



THE ROLE OF POLICE IN DRUG PREVENTION

International seminar organised by the Pompidou Group
in cooperation with the National Bureau for Drug Prevention of Poland
and Res Humanae Foundation



WARSAW, POLAND, 12-15 NOVEMBER 2019

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Contact the Permanent Correspondent of your country and ask for the participation form.
[Click to see list of Permanent Correspondents.](#)

Deadline for registration: 10 September 2019

In case of any difficulties, please contact the Secretariat via PompidouGroup@coe.int.

The seminar language will be English.

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Historically, police and law enforcement agencies have been tasked with organizing and implementing drug prevention activities. While the main responsibility for drug policy has shifted from the law enforcement to the health sector, evidence on the effectiveness of existing prevention programs and approaches suggest that there is a vital need for examining the role of all stakeholders in prevention efforts. Nevertheless, the role of law enforcement under a public health-oriented drug prevention policy, which focuses on minimizing harm and risks rather than preventing drug-related crimes, has been little discussed. For the purposes of this seminar, drug prevention may include preventing, delaying or reducing drug use and its negative consequences and preventing the development of problematic drug use.

Despite increasing collaboration between law enforcement authorities in different countries, illicit drug problems appear likely to increase in the future because of the vast profits available, continuing (and increasing) demand and more permissive attitudes concerning drugs among young people. The role of law enforcement services play an important role when restricting the availability of illicit drugs but increasing emphasis needs to be given to reducing demand, and as such, harm. This stresses the importance of a multi-sectorial approach operating at both national and local levels with the objective of reducing drug-related crime, reducing the drugs' acceptability and availability, and mitigating their harmful consequences. The latter requires a commitment for close collaboration between law enforcement and drug treatment services to maximize effectiveness. Future progress depends on firm commitments to providing adequate and effective drug treatment services, conducting research to develop and evaluate more effective diversion schemes, improving collaboration between sectors and effective leadership.

AIM OF THE SEMINAR

The seminar will provide insights on the experiences made with different concepts and strategies of involving police in drug prevention. It will provide a forum of open discussion on the feasibility of new approaches for the future. The main aspect will be to look at innovative ways through which law enforcement could implement effective approaches regarding different aspects of an overall prevention concept.

SEMINAR TOPICS

1. Origin and evolution of police as key actors in drug prevention
2. Objectives of police prevention: past and present
3. Overview of the different concepts and approaches of drug prevention
4. Experiences with police work in drug prevention
 - Impact on prevalence rates
 - Effectiveness of applied programmes and measures
 - Evidence base
5. Future perspectives
 - Options for re-orientation of the prevention scope
 - Concrete perspectives and examples of new innovative practices

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

Police officers who have been involved in the design and/or implementation of drug prevention programmes, and other professionals associated with prevention programmes involving police or other law enforcement agencies.