

‘Role of different actors in drug prevention’

Pompidou Group 2020 Executive Training



Dates and Locations

Module I:
28 – 31 January 2020,
Oslo,
Norway

Module II:
30 March – 3 April 2020,
Valetta,
Malta

Why?

Today there is a wide awareness that many factors can protect young people from drug use while other factors put them at risk of abusing drugs. Strong parent-child attachment, appropriate parental supervision, commitment to school, academic success, and friends who have conventional values are examples of protective factors. Chaotic family environments, ineffective parenting, poor academic performance, and deviant peer influences all put youths at risk. We also know that the impact of specific risk and protective factors may diminish or increase as young people develop, and their

circumstances change. Prevention concepts therefore attempt to take multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to tackle this challenge. While concepts and manuals have been developed to take all these aspects into account and provide guidance for comprehensive prevention programmes, in practice it is often difficult to put these into realisation. This suggests that while we know what we should do, we struggle with how to do it. The 2020 Executive Training focuses on 'how to do it' and provide insights and guidance on how to make comprehensive prevention programmes work.

How?

The Pompidou Group Executive Training is a highly interactive learning platform where participants are learning by doing and sharing worldwide experiences. It is based on modern approaches to knowledge gaining through active participation, thought-provoking discussions and practical vision on challenges and opportunities. The Executive Training provides participants with needed tools for implementation of effective, comprehensive and innovative drug policies adopted to their national context. This unique format of further education for professionals is inviting open-minded people ready to engage, interact, share and grow together. One of the key features that sets the Executive Training apart from other training offers is the

two-module concept. This gives participants the possibility to get to know each other better - an aspect which is crucial for active and meaningful networking to learn more in-depth about practices in other countries. In addition, a combination of theory and focus on hands-on practices looking at what works and what does not shapes the format of this yearly training. It combines plenary sessions, individual and group work, as well as on-site visits to selected projects and institutions. Places for the seminars are selected to allow for meaningful study visits. High-profile facilitators and resource persons from around the world are engaged to provide the best available expertise, reaching beyond European experiences, in meeting participants' professional needs.

What?

The training programme will cover multiple facets of today's real-life diversity and the key actors in society that contribute to the well-being of the population.

The private sector and the work place

play a significant role in environments related to drug use and addictions. In relation to alcohol and tobacco they are the producers and promoters of use. Entertainment industry organises events and provides environments where the use of legal and illegal substances is often prevalent. However, such events could also be used as a prevention promoting setting. More generally, every enterprise has also a vested interest to avoid addictions among staff that impede on performance and therefore on productivity. At the same time the work environment offers unique opportunities to provide for prevention related interventions.

Peer groups and leisure activities

are considered key factors in creating a risk protecting environment and offering alternatives to boredom that leads to drug and alcohol use, as well as excess of on-line activities. Such activities can only develop their anticipated prevention potential if the leaders and the programmes framing the activities can present credible alternatives to young people. This requires role models that can compete with the attractiveness of personalities that stand for fast thrills and sensation seeking. Leisure time offers, in order to be effective, must be incorporated into a wider community context by co-opting parents and school. At the same time peer leaders are probably the most effective influencers once teenagers enter adulthood.

Sports

are widely perceived as a meaningful offer to young people that can prevent drug use and addictions. Experience has shown that the expected positive effects of sports depend on the abilities of coaches and trainers to deliver more than the techniques of an athletic discipline. They must also provide life skills training towards strong and responsible personalities. If this is not in place, and on top a sport is solely experienced as an arena of competition where winners and losers emerge, sports activities cannot develop the needed preventive effects. On the contrary, highly competitive sports may even ultimately lead to substance use. Sport must consequently be developed on a wider base than simply athletic achievements.

Police and prisons

play a key role in prevention and not only in relation to illegal drugs. In daily work law enforcement officers deal all too often with the wide range of consequences resulting from the use of legal and illegal substances and addiction related behaviours. The same is true for the criminal justice and prison systems. Their role has mainly been seen and defined as crime prevention. Consequently, preventive action by the police is expected to come from the toolbox of repression: seizures, arrests, negative awareness raising (scare messages). However, as a source and force for community safety and social cohesion police have a much greater potential in playing a role in prevention and early intervention. In the same way prisons that are widely perceived as an incubator of drug use have also unique opportunities to prevent drug use and associated harms.

Course programme:

1st

Module

During this seminar participants will receive an overview of existing prevention approaches and contributions that different stakeholders can provide to the functioning of a comprehensive prevention concept. Furthermore, a better understanding of the requirements for making programmatic choices and to make best use of stakeholders' potentials will be explored.

Review of existing prevention approaches and programmes:

- Experiences with what works and what does not
- Defining prevention goals and objectives
- Understanding factors that determine choices from among different prevention options

Involving peers:

- Introduction to the life skills training concept
- Training and identifying team leaders

Police as partners:

- Community based policing
- Developing trust and mutually beneficial relationships
- Early intervention

Sports and leisure

- Re-defining the objectives and role of sports in the community
- Qualifying trainers and coaches
- Delivering prevention interventions in festival, concerts and club scenes

2nd

Module

The second seminar will consist of two parts. Participants will be introduced to ways and means to engage with 'difficult-to-engage-with' stakeholders. They will also learn to re-frame approaches from the concept of cooperation to co-creation and how to be mindful of needs and potentials of all partners. Furthermore, participants will be acquainted with methods on how to take unintended consequences of interventions into account.

Engagement with the private sector

- Examples on possibilities to involve alcohol and tobacco industries in prevention
- Lobbying internet providers and internet based companies to engage in prevention
- Drug and alcohol prevention at the work place

Mobilising parents to play an active role

- Understanding parental rights, responsibilities and prevention aimed restrictions

- Contributions and actions by parents that constitute protective factors
- Mechanisms for committing parents to play an active role in prevention

Building multi-stakeholder commitment

- How to generate engagement of relevant stakeholders concerned
- Defining common goals and messages
- Ensuring quality and professionalism in delivering prevention

Who?

Profile of participants

The Pompidou Group Executive Training targets professionals with managerial responsibilities from all sectors of drug policy engaged in social, health and law-enforcement sectors. These include:

- Staff from governmental or public institutions responsible for drug policies, related programmes, service delivery and cooperation with stakeholders.
- Members of civil society organisations working in various sectors related to drugs, addictions and drug policies.

The Training aims at enhancing the knowledge related to the work domain, as well as to strengthen managerial capacities and skills.

Applications:

Want to be part of the 2020 Executive Training?

To ensure a highly participatory learning process the training is limited to a maximum of 30 participants (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.

To apply for the Training, please contact the Permanent Correspondent of your country or the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group and ask for the participation form. [Click here](#) to see the list of Permanent Correspondents.

Languages

To allow direct communication between all participants coming from several continents the working language will be English.

Applications

The application deadline is 15 November 2019.

Want to know more about the Pompidou Group Executive Training?

Have a look at [this video](#).

Contact and further information:

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

Executive Training: part of the Pompidou Group Drug Policy Academy

Starting from 2020, the Executive Trainings offered by the Pompidou Group are organised as integral part of the new Pompidou Group Drug Policy Academy. The Academy was created with the academic support of the Syracuse University, USA. It intends to meet diverse interests and needs of professionals working with the planning, implementation and evaluation of drug policies. The Drug Policy Academy constitutes a framework that formally validates gained knowledge and competences by participating in Pompidou Group activities. In doing so professionals working in drug policy related areas may obtain a formal recognition of their further education. The Drug Policy Academy is conceptualised around linking policy, research and practice in support of drug policy management.

Active participation in different activities organised by the Pompidou Group will allow participants to obtain academically certified 'contact hours' (CH) or 'Continuing Education Units (CEU's). When reaching a specified level of CH or CEU a Certificate in Drug Policy issued by the Council of Europe Pompidou Group and Syracuse University will be awarded. For example, completing two full Executive Training courses would lead to the Certificate in Drug Policy. For further details please contact the Pompidou Group Secretariat.

