

My role as the Gender Equality Rapporteur for the Pompidou Group

Council of Europe gender mainstreaming training
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The way in which men and women are affected differently by drug policies has been a question discussed within the Pompidou Group since the 1980s.

At the 1984 Pompidou Group Ministerial Conference, a first call was made to policymakers to pay more attention to gender-specific issues, with a particular focus on women's needs.

The first symposium on women and drugs was hosted in Switzerland in 1988.

In the years that followed, a number of seminars, activities and reports focused on different aspects of women and drugs...



Pompidou Group purpose was to increase awareness at different levels

- Member states of the Pompidou Group;
- Mednet member states;
- International level



A specific resolution on gender issue was presented by Italy in the name of the European countries

“Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies”

during the Fifty-fifth CND session in Vienna in 2012, the main event to present and implement resolutions in the field of drugs.



And then, in 2012 the **Pompidou Group** nominated me as

Gender Equality Rapporteur

Within the Transversal Programme on Gender Equality of the Council of Europe and this gave me the great honor to ensure that a gender perspective is properly integrated in all the activities of the Group.



MAIN SCOPE OF MY MISSION →

Integrate a gender perspective into the PG's activities

by raising awareness of the actors involved

- 38 PG member countries :
- 12 MedNET member countries (the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group);
- Professionals;
- Policy makers.



HOW TO REACH THE SCOPE →

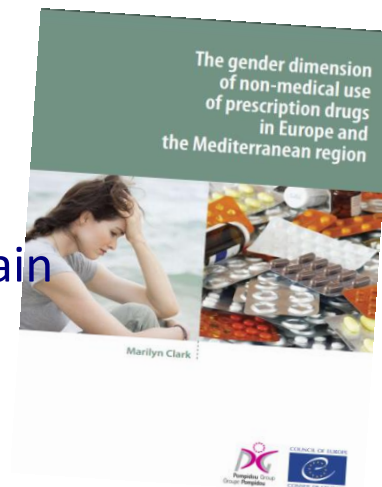
The first step was to draft an analysis of the situation with a report on **“Women and Drug related Issue”** for the Pompidou Group in 2013.

This report was about treatment and prevention, and it focused on:

- an overview of the reasons for differentiating treatment and why it is important to provide differentiated responses to problematic drug using women;
- current trends;
- recommendations and need for future research.



Under Norway's current Presidency and with Italy's Vice Presidency, the gender dimension in drug policy is high again on the agenda and focus on the need for a differentiated approach based on gender perspective:



- **Gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs**

To explore gender differences in Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs in Europe and in the Mediterranean Region, a study among 17 countries, identified gaps in the data available in the various regions and made recommendations for further research and for policy development and practice.



- **Women, Drugs and Violence**

The topic was addressed in the following way :

Research : a review of literature on violence (experienced or perpetrated) and psychoactive substance use among women in Europe and in the Mediterranean Region, followed by

Practice : a consultation of professionals through focus groups with addiction treatment and risk and harm reduction professionals in four countries: France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.



PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AT POLICY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE LEVEL →

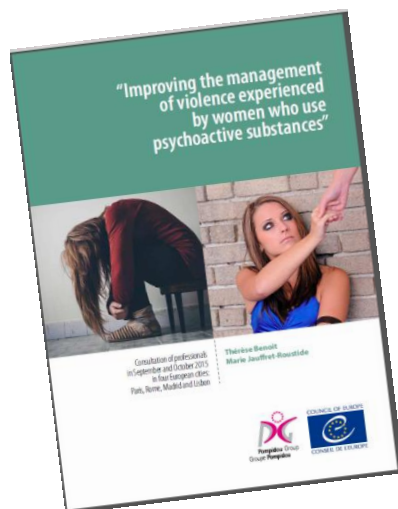
“Women, Drugs and Violence in Europe and the Mediterranean Region”

The seminar hosted in Rome, in December 2014, by the Department for Anti-Drug Policies of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers, brought together 22 countries who assessed how exposure of women to violence is taken into account in risk reduction and addiction treatment systems.



RECOMMENDATIONS →

“Improving the management of violence experienced by women who use psychoactive substances”



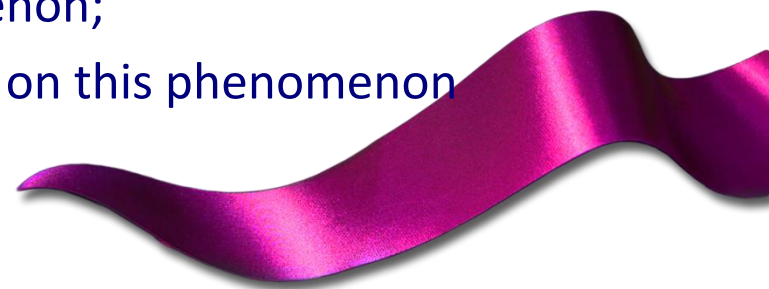
Last, but not least ..our latest activity just been launched in 2016

ANALYSIS OF A TOPIC →

“Violence, women and rape drugs”

where 11 experts from several countries and one from EMCDDA will work together in order to attempt to:

- Collect data and raise awareness for drug related sexual violence;
- Inform and train professionals on this phenomenon;
- Estimate how drug policy could have an impact on this phenomenon



METHODOLOGIES USED TO REACH THE MISSION →

- Promotion of gender equality and integration of gender perspective into all areas of work of the Pompidou Group to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective;
- Development and fund raising of projects concerning the gender dimension of drug policies within Pompidou Group work programme;
- Coordination with other international organisations, in particular UNICRI to create a synergy on gender oriented projects in the drug field;





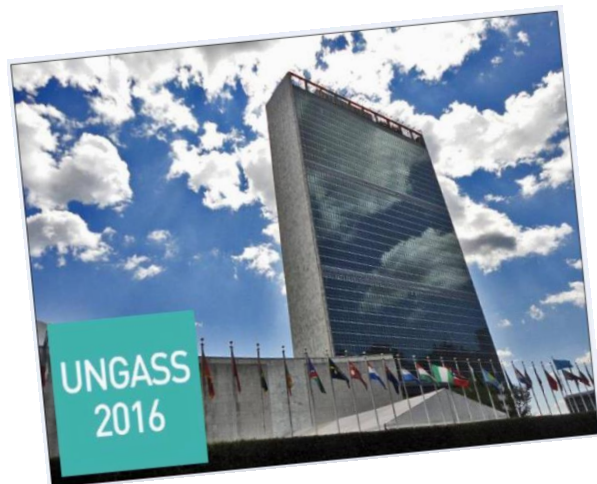
In order to **increase the awareness** and to sensitize at global level,
every activity we implement is publically presented at **international**
events and/or press events



USE OF INTERNATIONAL SETTING TO PROMOTE THE GENDER INTEGRATION →

“DRUG USE AND WOMEN: BEST PRACTICES IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC POLICIES FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT WITH A GENDER APPROACH”

side event promoted by Italy at the 2016 of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem.





Thank you for your attention!

