



**Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and
Illicit Trafficking in Drugs**

P-PG /MinConf (2018) 3
1 October 2018

**Inventory of
Activities and Outcomes
accomplished during the work cycle 2015 - 2018**

Introduction

The Pompidou Group's 'Inventory of Activities and Outcomes' for the period 2015-2018 is based on the Work Programme adopted at the Ministerial Conference in 2014 (doc. P-PG/MinConf (2014) 4) and additional ad hoc activities adopted by the Permanent Correspondents in the course of the work cycle (Art. 8 under Mission, organisation, governance & working methods of the Pompidou Group, doc. P-PG /MinConf (2010) 4). The following Inventory presents the main results achieved within the permanent activity formats and under the three thematic priorities set for the 2015-2018 work cycle.

Icon key:

ToR = terms of reference



= document downloadable from the Pompidou Group website:
www.coe.int/pompidou



= high quality print available from the Secretariat



= website or internet based tool



= video accessible in the Pompidou Group video channel at:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Pompidou+Group

*

= All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

**

= 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.

Index

Permanent activities	4
Executive Training on Drug Policy	4
Airports Group	5
International Network on Precursors Control	6
EXASS Net.....	7
Drug Policy Co-operation in South-East Europe.....	8
European Drug Prevention Prize.....	9
Supporting the development, implementation and review of national drug policies	9
Co-operation Network in the Mediterranean Region on Drugs and Drug Addiction	10
Supporting Drug Treatment Services in Prisons.....	13
Addressing changing patterns and context of drug use, production and supply	15
New psychoactive substances	15
Experience with new evolutions in drug policy	15
Guidelines on post-traumatic stress syndrome and related substance use disorders.....	16
Refugees and Drugs: Estimating needs, supporting practice, preventing risks.....	16
Bringing human rights to the forefront of drug policy	18
Human Rights dimensions in drug policies.....	18
Co-operation with civil society on drug policy issues	18
Review of national regulations on opiate substitution treatment	19
Introducing gender-specific dimensions in drug policies	20
Co-operation with the Confidence Building Measures Programme.....	21
Humanitarian and medical mission to Ukraine	22
Analysing policy coherence, costs, impact and potentially adverse effects of drug policy measures	23
Effects and associated costs of drug control policies.....	23
Co-operation with Belarus.....	23
Criminal Justice Responses to Drug Dependent Prisoners	24
Identifying opportunities and challenges for drug policies arising from the Internet	26
Drug related Cybercrime	26
Online gambling and the use of psychoactive substances	26
Online self-evaluation tool for demand reduction.....	27
Co-operation activities and projects	28
ESPAD European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs.....	28
ESSD European Society for Social Drug Research	28
Secretariat activities	29
Evaluation and quality control.....	30
Visibility and communication	30

Permanent activities

Executive Training on Drug Policy

Training course, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Training (2015) 1

Set objective:

- Facilitate know-how and build capacities for more effective implementation, management and evaluation of coherent drug policies and related programmes.

Attained results:

In general

- Needs-based training provided to around 140 drug policy managers from the governmental and non-governmental sector in a total of 4 training courses (two modules each) on topical issues and drug policy aspects;
- Increase of know-how and understanding of the complexity of drug policy among the trained managers, through introducing them to policy instruments, practical tools and best practices, and enhancing their management skills;
- Introduction of a new 'on-the-job training' format and a 'management skills' component, which have been highly appreciated by the participants and have increased interest in the training;
- Facilitation of networking among participants that has led to fruitful bilateral contacts.

2015 training on 'Conducting a review of global drug policies and instruments with a view to national and European drug policy priorities – a contribution to the preparation for the 2016 UNGASS

- Support to drug policy managers in reviewing existing drug policies on national and European levels and developing ideas and common European positions for contribution to the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS);
- Enhanced understanding of the UNGASS process as well as the correlation between national / regional drug strategies and the UNGASS Strategy, empowering participants to meaningfully contribute to the preparations in their respective countries;
- Elaboration of a list of concrete proposals that were incorporated into the Pompidou Group's input to UNGASS.

2016 training on 'Effective co-operation: interaction between governments and civil society organisations'

- Facilitation of in-depth discussion among governmental and civil society representatives on the Pompidou Group's draft 'Policy paper on government co-operation with civil society', ensuring that the perspective of both sides are taken into account and increasing support for the policy paper;
- Improvement of skills and competences of managers, for instance regarding identifying, overcoming and managing obstacles to co-operation, confidence building, strategic thinking and planning;
- A unique opportunity offered to member States to interact with civil society on drug policy issues in an open and participative manner, out of the national context.


2017 training on 'Integrating and adapting challenges resulting from NPS into demand reducing strategies'

- Reinforcement of management capacities and knowledge regarding new psychoactive substances (NPS), through on-site visits as well as the exchange of best practices and national experiences on dealing with NPS;
- Introduction of participants to flexible and pragmatic approaches to NPS-related problems, such as concrete services and interventions for prevention and harm reduction in different settings and online tools to engage with NPS users;
- Elaboration of a series of conclusions and observations on trends and new insights concerning NPS for the attention of member States, and on opportunities for contribution by the Pompidou Group to national and international efforts in tackling challenges of NPS.

2018 training on 'Evaluating the development, implementation and impact of drug policies'

- Set-up of two training courses in response to the high interest by member States;
- A rare opportunity provided to managers for receiving training on the evaluation of drug policies in a multi-national environment;
- Improvement of managers' abilities to choose and apply the appropriate evaluation concept for their professional context, taking into account Pompidou Group guidelines on measuring unintended costs / consequences and using relevant policy coherence markers and human rights indicators;
- Declaration of Intent signed between the Pompidou Group and Syracuse University (USA) for strengthening collaboration and further exploring the possibility of gaining academic recognition of the training course.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Presentations and materials provided to participants during the training courses*
- ➡ *Annual reports of the training courses, doc. P-PG/Training (2015) 12, P-PG/Training (2016) 6, P-PG/Training (2017) 3, P-PG/Training (2018) 4*
- ➡ *International Training Seminar 'A comprehensive drug policy: Evaluation and development of new indicators to measure effectiveness to respond to new drug policy challenges' (Mexico, 2018)*
- ➡ *Promotional video 'Executive Training on Drug Policy' *

Co-operation Group of Drug Control Services at European Airports and in General Aviation (Airports Group)

Expert group, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Airports (2015) 1

Set objectives:

Develop a harmonised multidisciplinary strategy for drug-detection at European airports and enhance subject-related inter-airports co-operation, *inter alia*, by

- improving information exchange among drug control services at airports;
- proposing practical assistance concepts to airports in member States;
- facilitating co-operation with airports control services in MedNET countries.

Attained results:

- Accelerated information and intelligence sharing among control services at airports especially regarding recent changes in modus operandi, new trends in airports, passenger profiling, organised crime and controlled deliveries, with a view to improving seizure and investigation results;
- Contribution to a harmonised approach for strengthening drug control at airports and in general aviation, through the exchange of best practices and in-depth discussions;
- Regular update of existing control manuals and directories of responsible officers;
- Promotion and facilitation of operational co-operation among member and non-member States, for instance by involving MedNET countries from outside Europe;
- Development of an independent forum for general aviation, in response to the increasing need by law enforcement for improving knowledge on general aviation traffic through risk assessment, awareness raising, exchange of information, sharing of best practices and networking.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Controlled Delivery Handbook (restricted website)*
- ➡ *Revised General Aviation Handbook (restricted to group members)*
- ➡ *Two International Conferences on 'General Aviation – a blind spot in drugs enforcement' (Spain, 2017 and Morocco, 2018)*
- ➡ *Reports and presented materials of the annual meetings (restricted to group members)*

International Network on Precursors Control

Expert group, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Precursors (2015) 1

Set objectives:

Improve contact among relevant agencies with regard to

- closing the judicial chain from the identification of suspect consignments to investigation, backtracking, prosecution, and sanctions in pre-precursors and precursors diversion cases, including the development of NPS;
- awareness-raising, information exchange, training activities and confidence building in view of better risk identification and enhanced co-operation.

Attained results:

- Facilitation of information and intelligence exchange among representatives of different agencies, in particular in the fields of European legislation, collaboration with the private sector and the scientific world, precursor diversion, environmental protection and new psychoactive substances;
- Increased operational co-operation and knowledge through study visits, trainings, case studies and practical demonstrations of technical activities.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Reports and presented materials of the annual meetings (restricted to group members)*

EXASS Net

Co-operation network, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/EXASS (2015) 1

Set objective:

Provide practical examples and conceptual support for drug policy implementation and action, in particular by

- facilitating conceptual support for the implementation of policies, strategies and action plans;
- providing expertise on assessment of the outcomes and impact of drug policies and programmes;
- developing a forum for the exchange of experiences;
- linking centers of competence with articulated and identified needs for assistance and capacity building.

Attained results:

In general

- Facilitation of thematic meetings that provide insights into practice and policy implementation on areas of concern to participating governments and institutions, by gaining hands-on experience during study visits to services and programmes implementing drug policies.



2016 meeting on 'Drug policy co-operation on criminal justice responses to drug dependent prisoners' (Slovenia)

- Strengthening of regional co-operation on drug policy among experts and responsible authorities in South-East Europe, through sharing experience and best practice;
- Analysis of existing approaches on criminal justice responses to drug users in conflict with the law in South-East Europe, contributing to the development of more coherent policies in the region;
- Facilitation of in-depth discussions focusing on the principle of equal access to care by prisoners, on continuous treatment and social reintegration programmes, and on responses to NPS use in prisons.

2017 meeting on 'Refugees and drugs: estimating needs, supporting practices, preventing risks' (Greece)

- Better understanding of participants of the drug-related challenges among refugee populations, acquired through field visits to hospitality centres for refugees and unaccompanied minors, and discussions on existing therapeutic and health care programmes targeting refugees;
- Proposals developed for a number of follow-up actions that resulted in the organisation of an international forum on refugees and drugs under the aegis of MedNET;
- Exchange of experiences on substance use in refugee hosting facilities and possible responses, on treatment options for drug addicted refugees, as well as on services for addressing the psychosocial needs of unaccompanied children.

Delivered outputs:

- *Follow-up seminar 'Refugees and drugs: estimating needs, supporting practices, preventing risks' (Greece, 2018), doc. P-PG/COOP (2018) 7*
- *Reports of the annual meetings, doc. P-PG/COOP (2017) 1*  

Drug Policy Co-operation in South-East Europe (SEE)

Network of experts and policy makers, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/SEE (2015) 1

Set objective:


Foster co-operation among drug authorities in the region of South-East Europe and neighbouring countries by

- further developing co-operation on drug policy in South-East Europe;
- enhancing dialogue and the practical exchange of knowledge and experience among member States;
- supporting the development of coherent policies on psychoactive substances;
- focusing on achieving clear outcomes and tangible results.

Attained results:

- Set-up of the Co-operation Group of South-East European Airports with the aim of exchanging operational practices and experiences in a systematic manner, and improving regional co-operation among customs and law enforcement agencies;
- Implementation of an online self-evaluation test available in 7 languages and launch of a self-help intervention tool, which responded to the immediate need for internet-based drug demand reduction interventions in the region and increased outreach to women and youngsters, as confirmed by the participating countries;
- Plenary and thematic meetings organised, focusing on issues identified by the group members, such as capacity building to tackle drug-related cybercrime and preventive measures targeting psychoactive substance use at the workplace;
- Hands-on experience offered to participants by visiting different services and programmes in the region as part of the EXASS Net meetings.

Delivered outputs:

- *Reports of the plenary meetings*
- *Online self-assessment and self-intervention tool, www.drughelp.eu* 
- *Joint regional customs-police operation (details restricted to group members)*
- *TAIEX Regional workshop on prevention of drugs use in the workplace (FYROM, 2016)*
- *TAIEX Regional workshop on drug-related cybercrime (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016)*
- *Joint Declaration by participants of the Co-operation Group of South East European Airports*

European Drug Prevention Prize

Biennial award, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Prize (2015) 1

Set objective:



Contribute to the development of effective drug prevention programmes, offer the opportunity to build up partnerships / networks and take stock of effective and innovative approaches in the field. This objective is pursued by

- recognising and rewarding remarkable and innovative approaches to drug prevention;
- supporting and encouraging active target group involvement and participation in drug prevention;
- exemplifying the dedication and responsibility of concerned groups in shaping a better and healthier environment;
- contributing to the development of evidence-based programmes which are closely linked to the healthy lifestyles and well-being.

Attained results:

- Opportunity offered for young people to raise awareness of their drug prevention projects at the European level, and get appreciation from an independent jury composed of experts in prevention and participation;
- Recognition and further promotion of the best selected projects, accompanied with financial support for implementation;
- Support of innovation and new perspectives on drug prevention, while positioning young people as active stakeholders in the field of drug policy;
- Review of the award process in order to identify areas for improvement to further increase visibility of the Prize and its impact on prevention practice.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Introductory video about the Jury* 
- ➡ *Award for three winners in 2016, selected among 47 applications received from 22 countries: 'Intercity Theatre Project' (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 'Friday Coffee' (Israel), '+ attitude' (Portugal)*
- ➡ *Award for three winners in 2018, selected among 18 applications received from 12 countries: 'Workshop for Life' (Greece), 'Take me to the Countryside' (Bulgaria), 'Responsible Youth' (Turkey)*
- ➡ *Final report 'Review of the European Prevention Prize', doc. P-PG/PP (2015) 1 final* 

Supporting the development, implementation and review of national drug policies

Advisory facility, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/PolAdv (2015) 1

Set objective:

Provide examples of best practice and advice on drug policy development, implementation and review to governments, by means of

- collecting and analysing experiences of the member States in linking drug policy and research;
- providing advice and formulating recommendations on how knowledge transfer between research, policy and practice can be achieved;
- showing the advantages of a coherent policy approach encompassing licit and illicit substances, as well as addictive behaviours;
- advising on policy-related research needs (both in demand and supply reduction efforts) and on how to use monitoring and evaluation in improving action planning.

Attained result:

- Guidance and hands-on experience acquired by Maltese officials through a study visit to drug treatment centres in Norway, introducing them, among others, to a cannabis detoxification service and the application of the multi-systemic therapy concept (MST).

Delivered output:

- 🕒 *Study visit of Maltese experts to Norway (2015)*

Co-operation Network in the Mediterranean Region on Drugs and Drug Addiction (MedNET)

Co-operation network, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Med (2015) 1 and P-PG/MedNET (2017) 24, funded by voluntary contributions (Italy, France, Portugal and Switzerland), the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership and South Programme II-III of the European Union

Set objectives:










- Promote co-operation, exchanges and two-way transfers of knowledge between Mediterranean countries and Pompidou Group European member States (North-South and South-North exchanges) as well as among Mediterranean countries (South-South exchanges);
- The long-term objective is to promote the elaboration and to implement coherent policies on addictive behaviours, based on scientifically validated knowledge.

Attained results:

- Implementation of the adopted work programmes made up of country-specific activities and regional activities, with special attention to building synergies between country projects;
- Consolidation of the network as an interface for co-operation bringing together European and non-European countries and for exchanging best practice models, strengthened with a consensus document reaffirming the principles, values and priorities of MedNET;
- Growth of the network to 15 countries, after Turkey and Palestine** having joined in 2016 and Croatia in 2017, as well as increased funding thanks to the high interest in MedNET activities;
- Contribution to the improvement and diversification of health care services for drug-dependent patients in line with European human rights standards, for instance through the introduction of Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) in Algeria and through the development of specified services for adolescents, pregnant women and HIV positive patients in Egypt;
- Promotion of understanding addiction behaviours as a health care issue and of developing treatment and care services respecting human rights;


- Support to evidence-based policy decisions through data collection on the drug use among teenagers in the Mediterranean area, by the conduct of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in School (MedSPAD) in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, and an overall assessment of the situation in the region;
- Opportunity provided, during training courses and study visits, to gain knowledge of the epidemiological situation in Mediterranean countries, epidemiological monitoring systems and prevention policies, as well as to acquire skills regarding research approaches and data collection;
- Assistance to the set-up and operation of national observatories on drugs and addiction in Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon, supported with addictology courses;
- Provision of international expertise to the elaboration of legislation regulating drug policies and to the development of national drug strategies in Tunisia and Lebanon;
- Support to the development of the first gambling addiction care centre in Morocco and provision of adequate training;
- Facilitation of co-operation and exchanges of MedNET countries from outside Europe with Pompidou Group member States both in the demand and supply reduction fields, and with other international agencies such as EMCDDA;
- Incorporation of the gender dimension of drug policy in MedNET activities, for instance by assisting to the development of specialised services for pregnant women who use drugs in Egypt, and organising seminars on women and drugs in Algeria and Tunisia;
- Evaluation of the impact of MedNET activities on the occasion of the 10th anniversary (2016) of the network and outlook for the future.


Delivered outputs:

- *MedNET Consensus paper, doc. P-PG/MedNET (2017) 24* 
- *Second regional MedSPAD report 'Prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use Among Adolescents in the Mediterranean Region', doc. P-PG/Med (2017) 15* 
- *Reports on the impact of MedNET in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia* 
- *Yearly activity reports, doc. P-PG/Med (2017) 13, P-PG/Med (2016) 20, P-PG/Med (2015) 34* 
- *Updated information leaflet on MedNET*  
- *Guidelines for the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (MedSPAD), doc. P-PG/Med(2015)33/1 and P-PG/Med(2016) 26* 
- *MedNET '10 years and beyond – Evaluation among MedNET participants and impact of MedNET', doc. P-PG/Med(2016) 30* 
- *First regional MedSPAD report 'A First Glance at the Situation in the Mediterranean Region in Relation to the Prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use among Adolescents', doc. P-PG/Med (2015) 27* 





Country-specific activities implemented:

ALGERIA

- *Seminar on New Approaches to Prevention (2018)*
- *Study visit to Cyprus on European drug prevention quality standards (2018)*
- *Women and drugs seminar (2017)*
- *Workshop on prevention tools (2017)*
- *Seminars on the introduction of opiate substitution treatment (2016-2017)* 
- *Training for ONLCDT staff in data collection, analysis and use; and in prevention (2016)*

- National MedSPAD survey (2016) 
- Seminar on communication of the MedSPAD school survey results (2016)
- Seminar on new approaches to preventing drug abuse and addiction (2016)
- Study visit to Cyprus on data collection for monitoring purposes (2016)
- Study visits on harm reduction services to four countries (2015-2016)
- Round table on the institutionalisation of the national report of ONDA (2015)




EGYPT

- Study visit to Spain on training of nurses (2018)
- Study visit to Ireland on parental training (2018)
- Development of parental training model for parents with substance use disorder (2018)
- Training and capacity building for nurses working in the treatment of addiction (2018)
- Study visit to Cyprus on European drug prevention quality standards (2018)
- Development of services for care of adolescents (2016-2017)
- Introduction of specialised services for pregnant women who use drugs (2016-2017) 
- Development of addiction services for HIV positive patients (2015-2017) 
- National MedSPAD survey (2016) 
- Training in accreditation and certification for addiction counsellors (2016) 
- Study visit to three countries on specialised health care services (2016)
- Development / extension of the National Drug Observatory (2016)
- Elaboration of a training programme for addiction consultants and an accreditation system (2015)

LEBANON

- Re-enforcement of the referral policies and procedures of the Drug Addiction Committee (2018)
- Identification of needs of women with substance use disorder (2018)
- Development of a national observatory on drugs and addiction (2016-2017)
- Epidemiological study of substance abuse in Lebanon (2016)
- Expert contribution to the development of a national drug strategy (2015-2017)


MOROCCO

- Second report of the Moroccan National Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction (2018) 
- Gambling addiction workshop (2017)
- MedSPAD III survey (2016-2017) 
- Addictology courses for professionals (2015-2017) 
- Study visit to Cyprus on the link between data collection for monitoring purposes and the accreditation / funding of prevention and treatment programmes (2016)
- Training course on pathological gambling (2015)

PALESTINE**

- Evaluation of the Opioid Substitution Therapy Programme (2018)
- Study visit to Malta on management of a treatment centre (2015)

TUNISIA

- MedSPAD II survey (2018) 
- Study visit to Cyprus on European drug prevention quality standards (2018)
- National seminar on opiate substitution (2018)
- First national congress on addictology (2017)
- Conference on women, violence and addiction in Tunisia (2017)
- Seminar 'Addictions and political choice' (2017)
- Specialised workshops for university diploma students (2016-2017)

- *University course in Addictology (2015-2017)*
- *Expert contribution to the draft law on drugs (2016)*
- *Addictology seminars (2016)*
- *Study visit to Malta on opioid substitution treatment (2015)*
- *Round table on the setting up of a national observatory of drugs and addiction in Tunisia (2015)*

Supporting Drug Treatment Services in Prisons

Technical co-operation and capacity-building programme, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Prisons (2015) 1, funded by voluntary contribution from the 'Fonds de lutte contre certaines formes de criminalité' of Luxembourg



Set objective:



- Further improve health in penitentiaries in respect of human rights through developing strategies of drug treatment and through social reintegration of drug using detainees in order to reduce recidivism.

Attained results:

- Enhancement of the quality of drug treatment services for drug-dependent prisoners in the Republic of Moldova, through establishment of the first Therapeutic Community to combat drug dependence in prisons, and training for professionals to support its operation (*joint effort with the 'Criminal Justice Responses to Drug Dependent Prisoners' project*);
- Improvement of drug prevention and rehabilitation services provided for male and female juvenile prisoners in Ukraine, including the implementation of the therapeutic tool 'Family Conferencing' and the provision of related training for prison managers;
- Establishment of an international network of stakeholders in Eastern Europe to exchange, promote and improve evidence-based good practices on rehabilitation of drug users in the criminal justice system;
- Collection of data on drug use in prison populations and related health care responses in the 9 Eastern European countries and Kosovo*, whilst identifying good practice examples and providing input to the international debate on effective treatment interventions in prisons;
- Contribution to international efforts to improve drug treatment systems in prisons, and synergies built with other international organisations, such as WHO/EUROPE, UNODC and EMCDDA, for joint action.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Final project report 'Supporting Drug Treatment Services in Prisons', doc. P-PG/Prisons (2018) 1*
- ➡ *Assessment study 'Implementation of the Family Conferencing method in juvenile prisons in Ukraine' (2018)*
- ➡ *Training workshops 'Drug Treatment and HIV Prevention in Prisons' (Ukraine, 2018)*
- ➡ *Promotional video 'Criminal Justice and Prison Programme' (2018)*
- ➡ *'Prison corner' at the 22nd International AIDS Conference (Netherlands, 2018)*
- ➡ *Training sessions on Therapeutic Community methodology (Moldova, 2015-2018)*
- ➡ *Publication 'Drug-Treatment Systems in Prisons in Eastern and South-East Europe', doc. P-PG/Prisons (2017)*  

- *Brochure 'Criminal Justice and Drug Policy. Treatment, Harm Reduction and Alternatives to Punishment'*  
- *Training sessions for prison staff working in juvenile prisons (Ukraine, 2015-2016)*
- *EXASS Net meeting on 'Drug policy co-operation on criminal justice responses to drug dependent prisoners'(Slovenia, 2016)*
- *Scientific Article on rehabilitation of young offenders in the Ukrainian criminal justice system*
- *Memorandum of Understanding between the Pompidou Group and the Department of Penitentiary Institutions on the establishment of Therapeutic Communities in Moldovan prisons (2015)*
- *International Conference on HIV and Harm Reduction in Prisons, in co-operation with UNODC and the Global Fund (Ukraine, 2015)*

Addressing changing patterns and context of drug use, production and supply

New psychoactive substances

Symposium / seminar, mandate 2015-2017, endorsed at the 76th and 79th meetings of Permanent Correspondents

Set objective:

- Provide insights on the experiences made with different regulatory models and approaches that have been adopted and will provide a forum for open discussion on the feasibility of different policy approaches.

Attained results:

- Analysis of trends, existing policies and interventions for tackling new psychoactive substances (NPS), with the perspective of identifying promising avenues to develop effective approaches for supply, demand and harm reduction regarding NPS;
- Collection of good practices that provided valuable input for the 2017 Executive Training, dedicated to addressing NPS-related challenges within existing demand reduction strategies.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *International Seminar on 'New Psychoactive Substances' (Russian Federation, 2017)*
- ➡ *Abstracts of presentations published in the Russian scientific journal 'Narcology'*
- ➡ *2017 Executive Training on 'Integrating and adapting challenges resulting from NPS into demand reducing strategies'*
- ➡ *Symposium on 'New psychoactive Substances. Towards a balanced approach in dealing with NPS' (Italy, 2016)*

Experience with new evolutions in drug policy

Symposium, mandate 2015, endorsed at the 76th meeting of Permanent Correspondents

Set objectives:

- Get acquainted with the experiences and results following major drug policy reformulation;
- Reach an understanding of the factors that have driven and are driving recent and present drug policy reform endeavors.

Attained results:

- Contribution to the present debate on cannabis de-regulations in Europe and beyond through a

comparative analysis of drug policy reforms and an exchange of experiences on new policy responses and the related challenges decision makers face.

Delivered output:

- *Symposium on 'Experience with New Evolutions in Drug Policy. Evolution of cannabis regulation policies: experiences as a result of new policies and responses' (Norway, 2015)*

Guidelines on post-traumatic stress syndrome and related substance use disorders

Research, mandate 2017-2018, ToR: P-PG/PTSD (2017) 1



Set objective:

- Identify key principles, and provide a list of essential interventions and specific measures in support of displaced people, migrants and ethnic minorities, with a special focus on drug prevention in Europe.

Attained result:

- Elaboration of a guidance paper that analyses the key principles and the effectiveness of existing interventions for preventing and treating post-traumatic stress disorder and related substance use disorders, with special attention to refugees and veterans.

Delivered output:

- *Guidance Paper 'Psycho-social support to tackle trauma-related symptoms and related substance use disorders', doc. P-PG (2018) 3*  

Refugees and Drugs: Estimating needs, supporting practice, preventing risks

Ad hoc activity, mandated at the 23 January 2018 meeting of the Bureau, on the basis of the conclusions of the 12th EXASS Net meeting and the report of the 22nd MedNET meeting

Set objective:

- Provide insights on the experiences made with different regulatory models and approaches that have been adopted and will provide a forum for open discussion on the feasibility of different policy approaches.

Attained results:

- International seminar addressing the concerns of practitioners about the efficiency of their practice in responding to the specific needs of refugees in terms of drug use and risk of addiction, with

particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors and women;

- Increase of understanding and exchange of practices on preventive measures, on ways of identifying the needs of refugees with drug problems and on existing interventions, with the perspective of developing guiding principles for professionals and policy makers to tackle this issue.

Delivered outputs:

- *International Seminar 'Refugees and Drugs: Estimating needs, supporting practice, preventing risks' (Greece, 2018)*
- *Meeting report, doc. P-PG/COOP (2018) 7, including results of the country questionnaire on existing interventions*

Bringing human rights to the forefront of drug policy

Human Rights dimensions in drug policies

Ad hoc working group of Permanent Correspondents, mandate 2016-2017, ToR: P-PG/HRights (2016) 1





Set objective:

- Elaborate a policy paper setting on Human Rights dimensions in drug policy.

Attained results:

- Assistance, through the elaboration of a policy paper, to national authorities in identifying and embracing timely responses to contentions about human rights in drug policy;
- Statement reaffirming the commitment of member States to bringing human rights to the forefront of drug policy, and providing guidance for policy makers in this respect.

Delivered outputs:

- *Statement 'Bringing human rights into drug policy development, implementation and evaluation' doc. P-PG / HR (2017) 1*  
- *Background paper 'Drug policy and Human Rights in Europe: Managing tensions, maximizing complementarities', doc. P-PG/HR (2016) 3*  

Co-operation with civil society on drug policy issues

Ad hoc working group of Permanent Correspondents, mandate 2016-2017, ToR: P-PG/CSO (2016) 1

Set objectives:



- Identifying elements for guidelines and principles, opportunities and risks for interaction of government / public institutions with civil society in the field of drug policy;
- The content to be elaborated should be sufficiently general that they feed the needs of the Pompidou Group while also serving as a model that can be adopted and adapted for use on different levels of drug policy development and management on national, regional and local level;
- The results shall provide the Pompidou Group with guidance on ways to interact with civil society organisations and serve as a model for different levels of drug policy.

Attained results:

- Guidance and tools provided to decision makers, policy managers and civil society organisations (CSO) in order to develop practical and meaningful ways for government and civil society co-operation in the field of drug policy, in line with the core values of the Council of Europe;
- Direct involvement of CSOs in the elaboration of a set of principles for government co-operation with civil society, in the framework of the 2016 Executive Training on Drug Policy;

- Contribution to overall strengthening civil society participation in drug policy and overcoming existing barriers of co-operation, by taking a clear stance on the role of CSOs and the importance of their participation in all stages of policy making;
- Development of a 'protocol' of interaction between CSOs and the Pompidou Group that was incorporated into the document on 'Mission, organisation, governance and working methods' [doc. P-PG/MinConf (2010) 4 rev2].

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Round table 'Towards societal consensus on alternatives to punishment in Georgia' (Georgia, 2017)*
- ➡ *Policy paper on 'Government interaction with civil society on drug policy issues: Principles, ways and means, opportunities and challenges', doc. P-PG (2016) 4*  

Review of national regulations on opiate substitution treatment

Ad hoc expert group, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Treat (2015) 1 rev, funded by voluntary contribution from Switzerland





Set objective:

- Draw up recommendations for regulations concerning opioid substitution treatment.

Attained results:

- Development of a list of recommendations enabling administrative authorities to propose regulatory measures for treatment of opioid dependence syndrome involving the prescription of agonist medicines, addressing issues such as safety of patients, monitoring of treatment, training of doctors and the role of the State;
- Guidance provided to administrative authorities regarding the key principles of opioid substitution treatment (OST), including detailed criteria for the appropriate use of OST in line with ethical standards, international law, scientific knowledge and medical best practice;
- Highlight of existing regulations that contradict the fundamental principle of access to care.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Statement on access to opioid agonist medications for the treatment of opioid dependency syndrome, doc. P-PG (2018) 2*  
- ➡ *Policy document on 'Opioid Agonist Treatment. Guiding principles for legislation and regulations', doc. P-PG (2017) 15*  

Introducing gender-specific dimensions in drug policies

Ad hoc expert group, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Gender (2015) 1 rev, financed by voluntary contributions from Italy




Set objectives:

- Consolidate and further enhance co-operation with the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe;
- Follow up on the recommendations from the 2014 research project on non-medical use of prescription drugs;
- Revitalise the role of the Pompidou Group as a trend-setter in addressing gender specific dimensions in drug policies;
- Analyse the phenomenon of violence against women caused by rape drugs to support the development of more effective detection methods and collection of evidence that can serve professionals working in this field (lawyers, forensic experts, judges, social workers, etc).








Attained results:

- Research findings published on the gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription medication in Europe and the Mediterranean region conducted in 17 countries, including recommendations for further research, policy development and practice;
- Better understanding of the links between violence and psychoactive substance use among women, following a review of literature and face-to-face discussions among practitioners;
- Assessment of responses by addiction treatment, risk and harm reduction services to violence experienced by women who use drugs, via consultation conducted in focus groups in 4 countries;
- Facilitation of interaction between professionals and policy makers, resulting in recommendations for adapting a gender-sensitive approach to treatment, policies and research related to women, drugs and violence;
- Collection and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative data on violence against women caused by rape drugs, with the aim of developing guidelines for researchers, practitioners and policy makers;
- Integration of a gender dimension into the MedNET work programme, through the implementation of projects aiming at improving access to health, prevention and treatment for women who suffer from substance use disorders, in particular in Algeria, Egypt and Lebanon;
- Strengthening of inter-institutional collaboration in the field of gender-awareness, including the introduction of a question on sexual violence under the effect of substances in the Eurostat survey on gender-based violence, and contribution to the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy.

Delivered outputs:

- ➔ *Summary of recommendations on introducing a gender dimension in drug policy, doc. P-PG/Gender (2018) 2* 
- ➔ *International conference 'Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Drugs Policies' (Mexico, 2018), doc. P-PG / Gender (2018) 1*
- ➔ *Presentation on the role of the Pompidou Group in introducing a gender dimension in drug policies at the Fifth Intersessional Meeting of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2018)*
- ➔ *Synthesis report on 'Violence, women and rape drugs', doc. P-PG/Gender (2017) 2*  
- ➔ *Seminar on 'Women and Drugs: from policy to good practice' (Italy, 2017), P-PG / Gender*

(2017) 5

- *Statement by Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on 'Women and Drugs: from policy to good practice'* 
- *Publication 'Improving the management of violence experienced by women who use psychoactive substances', doc. P-PG/Gender (2016) 2*  
- *Publication 'The gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs in Europe and the Mediterranean region', ISBN 978-92-871-8021-6*  
- *Seminar on 'Women, Drugs, and Violence in Europe and the Mediterranean Region' (Italy, 2015)*
- *Brochure 'Introducing a gender dimension into drug policy'*  

Co-operation with the Confidence Building Measures (CBM) Programme of the Council of Europe

Capacity building and technical co-operation, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/CBM (2015) 1 rev, jointly implemented with the Council of Europe's Confidence Building Measures Programme


Set objectives:

- Bring together professionals across divided lines to promote dialogue on and respect of human rights and European standards and to improve drug prevention and treatment services in post-conflict areas, notably in the Balkans and in former Soviet Union countries;
- Facilitate the aims of the Confidence Building Measures Programme and technical knowledge of the Pompidou Group.

Attained results:

- Dialogue established among professionals from Georgia and the disputed territory of Abkhazia focusing on drug prevention and treatment, underpinned by the core European values and human rights principles;
- A series of capacity-building activities (assessment missions, study visits, seminars) prepared for professionals to improve drug prevention and treatment services in the project area.

Delivered outputs:

- *Internet-based co-operation platform (2018)* 
- *Study visit to drug treatment centres in Lisbon and to the EMCDDA (Portugal, 2017)*
- *Second seminar and study visits on drug prevention and treatment (Germany, 2016)*
- *Seminar and study visits on drug prevention and treatment for professionals from Georgia and Abkhazia (Germany, 2015)*

Humanitarian and medical mission to Ukraine

Ad hoc expert group, mandate 2015-2016, ToR: P-PG/Crisis (2015) 1 rev, funded by voluntary contribution from Norway and as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine

Set objectives:

- Help ensuring that Council of Europe member States' obligation to provide adequate health care under Article 2 on the protection of life under the European Convention on Human Rights and the guiding principles of the policy paper on preventing risks and reducing harm linked to the use of psychoactive substances adopted by the Pompidou Group in 2013 are observed and implemented in times of severe crisis and situations of armed conflict;
- Support efforts that aim at preventing drug use and addiction as a result of post-traumatic stress disorders as a consequence of armed conflict.





Attained results:

- Continued support to opiate substitution treatment (OST) patients in Ukraine who were displaced due to the conflict in the Eastern and South-Eastern regions of Ukraine;
- Provision of training for medical professionals on dealing with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) and substance use disorders (SUD) amongst civilians and military personnel, as a means to prevent drug use and addiction in consequence of traumas suffered from the conflict;
- Assistance to the evaluation of psychosocial needs and the creation of an effective service provision system at the request of the Ministry of Defence, through bringing together Ukrainian authorities, NGOs and practitioners dealing with social and health services, as well as independent local and international experts;
- Needs assessment through on-site visits and workshops with service providers, with a view to understanding the relevance of trauma for drug prevention and treatment, and developing concrete recommendations for State authorities to address the issues of PTSD and SUD.

Delivered outputs:

- *Assessment Mission Report on psycho-social support of IDPs in Ukraine*
- *Roadmap for building a Community Resilience Centre in Ukraine to promote the wellbeing of community residents*

Analysing policy coherence, costs, impact and potentially adverse effects of drug policy measures

Effects and associated costs of drug control policies <i>Ad-hoc expert group, mandate 2015-2017, ToR: P-PG/Cost (2015) 1</i>
Set objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the costs and adverse effects related to drug control policies;• Identify costs carried by individuals and society related to the illegality of substances;• Prepare a model for cost/benefit analysis of existing drug control policies related to the above mentioned issues.
Attained results: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Attention of member States brought to the fact that all policies governing the control of illicit psychoactive substances, regardless of purpose or intention, come with costs in the form of public spending and with a risk of unintended consequences;▪ Concrete actions suggested in support of the member States for assessing the costs and unintended consequences of drug policies, as well as for developing practical guidance and assessment tools for policy makers.
Delivered outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➡ <i>Statement on 'Costs and consequences of drug control policies', doc. P-PG (2017) 9</i> ➡ <i>Expert report 'Costs and unintended consequences of drug control policies', doc. P-PG (2017) 3</i>  ➡ <i>Joint publication with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) on 'Public expenditure on supply reduction policies'</i> 
Co-operation with Belarus <i>Source: High-level meeting with CoE representatives and officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus in February 2014</i>
Set objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical assistance to Belarusian authorities in the field of drug policy, in the perspective of Belarus' future accession to the Pompidou Group.
Attained results: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Incorporation of a significant drug policy component in the Council of Europe's Action Plan for Belarus 2016-2018 covering law enforcement, prevention and treatment, following the interest expressed by Belarusian authorities in the Group's work;

- Participation of representatives of Belarus at the 79th meeting of the Permanent Correspondents, upon formal invitation of the Permanent Correspondents;
- Exchange of views with Belarusian experts and showcase of the European experience in the fields of new psychoactive substances, demand reduction strategies, drug-related cybercrime and drugs in prison;
- Assistance to the State Customs Committee in improving the drug control services of customs at Minsk International Airport.

Delivered outputs:

- *Study visit on demand reduction services (Germany, 2017)*
- *Conference on 'Drug Policies in Europe' (Republic of Belarus, 2016)*
- *Evaluation report on 'Custom's Anti-Drug Action in Minsk Airport', doc. P-PG/Airports(2016) 2*

Criminal Justice Responses to Drug Dependent Prisoners

Technical co-operation and capacity building programme, mandate 2015-2017, ToR: P-PG/CrimJust (2015) 1, funded by the EU/Council of Europe 'Partnership for Good Governance' (PGG)

Set objective:


Improve the response of criminal justice systems to drug dependent prisoners through

- capacity building and technical co-operation in four Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP): Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine;
- providing interventions in the field of drug treatment and rehabilitation.

Attained results:

- Regional co-operation established and best practices extended on tackling prison overcrowding, alternatives to imprisonment and rehabilitation among the four Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine;
- Contribution to accelerating the shift from highly punitive justice systems to a rehabilitative justice framework and aligning policies with European standards, as part of the reform process in EaP countries;
- Support to policy makers in Georgia in developing national policies on prison overcrowding and alternatives to imprisonment, in particular through assistance to the drafting process and organisation of high-level round tables and conferences;
- Enhancement of the quality of drug treatment services for drug-dependent prisoners in the Republic of Moldova, through establishment of the first Therapeutic Community to combat drug dependence in prisons, and training for professionals to support its operation (*joint effort with the 'Supporting Drug Treatment Services in Prisons' project*);
- Improvement of treatment and rehabilitation services in Armenian and Ukrainian prisons, through needs-based training and the implementation of harm reduction programmes leading, in particular, to a higher enrolment rate of prisoners in opiate agonist treatment (OAT) in Armenia.

Delivered outputs:

- *Final project report 'Criminal Justice Responses to Drug Dependent Prisoners'*
- *International Conference 'Rehabilitative Approaches to Drug Dependent Prisoners' (Moldova, 2017)*
- *International Conference 'Alternatives to Punishment and Drug Treatment in Prisons' (Georgia, 2017)*
- *Multiplier workshop 'Family Therapy and Risk Assessment' (Ukraine, 2017)*
- *Round table 'Towards societal consensus on alternatives to punishment' (Georgia, 2017)*
- *Training sessions on Therapeutic Community Methodology (Moldova, 2015-2017)*
- *Workshop 'Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation in Prisons' (Armenia, 2016)*
- *Workshop 'Mainstreaming good drug prevention practices in Ukrainian prisons' (Ukraine, 2015)*
- *Comparative study on a National roadmap for policy and legislative changes in Georgia*
- *Handbook on Therapeutic Community Methodology in the Republic of Moldova*
- *Video on the Family Conferencing Methodology in Ukraine* 

Identifying opportunities and challenges for drug policies arising from the Internet

Drug related Cybercrime

Expert group, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/Cyber (2015) 1

Set objectives:

- Provide a platform for law enforcement officials and experts for co-operation on drug related cybercrime connecting specialists from law enforcement (customs, police, prosecutors, judges, computer crime specialists), relevant international organisations and the private sector, notably IT companies and internet providers;
- Examine specific threats to society regarding drug trafficking and money laundering by using on-line trade, anonymising techniques and Darknet facilities and making use of postal and express courier services.

Attained results:

- A consolidated network of experts with increasing attention and participation both from member and non-member States;
- Development of an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of knowledge and best practices, modus operandi and new trends on drug traffic on the Darknet;
- Cryptomarket monitoring in order to provide group members with up-to-date information on the latest developments on the Darknet related to drug seizures and drug traffic;
- Contribution to a deeper understanding of the Darknet drug market, the use of open source intelligence for investigations, the role of virtual currencies and the operational strategies, by means of training exercises, workshops, as well as discussions based on case studies and successful operations.

Delivered outputs:

- ➡ *Conclusions and recommendations produced at the annual meetings, meeting reports (restricted to group members)*
- ➡ *Annual reports on Cryptomarket Monitoring (restricted to group members)*
- ➡ *Monthly Newsletter on Drugs and Cybercrime to members of the group*

Online gambling and the use of psychoactive substances

Ad hoc expert group, mandate 2016-2018, ToR: P-PG/Gambling (2016) 1, funded by voluntary contribution from Italy

Set objectives:

- Analyse the phenomenon of online gambling connected to the use of psychoactive substances;
- Develop strategies for preventive action and a political recognition of the phenomenon of online gambling related to the use of psychoactive substances.

Attained results:

- Collection of qualitative and quantitative data on the phenomenon of gambling, which helped providing an overview of the situation on online gambling associated with the use of psychoactive substances, including epidemiology, vulnerability factors and outreach methodologies;
- Development of training courses on addictology and on tackling on-line gambling in the framework of MedNET, which facilitated, in particular, the launch of the first gambling addiction care centre in Morocco;
- Support to members of MedNET for contributing to the 2018 International Multidisciplinary Symposium on Preventing Gambling Addiction (Switzerland).

Delivered outputs:

- *Expert report on 'Online Gambling and the use of Psychoactive Substances', doc. P-PG/Gambling (2018) 1*
- *Workshop on gambling (Morocco, 2017)*

Online self-evaluation tool for demand reduction

Ad hoc working group, mandate 2015-2018, ToR: P-PG/SEE (2015) 1

Set objective:

Foster co-operation among drug authorities in the region of South-East Europe and neighbouring countries by

- further developing co-operation on drug policy in South-East Europe;
- enhancing dialogue and the practical exchange of knowledge and experience among member States;
- supporting the development of coherent policies on psychoactive substances;
- focusing on achieving clear outcomes and tangible results.




Attained result:

- Implementation of an online self-evaluation test available in 7 languages and launch of a self-help intervention tool, which responded to the immediate need for internet-based drug demand reduction interventions in the region and increased outreach to women and youngsters, as confirmed by the participating countries.

Delivered output:

- *Online self-assessment tool, www.drughelp.eu* 

Co-operation activities and projects

ESPAD European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
Set objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support to participation of non-EU countries in annual ESPAD meetings.
Attained result: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Carrying out of ESPAD in non-EU countries.
Delivered output: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>ESPAD 2019 International Report</i>
ESSD European Society for Social Drug Research
Set objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support of publication of ESSD annual conference proceedings.
Attained result: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Publication of three ESSD annual conference proceedings.
Delivered outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Publication 'Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy', ISSN 0968-7637</i> ➤ <i>Publication 'Evidence in European social drug research and drug policy', ISBN 978-3-95853-263-2</i> ➤ <i>Publication 'Between street and screen – Traditions and innovations in the drugs field', ISBN 978-3-95853-143-7</i> 

Secretariat activities

The Secretariat of the Pompidou Group is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the work programme and providing the Statutory Bodies – the Ministerial Conference, the Permanent Correspondents, the Bureau and the Presidency – with the needed support and infrastructure to conduct their work.

The Secretariat also manages the budgets of the Group, which proved to be a challenging task in this work cycle amid the difficult budgetary situation of the whole of the Council of Europe, as a consequence of the suspended payment of membership contributions by the Russian Federation in summer 2017, and shortly after, the decision by Turkey to discontinue being a major contributor to the Organisation's budget. This required the imposition of budgetary restrictions in all Council of Europe services and led to freezing vacant posts and readjusting/postponing certain activities. Shortcomings in the budget were, however, partly compensated by voluntary contributions generously offered by member States – in particular by Belgium (in the form of a secondment), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway and Portugal – and by funding from the European Union. Important support was also given by those countries that hosted study visits and seminars and provided expertise and other services. Thanks to these contributions, as well as the commitment, the wide array of competences and the continued efforts of the Secretariat to make the most effective and efficient use of available resources, the work programme for the period 2015-2018 was implemented with the high level of quality which continues to be a hallmark of the Group, a great degree of responsiveness and an added value as confirmed by feedback from member States.

This success, along with regular contacts with non-member States through their Permanent Representations in Strasbourg and at various events, greatly contributed to the growth of the Pompidou Group family to 39 members following the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2015), Monaco (2016) and Mexico (2017). Enquiries about accession to the Pompidou Group were also received from Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus and the Palestinian National Authority**. These requests result from these countries having benefited from capacity-building and specific co-operation activities.

The Secretariat actively supported the Group's efforts to bring human rights to the forefront of drug policies by ensuring synergies and co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies. This commitment was accentuated in the promotion of the human rights dimension of drug policies in different side events at the annual sessions of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), including events on death penalty, drug treatment in prisons, new online interventions, and the integration of gender dimensions into drug policies.

One of the major international events in this respect was the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) 2016. A wide range of ideas developed in the context of the 2015 Executive Training dedicated to UNGASS, and the initiatives by several member States to organise side events during the Special Session in co-operation with the Pompidou Group, ensured bringing global attention to the Group's work and position. This considerably increased the visibility of the Group as a multidisciplinary forum and think-tank developing innovative and balanced responses to drug problems. The Secretariat was also closely involved in the organisation of a side event on treatment for young substance users initiated by Israel and in the session on integrating a gender approach into prevention and treatment services organised by Italy, Chile and Peru. Finally, a statement was issued on this occasion by Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland entitled 'Council of Europe works for a human rights compliant drug policy – in Europe and beyond', which accounts for the successful efforts of the Secretariat towards more transversal co-operation with other departments of the Organisation.

Other systematic inter-institutional contacts (formalised in *doc. P-PG (2017) misc 1*) have also led to synergies, joint actions and statements with other Council of Europe activities in the fields of children's rights, gender, bioethics, legal education, prisons and cybercrime, and to the inclusion of drug policy in country-specific Action Plans and Programmes.

Moreover, co-operation with other International Organisations and agencies was intensified in order to build synergies and avoid unnecessary overlaps, in particular with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addictions (EMCDDA), the European Union through the Brussels Liaison Office of the Council of

Europe, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Organisation of American States (OAS/CICAD) and the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

For a detailed overview on the Secretariat activities please refer to the regular reports by the Executive Secretary.

Evaluation and quality control

The Presidency together with the Secretariat continued to monitor the Pompidou Group's ability to meet policy makers' needs and provide added value to member States. At their 79th meeting, Permanent Correspondents initiated a mid-term review of Pompidou Group activities, in order to enable the Group to focus on activities consistent with the thematic areas of the 2015-2018 Work Programme and the expressed priorities of the Presidency. In view of the profound evaluation undertaken in 2012 (*doc. P-PG (2012) 12*), it was seen as sufficient to conduct a document-based assessment, notably using policy documents, expert reports, meeting reports, activity proceedings and replies to evaluation questionnaires following activity implementation. The evaluation process for this work cycle was completed with an assessment of the main achievements, results and key messages of Pompidou Group activities (*doc. P-PG (2018) 8*).

The review confirmed that the work programme was implemented in accordance with the agreed terms of reference; the activities carried out were in line with the set thematic priorities and achieved the expected results, whilst ad hoc activities brought additional results.

Being an enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, the Pompidou Group has also received recognition among countries from outside Europe. This follows naturally from the increasing globalisation in all policy fields and is demonstrated by the recent accession of Mexico and the increasing participation of non-European countries in the meetings of law enforcement co-operation, the Executive Training and the MedNET Network. Further this is reflected in the enhanced collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OAS/CICAD).

At the same time, Pompidou Group stakeholders attribute an increased relevance to the Group's work as can be seen from feedback received and assessments conducted after activities. One of the success factors in this regard is the introduction of new, innovative activity formats, exemplified in the concept of policy symposiums, and the re-shaping of existing activities such as the Executive Training, which all led to an increased attractiveness to participate in the Pompidou Group's work.

The ability of Permanent Correspondents to shape the Group's work around highly relevant topics for member States also increased the added value of the Group. Application of the flexible working methods and reacting in a timely manner to member States' proposals and requests play an equally important role.

Furthermore, the Pompidou Group has gained recognition as an integral part of the Council of Europe and as a body that brings to the drug policy discussion the Organisation's core values. It contributed significantly to increased awareness of the human rights dimension of drug policy and built synergies with other relevant departments.

Overall the outputs from the work conducted in the work cycle 2015-2018 provide a significant contribution towards supporting governments in their efforts to promote good governance in the field of drugs by linking policy, research and practice, as well as recognising the importance of co-operation with civil society.

Visibility and communication

In line with the priorities of the Norwegian Presidency and the reviewed communication strategy of the Pompidou Group (*doc. P-PG (2012) 18*), the Secretariat continued improving communication and visibility, adapting to the rapid development of information technology and to new ways of disseminating information.

The website of the Pompidou Group – its principal media outlet and official online information channel – migrated to the Liferay platform in 2017, along with all Council of Europe information pages. This provides a more modern visual appearance and more coherent communication of the Council of Europe as a whole. The website has recently been complemented with a periodical newsletter, in order to update stakeholders and other interested audience on the work of the Group in a more pro-active way. Important upcoming events organised by the Pompidou Group also appear on the main Council of Europe website, which has the proven potential of attracting media and public attention to happenings that are open to a wider audience.

Facebook and Twitter accounts of the Group are used as an informal and non-official communication channel. These are regularly fed with real-time information on the implementation of activities and the Group's presence at various international events, for the attention of a constantly increasing audience. On a YouTube channel, the Pompidou Group publishes videos and interviews about specific events, which are occasionally broadcasted by national television channels.

In terms of internal communication and outreach to certain Pompidou Group constituencies, four restricted sharing points (Law Enforcement, Airports, Precursors, Cybercrime) have been created for the benefit of expert groups. These sharing points were set up to enhance communication between expert groups working on similar problems in the different member States and to keep the groups up-to-date with new information in a very fast moving world.

Free-of-charge publications of the Pompidou Group proved another effective mean of increasing visibility. Some of the recent ones attracted considerable attention, among them the joint Pompidou Group – EMCDDA publication 'Public expenditure on supply reduction policies' and the study 'Treatment Systems in Prisons in Eastern and Southeastern Europe' which was promptly referenced in web-based documentary resources, such as the Worldwide Prison Health Research & Engagement Network (wephren.tghn.org), tweeted or commented on social networks (e.g. by EMCDDA) or otherwise posted by Organisations, like the Drug Policy Network SEE (dpnsee.org). Moreover, information brochures on the different activities of the Pompidou Group are regularly distributed at external events.

Overall, a combination of traditional and newer, 'fashionable', communication tools has increased visibility of the Pompidou Group over the last four years, which has certainly been an important factor in the growing number of invitations received by the Group to participate in the activities and events of other Organisations, academic entities and civil society. Effective communication about the innovative work of the Pompidou Group indeed plays a key role in ensuring on-going support for the Group's activities and strengthening its influence among stakeholders, decision makers and opinion formers, and asserts the Pompidou Group's presence in a competitive environment of drug policy co-operation.

* * *

Contact:

Pompidou Group Secretariat
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
FRANCE

e-mail: pompidou.group@coe.int
tel: + 33 3 88 41 20 00
fax: +33 3 88 41 27 85

www.coe.int/pompidou

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pompidougroup>

Twitter: @PompidouGroup