

Pompidou Group 2018 Executive Training

**Evaluating the development,
implementation and impact
of drug policy**



...AND SUCCEED!

Scope and Purpose of the Training

Policy evaluation is an integral part of good governance. This principle applies equally to all components of a drug policy: strategies, action plans and interventions. The value of evaluation is recognised as the key element to design and implement drug policies that yield the anticipated results and ensure the most effective use of resources. Furthermore evaluation can help to contain unintended consequences of interventions, be a source of institutional learning, as well as ensuring the transparency and accountability.

The training will focus on different methodological approaches and tools that have been tried and tested. Inputs on scope and types of evaluation together with practical exercises will enable participants to learn about evaluation concepts and get acquainted with the tools for implementation. Overall the training seeks to provide participants with the necessary competence and skills to choose and apply the appropriate evaluation concept for their professional context.

The training will take into account relevant activities under our current Pompidou Group work programme to build on the Group's expertise and create synergies, which includes notably:

- Assessment of policy coherence by using PG policy coherence markers
- Measuring costs and evaluating consequences of different drug policy options
- Different concepts for human rights indicators in drug policy assessment

Course outline

The training course consists of the two modules that are conducted during two in-residence seminars. Due to high demand there are two sets of dates available for inscription.

Four main components shape the content of the two-module trainings:

Module I

1. Understanding different evaluation concepts

Policy, strategy, action plans and programmes require different concepts and approaches to evaluation design. Relevant evaluation methods promoted by international organisations will form the starting point to acquaint participants with a profound understanding of the subject. The feasibility of different sets of indicators and markers as well their limitations will be addressed. In addition to indicators in the area of treatment and demand, the concept of human rights indicators for measuring policy coherence will be introduced for

Dates and Locations

Option 1

Module I:
20 – 22 February 2018, Lisbon
Module II:
22 – 25 May 2018, Venice

Option2

Module I:
19 – 21 June 2018, Lisbon
Module II:
18 – 21 September 2018, Venice

The Programme targets

- ▶ Managers from governmental institutions that are responsible for developing and/or implementing drug policies and/or coordinating related programme implementation, service delivery and cooperation with stakeholders.
- ▶ Representatives from civil society organisations working in various sectors related to drug policy.

Languages

To ensure a highly interactive training and to allow direct communication between all participants the working language will be English.

Applications

To apply for the Training, please contact the Permanent Correspondent of your country or the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group.

**The application deadline is
22 December 2017**

Contact and further information

E-mail: pompidou.training@coe.int
Web site: www.coe.int/pompidou

discussion. To exemplify the choice, design and application of an evaluation, the Portuguese example will be looked at in more depth in discussions with policy makers, professionals and researchers involved.

By the end of the first component participants will have been acquainted with different evaluation concepts and designs together with relevant criteria for the needed feasibility considerations.

2. Seven-step guide to support managing evaluation

Under this component participants will conduct hands-on exercises and will be trained on implementing the seven-step guide to support the commissioning and managing of policy evaluations developed by the EMCDDA. The seven-step guide aims to assist professionals in choosing the best approach to suit their circumstances and to maximise the value of any evaluation.

By the end of the second component participants will have been acquainted with tools and procedures to be able to practically implement an evaluation process, including the ability to initiate institutional learning.

Module II

3. Identifying unintended consequences

To evaluate and improve drug policy, it is imperative to know and take note of all possible effects of different interventions and actions. All policies, regardless of purpose or intention, come with a risk of unintended consequences. Unintended consequences are the effects that are not deliberate or intentional; they are not the targeted effects of any given action or policy. Some of these unintended consequences are health-related and can have direct effects on morbidity and mortality, or they can indirectly affect factors such as availability, accessibility and utilisation of health care services. Other unintended consequences are related to an array of social and economic effects for the drug user, their families and society as a whole. Understanding unintended effects and assessing their consequences are of policy value for two reasons: first, they should be taken into account when policy decisions are made and, second, these unintended or unwanted but predictable effects should be mitigated when possible and the overall outcome ameliorated.

By the end of the third component participants will have a better understanding of possible unintended effects of drug policy actions and understand how to assess the consequences.

4. Assessing outcome and associated costs

Any comprehensive policy evaluation needs to have reasonable estimates of the resources spent, invested or needed, to implement the interventions concerned. Together with a measure of the size of the phenomena addressed, those estimates can reveal the extent to which the desired policy intentions and intended results are matched by resource allocation. This component will focus on the assessment of expenditures as a necessary tool for implementing thorough policy evaluations. Public expenditure studies should mirror all relevant activities and policy approaches and may be particularly appropriate in times of austerity. Accurate estimates of public spending will help policymakers plan relevant interventions and allocate necessary funds to authorities in charge of specific aspects of the policy's implementation. A thorough assessment of drug policy expenditures will also contribute to improved transparency and accountability of public institutions. Estimates may provide information on demand and supply reduction costs and enable cross-country comparisons on the level of different spendings.

By the end of the fourth component participants will have be able to have the attained abilities to conduct sound planning, improved knowledge of cost-effective resource allocation.

Expected results

The competences and know-how attained during the training will enable participants to:

- ▶ Assess whether the expected or desired results of a drug policy are actually reflected in action;
- ▶ Plan policy and services and provide relevant advice to senior managers and decision makers;
- ▶ Develop efficient resource allocation and ensure that resources will be used to a maximum effect;
- ▶ Reframe policies and services in situations of emerging budgetary constraints.

Working methods

The Executive Training consists of two interconnected modules that are facilitated by two seminars. The work is conducted in plenary sessions and working groups in a highly participatory format combined with on-site visits to selected projects and institutions. The activities are planned and organised by a group of experts in cooperation with the Secretariat and Permanent Correspondents. High-profile facilitators and resource persons will be engaged to provide the best available expertise meeting the needs of participants. A detailed on-line participation form filled in by participants together with their CVs will help the group of experts to get an overview over the individual profiles of participants and serve as a basis to prepare the training.

Active participation

To ensure a highly participatory learning process the training is limited to a maximum of 25 participants per one training set (preference will be given to Pompidou Group and Council of Europe member States in case this number is exceeded).

Participants are required to commit themselves to prepare for and participate in both seminars. It is not possible to participate only in one module.

Additional value

In addition to the capacity building effect of the training activity, the seminars will produce information of interest to policy makers, in particular how to deal with challenges in evaluating drug policy. In this way the feedback from participants on national level is a source of information for the decision making bodies. As for the level of the Pompidou Group, participants will prepare a list of observations based on the learning experiences during the training for consideration by Permanent Correspondents.

Pompidou Group Executive Training targeting managers working in different spheres of drug policy aims at enhancing not only the knowledge related to the work domain, but also to strengthen their managerial capacities and skills.

Follow-up

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

To know more about the Pompidou Group Executive Training, please watch this [video](#).

