



Substance use addictions and online practices

Pompidou Group 2022 Executive Training



Dates and Locations

Module I:
21-24 June 2022
Dublin
Ireland

Module II:
4-7 October 2022
Wroclaw
Poland

Why?

There is a rapidly increasing number of people seeking treatment for disorders related to excessive use of internet facilitated applications. Today one can no longer imagine life without the use of information and communication technologies. Now over 5 billion humans use Internet worldwide. While these new technologies and their wide range of applications bring about many advantages, concerns are growing about excessive social media use, gaming and online gambling. There is now a widespread fear of excessive internet and electronic device use and related disorders.

Slot machines, betting shops and card games are familiar to everyone and the risks of developing addictive behaviour are well-known. The so-called 'attention economy', which generates profits by selling user data obtained by staying connected, is today the basis to offer 'free' use of applications. Research has demonstrated how online gaming and gambling create a pathway to disorders and addiction. Gaming disorder has been added recently to International Classification of Diseases. The emerging challenge is now to find ways and means to limit the detrimental effects resulting from excessive internet and electronic device use.

Today we understand the links between the use of psychoactive substances, mental and behavioural disorders and dependencies related to the use of Internet. Drugs alter the brain's reward system in a similar way as excessive behaviours. In addition, excessive internet and electronic device use disorders more often affect people who use psycho-active substances, mostly alcohol, cannabis and cocaine. Currently available data also shows that those diagnosed with ADHD are at an increased risk of becoming addicted to substances and disorders related to online gaming and gambling.

In addition to the trend of substance use and increasing online activities, the pandemic of the last two years has accelerated these developments as ever more people stayed connected and activities took place in online formats. The sudden change from a usual way of life to a state of uncertainty, presence of palpable threats to life and various anti-pandemic measures introduced affects the psycho-emotional background of humans. This has led to a situation in which inadequate and ineffective strategies for coping with stress are developed that may be dangerous in the long term.

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 effectively implementing drug policies adopted to their national context. This unique format of further education for professionals invites 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 concept gives participants the possibility to get to know each other better, an aspect which is crucial for active and meaningful networking and 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 shape the format of this yearly training.

The Executive Training 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 will provide a better understanding on addictions and addiction-related behaviours from the biological and neuroscience perspectives.

Knowledge

Participants will gain knowledge on substance use habit formation, cognitive behavioural strategies for interrupting addictive behaviours and the links between the use of psychoactive substances and behavioural dependencies.

Overview and context

An overview of the state of behavioural addiction research and responses related to excessive internet and electronic device use, in particular online gambling, gaming, 'internet addiction' and other disorders, will be provided. The training will cover multiple facets of today's real-life diversity and the key factors in society that contribute to substance use and addictive behaviours.

Ways and means

The training will address ways and means to prevent adverse consequences resulting from the excessive internet and electronic device use. The 2022 Executive Training focuses on 'how to do it' and will provide insights and guidance on possible prevention strategies and available treatment options.

Course Programme:

1st

Module

The 1st module seminar will address the origins of addictions and addictive behaviours.

In this seminar participants will:

- Explore the roots and functioning of addiction
- Understand basic cognitive neuroscience and how it relates to addiction risk
- Examine substance use habit formation and the application of cognitive behavioural strategies for interrupting addictive behaviours
- Identify connections between the use of psychoactive substances and behavioural dependencies

2nd

Module

The 2nd module seminar will present different types of actions and practices that can help prevent and mitigate the effects of excessive internet and electronic device use.

Through this seminar participants will:

- Better understand the functioning of the attention economy and habit-forming algorithms
- Examine examples of practices in prevention, screening and treatment of behavioral addictions and comorbidities
- Identify opportunities for engagement with private sector and internet and platform providers
- Develop skills through training, coaching and capacity building for different professional groups and multidisciplinary teams

Who?

Profile of participants

The Pompidou Group Executive Training aims to enrich the knowledge related to the work domain, as well as to strengthen managerial capacities and skills. It targets professionals with managerial responsibilities from all sectors of drug policy including the social, health and law-enforcement sectors. These professionals include:

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

The training aims at enhancing work related knowledge and strengthening managerial skills .

Applications:

Want to be part of the 2022 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 different countries and continents the working language will be English.

Applications

The application deadline is **31 March 2022**.

Want to know more about the Executive Training of the Pompidou Group? Have a look at [this video](#).

Contact and further information:

E-mail:
pompidou.training@coe.int
Web site:
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Executive Training: part of the International Drug Policy Academy

Starting from 2020, the Executive Trainings offered by the Pompidou Group are organised as integral part of the new Pompidou Group International Drug Policy Academy (IDPA).

The Academy was created with the academic support of the University of Malta and Syracuse University, USA. It serves the diverse interests and needs of professionals working with the planning, implementation and evaluation of drug policies. The IDPA validates gained knowledge and competences attained in Pompidou Group capacity building activities. In doing so professionals working in drug policy related areas may obtain a formal recognition of their further education. The International Drug Policy Academy is conceptualised around linking policy, research and practice in support of drug policy management.

The Academy offers two course programmes: the annual Executive Training in Drug Policy which is organised once a year on a specific topic with two 4-day in-residence seminars, and a further comprehensive Drug Policy Executive Course leading to the 'Certificate in Advanced Drug Policy Management'.

Contact

For further information please contact:

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