



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

P-PG/MinConf (2018) 4
28 November 2018

Pompidou Group Work Programme 2019–2022

‘Sustainable drug policies respectful of human rights’

**Adopted at the 17th Ministerial Conference
on 27 – 28 November 2018 in Stavanger, Norway**

Introduction

An evaluation of the Pompidou Group’s work conducted under the previous Pompidou Group work programme attested the Group an increasing relevance and continued value for its member States and the international community alike. Based on the conclusions drawn from the evaluation and the consultations with member States the 2019-2022 Work Programme was developed to meet their identified needs in an effective and efficient manner.

The Pompidou Group is recognised as an integral part of the Council of Europe that allows to present important drug policy aspects to other major policy areas. In return, the work of the other entities of the Council of Europe provides an inspiring and constructive input to the group. Its flexible working methods and ability to react timely to emerging issues together with the cost efficiency in conducting its work make it a tool and platform that governments can readily and rapidly put to use.

The Pompidou Group is an international standard bearer on the stages of UNGASS and the CND for bringing health and human rights to the forefront of, and furthering the approbation of the gender dimension in drug policies. Pompidou Group output and products provide significant contributions towards supporting governments in their efforts to deliver cost-effective and humane responses to drug problems.

The 17th Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group instructed the Permanent Correspondents to initiate a process aimed at reviewing the Group’s mandate, operation and working methods, with a view to the possible adoption of a revised Statutory Resolution by the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Group’s foundation, to be celebrated in 2021.

Principles

The present work programme aims to provide knowledge, support and solutions for effective, evidence based drug policies, which fully respect human rights based on the following principles:

Human rights are a transversal issue taken into account in all Pompidou Group activities in support of Member States meeting their obligations under the Council of Europe and United Nations Conventions in the delivery of their drug policies.

A balanced and multidisciplinary approach brings together the potential benefits of different strands in drug policy.

Innovative and evidence based policies require *linking policy with practice and research* as a prerequisite for informed, coherent and effective drug policy responses.

Effective and efficient use of available resources takes into account budgetary constraints faced in many member States.

The Pompidou Group is an integral part of the Council of Europe, the institutional guardian of human rights in Europe, which is reflected in the synergies sought with other parts of the organisation.

Attention is to be paid to avoid unwanted overlaps and duplication of efforts to demonstrate that the Pompidou Group is complementary to other regional/international organisations and produces added value.

Added value

The outcome and products of the activities under this work programme will constitute an added value for its members and the global community by:

Giving perspective and insight based on scientific evidence, professional experience, practice and political feasibility;

Offering direct cooperation contacts for governments, experts, professionals, and civil society with counterparts on all levels and areas of drug policies and related fields;

Facilitating multilateral action by bringing together different stakeholders around the same table, including, when appropriate, civil society and private sector, and providing the support structure for joint actions;

Holding a multidisciplinary forum of open debate for policy makers and policy advisors for dialogue on different policy responses, developments and new approaches;

Providing active support and a think-tank function for its member States in their efforts to further develop drug policy, strategies, action plans and legislation;

Empowering drug policy stakeholders by providing knowledge, training and capacity building based on the needs of member States.

Expected outcomes

The activities implemented under this work programme will provide:

- *Better overview* and understanding of drug policy approaches;
- *New insights* from research and practice on use and abuse of psychoactive substances, including co-morbidities;
- *Contribution to cost effectiveness* and identifying and awareness of the positive and the negative consequences of drug-related policies by providing tools, guidance and models of tried and tested practice.
- *Support for member States* in developing, implementing and evaluating drug policies, strategies and action plans;

- *International visibility* and recognition for successful national policies and interventions;
- *Flexible responses* to address emerging issues in a timely manner on an ad hoc basis;
- *Improved policy responses* by access to specialized, professional networks and cooperation platforms.

Products:

- ❖ *Policy papers and statements* directed at decision makers articulating derived conclusions and recommendations by member States on specific drug policy issues of high relevance;
- ❖ *Guiding principles* directed at drug policy makers in support of good governance and effective implementation of drug policies and related programmes;
- ❖ *Expert reports* on the key drug policy questions addressed to policy managers, professional and researchers that provide comprehensive insights and information on the key topics of the Pompidou Groups work programme;
- ❖ *Practical tools* designated for professionals in drug policy implementation and the provision of state of the art and innovative instruments for delivering services and responses.

Thematic priorities

The work programme is constructed around three thematic priorities for the work of the Pompidou Group for the period 2019 – 2022.

1. Good governance

- Understanding and placing emphasis on human rights dimensions and coherent drug policy interventions
 - Repository of applied human rights practices
 - Ways and means to achieve coherent drug policy
- Assessing outcomes, costs and consequences of drug policies
 - Tools for assessing costs of drug policies
 - Increased capability to mitigate possible consequences
 - Measures to reduce drug related stigma
- Role of drug policies in preventing risks and awareness of the positive and negative consequences of drug policies
 - Human rights based approach to law enforcement
 - The role of police in drug prevention

2. International drug policy development 2019 and beyond

- Strategy and cooperation towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- Access and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion
- Specific needs of and interventions for different target groups
 - Targeted interventions for different age groups
 - Early intervention
- Strengthening the gender specific dimension in drug policy

3. New challenges

- Challenges and responses related to NPS
- Challenges and responses related to stimulants

- Risks and potential of information and communication technologies
 - Substance based addictions and dependencies related to online practices
 - On-line tools in self-help and treatment
- Refugees, IDPS and migrants
 - Specific needs and interventions for refugees, IDPS and migrants, including unaccompanied minors
 - Tools for screening risk and addictive behaviour
- Drug- related cybercrime
- Artificial intelligence, machine learning and virtual reality as the new highs of the 21st century.

Why Pompidou Group?

The Pompidou Group is well placed and equipped to take on these challenges:

- The topics build on specific and unique expertise generated by the Pompidou Group under previous work programmes,
- Needed expertise is at the disposal of the Group in a feasible manner,
- Other international organisations are either not addressing the topics or the work is complementary to that of the Pompidou Group
- The areas of work and topics meet the articulated needs and interests of the member States and are potentially of interest to countries that consider joining the Group in the future.

Working methods

Focusing on priorities

The priorities set out in this work programme set the parameters for the annual plans for activity implementation.

In order to stay focused on priorities in the implementation of the Work Programme (WP), as well as making best and most economic use of resources and existing structures, actions under the WP should as far as possible be incorporated into the work plan of the *Permanent Activities*. Therefore, the Permanent Activities are expected to contribute to the priorities of the WP as far as possible and they also need to be feasible in view of their specific plan of work. This can be done in two ways: either (i) by taking on board/being assigned the implementation of a proposed action, or (ii) by developing and conducting an action that relates and contributes to priorities. In addition *ad hoc activities* (*expert groups, seminars, consultancies etc.*) can be set up to conduct work that cannot be incorporated in the Permanent Activities. According to the Pompidou Group's rules, these activities require a formal minimum of five member States in order to be adopted.

Synergies and efficiency

Synergies and efficiencies should also be achieved with the PG's working structures, in particular in view of the limited resources available and a clear profile of the PG. This can be achieved on different levels depending on the activity:

Permanent Correspondents (PCs): There will be two PC meetings per year. The first annual PC meeting will be mainly *thematic* with a focus on *open debate*, either by (i) connecting it back-to-back with a symposium, or (ii) an open debate, on a specific topic with invited speakers. This would mean that the managerial part (reporting on activities) of the PC meeting would be shortened and kept to a minimum in favour of thematic presentations and discussions. The second PC meeting in a year would

then be mainly devoted to managerial issues (reporting, review of terms of reference, activity plan for the following year etc.).

Permanent Activities: Permanent activities should be conducted in such a way that their work takes into account and contributes to the priorities of this Work Programme. The Terms of References of the permanent activities should identify how the activity will contribute to the thematic priorities of the work plan. When making choices on the development of concrete activities, meeting formats and agendas, working methods, and outputs, priority should be given as far as possible to the thematic priorities and actions agreed under the Work Programme.

The option of video-conferencing for all meetings will be analysed and, where possible, implemented, considering the travelling distance and expenses associated with the physical presence of some participants.

Work formats

Where an agreed action cannot be assigned to a Permanent Activity, it will be implemented in one of the following formats. The choice of format will depend on the types of outputs expected. Different outputs require different formats of work accordingly ('Structure enables function').

- *Forum of open debate* → insights and inspiration from policy practice and research
- *Working groups of Permanent Correspondents* → policy papers, guidelines, statements
- *Expert groups* → studies, tools, manuals, draft proposals for guidance
- *Trainings, seminars* → capacity building, awareness raising, signals to PCs
- *Networks* → professional cooperation, new developments, signals to PCs

In addition the Pompidou Group allows for the necessary *flexibility to react to emerging issues* in a fast evolving field. Member States can request the introduction of new activities in the work programme at any time on an ad hoc basis. Proposals for activities are adopted by Permanent Correspondents and must be relevant to the thematic priorities and concrete in terms of scope, purpose, expected outcome and timespan. The decision will be based on the following criteria:

- Proposal to be supported by at least five other delegations
- Consistency with the priorities of the work programme
- Potential for transversality and synergies with other activities
- Proximity to Council of Europe priorities
- Usefulness of expected outcomes and products to member States
- Expected results given the resources involved
- Realistic in terms of achieving expected results in time.

Expected results

Actions under the work programme set out clearly defined outcomes and outputs which guide the elaboration of their terms of reference and implementation of the action.

Terms of reference

Terms of reference of agreed actions adopted for implementation should be framed in a way that they take into account (i) existing work by other organisations, (ii) aim for potential synergies with implementation partners, and (iii) ensure that the expected results demonstrate the potential benefits and the added value of the Pompidou Group.

Evaluation

The implementation of actions is regularly monitored by the Bureau of PCs and annually in the fall meeting of PCs. In addition the following assessment formats are conducted with respect to each activity:

- Process evaluation
 - Post activity questionnaires (participants feedback)
 - Individual internal evaluation (Secretariat)
 - Collective internal evaluation (Secretariat)
 - Mid-term evaluation (Permanent Correspondents)

In terms of the priorities the results of the PG's work shall be assessed by an:

- Outcome evaluation
 - Compliance of activities and outputs with the set priorities.

Permanent activities

The following are the permanent activities of the Pompidou Group that have evolved over a longer period of time and which are recognised as Pompidou Group hallmark programmes. They address on-going issues which are also of significant interest to non-member States:

- Facility to support development, implementation and review of national drug policies
- Airports Group
- International Network on Precursor Control
- Drug Policy Academy
- European Prevention Prize
- MedNET Network
- Drug Policy Cooperation in South East Europe.

Facility to support development, implementation and review of drug policies

Aims: The aim of the advisory facility is to provide examples of best practice and advice on drug policy development, implementation and review to governments on an ad hoc basis.

Expected results: Guidance to member States, meeting their expressed needs and specific requests, as to the implementation of coherent drug policies, taking into account:

- The experiences of member States on how research can inform policy;
- Existing guidelines and tools, notably those of EMCDDA, UNODC and WHO, to be used in policy formulation and elaboration of the national action plans.

Airports Group

Aims: The aim is to develop harmonised multidisciplinary strategies for drug-detection at European airports and to enhance subject-related inter-airports co-operation by analysing drug trafficking trends, routes, risks, seizures, modi operandi, etc.; monitoring the risks of drug trafficking via general aviation; studying and monitoring the risks of the involvement of airport personnel in drug trafficking (airport crime); and defining practical modalities for co-operation among control services at international airports and to share good practices.

Expected results: A harmonised approach will contribute to improved seizure and investigation results on national levels, higher detection rates of trafficking in illicit drugs and help to reduce related airport crime, specifically by:

- Accelerated information and intelligence sharing among control services at airports;
- Organisation of buddy-approach assistance and training activities
- Enhanced coherence of approaches towards a harmonised international control strategy at international airports;
- Providing control manuals and directories of responsible cooperation partners.

International Network on Precursor Control

Aims: The aim of the network is to explore conditions for more rapid and direct contact and cooperation among the agencies and services in member and interested non-member States concerned with the prevention of drug precursor and pre-precursor products diversion.

Expected results: At the end of its mandate the group will be able to demonstrate that the accelerated information and intelligence exchange among representatives of different agencies have improved seizure and investigation results on a national level and in turn, enhanced the internal cohesion of the network.

Drug Policy Academy

Aims: The overall aim of the Drug Policy Academy is to link policy, research and practice in support of drug policy management. The Academy concept intends to facilitate know-how and build capacities for more effective implementation, management and evaluation of coherent drug policies and related programmes. Furthermore, the cooperation with a reputed University provides academic validation of the curriculum.

Expected results:

- Better understanding of the complexity of drugs policy, different policy options, and provision of tools for more effective policy implementation, management and evaluation.
- Enhanced and academically validated competences and skills of participants.
- Annual training courses on specific themes for drug policy managers (Executive Training on Drug Policy)
- Multi-module courses on drug policy management that will lead to an academically validated certification in drug policy management. In addition specialized training seminars will be conducted in the framework of ad hoc activities in the practical pursuit of the thematic priorities.

European Prevention Prize

Aims: The Prize seeks to contribute to the development of effective drugs prevention programmes, as well as to build partnerships with and recognize the contribution of civil society to drug policy development and implementation. It takes stock of and highlights effective and innovative approaches.

Expected results:

- Examples of good and effective practice validated and proliferated;
- Gaining new perspectives and insights on drug prevention;
- Genuine and profound civil society involvement in developing and delivering prevention messages and concepts facilitated;

- Opportunities to link up with successful grass-root prevention initiatives from different countries provided;
- Broad visibility of the Pompidou Group.

MedNET Network

Aims: MedNET, the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group was set up in 2006. It promotes cooperation, exchange and mutual transfer of knowledge between countries from both sides of the Mediterranean, respecting human rights and gender equality. The group will continue its development in promoting effective and appropriate answers. Through South-South, North-South and South-North cooperation, MedNET promotes interaction between policy, practice and science on addictive behaviours involving civil society.

Expected results:

- Annual work programme responding to the national and regional needs put in place
- Prevention actions of addictive behaviours
- collection of reliable, objective and comparable data and creation or support to national observatories
- national balanced strategies
- Socio-sanitary health care of addictive behaviours, risk and harm reduction
- Law enforcement and fight against drug trafficking
- Training and Research

Drug Policy Cooperation in South East Europe (SEE)

Aims: The drug policy cooperation in South-East Europe aims to foster cooperation among drug authorities in the region of South-Eastern Europe and neighbouring countries.

Expected results:

- On-line self-help tool
- Concept for the role of police in prevention and risk reduction
- Practical joint action facilitated by Cooperation Group of South-East European Airports Group

Work Programme 2019-2022 priorities, actions, implementation and expected outputs

Thematic priorities and related proposed action	Expected output →	Policy paper	Statement	Guidelines	Open debate	Training	Manual, tool	Expert report	Other output
	Activity format : ↓								
Good governance									
• Understanding human rights dimensions and coherent drug policy interventions	PC working party	X							
○ Repository of applied human rights practices	Expert group								X
○ Ways and means to achieve coherent drug policy	Drug Policy Academy					X	X		
• Assessing outcomes, costs and consequences of drug policies	PC meeting/ Symposium				X				X
○ Tools for assessing costs of drug policy	Expert group						X		
○ Increased capability to mitigate possible consequences	Seminars/Symposium						X		X
○ Measures to reduce drug related stigma	Drug Policy Academy			X		X			
• Role of drug policies in preventing risks and awareness of the positive and negative consequences of drug-related policies	PC meeting/ Symposium	X			X				
○ Human rights based approach to law enforcement	Drug Policy Academy			X		X			
○ The role of police in drug prevention	Expert group							X	X
International drug policy development – 2019 and beyond									
• Strategy and cooperation towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	PC meeting/ Symposium		X		X				
• Access and availability of controlled substances for medical & scientific purposes	PC working party		X						
• Specific needs of and interventions for different target groups	PC meeting/ Symposium				X				
○ Targeted interventions for different age groups	Expert group	X						X	
○ Early intervention	Expert group		X					X	
• Strengthening the gender specific dimension in drug policy	Cooperation network				X				X
New challenges									
• Challenges and responses related to NPS	PC working party		X						
• Challenges and responses related to stimulants	Expert group							X	
• Risks and potential of information and communication technologies	PC meeting/ Symposium		X		X				
○ Substance based addictions and dependencies related to online practices	Expert group							X	
○ On-line tools in self-help and treatment	SEE Coop						X		

• Refugees, IDPS and migrants	PC working party		X						
○ Dealing with addictions among unaccompanied minors and refugees	Drug Policy Academy							X	
○ Tools for screening risk and addictive behaviour	Expert group					X			
• Drug-related cyber crime	Expert group							X	X
• Artificial intelligence, machine learning and virtual reality	Expert group							X	X