

JORDAN and MedNET

**MedNET: the Pompidou Group's
network for cooperation
on drugs and addictions
in the Mediterranean region**

Council of Europe, Strasbourg

**Pompidou Group
Council of Europe
International Cooperation Group
on Drugs and Addictions**



Jordan



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JORDAN AND MEDNET

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Contents

MEDNET: THE POMPIDOU GROUP'S NETWORK FOR COOPERATION ON DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION	5
Priorities	6
How the network works	7
Cooperation with Jordan	9
IMPACT OF MEDNET IN JORDAN	12
Flagship action by MedNET by Lt. Colonel: Jamil Al Habaibeh, Head of International Affairs Section, Anti-Narcotics Department the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	12

MedNET: the Pompidou Group's network for cooperation on drugs and addictions in the Mediterranean region

MedNET is the Mediterranean cooperation network on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group. It promotes cooperation, exchange and reciprocal transfer of knowledge between countries on both sides of the Mediterranean, while respecting human rights and integrating the gender dimension.

■ Created in 2006 around 5 countries: Algeria, France, Morocco, Tunisia and the Netherlands, following a feasibility study carried out by France and the Netherlands, the network has undergone constant geographical and thematic development, contributing to the promotion of effective and adapted responses to the issue of addictions.

■ Prior to the creation of the MedNET network, the Pompidou Group held a conference in Malta in 1999 on "Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region on Drug Use". Several years later, in 2003, in Rabat, the MedSPAD project, an adaptation of ESPAD in Europe, was launched with the aim of conducting the first school surveys in the region that will provide an overview of drug use among young people in schools and their attitudes towards drugs.

■ This MedSPAD project has evolved, setting up a committee to share experiences between European and Mediterranean countries, revising its methodology in 2021 and adopting a new questionnaire with questions

common to the ESPAD 2019 questionnaire, broadening the questions to new psychoactive substances, gambling and the use of social media with the aim of achieving, in the long term, a level of comparability between the countries conducting the MedSPAD survey but also with the countries carrying out the ESPAD survey.

■ MedNET celebrated its 10th anniversary in Rabat in 2016.

■ At present the network has seventeen countries:

- ▶ Ten member countries of the Pompidou Group: Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey.
- ▶ Seven non-Pompidou Group countries: Algeria, Egypt, Spain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine*, Tunisia.

■ The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the European Commission and the WHO participate as observers in the meetings.

■ **The objective of MedNET is to promote cooperation and mutual exchange of knowledge between Mediterranean countries (North-South and South-North) as well as within Mediterranean countries (South-South).**

■ **The ultimate goal is to develop and implement coherent policies on addictive behaviours, based on scientifically validated knowledge.**

Priorities

- ▶ Prevention of addictive behaviour
- ▶ Promotion of the collection of reliable, objective, and comparable data and creation or consolidation of national observatories
- ▶ Development of balanced national strategies
- ▶ Socio-health care of addictive behaviours and risk and harm reduction
- ▶ Law enforcement and combating drug trafficking
- ▶ Training and research

* This designation should not be interpreted as recognition of a State of Palestine, without prejudice to the position of each Council of Europe member state on this issue.

How the network works

Participation

■ Membership of MedNET is voluntary and based on mutual interest. Any country around the Mediterranean and any country interested in this cooperation can join the network. The membership procedure consists in the sending of a letter of commitment by the Minister in charge of drug policy to the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group and the nomination of a national representative empowered to commit on behalf of his or her government.

Presidency

■ The Presidency and the Vice-Presidency are held for a period of one or two years in turn by a country from the northern shore and a country from the southern shore. In order to ensure the continuity of the work, the country in charge of the Vice Presidency assume the Presidency the following year. The election is by consensus.

Secretariat

■ The MedNET Secretariat ensures the implementation of the work program and the smooth running of the network, ensuring synergy with the work of the Pompidou Group and other Council of Europe entities.

■ It manages the MedNET budget, composed of voluntary contributions from member countries and other funding sources (Council of Europe, European Commission, etc.).

Meetings

■ The Steering Committee, composed of representatives of the participating countries, meets at least once a year to adopt the work program based on the projects submitted by each country, to review the implementation of ongoing projects and to discuss future activities.

■ The EMCDDA participates in the steering committee and shares its expertise, particularly in data collection and analysis, and in its support for national observatories.

Working methods

■ The MedNET network facilitates the recognition, dissemination and appropriation of good practices and proven experiences in partnership with

other key national and international actors working in the region. In this way, member countries, through their representatives, share and exchange their knowledge and know-how, making available to the network the evidence collected in all the identified areas.

■ They commit themselves to raise awareness of MedNET's actions among the relevant national authorities.

■ An annual activity report presents the national and regional projects implemented.

■ All the work of the MedNET network is subject to regular in-depth evaluation.

Financing

■ MedNET participating countries commit themselves to contribute to the network's budget, either financially or by making their resources available, in order to ensure the implementation of projects.

■ Each project is funded in part by the requesting country and by a financial or in-kind contribution.

- ▶ Voluntary contributions 2006-2021, notably from France and Italy,
- ▶ South Program (2012-2021) funded by the EU and implemented by the Council of Europe
- ▶ Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy funding since 2016 for the Morocco and Tunisia Action Plans.
- ▶ Funding from the Pompidou Group's Ordinary Budget for MedNET Steering Committee meetings

Added value of the network

- ▶ Adaptation of the methodology and recognized tools to the cultural context of the Southern Mediterranean such as MedSPAD;
- ▶ Support for the launch of national MedSPAD school surveys;
- ▶ First assessment of the situation between the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean by MedSPAD;
- ▶ Support for the implementation and/or change of legislation;
- ▶ Training in the field of health;
- ▶ Support for the creation of care centres;

- ▶ Bridging role between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean;
- ▶ Support for the introduction of different treatment modalities, including opioid substitution therapy;
- ▶ Gender mainstreaming in health care services: women's specific needs in accessing care;
- ▶ Awareness raising and capacity building in the field of drugs through meetings of different agencies from different sectors of prevention, treatment and law enforcement;
- ▶ Flexibility in implementing programs to meet emerging needs;
- ▶ Evaluation of MedNET actions by stakeholders;
- ▶ Value for money and efficiency.

Cooperation with Jordan

2009

- ▶ Participation of Jordan took place in the high-level MedNET conference in Strasbourg.

2010

- ▶ Participation of Jordan in the regional seminar in Cairo on the treatment of addiction and the treatment demand indicator.
- ▶ Jordan became a member of the MedNET in May 2010 following a field visit to Jordan to identify the opportunities for co-operation with this country.
- ▶ Jordan hosted a regional seminar on the collection of data.
- ▶ Participation in the regional seminar in Beirut on supply indicators, synthetic drugs and precursors and in the seminar held in Morocco (November 2010) to prepare the foundations for the establishment of national observatories/resource centres.

2011

- ▶ Jordan took part in a field visit to France in June on treatment and care centres.
- ▶ A two-week training course in occupational therapy at the University of Malta for four people: two from the Anti-Narcotics Department Treatment Centre and two from the National Centre for Rehabilitation of drug users.

- ▶ To optimise training and work on the collection of treatment demand data, the Director of the National Centre for Rehabilitation of drug users visited the national drugs observatory in Malta.

2012

- ▶ Launch of a project on collecting information on treatment demand to enable each treatment and care centre to manage its operations more effectively and supply data on the individuals undergoing treatment at a given time.
- ▶ Participation in the regional seminar on the use of drug research in policies in the Mediterranean region, Rabat.
- ▶ Participation on regional seminar on airports, Strasbourg.

2013

- ▶ Follow-up of the project to collect data on treatment demand: elaboration of a first contact form.

2014

- ▶ Participation in the workshop on the fight against drug trafficking in airports, Strasbourg.

2015

- Participation in the Pompidou Group's international seminars:
 - ▶ 30th annual meeting of the cooperation group of drug control services at European Airports and in General Aviation, Strasbourg.
 - ▶ International network on control of precursors, annual meeting, Prague (Czech Republic).

2016

- Participation in the Pompidou Group's international seminars:
 - ▶ 31st annual meeting of the cooperation group of drug control services at European Airports and in General Aviation, Strasbourg.
 - ▶ International network on control of precursors, annual meeting, Warsaw, (Poland), 10-14 October.
 - ▶ Participation to the « 5th international francophone symposium on the treatment of opioid addiction », Rabat, November 30th, December 1st and 2nd 2016.

2017

- ▶ Participation to the General Aviation meeting, 26-28 April 2017, Madrid, Spain.
- ▶ Participation to the Pompidou Group Airports seminar, 6-8 June 2017, Strasbourg, France.
- ▶ 12th EXASS Net Meeting Refugees and Drugs: Estimating needs, support practices, preventing risks, 30 October-1 November 2017, Athens, Greece.

2018

- ▶ International Multidisciplinary symposium: Gambling addiction: Science, Independence, Transparency, 27-29 June 2018.
- ▶ Participation to the Working group on cyber-criminality linked to drugs, 5th annual meeting, 18-19 April 2018, Dublin, Ireland.
- ▶ Participation to the Airport Group, 6-8 June 2018, Strasbourg, France.

2019

- ▶ Training Workshop - Prevention of drug use among children and youth, 3-4 March.
- ▶ Study visit – Prevention of drug use among children and youth, 25-29 November, Morocco.
- ▶ Participation to the international capacity building seminar “Drug Prevention Approaches that Make a Difference”, 25 – 26 September 2019, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- ▶ International Seminar on “Refugees and Drugs: estimating needs, support practice, preventing risks”, 7-8 October 2019, Athens, Greece.

2020

- ▶ Participation to the MedNET steering committee.
- ▶ The training workshop and study visit on prevention have been postponed until 2021.
- ▶ Participation to the AIRPORTS GROUP meeting, 8 September 2020, Videoconference.
- ▶ Participation to the GENERAL AVIATION meeting, 9 September 2020, Videoconference.

2021

- ▶ Study visits were postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Impact of MedNET in Jordan

by the Anti-Narcotics Department

■ Jordan joined MedNET end of 2009. Since then, Jordan participated in several events organised by MedNET (workshops, seminars, meetings, visits, etc.) through which Jordan benefited through the exchange of information and experience with other member and non-member countries.

■ Jordan carried out an important project by funding and advice of MedNET: the data collection project which is expected to provide Jordanian strategy planners and decision makers with the necessary analysis for data and figures on addiction and abuse trends in order to design effective strategies and research to deal with drug abuse problems.

Flagship action by MedNET by Lt. Colonel: Jamil Al Habaibeh, Head of International Affairs Section, Anti-Narcotics Department the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

■ The cooperation with MedNET/Pompidou Group over these years has been effective and positive in building the capacities of some of our employees in the Anti Narcotic department in the field of prevention and treatment who in involved in your programs and activates, who have reflected these experiences on all workers accompanying them in the same fields.

■ According to human rights the right and of drug addict's treatment, Jordanian law gives the drug abuser the opportunity to apply for treatment upon his request before been arrested.

■ Over the past two years, Jordan has formed a national committee of all bodies and authorities concerned with drug control to develop a comprehensive national strategy that includes all relevant official and unofficial institutions and define their duties in combating drug scourge in three axe, prevention, treatment and combating drugs. The national strategy is in its final stages of approval and implementation.

■ As for the National Observatory for data of drug users, the Anti Narcotic department is the only party that owns drug abuse data, because all of our partners who started with us in the data collection project are not currently committed to providing us with information related to drug abuse in Jordan.

Pompidou Group

The Pompidou Group is the Council of Europe's international cooperation group on drugs and addictions. It is a multidisciplinary forum at the wider European level where it is possible for policymakers, professionals, and researchers to exchange experiences and information on drugs and addictions. Formed in 1971 at the suggestion of the French President Georges Pompidou, it has become a Council of Europe partial agreement in 1980. In 2021, it gathers 41 countries: 38 among the 47th Member States of the Council of Europe as well as Morocco, Mexico and Israel.

MedNET

MedNET is Mediterranean network for cooperation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group. Created in 2006, its objective is to promote cooperation, exchanges, and mutual transfer of knowledge between the countries on both sides of the Mediterranean Basin. It supports the development of drug policies which respect health and human rights and address gender equality issues, based on evidence gathered by national observatories. In 2021, seventeen countries are members of the network.



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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