



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

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MedNET – Mediterranean network for
co-operation on drugs and addictions

MedNET Activity Report 2018

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Foreword

This year once again MedNET, an excellent tool for sharing and engaging in dialogue, has enabled us to enhance our co-operation in the fight against drug use and addiction in the Mediterranean region.

I will mention just a few concrete examples of this fruitful and efficient co-operation: the MedSPAD surveys, which resulted in pooling of experience regarding addiction among secondary school pupils and helped reinforce prevention activities in some countries; the development of national observatories, a significant step towards implementing national strategies based on a detailed assessment of the situation; the success of the diplomas in addiction studies, showing the importance of taking addiction into account when caring for patients; and the training sessions, whose quality makes it possible to improve awareness of these issues among professionals.

I wish to highlight, in particular, the states' commitment to gender mainstreaming: in 2018 the network addressed this important aspect of our policies in much greater depth. Some countries have undertaken ambitious initiatives to give greater consideration to the specific needs of women.

We have also placed our joint commitment on a more formal footing through the adoption of a Consensus Document, which confirms the mainstreaming of addiction issues and sets out the network's priorities and working methods.

Year after year, the MedNET network continues to constitute a unique forum for discussion and sharing of ideas, in accordance with the values of the Council of Europe. This has been made possible by the professionalism and personal commitment of the members of the network and their teams. I convey my thanks, in particular, to the MedNET team of the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group, which has worked tirelessly to support all these activities.

I accordingly commend once again the work done by this dynamic body, which has succeeded in implementing a joint co-operation project on an issue as complex as addiction. France will now confidently hand over to Italy, who will undoubtedly be equal to the challenges ahead.

Nicolas Prisse

President of the Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours

Introduction: the MedNET network

Pompidou Group

The Pompidou Group provides a multi-disciplinary 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 2017, it gathers 39 countries: 36 of the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, Mexico, Morocco and Israel, as well as the European Commission.

MedNET

MedNET is the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group.

In 2017, it adopted a consensus document which was approved by the Pompidou Group Permanent Correspondents, as an appendix to MedNET terms of reference, which is a permanent activity within Pompidou Group work programme.

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 2018: 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.

¹This 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.

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

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 knowledge 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.

1. Country-specific activities

1.1. Algeria

Standing Committee on Women

As a result of the first seminar on women and drugs of 8 March 2017, the Standing Committee on Women and Drugs was set up on 30 May 2013, and has been located since 18 July 2013 within the headquarters of the National Office of Drugs and Drug Addiction. The mission of this committee is to promote women's access to reception and care facilities, to fight against the stigmatization of women who use drugs, to encourage and support efforts to overcome their isolation, propose appropriate measures for the prevention of addictive behavior in children and women.

MedSPAD

MedSPAD Algeria has received considerable media attention, even before its launch, since it is the first time that a national survey on this topic has been conducted in the country. The National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction held two seminars on this topic, both of which received wide media coverage. So far the results of the survey have been discussed by the media on many occasions, and serve as a benchmark when talking about drug use in Algeria. The media were interested in the prevalence, the first use of various substances and the proposed solutions for the prevention and suppression of this phenomenon.

MedSPAD Algeria results will be used in the new drug prevention policy (2019-2024) and in planning prevention actions for young students with the Ministry of Education which received the survey data base.

Seminar on new approaches of prevention tools, 20- 21 October 2018, Algiers

This seminar will take place within the premises of the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction in Algiers. Under the guidance of French experts, chairmen of Algerian associations will participate in a training program to reinvigorate prevention activities in the field.

1.2. Croatia

After joining MedNET, in June 2017, Croatia also joined the MedSPAD committee. During the last years, this country has been very active in promoting and facilitating drug policy cooperation and dialogue in the South East Europe in the last few years.

The Office for combating Drugs Abuse of the Republic Croatia indicated that added value of Croatian accession to MedNET lied in its potential to play a bridging role in bringing closer together these two regional cooperation mechanisms.

1.3. Cyprus

The Cyprus National Authority on addictions, newly set up in November to take into account the new holistic approach in prevention and treatment of addictions including gambling addiction organised two study-visits on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards.

From 14 to 16 May 2018 for Lebanese, Moroccan and Tunisian delegations.

From 18-19 June 2018 for Algerian and Palestinian Delegations.

TAIEX, the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission, funded participation of Palestinian experts.

1.4. Egypt

Development /extension National Drug Observatory

The General Secretariat of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment (GSMHAT) put in place a full operating National Drug Observatory collecting and analysing treatment and care data from 15 hospitals in Egypt in July 2017.

The National Drug Observatory will publish the first National Drug Observatory report in 2018.

Development of care services for teenage addicts

Within the framework of this project, a day care service has been set up in Mammoura Mental Health Hospital since 2016. During the last 6 months, 106 patients were looked after by the staff.

Another day care service has been set up in Abbassia Mental Health Hospital. It is hoped to have another day care service in Helwan Mental Health Hospital.

Development of specialised services for pregnant drug users

This project is still in the process of developing training programme for the stakeholders to detect the cases then monitoring. The project has been on hold for a while but now in the process of reactivation.

Development of addiction treatment services for HIV positive patients

In January 2018, the team designed a training course based on the model of care and services for addiction recovery team.

In February, March and April 2018, the training was conducted on the addiction therapeutic team of 15 Mental Health hospitals under the umbrella of GSMHAT. The model is ready to be implemented.

Training Accreditation & Certification Board for Addiction Counsellors Final Report PHASE II

The final report is now available. Currently the project is being implemented. Prof Menan Abd Al Maksood, the general secretary of mental health and drug addiction succeeded to get the Ministerial approval to develop a certified official training for the addiction counsellors including the knowledge and skill training ending by evaluation exam and give permission for work in the certified treatment and rehabilitation places.

MedSPAD national survey

This first national MedSPAD survey covered data from 3 “governorates”, each representing an Egyptian geographical region, 61 schools from Cairo (the capital), 34 schools from Menoufeya (representing lower Egypt Delta), and 34 schools from Assiut (representing Upper Egypt)

- In Cairo, the target population was 6147 students
- In Menoufeya, the target population was 3424 students

- In Assiut, the target population was 3429

The final report was published.

The results of the **MEDSPAD Egypt** survey were announced in a Press Conference attended by representatives of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior and the WHO as the first survey done in Egypt to detect the prevalence of substance abuse among secondary school students. Also around 50 eminent professors and consultants of psychiatry and addiction treatment from different Universities and Ministry of Health attended the conference. It was covered by 4 TV channels and 6 journals. Seven TV interviews were done with the General Secretary of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment and the Head of the Research Department of GSMHAT to discuss the results and future plans to reduce drug abuse by secondary school students. Twelve press meetings and 3 newspaper reports were published through websites and paper journals discussing the results of the survey.

Consequently the following steps were taken as future prevention strategies to combat addiction among Egyptian students:

- Direct communication and cooperation between Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health to ensure safer community for students through regular and strict supervision on places where there is accessibility of drugs as coffee shops, clubs and pharmacies.
- Activation of rescuer hotline, specific for children and adolescents, which is affiliated to media and public relationships of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.
- Communication between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education for updating of scholastic curricula to include the risks of addiction and methods of its prevention starting from early primary years because the age of onset of drug intake was found to be before 10 years of age.
- Planning for advanced training programs for teachers and parents about early signs of substance abuse among the students aiming at early detection and treatment.
- Preparing material for psych-education about Addiction among adolescents in Mental Health program in Ministry of Health.
- Planning for expansion of addiction treatment services to include specific services for adolescents (inpatient and outpatient clinics) in mental health hospitals affiliated to General Secretariat of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment (Ministry of Health).

Development of specialised services for women with substance abuse disorders in Egypt

Final report on Gender Responsive Services for Women with Substance Abuse Disorders in Egypt featured among the documents available on the MedNET section of the Pompidou Group's website.

This report undertaken under MedNET, also contributed to the gender activities of the Pompidou Group which promote the consideration of a gender dimension in drug policies.

Since 2013, this project has created women's care services that are culturally acceptable and have had a real impact on public mental health services, resulting in the creation of a vast number of similar services. Through this project, professionals have become aware of the specific needs of women.

Two other projects started in 2018:

Training and capacity building for nurses working in the treatment of addictions

Development of parental training model for parents with substance use disorders

1.5. Lebanon

Inter-ministerial substance use response strategy for Lebanon 2016-2021

Lebanon launched its National Substance Use Strategy in Beirut on 22 December 2016, with the Pompidou Group's support for its development and implementation in 2017.

Setting up of a national drug observatory

The National Drugs and Addiction Observatory finalised the report on its national action plan for the implementation of an information system on drugs and addiction. The report had been sent to stakeholders and UNODC for external review. The idea was to map existing services and review available tools to identify the one which was the most appropriate in the circumstances.

The First Report on Drugs Situation in Lebanon was widely disseminated in June 2018 during awareness campaigns in Lebanon reaching the President of the Republic. The event targeted university students where each NGO and related Ministries held booths to spread awareness on Substance Use Disorders at the Presidential Palace's Garden. Moreover, on June 29th, the Ministry of Public Health announced the Ministry's awareness campaign. During his speech, the Minister of Public Health officially launched the report as the first publication of the National Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction.

1.6. Morocco

Support for the operation of the Moroccan National Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction, second report 2016

Following the first report of the Moroccan National Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction (OMDA), the second report was published in 2018.

The support of the network increased the visibility of the Moroccan National Observatory on Drugs and maintained at the same time its long term sustainability. It also made it possible to put in place an extended cooperation with EMCDDA.

MedSPAD III

Following MedSPAD I and II, Morocco launched MedSPAD III and the survey was carried out in 2017.

The survey was funded through the Norwegian contribution to the action plans for Morocco and Tunisia under the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy.

Congress of the Moroccan Association of Addiction

MedNET supported the organisation of the Congress of the Moroccan Association of Addiction which will take place on 19-20 October 2018 in Rabat, Morocco.

1.7. Palestine*

A Field Visit – Evaluation of the Opioid Substitution Programme (OST) for Palestinian Authorities was held on 29-31 May 2018 in Ramallah, Palestine* with the participation of the Greek consultant Dr. Georgios Tzeferakos in charge of the evaluation report.

During this event meetings with the Deputy Minister of Health and the various MOH departments dealing with primary health care, dangerous drugs, drug prevention and mental health took place. In addition, visits were organised to the central methadone maintenance center in Ramallah city and the primary care center in Nablus, where methadone is dispensed to some patients. An evaluation of the overall Opioid Substitution Treatment programme provided by Palestinian authorities was also conducted.

1.8. Tunisia

MedSPAD II

The survey was carried out in October 2017. It was funded through the Norwegian contribution to the action plans for Morocco and Tunisia under the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy. The results were published in 2018.

Pending the adoption of the draft law 79-2015, the various partners who provide medical care for drug dependent subjects have done their utmost to reopen the former ESPOIR drug detention center, with a new status, namely that of therapeutic community center for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons, the first of its kind in the country. To this end, a Belgian delegation of the Fédito (Federation of Addiction Treatment Associations) made up of 6 colleagues (a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a social worker, a nurse, an educator and a center manager) came in order to share their experience related to the functioning of such a center by means of 8-day exchange workshops which resulted in the drafting of a consensual orientation document on the operating rules of the center.

The redevelopment work of the former ESPOIR center, located 30 km from Tunis, has been completed since the first week of July, and additional equipment and personnel are expected for its reopening.

The year 2018 was also the occasion:

- to continue the DU of Addictology at the Faculties of Medicine in Tunis, Monastir and Sfax,
- to kick-start training courses in addictology for health and social welfare professionals from different regions of the country, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and in cooperation with the World Health Organisation.
- to open up to collaboration with AMECA (African and Middle East Congress on Addiction) with a view to providing training in neuroscience research in Tunisia (Hammamet) to Tunisian participants and also from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Observance of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking -26 June 2018 by means of an advocacy workshop on opioid agonist treatment

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STADD, the Tunisian Society of Addictology, organised with the support of MedNET an advocacy workshop – “*Agonist treatment: a key element for the reduction of risks associated with drug use*”. Other NGOs, ATL / MST SIDA and international organisations such as UNAIDS and UNODC were involved in this event which took place in Tunis.

The observance of this day of 26 June was for the first time organised on a regional scale. Indeed, we were invited to participate on 23 June in the commemoration of this day by 3 civil society associations from Nabeul (Cap Bon region) and the Regional Directorate of Health of Nabeul.

Regarding the MedSPAD survey, we were also invited on 20 June 2018 to present the results of the MedSPAD II survey during a day devoted to cyberaddictions among students and organised by the National Observatory of Education.

Advocacy on agonist treatments continues in accordance with opinion leaders thanks to the support of the global fund that has agreed to fund 2 workshops: one for the target audience in the North of the country (31 July 2018) and one for the target audience of the South (4 September 2018).

To conclude, the work carried out in Tunisia has started to pay off.

1.9. Spain, MedNET observer country

In 2018, Spain will host a study visit for an Egyptian delegation within the framework of the nurses training project.

2. MedSPAD Committee

One meeting only was held in 2018. The 9th meeting was held at the SICAD in Lisbon and opened by Joao Goulão, Director-General of SICAD.

It was chaired by Florence Mabileau, Head of Gender and Mediterranean Cooperation Unit of the Pompidou Group,

The meeting of the MedSPAD Committee was funded by the South Programme III which is a joint programme funded by the EU and implemented by the Council of Europe with the aim of “Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean” and which promotes regional activities.

The committee heard presentations about the MedSPAD results in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. Publications were edited by the Secretariat.

Le comité a écouté des exposés sur les résultats des études MedSPAD en Algérie, Egypte, Maroc, et Tunisie dont les publications ont été éditées par le Secrétariat.

The committee also discussed the use of MedSPAD results on national drug strategies.

The MedSPAD committee accepted the proposal by Sabrina Molinaro of the CNR in Italy for a 2019 MedSPAD Regional report.

The Secretariat developed a specific MedSPAD webpage under MedNET on the Pompidou Group website.

3. INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM: Gambling addiction: Science, Independence, Transparency, 27-29 June 2018

Within the framework of the fruitful cooperation between MedNET and Switzerland, seven MedNET representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, participated in the 4th international multidisciplinary symposium “Gambling addiction: Science, Independence, Transparency” which took place in Fribourg, Switzerland on 27-29 June 2018. Their participation is in line with MedNET’s terms of reference which currently encompass gambling addiction.

In the light of gambling addiction as an ever-increasing challenge for health and prevention policies, the symposium focused on monitoring systems and ways to directly approach and handle conflicts of interest between stakeholders.

As gambling addictions are unknown in **Algeria**, the participation of a representative of this country in the seminar was beneficial.

This participation was very fruitful for **Tunisia** as the seminar helped gain additional knowledge about cyber addiction. This theme was the focus of a seminar organised on 20 June 2018 by the Tunisian Observatory of Education, which noted an excessive use of Internet games among college and high school students and thereby requested the setting up of a prevention program from an early age.

The participation of the **Egyptian** representative in the international seminar enabled her to enhance her knowledge about gambling addiction management and the types of gambling diagnosis (pathological/ non-pathological), the assessment of adolescent gambling, co-morbidities with gambling, harm reduction and prevention of gambling through internet and gaming, neurobiology of gambling...

4. Regional activities: participation in Pompidou Group activities

MedNET countries have participated in the following PG regional activities without funding from MedNET.

4.1 In the supply reduction field

4.1.1. Working group on cyber-criminality linked to drugs, 5th annual meeting, 18-19 April 2018, Dublin, Ireland

Two MedNET countries took part in the annual meeting (Jordan and Morocco).

4.1.2 Airport Group, Strasbourg 6-8 June 2018

Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia participated to this meeting.

The participation was beneficial for **Algeria** on account of the importance and relevance of the issues addressed and the quality of the exchanges.

For **Tunisia**, the added value of the Airports Group is reflected through the exchange of data on NPS and the means and techniques of their detection at the borders.

4.1.3 General aviation, Marrakech, 17-18 October 2018

The MedNET countries are invited to take part.

4.1.4 Precursors network, Strasbourg, 26-28 September 2018

MedNET countries are invited to take part

For Tunisia, the added value of the precursor network is very important for the Southern Mediterranean countries because this network gives them the opportunity to keep track of the updates in the list of precursors along with their research techniques and their identification.

4.2 In the demand reduction field

4.2.1 MedNET and the guidelines on substitution treatments

This group of health and legal specialists is responsible for identifying and detailing the criteria for the appropriate use of agonist drugs in opioid dependence treatment, in line with ethical standards, international law, scientific knowledge and medical best practice.

The group comprises experts from Algeria, Belgium, France, Greece, Lebanon, Lithuania, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tunisia and Turkey, and representatives of the EMCDDA and WHO. A scientific committee also brings together experts from Canada, Israel, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom.

After submission in 2016 for public consultation of draft 'guiding principles' for countries to help them develop or revise the legislative and administrative framework governing the prescription of agonist drugs used in opioid dependence treatment, the working group finalized the 'guiding principles' report.

4.2.2 Training Executive: Evaluation of development, implementation and impact of drug policy

Representatives from Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey participated in this meeting.

For **Tunisia**, this training seminar, which took place in two stages, Lisbon (February 2018) and Venice (May 2018), enabled country representatives to question the existence or not of a drugs policy in their respective countries. Can be deemed "drugs policy" the scattered actions carried out separately in this field by each ministry, organisation or civil society, without any coordination? Or solely a drugs policy which is coordinated and expressly formalized has to be taken into account? In any case, the question must be posed to decision-makers in order to raise awareness of the need for collegial reflection on this theme. In Tunisia, this call has already been launched on 5 July 2018, during the preparation of the theme "health promotion" discussed in the context of the societal debate on health led by the Ministry of Health.

The training in Budapest was also interesting and fruitful for **Egypt**, giving insights into the work of such countries as Russia, Croatia and USA. The practical team work activity was also highly appreciated.

4.2.3 International Seminar on “Refugees and Drugs: estimating needs, support practice, preventing risks”, 24-25 April 2018, Athens, Greece

Representatives from Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia participated.

Lebanon is facing a major refugee crisis with very little data on the needs and the means to address those eventual needs. The seminar was useful to throw light on best practices and see what can be implemented in our country.

Tunisia has also little data on migrant drug use and, to counter this deficit, it has been proposed to develop a strategic assessment tool that will serve as a support for partner countries to identify, according to their specific backgrounds, priority activities to assess the needs of migrants, to carry out preventive actions or specific actions for unaccompanied migrant children and pregnant women.

Egypt will benefit from the setting up of an international network of professionals dealing with drug abuse among refugees, which was the aim and conclusion of the seminar.

5. MedNET and the gender dimension in drug policies

Right from the start, at the initiative of Italy of activities on gender dimension in drug policies, the MedNET countries were actively involved.

Nine MedNET countries contributed in the 2015 publication on the Gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs (Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia).

The MedNET countries also took part in the seminar on drugs, women and violence held in Rome in December 2015, and in 2016 on date-rape drugs.

On June 2017, MedNET countries participated on a Rome seminar on “Women and Drugs: from policy to good practice.”

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”.

The importance of appropriately mainstreaming 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.

The issue of women in prison was discussed for the first time in this seminar. It takes 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.

INCB report

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.

In 2018, MedNET continued to take into account the gender dimension in its activities in particular with the project launched by Lebanon on the identification of needs of women suffering from addictions.

6. MedNET and the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy

The **Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy** was adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 47 member states in Istanbul on 11 May 2011. It is aimed at promoting dialogue and co-operation with countries and regions in the vicinity of Europe which request Council of Europe assistance, based on the common values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The South Programme was launched in 2012 as a joint strategic initiative between the European Union and the Council of Europe to support democratic reforms in the Southern Mediterranean and meet the needs of countries in the region. MedNET benefited from the South programmes I and II and continues in 2018 and 2019 to benefit from PS III which objective is to ensuring sustainable democratic governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean.

Under the South Programme I (2012-2014), MedNET received funding of €161.939, representing 4 % of the South Programme I budget (€4.048.660).

Under the South Programme II (2015-2017), MedNET is receiving funding of € 268.319, representing 4 % of the South Programme II budget (€6.886.828).

Under the South Programme III (2018-2019), MedNET is receiving funding of € 50.000, representing 1.4% of the South Programme III budget (€3.334.000).

7. MedNET and other international organisations

7.1 Co-operation with EMCDDA

MedNET has co-operated with the EMCDDA since the MedNET high-level conference in 2009. Since then, the EMCDDA has taken part in all MedNET activities involving the establishment of national monitoring/resource centres on drugs and drug addiction and participates as an observer in MedNET' steering committee meetings.

7.2. Co-operation with the European Commission through the Council of Europe

7.2.1 Co-operation under the South III programme: Council of Europe/European Commission co-operation

Under the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy, the joint South Programme III funded by the EU and implemented by the Council of Europe, entitled "(see paragraphe above).

8. The role of the MedNET Secretariat in administration and co-ordination of the Network

In 2017, The MedNET team was made up of four staff members. However, it is worth noting that the total working time is the equivalent of **one and a quarter person working full time**.

One permanent staff agent:

- The Head of Unit who devoted 70% of time to MedNET.
- The person in charge of finances within PG who devoted 15% of her time to MedNET

Two temporary staff members:

- A project officer, who devoted 50% to MedNET
- An assistant, who devoted 50 % to MedNET
- A consultant who devoted 10% to communication

The team ensured the smooth functioning of the network and the implementation of the work program, ensuring synergy with the other activities of the Pompidou Group and the other entities of the Council of Europe.

In 2018, the MedNET team (one and a quarter person working full time), managed a budget of 293 380 € covering the period from 2017-2019. The team performed the following tasks:

- Co-ordination with the 15 MedNET correspondents, the different experts appointed to MedNET activities and the observers;
- Management of MedNET budget consisting of voluntary contributions and other sources of funding, in particular from the Council of Europe and the EU;
- The contracts for all the projects per country
- Preparation of an annual activity report including the financial report;
- Implementation of the work program, revision of the work program in accordance with political developments; and other unpredictable hazards;
- Participation at the meetings of the Permanent Correspondents and the Bureau of the Pompidou Group and reporting on MedNET activities;
- Fundraising from regular MedNET donors and also from other potential donors;
- Preparation of reports and participation in South II Programme meetings;
- Cooperation with other international organizations, in particular with EMCDDA, an agency of the EU;
- The development of a MedNET communication policy with the regular updating of the MedNET page on the Pompidou Group website, the publication of articles for each MedNET seminar, communication on social networks, and the publication of four *newsletters* during 2017;
- Publication of country project reports from the MedNET network and of the documents related to the MedSPAD regional committee.

9. MedNET Summary of Expenditure (on 1 September 2018)

This report serves as a single reference document for all contributors. Only those countries which have made a specific contribution to one or more activities of the network receive a specific report on those activities.

The MedNET budget has a multi-source funding

- Voluntary contributions
- South Programme I, II & III: Programme funded by the European Union, Implemented by the Council of Europe.
- Direct payment of activities by countries
- Neighbourhood Policy Programme within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Morocco and Tunisia (2016-2017)

Voluntary contributions

Contribution by Italy in 2018 (for Gender in MedNET)	120 000
Contribution by France in 2018	140 000
Contribution by Portugal in 2018	10 000
Contribution by Switzerland in 2018	59 724
Total budget balance for MedNET (01/09/2018)	329 724

South Programme I, II & III funding-(2012-2018)

South Programme I (2012-2014),	161 939
South Programme II (2015-2017)	268 319
South Programme III (2018-2019)	50 000
Total PS I, II & III	480 258

Neighbourhood Policy Programme within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Morocco and Tunisia

Action Plan 2016 - 2017: activities	81.150
Action Plan 2016 - 2017: Staff	25.800
Total	106.950

Total amount of budget allocated to MedNET (2006-2018)

Voluntary contributions	2.857.382
South Programme I	161.939
South Programme II	268.319
South Programme III	50.000
Neighbourhood Policy Programme	106.950
Total	3.374.866

Voluntary contributions received since 2006^{2*}

	Cyprus	Spain	France	Italy	Nether lands	Portugal	Switzerland	Total
2006			20.000			10.000		30.000
2007		100 000	100.000	50.000	30 000	5.000		285.000
2008			200.000			5.000		205.000
2009			200.000	50.000		5.000		255.000
2010	5 000		200.000	62.579				267.579
2011	5 000		140.000	22.500				167.500
2012			140.000	117.579				257.579
2013			140.000	80.000				220.000
2014			140.000	40.000				180.000
2015			150.000	40.000				190.000
2016			150.000	60.000				210.000
2017			140.000	120.000				260.000
2018			140.000	120.000		10.000	65.479	329 724
Total	10 000	100 000	1.860.000	758 458	30.000	35.000	65.479	2.863.137

Direct payment of activities by countries **

	Portugal	
2015	Lisbon Addiction : registration fees for 8 participants	3.200
2017	Lisbon Addiction: registration fees for 16 participants	6.400
2018	MedSPAD 9 Lisbon, 8 June(Room, coffee breaks & lunch	1.650
	Cyprus	
2017	Organisation of a study visit & training in EDPQS for an Egyptian delegation (Sept. 2017)	3.000
2018	Organisation of 2 study visits & training in EDPQS for Algerian, Lebanese, Moroccan, Tunisian and Palestinian delegations (May & June 2018)	6.000
TOTAL		20.250

² The voluntary contributions received from member states are subject to administrative fees (levy) taken directly by the Administration (since 2014 this levy represents 7% of the amount received)

** For some MedNET activities, the host country gives a partial contribution for the event

Amount of funded activities 2006 to 2018 from all sources *

On voluntary contributions *	
Total expenses 2006	42.573,86
Total expenses 2007	97.347,37
Total expenses 2008	105.420,19
Total expenses 2009	260.427,27
Total expenses 2010	450.681,83
Total expenses 2011	206.921,83
Total expenses 2012	151.964,18
Total expenses 2013	219.791,70
Total expenses 2014	255.591,69
Total expenses 2015	186.796,12
Total expenses 2016	309.734,03
Total expenses 2017	119.412,00
Total expenses 2018	150.380,00
Portugal direct payment of Lisbon Addiction registration fees in 2015 & 2017	9.600,00
Portugal direct payment for MedSPAD 9 Logistics, 2018	1.650,00
Cyprus direct payment for 3 Study visits & EDPQS trainings 2017-2018	9.000,00
Total expenditure from 2006 to 2018 on MedNET account	2.606.824,00

On South Programme I, II& III	
Total expenses SP I (2012-2014)	161.939,00
Total expenses SP II (2015-2017)	298 990,00
Total expenses SP III(2018-2019)	35.121,00
Total expenditures SP I + SP II + SP III	496.050,00

On Neighbourhood Policy Programme	45 600,00
Total expenditures in 2016 - 2017	45 600,00

Budget administrated and coordinated in 2018 including staff (60 000 €) for the period 2017-2019: 293.380 €

* These expenses represent only the expenses directly affected to a proper activity (meeting, contract, etc), operating costs like printing, shipping documents or material are not reflected in this report.

10. Communication policy

The MedNET Secretariat is responsible for MedNET's communication policy. Developments here in 2017 included the following:

The MedNET page on the Pompidou Group website was updated.

News items on MedNET events were published on the Pompidou Group site and the social media.

MedNET Newsletter was produced.

A specific MedSPAD page was produced.

Appendix I

MedNET 2018 implemented programme of activities

Funding sources:

Voluntary contributions 2006-2018:

MedNET: Voluntary contributions 2017-2018

South Programme III (2018-2020)

TAIEX for one delegation/activity in Cyprus in 2018

Co-ordination and implementation of work programme:

MedNET Secretariat of the Pompidou Group

1. Country-specific activities

Algeria: National Office against Drugs and Drug Addiction (ONLCDT)

MedNET funding/National Office against Drugs and Drug Addiction	Implementation
Seminar on Prevention approaches for addictions, 21-22 October, Algiers	In progress
MedSPAD I	Achieved

Cyprus: Cyprus National Addictions Authority

MedNET funding/TAIEX funding	Implementation
Study visit of Lebanese, Moroccan, and Tunisian delegations on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS) Cyprus, 14-16 May 2018	Achieved
Study visit of Algerian and Palestinian delegations on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS) 18-19 June 2018	Achieved

Egypt: General Secretariat of Mental Health/Ministry of Health

MedNET funding	Implementation
Training & Capacity building for nurses working in the treatment of addictions	Final report, November 2018
Study visit on Training & Capacity building for nurses working in the treatment of addictions	In progress
Development of parental training model for parents with substance use disorders	Final report, December 2018
Study visit on Development of parental training model for parents with substance use disorders	In progress
MedSPAD I	Achieved

Greece: National Drug Coordinator Office

MedNET funding	Implementation
International Seminar on “Refugees and Drugs: estimating needs, support practice, preventing risks” (Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia)	Greece, 24-25 April 2018 Final report, June 2018

Lebanon: SKOUN Lebanese Addiction Centre

MedNET funding	Implementation
Technical re-enforcement of the referral policies and procedures of the National Drug Addiction Committee	Final report, November 2018
Identify needs of women with substance use disorders	Final report, December 2018

Morocco: National Centre on Drugs, Moroccan Observatory on Drugs and Addictions

MedNET funding	Implementation
Support for the functioning of the Moroccan Observatory on Drugs and Drug addiction, 2 nd National Report	In progress
MedSPAD III	Final report, Achieved
Congress of the Moroccan Association of Addiction on 19-20 October 2018 in Rabat, Morocco	In progress

Palestine*: Ministry of Health

MedNET funding	Implementation
Evaluation of Opioid Substitution (OST) Therapy Programme	Field visit, Palestinian Territories, 29 May – 1 June 2018 Final report, August 2018

Tunisia: Ministry of Public Health

MedNET funding	Implementation
Advocacy workshop : the agonist treatment : a key element in drug risk reduction policy, Tunis, 26 June	Achieved
DU addictology 2018-2019	In progress
MedSPAD II	Achieved

2. Regional activities**MedSPAD Committee**

South Programme III funding	Implementation
9 th MedSPAD Committee meeting, Lisbon, 8 June 2018	Achieved
2019 MedSPAD Regional Report including age of first use and availability of substances and socio-economic context.	In progress

Other Regional Activities	
MedNET funding	Implementation
International multidisciplinary Symposium on Gambling addiction: Science, Independence, Transparency (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia), Fribourg, 27-29 June	Achieved

3. Participation in Pompidou Group activities

Law enforcement activities

One participant per country invited (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia)

	Implementation
PG Cybercrime meeting, Dublin, 18-19 April 2018 (Jordan, Morocco)	Achieved
PG Airports meeting, Strasbourg, 6-8 June 2018 (Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia)	Achieved
PG General Aviation meeting, 16-18 Oct. 2018, Morocco,	In progress
PG Precursors network, 26-28 Sept. 2018, place tbd	In progress

Other activities

Executive Training :Evaluating the development, implementation and impact of drug policy	
20-22 Feb, Lisbon (Tunisia)	Achieved
22-25 May, Venice (Morocco & Tunisia)	Achieved
19-21 June, Budapest (Egypt)	Achieved
18-21 Sept, Lisbon (Egypt)	In progress
Opiate agonist treatment (OAT) Guiding Principles	
Participation at the working group for guiding principles on OAT (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia)	Publication, Achieved
International Seminar on « Refugees and Drugs : estimating needs, supporting practice, preventing risks, 23-24 April 2018, Athens, Greece	Achieved

4. 23rd MedNET meeting, Bari, 25-26 September 2018

MedNET Committee	In progress
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Appendix II

List of MedNET documents for 2018

Reference	Title	Date	N° of pages
P-PG/ Med (2018) 1	Rapport MedSPAD Maroc 2017		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 2	Draft Agenda OST Palestine		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 3	MedSPAD Glossary		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 4	Form: needs of activities in 2019		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 5	Egypte - Rapport sur HIV patients study		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 6	9 th MedSPAD meeting report		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 7	2018 Annual activity report		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 8	Agenda 23 rd MedNET Meeting, Bari, 25-26 September 2018		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 9	Egypt – Progress report Nurses training Activity		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 10	Palestine - Protocol for opioid substitution treatment in drug addiction centre		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 11	Palestine - Collecting Tool – OAT		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 12	Italy Proposal of activities		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 13	MedNET 2018 implemented programme of activities		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 14	Egypt Proposal of activities		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 15	Jordan Proposal of activities		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 16	Tunis Proposal of activities (F only)		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 17	Palestine Proposal of activities		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 18	Croatia Proposal of activities		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 19	MedNET Summary of activity proposals in 2019		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 20	Regional proposal of activity in 2019		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 21	Portugal- Proposal of activity		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 22	Morocco- Proposal of activity (F only)		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 23	Lebanon- Proposal of activity		
P-PG/ Med (2018) 24	Algeria- Proposal of activity (F only)		

Appendix III

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³ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Council of Europe member states on this issue.

The **Pompidou Group** – or Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs – is the Council of Europe's drug policy cooperation platform. It is a Council of Europe enlarged partial agreement, open to voluntary membership of Council of Europe member states as well as other countries. It has 39 member states including three from outside Europe: Morocco, Israel and Mexico.

MedNET is the Pompidou Group's Co-operation Network in the Mediterranean Region on Drugs and Drug Addiction consisting of 15 countries from both the northern and southern rim of the Mediterranean.

The MedNET activity report has been produced each year by the MedNET Secretariat within Pompidou Group since the official creation of the MedNET in 2006.