knowledges and their know-how, by providing to the network all the scientifically validated knowledge they have in the identified fields.

They are committed to alert competent national authorities on the actions led by MedNET.

The annual activity report presents national and regional projects implemented.

The entirety of MedNET works is submitted to a regular and thorough assessment.

Funding

Participating countries are committed to contributing to the MedNET budget, financially or by making available their resources, to ensure the projects' implementation.

Each project is funded partly by the requesting country, by a financial or an in-kind contribution.