

Achievements, results, and key messages

Report on the activities of the Pompidou Group
Work Programme 2019 – 2022

Sustainable drug policies
respectful of human rights

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Work Programme 2019 – 2022

*“Sustainable drug policies
respectful of human rights”*

French edition:
Réalisations, résultats et messages clés
Rapport d'activités du Groupe Pompidou
Programme de travail 2019 - 2022
Des politiques antidrogue durables et
respectueuses des droits de l'Homme

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Achievements:

Overview for the period 2019 – 2022 by the Presidency

Portugal is very proud of having held the Presidency over the last four years. These were very demanding times. As Presidency we have concentrated our efforts in the implementation of the 2019-2022 Work Programme, even if the Covid-19 pandemic introduced an unprecedented challenge either in adapting the working methods of the Group to the circumstances or in timely providing reflection and guidance to drug services and professionals to ensure continuity of responses.

We do hope to have contributed to enhance Pompidou Group' intervention in the global drug policy debate, while seeking to reinforce the focus on the respect of human rights, the promotion of public health and highlighting the importance of a multidisciplinary, balanced and evidence-based approach to address drugs and addictions threats.

Objectives and Priorities of the Work Programme 2019-2022

Under the motto "Sustainable drug policies respectful of human rights", the 2019-2022 work programme aimed at providing knowledge, support and solutions for effective, evidence-based drug policies, which fully respect human rights, based on the following principles:

Human rights are a transversal issue for all Pompidou Group activities in support of Member States meeting their obligations under the Council of Europe and United Nations Conventions in the delivery of their drug policies.

A balanced and multidisciplinary approach bringing together the potential benefits of different strands in drug policy.

Innovative and evidence-based policies requiring *linking policy with practice and research* as a prerequisite for informed, coherent, and effective drug policy responses.

Effective and efficient use of available resources taking into account budgetary constraints faced in many member States.

The Pompidou Group is an integral part of the Council of Europe, the institutional guardian of human rights in Europe, which is reflected in the synergies sought with other parts of the Organisation.

Attention paid to avoid unwanted overlaps and duplication of efforts to demonstrate that the Pompidou Group is complementary to other regional/international organisations and produces added value.

With the constant support of member States, in particular those which are represented in the Bureau, and the Secretariat, the Pompidou Group achieved the results that are set out in this report.

When the work programme was adopted at the Stavanger Ministerial Conference, the Pompidou Group had 39 member states: 36 Council of Europe members, plus 3 non-European countries - Israel, Mexico and Morocco. Three additional Council of Europe member states joined during this period - Armenia and Georgia in 2020, and Ukraine in 2022 - bringing the total number of members to 42 at the beginning of this year.

However, this number decreased again to 41, following the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers on 16 March 2022 to exclude the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe. This has been a historical decision: it was the first time in the 73 years of history of the Council of Europe that article 8 of the statute, providing the possibility of excluding a member state that violates the values for which the Organisation stands, had

been implemented. As a consequence, the Russian Federation also ceased to be a member of the Pompidou Group, on 23 March.

Continuous efforts have also been made to convince the five former member states - Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom - which left ten years ago, to re-join the Group, especially in light of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary in 2021 and the related adoption of a revised statute. The Presidency hopes that these efforts will bear fruits in the nearest future.

Major achievements and milestones during the period of 2019-2022:

The main aim of the Portuguese Presidency has been to implement the decisions taken, at the 17th Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group held in Stavanger in November 2018, namely the one instructing the Permanent Correspondents to launch the process of revision of the Group mandate, operation and working methods, to bring the statutory documents in line with the developments of the drugs phenomenon.

Therefore, the major achievement of the period 2019-2022 is obviously the adoption of the revised statute by the Committee of Ministers on 16 June 2021. This has been the culminating point of two years of work by the Permanent Correspondents and a participative and inclusive process of consultations with international organisations, experts, and civil society. It was followed by several months of negotiations within the Committee of Ministers. The Portuguese Presidency and Polish Vice-Presidency are proud of having managed to successfully implement the mandate given by the Ministers in Stavanger, and we thank all member States for their cooperation, their contributions and their spirit of compromise. A special recognition goes to the Executive Secretary, who has played a major role in this achievement.

The main features of the new statute include:

Reaffirming the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach to address the drug situation, which has been the main characteristic of the Pompidou Group since its creation in 1971;

Extending the Group's mandate to encompass addictions and addictive behaviours which are related to licit substances, such as alcohol or tobacco, and new forms of addictions, such as Internet gambling and gaming;

Focusing on the respect and promotion of human rights in designing, adopting, implementing, and evaluating drug policies;

Developing understanding of and responses to the challenges posed by drugs and addictions, with the focus on public health, safety, and security;

Changing the official name of the Group 'Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs' into "Council of Europe Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addictions" in order to better reflect both its identity as a Council of Europe entity and its extended mandate;

Fostering synergies between the Pompidou Group and its main partners both within and outside the Council of Europe, including civil society organisations.

As then Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Portugal also welcomed the new opportunities offered by the revised statute to strengthen cooperation between the Pompidou Group and the European Union, including the possibility for the latter to become a member of the Group.

The adoption of the revised statute opens new perspectives to our action and provides for an ambitious political and legal framework on which to base the developments in the years and decades to come.

Along with the adoption of the revised statute, the Pompidou Group's 50th Anniversary celebration, comprised a whole range of events throughout the year 2021. A major celebration event took place on 28 October at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, in which five decades of drug policy evolution of the Group's achievements were outlined, while debating recent developments and the future activities in promoting a human-rights and public health-based approach of drugs and addictions policies. A hearing of the Chair of the Permanent Correspondents by the Committee of Ministers also took place on 10 November in Strasbourg, the first of its kind since the creation of the Group. More details about the Anniversary celebrations are contained below in the Executive Secretary's report.

As regards to many other activities and achievements of the period, which are summarized in the different sections below, the Portuguese Presidency and Polish Vice-Presidency would like to highlight:

The new, unique human rights self-assessment tool created by the Pompidou Group, addressing the key questions in practically assessing drug policy compliance with human rights obligations under the European

Convention on Human Rights and/or relevant United Nations Conventions. Launched in 2020 at the initiative of the Portuguese Presidency, this new self-assessment tool addresses the key questions in practically assessing drug policy compliance with human rights. It was an honour for Portugal to have chaired the expert group entrusted with the elaboration of this tool and we look forward for its implementation;

The continued expansion of the Pompidou Group Mediterranean Cooperation Network (MedNET), which celebrated its 15th Anniversary in 2021 and gained two new participating countries (Spain in 2019 and Slovenia in 2022);

The launch of the International Drug Policy Academy in 2020, which is an important milestone consolidating the capacity building of the Pompidou Group. The first executive course was successfully completed between August 2021 and April 2022;

The pioneering work conducted by the Pompidou Group during the COVID crisis, in cooperation with Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network, giving a voice to people who use drugs and other marginalised and underserved communities, as well as health and social workers delivering services under challenging conditions;

The setting up a 'Support Network for professionals' within the activity Responding to Drug Related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs;

The elaboration of the European Handbook on General Aviation;

The publication on 'Human Rights and people who use drugs in 17 MedNET countries.

Committed to strengthen the political relevance and visibility of the Pompidou Group, the Presidency also delivered several public statements (see Appendix I).

Last but not least, the Pompidou Group participated actively in the successive Commission of Narcotics Drugs (CND) sessions between 2019 and 2022, organising or sponsoring a large number of side-events. On each of these occasions, the Portuguese Presidency delivered a political statement at the plenary session on behalf of the Group. It also made a substantial contribution to the 2019 and 2022 editions of the European Conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies – 'Lisbon Addictions', a major multidisciplinary event which presented the latest scientific knowledge and provided a forum for networking across the addictions field.

The Portuguese Presidency and Polish Vice-Presidency truly believe that the Pompidou Group and its activities during this four years period have contributed to highlight and enhance the core values of the Council of Europe – democracy, human rights, and the rule of law and the results achieved fully met the ambitious expectations we had in Stavanger. With the adoption of the revised statute by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 16 June 2021, the Pompidou Group has a renewed foundation to shape its future as the key international reference point for human rights in drug and addiction policies.

It has been a pleasure to chair this Group and we thank all Member States, the Secretariat, international organisations and other cooperating partners for their support and collaboration. It is now up to all of us to build on this solid basis and we express our full confidence in the future leadership of the Pompidou Group (Italy and Switzerland) to bring the Group to a further stage of its development during the next three years

Joao Goulão
Chair of the Permanent Correspondents

Executive Secretary's summary

Adoption of the revised statute and integration of the Pompidou Group in the general strategic framework of the CoE

The adoption of the revised statute has been a major milestone in the history of the Pompidou Group. It provides the Group with an ambitious legal and political framework on which it will be able to build in the coming years and decades. It highlights the Group's relevance and adds value on the international scene and strengthens its identity as a full-fledged entity of the Council of Europe.

As a consequence, the Pompidou Group is now fully acting within the multi-annual strategic framework of the Council of Europe, as witnessed by the decision to shorten the next working period (2023-2025) to make it coincide with the Council of Europe own calendar (2022-2025). Renewed efforts were also made to build synergies with other Council of Europe entities, as detailed in the internal rules of procedure of the Permanent Correspondents which were adopted in line with the statute.

A special effort was also made to strengthen cooperation with the Pompidou Group's main partners on the international scene. This led to the decisions of UNODC and the World Health Organisation to become permanent observers in the Group's statutory bodies, in June 2020 and December 2021 respectively. It also led to the update of the MoU Annex with the EMCCDA in February 2020 and to the signature in February 2021 of an additional Cooperation Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Organisation of American States in the field of drug policies, to be implemented by the Pompidou Group and CICAD.

Celebration of the 50th anniversary

Under the motto "Human rights at the heart of drug policies", the 50th anniversary of the Pompidou Group was celebrated throughout the year 2021, with a large number of events. Its highlights were:

- ▶ The presentation of an online exhibition during a special event at the 2021 CND session in March. The exhibition was afterwards shown in Strasbourg in September, Paris in October, and Lisbon in December.
- ▶ The adoption of the revised statute by the Committee of Ministers on 16 June. On this occasion the Committee of Ministers also adopted a declaration on the 50th Anniversary of the Pompidou Group.
- ▶ The 2nd European seminar on drug consumption rooms in Strasbourg on 2 July, co-organized with the City of Strasbourg and the Ithaque Association which runs the Strasbourg drug consumption room.
- ▶ The launching of the 50th Anniversary publication in September.
- ▶ A major celebration event at the Pompidou Centre in Paris on 28 October, with the participation of the Hungarian Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- ▶ The hearing of the President of the Permanent Correspondents by the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg on 10 November.
- ▶ A closing event 'Symposium on experience with new evolutions in drug policy: 'Evolution of cannabis policies: experiences and lessons learned' in Lisbon on 15 December.

Full information on the 50th Anniversary is to be found on the dedicated page on the Pompidou Group [website](#).

Responding to emerging trends and challenges

In April 2020, when the Covid-19 crisis was still at its beginning, the Pompidou Group launched an online platform 'Save Lives - Protect People', with a view to collecting and presenting innovative ideas and practical interventions that aim to contain the spread of Covid-19 and prevent harm to people who use drugs and those in contact with them. Frontline workers were invited to feature their ideas and actions on the newly created website in one of the platform's six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

The Pompidou Group then disseminated these practical examples widely through its social media channels so that people from all over the world can learn from them. These findings were also relayed by our partner organisations - Correlation European Harm Reduction Network and European Federation of Therapeutic Communities Correlation (EFTC).

The operation lasted for almost one year, and the results were summarized in a publication "Covid-19 and people who use drugs" launched [in March 2021](#).

Synergies and Contribution to the Council of Europe Strategies and Action plans

Project 'Children whose parents use drugs'

This project started following participation of the Pompidou Group Secretariat in September 2020 in the Council of Europe's Task Force on Children Rights, put in place to prepare the new Council of Europe's strategy on the rights of the child for the period 2022-2027. What we noticed was that the children whose parents use drugs were not reflected among the category of vulnerable children in the Council of Europe's future child's strategy. Therefore, the Secretariat proposed to assess this issue among Pompidou Group member states and invited Permanent Correspondents to participate in the project to raise awareness, information and exchange of knowledge, identify gaps, promising practices and recommendations on how countries can develop interventions to support children affected by parental drug use. An assessment based on literature review and quantitative data and online focus groups was conducted among 10 participating countries: Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Romania, Poland, Switzerland and Turkey.

Building on the work done, an ISBN publication entitled 'Children Whose Parents Use Drugs – Promising practices and recommendations' was published. The project and the publication receive a lot of attention with invitation to participate in different meetings in Europe, Mexico and beyond at governmental and non-governmental levels.

Thanks to the recently established cooperation, the Council of Europe child's strategy 2022-2027 introduced in its action plan, under its objective equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children, mapping, analysing and providing guidance on the situation of children suffering from addictive behaviours and children of parents using drugs.

Criminal Justice and Prison Programme

Two project cycles have been / are being implemented under the Pompidou Group's Criminal Justice and Prison Programme (May 2019-July 2021 and March 2022-February 2024), financed from voluntary contributions by Luxembourg amounting to a total of 600 000 Euros. Due to the increasing interest by member states in treatment and rehabilitation of people with substance use disorders in detention settings, in addition to Eastern European countries the Programme was extended to the Pompidou Group's regional networks of South-East Europe Cooperation (June 2020) and MedNET (January 2022) using financing from other budgetary resources. The Programme's 10 years anniversary in 2022 was used as an occasion to assess its impact, review its strategy and refresh its visual identity.

The rationale of the Programme is the relatively high prevalence of drug use among people who are incarcerated and its consequences to the public health system, including the spread of blood-borne diseases linked to injecting drug use and comorbidities with mental health disorders. It embraces a comprehensive drug treatment approach based on human rights principles which encompasses clinical treatment, harm reduction programmes and different types of psycho-social support to meet the complex health and social care needs of imprisoned people with substance use disorders.

Overall, the Programme contributed to enhanced protection of human rights of people who are incarcerated and use drugs and reduced burden on the public health system through better addressing the needs of people who use drugs and those working with them in Eastern and South-East European prisons. Emphasis was placed on improving the coverage and quality of drug treatment systems in prisons in the beneficiary countries and actively encouraging policy changes and the regional exchange of experiences on treatment and social re-integration of drug using people involved in the criminal justice system. A needs-based approach and flexibility in responding to urgent requests has been appreciated by the partners as the most important feature of the Criminal Justice and Prison Programme in general. Examples of concrete outcomes of the Programme in 2019-2022 include:

- ▶ Consolidation and extension of the first prison-based Therapeutic Community programme in the Republic of Moldova through providing evidence of its long-term effectiveness, ensuring its integration into the national treatment curriculum and opening up access to people from other custodial settings, as well as diversifying rehabilitative activities attached to the programme, in particular with a pre- and post-programme phase, peer-to-peer mentorship and entrepreneurial education.
- ▶ Research on influence of criminal subcultures on effectiveness of drug treatment interventions in Moldovan prisons which has led to a first discussion of this challenge among prison staff and leadership and to practical recommendations to mitigating this influence on uptake of treatment.

- ▶ Implementation of an interactive online course on delivering opioid agonist treatment (OAT) in detention to overcome high staff turnover in Moldovan prisons and piloting of OAT in pre-trial detention in Ukraine, thus contributing to the fight against the rapid spread of HIV and Hepatitis C in prisons in the region.
- ▶ Nation-wide discussion in Georgia on improving rehabilitation and resocialisation of drug-dependent people who are incarcerated and support to the implementation of the first National Drug Prevention Strategy, in the context of an ongoing drug policy reform.

At regional level, the project laid grounds for developing policy strategies to raise drug treatment standards in South-East European prisons. A network of practitioners and policy makers working on drug treatment in the criminal justice system was created with the objective of reinforcing regional cooperation on drug treatment and rehabilitation in prisons in South-East Europe through strengthening joint competences and capacities for implementing international health standards.

The Criminal Justice and Prison Programme contributed to the implementation of the Pompidou Group's 2019-2022 work programme through taking measures to reduce drug-related stigma and designing specific interventions for vulnerable groups. Active involvement of policy makers and professionals in project work during 10 years of the Programme, and discussions on potential membership in the Pompidou Group on the occasion of project events also facilitated the decision of Georgia and Ukraine to join the Pompidou Group in May 2020 and January 2022 respectively.

The Criminal Justice and Prison Programme contributes to the implementation of ongoing Council of Europe Action Plans in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Project 'Fighting the Use and Trafficking of Illicit Drugs in the Republic of Belarus'

In the perspective of the interest of the Republic of Belarus to increase cooperation with the Pompidou Group, implementation of the project 'Fighting the Use and Trafficking of Illicit Drugs in the Republic of Belarus' started in 2019, contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Belarus 2019-2021. Three main components for cooperation were identified together with Belarussian authorities: participation of Belarussian professionals and policy makers in the international drug policy discussion; exchanges on good practice examples and modus operandi with other law enforcement officials related to fighting drug trafficking; development and improvement of prevention programmes targeting young people with the involvement of health and social workers. After a dynamic start, implementation slowed down in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and stalled following deterioration of the political situation in Belarus in the aftermath of the August 2020 elections. Since the political situation did not improve in 2021, the Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group took the decision in June 2021 to officially suspend cooperation with Belarus which resulted in ending project implementation.

Project 'Developing a Drug Prevention Support Network for Parents and Professionals in Georgia'

Additional contribution is provided through implementation of the technical assistance project 'Developing a Drug Prevention Support Network for Parents and Professionals in Georgia'. It started in June 2022 for a 19-month period, financed under the Action Plan for Georgia 2020-2023 at a total amount of € 360K and with project staff hired both in the field office in Tbilisi and the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg. The project supports the implementation of Georgia's first National Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse 2021-2026 with interventions targeting parents as well as social and health care professionals working with people who use drugs or are at risk of developing substance use disorders. The project follows a two-pronged approach: (1) to prevent or delay the onset of drug use, and (2) target vulnerable children and families who have already initiated drug use.

Denis Huber

Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group

Results and key messages:

Conclusions and observations by Bureau members

Activity implementation under the Work Programme 2019-2022

Permanent activities:

- ▶ Drug Control Services at European Airports (Airports Group) and in General Aviation
- ▶ International Network on Precursor Control
- ▶ International Drug Policy Academy
- ▶ European Prevention Prize
- ▶ MedNET Network
- ▶ Drug Policy Cooperation South East Europe (SEE)

Ad-hoc activities:

- ▶ Drugs on-line
- ▶ Responding to drug-related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants and IDPS
- ▶ Implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas
- ▶ Drug Policies and Human Rights: self-assessment tool

Drug Control Services at European Airports (Airports Group) and in General Aviation

Description of the activity:

Providing a contact and information network as well as a platform for annual meetings to explore parameters for a harmonised multidisciplinary strategy for drug-detection at international airports and in general aviation to enhance subject-related inter-airports co-operation.

Aim:

- ▶ Improve information exchange among drug control services and their relevant partners at international commercial airports
- ▶ Review drug seizures in European Airports in cooperation with RILO/WE
- ▶ Build a network of experts within drug control services in international airports
- ▶ Enhance the use of special law enforcement techniques, such as controlled deliveries between international airports
- ▶ Follow up on new developments and trends in legislative initiatives on national and international level.

Set objectives:

- ▶ To analyse drug trafficking trends, routes, risks and seizures through international airports and in general aviation
- ▶ To study the risks of the involvement of airport staff in drug trafficking (airport crime)
- ▶ To enhance training opportunities for drug control services to improve detection and investigation capacity
- ▶ To identify strategies and *modus operandi* used by traffickers / criminal organisations in drug trafficking and money laundering
- ▶ To develop of a website for information exchange on controlled deliveries in cooperation with relevant international organisations.

Achieved results:

- ▶ Enhanced information sharing through annual meetings of the Airports Group and an Expert Group on General Aviation on technical, tactical, operational and judicial level, with the regulatory authorities and aviation industries including cooperation with the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism.
- ▶ Setting up of a Resource Bank on Controlled Deliveries which is hosted by Pompidou Group and managed co-operation with Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, OSCE, SELEC and in coordination with the Council of Europe's Expert Committee on the operation of European conventions on co-operation in criminal matters (PC-OC). It contains relevant national information related to controlled deliveries, including legal basis, responsible authorities, and access to national 24/7 single points of contact (SPOC) in real-time.
- ▶ Production of the training film 'The Aircraft' on the work of law enforcement agencies against drug trafficking in the General Aviation showing the different phases of intelligence exploitation, the preparation of operations, and the interception and search of business aircraft and its passengers and crew members.
- ▶ Development of the 'European handbook on General Aviation for Law Enforcement' for the benefit of law enforcement officers working in the field of general aviation. The handbook sets out the legal framework, best practices, strategies, contact information and guidelines for practitioners in the field of general aviation.
- ▶ Presentation of annual reports on drug seizures in European Airports in cooperation with RILO/WE.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority 'New Challenges': Drug-related cybercrime

Key messages and conclusions:

Commercial air traffic and General Aviation are frequently utilised by criminal organisations, and it is therefore necessary to exchange information on a permanent basis. During the pandemic, Interpol has seen many

changes in the drug trade, but it has not been disrupted: criminal organizations and drug traffickers are adapting very quickly and easily to the new situation. Databases are key to putting information together and to give member countries added value back.

It is important to know that scanning of passenger and goods before flight depends on whether the flight is commercial or private. For commercial flights, passengers, crew, and bags will pass through a scanner as a rule, while for private flights, it will depend on local regulations. It is also important to know that sometimes the crew is implicated in the illegal trafficking. Depending on the type of flight, the crew has different duties. For private flights in small/corporate aircraft, the crew knows who is in the aircraft, so it is more likely that they might be involved as well. For commercial flights in small/corporate aircraft, the crew does not always know exactly who is in the aircraft so it might seem that they are not involved, although this is not always the case. For commercial flights in large aircraft, it is very unlikely that the crew will know what is going on. In addition, it is also important to pay extra attention to the pilot of the aircraft. There is a difference between corporate pilots and airline pilots as they have different obligations and licenses/certificates. Corporate pilot will routinely inspect the luggage compartment and will know what is happening. However, airline pilots will not be aware of what is happening at the compartment luggage. Furthermore, in some cases, the transport provider can also be involved in trafficking.

Today, we are confronted on the one hand with a very technical environment with which our investigators are not always familiar, and on the other hand with a considerable mass of information that law enforcement find difficult to use on a daily basis. Beyond the military authorities who are working to ensure the security of our airspace and our general aviation authorities who are working on a safer mode of transport, criminal organizations have perfectly detected the opportunities that arise and that allow the importation of drugs from the producing countries such as South America, the Middle East, or North Africa, but also the exports of synthetic drugs produced in Europe.

It is important that inspection teams first and foremost receive the appropriate training to obtain necessary expertise. In addition, teams should be multi-disciplinary, including dog handlers, translators, coordinators, aircraft technicians etc. It is also essential that investigative teams have the appropriate equipment and means to work such as vehicles, hearing rooms, cells, etc. In addition, it is essential that an inspection team always remains in contact with the prosecutor and judicial authorities.

Diversity in policing has increased steadily in the past years and nowadays it is becoming common for all genders to work together in a law enforcement agency even if all the genders are not equally represented. Even if the barriers (by percentage) to employment have been eradicated in most of the countries, the professional culture is not changed so easily and still the law enforcement is a male-dominated profession, with gender stereotypes, biases and an occupational male threshold. Gender inequality is deeply ingrained in the police workplace and is based upon societal expectations and attitudes.

Law enforcement should reflect the communities it serves. It is therefore essential to have law enforcement services that reflect and is representative of the population, including of women and men, it seeks to serve. The law enforcement workplace does not need to be numerically equal, rather it needs to be gender intelligent. Gender Intelligent recruitment, hiring, and retention strategies in law enforcement agencies increase professionalism of police service. It is important that security institutions are trusted when they are accountable, transparent, responsive, and representative. Therefore, the experiences of both women and men should be considered equally. Gender discrimination, like any other form of non-inclusion, is undermining development and efforts to control illicit drug production and drug trafficking.

Torbjørn Brekke, Norway
Bureau responsible for the activity

International Network on Precursor Control

Description of the activity:

Providing a contact and information network as well as a platform for annual meetings to explore parameters for a rapid and secure intelligence exchange on (pre)precursor diversion risks and production of synthetic drugs and counterfeit medicines, identifying trafficking trends, *modus operandi* and precursor related criminal networks.

Aim:

- ▶ Increase the effectiveness of the entire criminal justice sequence: closing the judicial chain from the identification of suspect consignments to investigation, evidence collection, prosecution, and sanctions in pre-precursors and precursor diversion cases including the development of synthetic drugs and counterfeit medicines.
- ▶ Promote cooperation between customs, police and other relevant law enforcement bodies, regulatory boards, scientists, private sector partners, prosecutors and judicial authorities, relevant international organisations and other relevant partners concerned.
- ▶ Raise awareness, exchange information, international training activities and confidence-building in view of improved risk identification and enhanced cooperation.
- ▶ Study the effect and consequences of the environmental damage caused by illegal drug production.

Set objectives:

- ▶ To analyse the structural difficulties preventing appropriate awareness and rapid responses.
- ▶ To promote and enhance co-operation with other relevant international bodies, including the scientific, industrial and commercial world active in the field.
- ▶ To analyse and promote innovative solutions to the problems of toxic waste and environmental damage.
- ▶ To organise study visits to raise awareness and share knowledge on the functioning of the chemical industry, laboratories, police and customs training centres, and other sites relevant in the prevention of (pre)precursors diversion.
- ▶ To consolidate the network of experts including all actors in the field of drug precursors and pre-precursors.
- ▶ To facilitate cooperation with law enforcement and judicial authorities in the Mediterranean region in particular with drug control services in MedNET countries
- ▶ To ensure a dynamic driving role of synergy as well as complementarity between the various international forums competent in the field of (pre)precursors including a dynamic approach with non-CoE countries involved in (pre)precursors production, trade, and diversion.

Achieved results:

Enhanced information sharing through annual meetings and study visits on technical, tactical, operational, and judicial level, with the regulatory authorities and concerned industries in the production chain of (pre) precursors.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority '*New Challenges*': Challenges and responses to NPS

Key messages and conclusions:

The use of non-scheduled chemicals, some of which are "designer precursors" with little or no legitimate use, has become a global and rapidly increasing phenomenon. About two-thirds of chemicals reported seized in the world last year (shared voluntarily by Governments in the INCB's PICS system) are such chemicals. They cut across all drug classes and all regions of the world.

The criminal networks involved in the production of synthetic drugs have demonstrated their resilience and capacity to adapt to changes such as the banning of specific (pre)precursor substances and essential chemicals by adjusting their production processes. Mislabeling is frequently used to smuggle chemicals used in production of precursors or drugs.

Synthetic drug production generates significant amounts of chemical waste, which is frequently dumped by producers in public places and has a highly negative impact on the natural environment. Each year, small and large-scale drugs production facilities are identified and dismantled. Production waste, ranging from a few kilograms to several tons, is either found at production sites or improperly disposed of. The waste generated during drug production is often reactive, explosive, flammable, corrosive and/or toxic and entails significant clean-up costs.

There are substantial differences between member States in terms of different authorities responsible for implementation, the level of human resources allocated and the frequency of on-site verification checks of licence and registration holders. Traditional key drug precursors appear to be effectively monitored and controlled. However, this has led to the development of new 'designer precursors. The diversion of auxiliary drug precursor remains difficult for legal reasons and continues to be insufficient.

Overall, notifications of suspicious transactions remain limited in comparison to the suspected scale of diversion. A further issue of concern was the level of penalties for infringements and the low number of notifications for suspicious transactions. The size and diversification of the chemical industry make it difficult to increase scrutiny and that fact that illicit synthetic drug production is not evenly distributed among member States poses a challenge to harmonise sanctions and making precursor control a priority.

Claude Gillard, Belgium
Bureau responsible for the activity

International Drug Policy Academy - including Executive Training on Drug Policy-

Description of the activity:

The Academy provides at present two course offers: *Executive Training in Drug Policy* which has been in operation for a number of years, and the new addition, *Drug Policy Executive Course*. The Academy's courses link policy, research, and practice in a unique way. A Governing Board with secretariat support is responsible for implementing the Academy's activities.

The *Executive Training* has been successfully organised on a yearly basis already for more than 10 years, on an adopted specific theme with two 4-day in-residence seminars. The yearly theme is chosen by the Permanent Correspondents of the member States of the Pompidou Group based on their needs emerging from the rapidly changing drug phenomenon.

The *Drug Policy Executive Course* is an academic, structured three module programmes over a one-year period. The programme combines training seminars with distant learning activities and a test leading to a 'Certificate in Advanced Drug Policy Management'. The programme was developed and is implemented in cooperation with reputed universities, such as the University of Malta and Syracuse University New York. This course is financed by voluntary contributions and tuition fees.

Aim:

The overall aim of the International Drug Policy Academy is to facilitate know-how and build capacities for more effective policy elaboration, implementation, management and evaluation of drug policies and related programmes.

Set objectives:

- ▶ To respond to the ever-growing interest in Pompidou Group capacity building activities.
- ▶ To provide a better understanding of drug policies that work and the different policy options available in the relevant contexts.
- ▶ To enhance and academically validate competences related to drug policy development, implementation, evaluation, and management.

Courses are designed for professionals from governmental and non-governmental institutions that are involved in the development and/or implementation of drug policies and/or coordinate related programmes and service delivery. The courses are open to all Pompidou Group and Council of Europe member States. The participation of other interested countries is possible on the basis of available capacity.

Achieved results:

Annual *Executive Trainings* have been delivered on the following topics in this work programme:

- ▶ 'Incorporating gender dimensions in drug policy practice and service delivery' (2019)
- ▶ 'Role of different actors in drug prevention' (2020)
- ▶ 'Measures to reduce drug related stigma' (2021)
- ▶ 'Substance use addictions and online practices' (2022)

The first edition of the *Drug Policy Executive Course* consisting of three modules were delivered between August 2021 and May 2022.

During 2019-2022 Work Programme a total of 150 participants have participated in the courses offered by the Academy.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority '*Good Governance*'

- ▶ Understanding and placing emphasis on human rights dimensions and coherent drug policy interventions.
- ▶ Assessing outcomes, costs, and consequences of drug policies.
- ▶ Awareness of the positive and negative consequences of drug policies.

Thematic priority 'International Drug Policy Development'

- ▶ Access and availability of controlled substances for medical purposes.
- ▶ Specific needs of and interventions for different target groups.

Thematic priority 'New Challenges'

- ▶ Challenges and responses related to NPS.

Key messages and conclusions:

Increasingly there is common ground among governments regarding the objectives of a balanced drug policy, thus a shared knowledge base is essential for continued effective drug policies. The interdependence of drug policies across nations also requires interpersonal cooperation using diplomacy skills among administrators and managers.

The horizontal nature of the drug problem extends far beyond law enforcement and requires integration across health and welfare sectors as well as international cooperation. In addition to the need for education and training to fill the gaps in knowledge across sectors, drug policy professionals must establish a shared knowledge base from which they operate, in order to support effective and sustainable coherent policies and programmes. Thus, drug policy professionals need knowledge and skills that foster entrepreneurial and innovative new approaches that interrelate enforcement policies with prevention, harm reduction, treatment, social re-integration and recovery.

Consequently, there is a broad global need for education and training to prepare drug policy professionals to develop, implement, evaluate and sustain effective drug policies, programmes and services. Until recently there has been a lack of formalized education and training in the drug policy field to respond to this need. Since the Executive Training was first introduced back in 2010, this type of capacity building has become part of the core mission of the Pompidou Group and has fostered networking and cooperative learning across Europe and beyond.

The International Drug Policy Academy has now been granted the opportunity to show its potential to respond to these challenges with the new Drug Policy Executive Course in addition to the Executive Trainings. The experience of the first edition of the course exceeded expectations on the side of participants and faculty alike. This demonstrates that the Pompidou Group is fit for purpose in meeting the needs of its members to adequately prepare professionals for working effectively across sectors and disciplines in drug policy delivery.

Richard Muscat, Malta
Janusz Sieroslowski, Poland
Bureau responsables for the activities

European Prevention Prize

Description of the activity:

Since 2004 the Pompidou Group is awarding the European Prevention Prize to innovative projects led by young people for young people. The submitted projects are carefully evaluated by a jury of young people, aged 18-23, who, when necessary, receive the support of an advisory group of three drug prevention experts. They autonomously shortlist the most interesting projects and select the prize-winners which they consider to be the most innovative regarding drug prevention work and the involvement of young people.

Aim:

The European Prevention Prize aims at recognising active youth participation in creating a better and healthier environment for all communities at pan-European level. Furthermore, the Prize demonstrates and rewards young people's direct involvement in drug prevention from the setting up to the running of the project.

Set objectives:

To promote the advantages of youth participation in drug prevention through:

- ▶ giving young people the opportunity to have a say in the programme, thus encouraging them to continue expressing their views and ideas in the future;
- ▶ allowing young people to take responsibility for themselves, their peers, families and others;
- ▶ bringing new perspectives and insights to drug prevention which draw upon young people's expertise on their own social and cultural conditions;
- ▶ contesting negative stereotypes that categorise young people indifferent to issues concerning them.

Achieved results:

- ▶ The 2021 European Prevention Prize was awarded to three projects from Belgium, Lithuania and Poland on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Pompidou Group in Paris on 28 October 2021 at the Centre Pompidou. The winners received a trophy, a diploma and prize money of €5 000.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority 'Good Governance': Measures to reduce drug related stigma.

Thematic priority 'International drug policy development': Targeted interventions for different age groups.

Key messages and conclusions:

The Pompidou Group believes that meaningful youth participation improves the chances of successful drug prevention for reducing drug-related harm and creating healthier citizens and communities across Europe. 53 applications from 28 countries in 2021 shows the popularity of the prize and the quality of winning and short-listed projects provide valuable contributions to drug prevention efforts.

Franz Pietsch, Austria
Bureau responsible for the activity

MedNET Network

Description of the activity:

MedNET is the Pompidou Group's Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions which was set up in 2006.

The network currently consists of 18 countries: 11 Pompidou Group members (Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey) and 7 non-members (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia).

Aim and objectives:

To promote co-operation, exchange, and mutual transfer of knowledge between countries on both sides of the Mediterranean, with due regard to human rights and gender equality and interaction between policy, practice, and science, involving civil society.

Achieved results:

- ▶ Annual work programmes responding to national and regional needs have been implemented (see MedNET 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 activity reports).
- ▶ Prevention of addictive behaviours with development of training material.
- ▶ Collection of reliable, objective and comparable data via MedSPAD revised methodology in Egypt (MedSPAD II), Morocco (MedSPAD IV) and Tunisia (MedSPAD III) to be included in 2022 ISBN Regional MedSPAD publication and to support national observatories.
- ▶ Socio-sanitary responses to addictive responses including risk and harm reduction.
- ▶ Addictology Training of Medical staff in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- ▶ Awareness-raising to Human Rights of people who use drugs with discussion and elaboration of report in 2020 and a first ISBN publication in 2022.
- ▶ Positive External Evaluation of 15 years of MedNET (see 2021 report).
- ▶ Feasibility study for a Criminal and Health in Prison Project.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

The discussions and the two publications on Human Rights were initiated following the "Stavanger Declaration" adopted at the Pompidou Group's Ministerial Conference in November 2018, which reaffirmed a focus on "human rights as a fundamental cornerstone in drug policy", in line with the Council of Europe's core mission.

Thematic priority '**Good Governance**'

- ▶ Understanding and placing emphasis on human rights dimensions and coherent drug policy interventions.

Thematic priority '**International drug policy development**'

- ▶ Specific needs of and interventions for different target groups.
- ▶ Strengthening the gender specific dimension in drug policy.

Key messages and conclusions:

Even though the condition of emergency caused by the pandemic has hindered travels and connections, the network has proven its high resilience, thanks to the strong cooperation and synergy in place among its participating countries that allowed the attainment of efficient and effective results.

We are confident that the end of the pandemic emergency will sign the return to the levels of exchange and cooperation that have characterized this network since its foundation: the fact that in 2022 the 28th plenary meeting was finally held in person again, in Nicosia, after two years of disruption, surely represents a positive auspice.

Still, in the years taken into account, from 2019 to 2022, the network had a wide-ranging positive impact: it supported the implementation of projects and initiatives that responded to national and regional needs, with

a direct, beneficial impact on the targeted communities; it promoted the exchange of know-how and best practices, providing the medical staff of involved countries with specific trainings and spreading awareness about key issues; it allowed the collection of reliable and comparable data through the updated MedSPAD methodology.

Finally, we welcome the enlargement of the MedNET, and we hope that in the future other countries will join it, taking part in the exchange of knowledge and know-how that represents the foundation of this cooperation network.

Elisabetta Simeoni, Italy
Bureau responsible for the activity

Drug Policy Cooperation South East Europe (SEE)

Description of the activity:

The South-East Europe Drug Policy Cooperation focuses on four thematic areas: (1) operational collaboration against drug trafficking among police and customs officers working at SEE airports, (2) development of comprehensive drug treatment systems in prisons, (3) the role of police in drug prevention, (4) elaboration of self-assessment and self-help online tools.

Aim:

The South-East Europe Drug Policy Cooperation aims to foster cooperation among drug authorities and professionals in the region.

Set objectives:

- ▶ To actively further develop the drug policy cooperation in South-East Europe;
- ▶ To enhance the dialogue and the practical exchange of knowledge and experience among member States;
- ▶ To support the development of coherent policies on psychoactive substances; focusing on achieving clear outcomes and tangible results.

Achieved results:

Airports:

According to results of the impact assessment conducted on the work of the Cooperation Group of South-East European Airports (CGSEEA) covering two work programme cycles, members of the group (one nominated police and one customs officer actively participating from 12 out of 14 SEE countries) highly appreciate the format of cooperation set up in the group. The yearly plenary meetings dedicated to exchanging knowledge, trends and modus operandi are designed taking into consideration the complexity of their work and the constant threat drug trafficking poses to society. The technical meetings focusing on results of the yearly joint operations and empowering members with technical skills in areas such as behavioural analysis and risk analysis based on passenger name record data, complemented with regular use of a secure information channel within the group are seen to meet the need for permanent and rapid exchange of information within a well-defined framework and lead to better operational results.

Prisons:

Despite delays related to the Covid-19 pandemic and securing of funding, a first tangible result of the activity has been the set-up of a network of practitioners working in prisons and policy makers from the national administration involved in designing and implementing drug treatment interventions in the criminal justice system. The network consists of a permanently and actively participating group of professionals from 11 out of the 12 Pompidou Group member countries from the region. Two online meetings and two study visits served as occasions to lay grounds for cooperation. In the mid-term, regular interactions within this network should lead to reinforcing regional cooperation on drug treatment and rehabilitation in prisons through strengthening joint competences and capacities for implementing international health standards.

The guidance paper on developing strategies for raising standards on drug treatment in the criminal justice system was finalised in a working group format and is planned to be used as a tool for assessing the implementation level of selected international recommendations in the SEE countries. Work was started on elaborating a resource bank that provides a knowledge base for developing programmes and strategies for treatment and social re-insertion of drug-using detainees. To inform the development of the resource bank a mapping exercise was conducted with contributions from group members on current training needs and available national resources for treatment of substance use disorders in prisons in the region.

Police:

At three Pompidou Group seminars organised on redefining the role police in drug prevention, participating police officers and other professionals working in drug prevention gained insights on the experiences made with different concepts and strategies of involving police in drug prevention and exchanged on the feasibility of new approaches for the future. As a result of discussions, three main areas for further work were identified where the group would see a contribution to reorientating the role and added value of police in drug prevention: designing a core competency framework for police officers involved in drug prevention programmes; identifying tools for assessing the contribution of police to drug prevention interventions; developing guidance for prevention of trauma and related substance use within police forces.

Although this activity was initiated within South-East Europe Cooperation, given the interest in the topic by other Pompidou Group member states outside the SEE region from the very start, the activity was extended and became an ad hoc activity implemented at Pompidou Group work programme level.

Online tools

Following Phase I of the project on internet-based interventions with the delivery of the drug use assessment tool 'drughelp.eu' in 2018, Phase II has now been completed with the online self-help tool for people using drugs 'Escreen'. This new tool is based on interactive elements, which help people who use drugs to gain insight into their drug consumption behaviour. Based on information entered by the users of the tool, the programme delivers a detailed presentation of consumption-related aspects in their lives, combined with information material including advice on how to successfully change, moderate or stop drug consumption.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority 'Good Governance'

- ▶ Measures to reduce drug related stigma.
- ▶ Role of drug policies in preventing risks and awareness of the positive and negative consequences of drug related policies.
- ▶ Human rights-based approach to law enforcement.
- ▶ The role of police in drug prevention.
- ▶ Thematic priority 'International drug policy development'
- ▶ Specific needs of and interventions for different target groups.
- ▶ Strengthening the gender specific dimension in drug policy.
- ▶ Thematic priority 'New challenges'
- ▶ Challenges and responses related to NPS.
- ▶ Online tools in self-help and treatment.

Key messages and conclusions:

Airports:

The work within the Cooperation Group of South-East European Airports (CGSEEA) has contributed to strengthening trust and partnerships among the participating SEE countries on an operational level and has enabled the group to pursue a common goal despite cultural and political differences at the regional level. After 8 years of existence the CGSEEA remains a one-of-a-kind initiative with no overlapping regional cooperation format in the drugs field.

Prisons:

The cooperation group on developing comprehensive drug treatment systems in prisons established a much-needed regional network in a field where good practices barely exist despite the common challenges faced in many European prisons. In the long term, exchanges within the network are expected to lead to more resource-effective policy management in the area of prison health and the dissemination of lived practices and solutions to existing challenges. It should also lead to increased awareness, at national and international levels, of the needs of people with substance use disorders in prisons as well as the professionals working with them.

Police

There is a need to widen the interpretation of police' role in drug prevention to areas of addressing domestic violence and creating a safe environment for children. This way the proximity of police to the community can be capitalised on and its contribution to drug policy goals increased and recognised.

Online tools

The online self-help tool for people using drugs 'Escreen' enables to gain insight into the substance use behaviours and have practical guidance at hand to change these drug use habits.

Joze Hren, Slovenia
Bureau responsible for the activity

Drugs on-line

Description of the activity:

This expert group provides a platform for law enforcement officials and experts for cooperation on drug related crime on-line, connecting specialists from law enforcement (customs, police, prosecutors, judges, computer crime specialists, specialized investigators), scientists and researchers, relevant international organisations, and private sector partners, notably IT companies, specialists in virtual currencies, security experts, mail and express mail companies and internet providers.

Aims:

- ▶ Examine specific threats to society regarding drug trafficking and money laundering by using on-line trade, anonymizing techniques, internet and darknet facilities, including social media and making use of mail and express courier services.
- ▶ Increase the effectiveness of the entire criminal justice sequence: closing the judicial chain from the identification of suspect consignments to investigation, evidence collection, backtracking, prosecution, and sanctions in on-line drug sales cases and money laundering, in particular through crypto currencies.
- ▶ Promote cooperation between customs, police and other relevant law enforcement bodies, scientists and searchers, private sector partners, in particular the universal postal union and the sector of mail and express mail companies, prosecutors and judicial authorities, relevant international organisations and other partners concerned.

Set objectives:

- ▶ To create a network for building expertise, awareness, and dissemination of best practices.
- ▶ To provide information on developments in the world-wide-web (surface-net, deep-net and darknet) identifying new trends and developments.
- ▶ To provide a forum for awareness-raising, exploration, development, and exploration of new investigative methods.

Achieved results:

- ▶ Shared examples of new practices on actions against drug-related cybercrime and money laundering techniques based and use of crypto currencies.
- ▶ Coordinated format for know-how for reporting on developments concerning tracking and analysing shipments via mail and courier services.
- ▶ Enhanced contacts and cooperation on international level with the private sector on investigation and detection of on-line drug sales and deliveries through postal and courier services.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority 'Good Governance': Human rights-based approach to law enforcement

Thematic priority 'New Challenges': Drug related cyber crime

Key messages and conclusions:

The online drug markets are a part of transnational organized crime becoming increasingly sophisticated and well organized. The evolution of the online markets has resulted not only in the change of the way the online drug operations are conducted, but also the way the drugs are being delivered to the buyer.

E-commerce in selling illicit drugs has become an even more a booming business since by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions to which the criminal world has rapidly responded: narcotics and most other traded illegal goods are traded widely on the internet/darknet. The three pillars of e-commerce are: internet, transport, and crypto currencies. A continuous rise in international traffic by post consignments is observed globally at the same time worldwide. In western Europe, in particular, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands have become major hubs. The volume of shipped consignments make detection unlikely and therefore pose little risk for traffickers. The risk is further reduced by the anonymity of the vendor because of the use of fake internet IDs and encryption.

At the same time, the levels of personal data stored by individuals and companies has increased exponentially over the past number of years. This stored data can be of significant assistance as evidence in the progression of criminal investigations. There are, however, a number of restrictions placed on law enforcement in accessing this data in connection with criminal investigations. The obligations on law enforcement to prove a case require high evidential standards with specialist forensic knowledge. Law enforcement has proven its ability to adapt to these technologies and in doing so, improve the quality of evidence retrieved for investigations.

Franz Pietsch, Austria
Bureau responsible for the activity

Responding to drug-related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants and IDPS

Description of the activity:

This activity is a follow-up action of the 2015-2018 Pompidou Group Work Programme aiming to address the training needs of professionals working with refugees, migrants and IDPS, to reinforce cooperation and to respond to the needs of the target group for tailor-made, culturally adaptive and gender sensitive interventions of prevention, harm reduction, care and treatment.

Aim:

To respond to the topic related challenges through: (i) identification and the collection of common practices and the promotion of cooperation; (ii) capacity building for professionals working in the field and (iii) by promoting international cooperation at the policy level.

Set objectives:

- ▶ To improve cooperation among professionals to strengthen and facilitate mutual support and assistance.
- ▶ To develop updated materials on transcultural drug work to enhance intercultural competences for more effective and targeted service delivery.
- ▶ To identify potential practices for successful interventions and prevention of risks of failure.

Achieved results:

- ▶ A support network of professionals working with migrants, refugees and IDPS in the field of addictions was set up;
- ▶ Six working group meetings of the support network of professionals were organised;
- ▶ An online platform for cooperation and exchange was developed;
- ▶ Two international capacity building seminars, in 2019 in Athens and in 2021 in Palermo on “Responding to Drug-Related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants and IDPS” were organised;
- ▶ Handbook and Guiding Principles for Professionals working in the field of addictions with refugees, migrants and IDPS were developed.
- ▶ The activity was included in the Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe (2021-2025).

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority ‘New Challenges’: Refugees, IDPS and migrants

Key messages and conclusions:

There is need for continuous capacity building of the intercultural competencies of professionals working with refugees and migrant in the field of addictions and drug prevention (health professionals, psychosocial staff, law enforcement agents). Access to health care system for refugees and migrants should not be limited to physical health. It should also include access to mental health services and addiction treatment, including opioid agonist treatment.

Christos Kouimtsidis, Greece
Bureau responsible for the activity

Implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas

Description of the activity:

Elaboration of a practical handbook on implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas: from law enforcement to care and treatment services

The Ad hoc Expert group was made up of 11 countries (France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Mexico, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland) along with one researcher from Portugal and one from the Scottish Trans Alliance/Equality Network, who reviewed the draft handbook from a trans, including non-binary, perspective. The handbook was also reviewed by the EMCDDA.

The methodology involved discussion, debate, and development of the work. Decisions were always taken in a spirit of openness, respect, trust, compromise, and common agreement.

Embracing evidence-based work, this handbook builds on an important corpus of bibliographical references at the intersection of drugs and gender issues, compiled by the authors.

Aim and objectives

- ▶ To analyse the needs and make proposals for feasible actions and interventions to be undertaken by different stakeholders, by government and non-government agencies to effectively integrate different gender perspectives of persons who use drugs in planning, service delivery and professional practice.
- ▶ To identify obstacles and barriers for accessing care and treatment, for integrating a gender approach in law enforcement and the criminal justice system as well as ways to overcome these.

Achieved results:

- ▶ The handbook was published in English in April 2022 as a CoE ISBN publication.
- ▶ Translation of this handbook in Italian at the request of an NGO and in Spanish at the request of the Mexican government are underway
- ▶ It served as a background document for the work of the European Gender and Drugs Group, an initiative by EMCDDA and the Pampidou Group.
- ▶ The authors presented the handbook at a Seminar on Drugs Facilitated Sexual Assaults (DFSA): a gender-based violence challenge on 18 May 2022 in Rome.
- ▶ The handbook was presented at the 2022 Lisbon Addictions first side event on women and drugs and during a specific gender session.
- ▶ The handbook was also presented at the 13th European Society for Prevention Research Conference in Tallinn, Estonia on 28-30 September 2022 and at the National Drugs Forum 2022 in Dublin, Ireland on 2 November 2022.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority 'International drug policy development': Strengthening the gender specific dimension in drug policy.

Key messages and conclusions:

Gender mainstreaming is fundamentally aligned with humanistic values. It can be a long-term process rather than a result in itself and incorporating a gender perspective into drug policy requires consideration of organisational structures, political will, and the economic and social context. The wider response to gender mainstreaming within policy in any jurisdiction will also inform actions and motivation towards positive change. The handbook contains mechanisms and challenges to incorporate a gender perspective within drug policy.

Practitioners are often at the forefront of recognising and responding to the gendered aspects of drug use and have a role in not only developing interventions to meet the needs of women and non-binary persons in initiating positive, gender-transformative change, accepting also that the range of preventive responses can intersect with the criminal justice system and treatment and intervention.

Thus, in order to create an effective tool that could represent a valid support for all those who are involved in the prevention and treatment of addictions and in criminal justice, from government to medical and social professionals, the handbook was articulated in different chapters providing guidance both for policy makers and for practitioners.

Elisabetta Simeoni, Italy
Bureau responsible for the activity

Drug Policies and Human Rights: self-assessment tool

Description of the activity:

With a new, unique self-assessment tool the Pompidou Group addresses the key questions in a practical manner to assess drug policy compliance with human rights. The main core issue is that of: How can one measure progress in the absence of standardized indicators across the many aspects of human rights, and across countries?

The new tool is a means to do just that as it provides a straightforward entry point for human rights assessment across key drug policy aspects. Such an assessment is to be conducted as a collaborative, reflective process. As a matter of course the concept recognises the variation in approaches and differing contexts across countries. By linking key topics to human rights standards and more specific probing questions, we provide a practical framework to investigate and assess the human rights implications for drug laws, policies, and practices.

Aims and objectives:

- ▶ Provide a better understanding how human rights affect drug policies and in which way they can be instrumental in reducing the unintended effects and adverse consequences of drug policy responses and hence the impacts of such on people who use drugs.
- ▶ Support member States to promote more effective and humane drug policies by integrating International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy into national policy making.
- ▶ Provide member States with a tool to assess implications of human rights dimensions in drug policy development and implementation, and the observation related obligations under international legal instruments.

Achieved results:

An expert group with members from 12 countries and input from different entities of the Council of Europe and the Secretariat prepared:

- ▶ A comprehensive background and reference document on a human rights approach in drug policy together with an inventory of relevant human rights treaties and relevant case law which is planned to be updated at regular intervals.
- ▶ A self-assessment tool that allows for a self-assessment/internal evaluation of drug policies and programmes with respect to human rights standards under existing international legal instruments. The is available in paper copy, web-version and as a rapid assessment online application.

Contribution to the 2019-2022 Work Programme thematic priorities:

Thematic priority 'Good Governance'

- ▶ Understanding and placing emphasis on human rights dimensions and coherent drug policy interventions
- ▶ Repository of applied human rights practices

Key messages and conclusions:

The self-assessment concept relies on a set of questions designed to enable concerned stakeholders to explore human rights compliance of different drug policy options and interventions. Being conscious of existing reporting obligations and high workloads, the concept is designed in a way that readily available sources of information should suffice to conduct the assessments, and standardized indicators are not required. To be practical it cannot be all encompassing and we recognize that some issues are not included. By including a selection of key recurring issues across social, health and criminal justice domains, the tool is an invitation to work within and across disciplines and professions to explore progress, problems, and those areas where human rights issues may have been overlooked.

The concept foresees a tool that is voluntary and for non-comparative use. The tool is not a comparative 'scorecard'. There will be no central database or uniform standards against which States will be checked against each other. The tool is for *self-assessment* – a process to voluntarily undertake.

We believe that by doing so, we can more effectively achieve progress and reform rather than by applying a 'violations approach' that will lead to condemnation of policies. The aim, in other words, is not to 'name and shame' but to support and improve. This way, the application of the tool will provide a better understanding

how human rights affect drug policies and in which way they can be instrumental in reducing the unintended effects and adverse consequences of drug policy responses. Furthermore, the tool presents clear guidance about the implications and obligations under international legal instruments.

We hope it will become a widely used resource and valuable asset for those who strive for humane drug policies that in turn may be reflected in the dignity accorded to those who use drugs and thus the solid justification to those working on the frontline in the implementation of such humane drug policies.

Richard Muscat, Malta
Bureau responsible for the activity

Appendix I: Main outcomes and products delivered between 2019 - 2022

Policy Papers and Statements

- ▶ Pompidou Group statements at the CND sessions (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- ▶ Presidency statements on:
 - [26 June 2019 statement](#)
 - [Adoption of the revised statute](#)
 - [Human rights at the heart of drug policies](#)
 - [Cooperation between the Pompidou Group and CICAD/OAS](#)
 - [Facing COVID19 challenges](#)
 - [Solidarity with Ukraine: statement by the Pompidou Group Presidency](#)
- ▶ Guidance paper on developing strategies for raising standards on drug treatment in the criminal justice system (2022)

Publications

- ▶ [Covid-19 and people who use drugs](#) (essential intervention to save lives and protect people)
- ▶ [Human rights in drug policy: a self-assessment tool](#)
- ▶ [Implementing a Gender approach in drug policies: Prevention, Treatment and Criminal justice](#)
- ▶ [Prison-based Therapeutic Communities for addictions: A Handbook for Prison Administrations, Treatment Professionals and Trainers](#)
- ▶ [Children whose parents use drugs: promising practices and recommendations](#)
- ▶ [European Handbook on General Aviation](#)
- ▶ [“Intercultural responses to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants and IDPS”](#): Handbook for professionals working in the field of addictions with refugees, migrants, and IDPS.
- ▶ [Human Rights at the heart of drug policies](#), 50th anniversary of the Pompidou Group
- ▶ [Human rights and people who use drugs in the Mediterranean region: Current situation in 17 countries](#)
- ▶ [Booklet on Conference on lower risk consumption rooms](#)

Conferences and Symposiums

- ▶ Conference ‘International cooperation in aligning drug policies with Sustainable Development Goals’ (2019 Mexico)
- ▶ Second and third conferences on Drug Policy. Support for implementation of Ukrainian Drug Strategy (2019 Ukraine and 2021 online, co-organised with UNODC)
- ▶ Conference ‘Rehabilitation of Drug Dependent Prisoners – Why Should You Care?’ and the outcome document ‘Tbilisi Declaration’ (2020 Georgia)
- ▶ International Symposium ‘Addictions of the 21st Century: Challenges and Effective Responses’ (2021 online)
- ▶ 2nd Pompidou Group Symposium on experience with new evolutions in drug policy: ‘Evolution of cannabis policies: experiences and lessons learned’ (2021 Portugal)
- ▶ International Conference ‘From stigma to dignity: Sharing perspectives, mobilising potential’, jointly organised by the Pompidou Group and Health Canada in cooperation with UNODC and CICAD (2022 Canada)

Capacity Building

Launch of the International Drug Policy Academy (2019 Poland)

- ▶ Four Executive Trainings on Drug Policy (2019 Netherlands and Israel), 2020 Norway and Malta, 2021 Malta and Croatia, 2022 Ireland and Poland)
- ▶ Joint capacity building seminar with CICAD/OAS 'Drug Prevention Approaches that Make a Difference' (2019 Iceland)
- ▶ Three Pompidou Group seminars on reviewing the role of police in drug prevention (2019 Poland, 2021 Hungary, 2022 Belgium)
- ▶ Two Capacity building seminars 'Responding to Drug-related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants, and IDPS' (2019 Greece, 2021 Italy)
- ▶ Drug Policy Executive Course (2021 France and Italy, 2022 Malta)
- ▶ Workshop and research on the influence of criminal subcultures on effectiveness of drug treatment options in Moldovan prisons (2019 and 2022)
- ▶ Training of Lviv pre-trial detention staff on introducing opioid agonist treatment in custodial settings (2021 hybrid)
- ▶ Workshop 'Supporting Georgia in the implementation of the National Drug Prevention Strategy 2021-2026 and developing the Drug Prevention Action Plan 2021-2022' (2021 online)
- ▶ Three study visits for the South-East Europe Cooperation Group on Developing comprehensive drug treatment systems in prison (2020 online, 2022 Slovenia, 2022 Croatia)
- ▶ Training Webinar 'Therapeutic communities for people with specific needs. Useful experiences for criminal justice professionals from South-East Europe' (2022 online)
- ▶ Production of the training film 'The Aircraft' on the work of law enforcement agencies against drug trafficking in the General Aviation

Tools

- ▶ Online self-assessment tool: Human rights in drug policy
- ▶ COVID 19 Platform
- ▶ E-learning course on Medication assisted treatment for treating opioid use disorders for Moldovan prison professionals
- ▶ Online self-help tool for people using drugs 'Escreen'
- ▶ Resource bank on controlled deliveries
- ▶ Appendix II: Comprehensive list of event and activities implemented in 2019-2022

Appendix II: Comprehensive list of event and activities implemented in 2019-2022

2019

January

22-24, Paris (France), Preparatory meetings of the 2019 law enforcement activities

March

4-5, Amman (Jordan), Workshop on Youth Prevention
14-22, Vienna (Austria), Participation in the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and organisation of four side events:

- ▶ Spearheading prison health reforms in Eastern Europe, organized by Moldova and Romania;
- ▶ Drug prevention approaches that make a difference, organized by Serbia and Iceland;
- ▶ Opioid dependence syndrome: a regulatory framework assuring access to treatment, organized by Malta, Portugal and Switzerland;
- ▶ Psychoactive substances and the SDGs – towards a comprehensive approach in the era of the 2030 agenda, organized by Slovenia, UTRIP Institute for Research and Development and IOGT International

May

21-23, Vienna (Austria), 6th Working Group meeting on Drug-related Cybercrime

28-29, Lisbon (Portugal), 84th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents

28-29, Budapest (Hungary), 4th Annual and 3rd Technical Meeting of the Co-operation Group of South-East European Airports

February

6, Paris (France), 1st Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents

22-23, Tangier (Morocco), MedNET Regional Seminar on Opiate Agonist Treatment

April

2-5, Amsterdam (Netherlands), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module I

10-11, Paris (France), 10th Committee meeting of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools' (MedSPAD)

June

19-20, Strasbourg (France), 32nd Annual meeting of the Airports Group

24, Rome (Italy), 24th Plenary meeting of the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions (MedNET)

24-27, Israel, Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module II

September

19, Paris (France), 2nd Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents

20, Thessaloniki (Greece), Symposium on measuring the effectiveness of therapeutic communities in prison, during the 17th Conference of the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities

25-26, Reykjavik (Iceland), Seminar 'Drug Prevention Approaches that Make a Difference'

October

1-3, Lisbon (Portugal), 12th Annual meeting of the International Network on Precursor Control

8-11, Athens (Greece), Seminar 'Responding to Drug-related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants, and IDPS'

21-22, Lisbon (Portugal), 2nd European Conference on Healthcare in Prison, co-organised with Health Without Barriers

23-25, Lisbon (Portugal), Participation in the 2019 Lisbon Addictions Conference and organisation of two sessions:

- ▶ "Drug policy and human rights"
- ▶ "Gender and Drugs in Europe: issues, challenges, and future perspectives in the drug field"

30-31, Mexico City (Mexico), Conference 'International cooperation in aligning drug policies with Sustainable Development Goals'

November

12-15, Warsaw (Poland), Seminar 'The role of police in drug prevention'

18-19, Strasbourg (France), 25th Plenary meeting of the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions (MedNET)

20-21, Strasbourg (France), 85th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents

26-27, Valletta (Malta), 3rd General Aviation meeting

29, Kiev (Ukraine), Workshop on rehabilitation through in-prison Therapeutic Communities during UNODC conference on Drug Policy in Ukraine

December

4-5, Strasbourg (France), Preparatory working group meeting, Responding to Drug-Related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants & IDPS

16-18, Bucharest (Romania), Study visit of Moldovan prison managers to Romania

2020

January

28-31, Oslo (Norway), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module I

February

4, Paris (France), 1st Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents

5-6, Paris (France), Preparatory meetings of Law Enforcement activities

18, Paris (France), Working group meeting of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools (MedSPAD)

18-19, Tbilisi (Georgia), Conference 'Rehabilitation of drug-dependent prisoners – why should you care?'

18-19, Minsk (Belarus), Launching of cooperation project in Belarus

March

2-6, Vienna (Austria), Participation in the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and organisation of four side events:

- ▶ "Trippin' through nightlife: innovative approaches preventing harms and risks of drug use in recreational settings" – organiser Lithuania
- ▶ "Homelessness and substance use in city centres: balanced and evidence-based policies" – organiser Greece
- ▶ "Public health, justice, and development: Implementing comprehensive innovative approaches to drug policy" – organiser Mexico.
- ▶ "Family oriented policies in drug prevention" organised by UNICRI

April

7, Paris (France), 11th Committee meeting of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools (MedSPAD) (online)

20, Launch of the 'Save Lives - Protect People' online platform

May

12, Working group meeting on Implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas (online)

June

3, 86th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)

9, 2nd Working group meeting of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools (MedSPAD) (online)

22, 2nd Working group meeting on Implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas (online)

23, First meeting of the Expert Group on Drug Policies and human rights: self-assessment tool (online)

25, 1st Working group meeting 'Responding to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants, and IDPS' (online)

July

21, Joint seminar on the 'Impact of the global economic consequences resulting from Covid-19 on drug policies' with OAS/CICAD (online)

September

3-4, Seminar for Moldovan professionals on the influence of subcultures on the efficiency of drug treatment programmes in prison (online)

8, 33rd Annual meeting of the Airports Group (online)

9, 4th Working group meeting on General Aviation (online)

15, 2nd Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)

16, 2nd Meeting of the Expert Group on Drug Policies and human rights: self-assessment tool (online)

16, Working group meeting on Implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas (online)

22-25, Valletta (Malta), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module II

29, Joint seminar on the 'Gender Sensitive Drug Policy Responses' with OAS/CICAD (online)

October

27-28, Training seminar 'Developing comprehensive drug treatment systems in prison' (online)

29, 2nd Working group meeting 'Responding to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants, and IDPS' (online)

November

12-13, Annual meeting of the Cooperation Group of South-East European Airports (CGSEEA) (online)

17, Joint PG / CICAD seminar 'Prevention in the context of Covid-19' (online)

18, Strasbourg (France), 26th Plenary meeting of the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions (MedNET) (online)

19, Strasbourg (France), 87th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)

December

1, 3rd Working group meeting of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs in Schools (MedSPAD) (online)

2, Working group meeting on Implementing a gender approach in different drug policy areas (online)

3, Seminar on 'Behavioural addictions facilitated by information and communication technologies – risks and perspectives' (online)

7, 3rd Working group meeting 'Responding to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants and IDPS' (online)

16, 7th Working group meeting on Drugs online (online)

17, 13th Annual meeting on the International Network on Precursors Control (online)

2021

January

- 6 MedNET - launch of "Beirut en route" project in Lebanon
- 4, Presidency statement on the 50th Anniversary of the Pampidou Group
- 11, Gender Handbook Chapter leaders meeting (online)
- 14, Start of the discussions on the revised statute within the relevant Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers (GR-SOC)
- 14, 4th meeting of the Governing Board of the International Drug Policy Academy (online)
- 22, Lisbon Gender Group meeting hosted by EMCDDA (online)
- 22, 3rd Meeting of the Expert Group on Drug Policies and Human Rights: self-assessment tool (online)

March

- 3, MedSPAD Working Group meeting (online)
- 17, 4th Working group meeting 'Responding to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants, and IDPS' (online)
- 30, 6th Gender Working Group meeting

May

- 20-21, 7th Gender Working Group meeting (online)

February

- 2-4, Lviv (Ukraine), Training for staff of pre-trial detention on implementation of Opioid Substitution Treatment (hybrid)
- 12, Gender meeting Chapter IV (online)
- 18, 1st Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)

April

- Launch MedSPAD IV in Morocco and MedSPAD III in Tunisia
- 12-16, (online) Participation in the 64th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and organisation of five side events:
 - ▶ 'Prevention in everyone's pocket: discover the possibilities on-line' - organiser Lithuania
 - ▶ 'Education: a gateway to social reintegration' - organiser Greece
 - ▶ 'Promoting Attitudes and Actions that Reduce Stigmatisation of Drug Use and Drug Addiction' - organiser Malta
 - ▶ 'Human Rights in Action: Implementing the International Guidelines on Human Rights & Drug Policy' – organiser the Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights
 - ▶ 'Promoting evidence-based drug policies and interventions enshrined in human rights in Europe' - organiser the Association Projecto Hombre
- 21, MedSPAD Committee meeting (online)

June

- 1, Strasbourg (France), Second symposium on Drug Consumption Rooms
- 2, Workshop 'Supporting Georgia in the implementation of the National Drug Prevention Strategy 2021-2026' (online)
- 6-9, Valletta (Malta), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module I
- 15, International Symposium 'Addictions of the 21st Century: Challenges and Effective Responses' (online)
- 28, 5th Working group meeting 'Responding to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants, and IDPS' (online)

July

- 1, Strasbourg (France), Second symposium on Drug Consumption Rooms
- 2, Workshop 'Supporting Georgia in the implementation of the National Drug Prevention Strategy 2021-2026' (online)
- 6-9, Valletta (Malta), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module I
- 15, International Symposium 'Addictions of the 21st Century: Challenges and Effective Responses' (online)
- 28, 5th Working group meeting 'Responding to drug related challenges for refugees, migrants, and IDPS' (online)

August

- 24-27, Strasbourg (France), Cours exécutif sur la politique des drogues - Module I

September

- 16, 2nd Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)
- 21-23, Palermo (Italy), 2nd Capacity building seminar 'Responding to Drug-related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants and IDPS' and the working group meeting

October

- 5-8, Cavtat (Croatia), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module II
- 12-13, Strasbourg (France), 14th Annual meeting on the International Network on Precursors Control
- 13-14, Larnaca (Cyprus), Annual meeting of the South-East Europe Airports Group
- 21-22, Budapest (Hungary), 2nd meeting on the role of police in drug prevention
- 27, Paris (France), 89th Permanent Correspondents meeting
- 28, Paris (France), Commemoration event of the 50th anniversary at the Pompidou Centre; Award ceremony of the 2021 Prevention Prize

November

- 23-24, Strasbourg (France), Annual Working group meeting on Drugs Online
- 24-25, Kyiv (Ukraine), Conference on 'Drug Policy - Support for implementation of the Ukrainian Drug Strategy' (co-organized with UNODC) (online)
- 27-28, Genova (Italy), Participation in the Italian National Conference on Addictions "Beyond fragility"
- 30 – 3 December, Venice (Italy), Drug Policy Executive Course - Module II

December

- 15, Lisbon (Portugal), 2nd Pompidou Group Symposium on experience with new evolutions in drug policy

2022

January

- 12, MedSPAD Africa (UNODC/ MedNET) meeting (online)
- 13, Therapeutic communities for people with specific needs. Useful experiences for criminal justice professionals from South-East Europe (online)

March

14-18, (online) Participation in the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and organisation of eight side events:

- ▶ 'Children and Families Affected by Parental Drug Use: current gaps and promising practices' – organiser Dianova, Croatia and other countries;
- ▶ 'Identifying, tracking, and controlling drug precursor products' – Governments and enterprises joining forces' - joint side event Pompidou Group and CICAD/OAS;
- ▶ 'Collaboration with civil society and governments in drug policies' - organiser Lithuania
- ▶ 'Driving change from a shrinking space: Challenges to effective civil society participation in drug policy making' – organiser Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD);
- ▶ 'The Death Penalty for Drug Offences: Latest developments and impact on Foreign Nationals' - organiser Harm Reduction International (HRI);
- ▶ 'Human Rights: The Right to Equitable Health Social and Justice Remedies for People who use Drugs' – organiser Malta;
- ▶ 'The Humanitarian approach to drug policy: opportunities and challenges for an effective cooperation between public authorities and health-based organizations' - organiser Italy;
- ▶ 'Police and Drug Treatment Together: The Global Emergence of Deflection as a Humanitarian Crime Reduction Approach to Drugs' – organiser The Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (USA), Villa Mariani Foundation (Italy).

February

- 1, Children whose parents use drugs projects: 2022 project meeting (online)
- 8, 1st Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)
- 10, 27th MedNET meeting (online)
- 22, Interagency UNODC/WHO Technical Working Group inaugural meeting
- 23-24, MedSPAD ESPAD bridge project: focus groups (online)

April

12-13, Strasbourg (France), 15th Annual Meeting of the International Network on the Control of Precursors' Diversion

13-14, Strasbourg (France), 9th Annual meeting of the expert group on Drugs Online

13, European Gender and Drugs group: technical meeting (online)

19-22, Chisinau (Republic of Moldova), Presentation of research findings on subcultures and drug treatment and launch of the e-learning course on opioid agonist treatment in prison

26-29, Valetta (Malta), Drug Policy Executive Course - Module III

May

9, Strasbourg, 6th Working group meeting of the Support Network of Professionals (SNP) working on Drug Related Challenges for Refugees, Migrants, and IDPS'

10-12, Brussels/Pajottenland (Belgium), 3rd Meeting on the role of police in drug prevention

17, Rome (Italy), 90th Permanent Correspondents' meeting

18, Rome (Italy), Seminar on Drug Facilitated Sexual Assaults (DFSA)

23, 3rd Working group meeting on Standards for treatment of people with drug use disorders in custodial settings (online)

June

2, Strasbourg (France), 37th Annual meeting of the Airports Group

2-3, Strasbourg (France), 6th Annual Working group meeting on General Aviation

7 3rd meeting of UNODC-WHO Interagency Working Group of Prevention of Drug Use, Treatment and Care of Drug Use Disorders (online)

10, MedNET online training: launch of the 6-month advanced training in motivational interviewing for 12 general practitioners, psychiatrists, and nurses from Tunisia

14, Paris (France), MedSPAD committee

14-16, Ljubljana (Slovenia), 1st Study visit of the South-East Europe Cooperation Group on Developing comprehensive drug treatment systems in prisons

21-24, Dublin (Ireland), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module I

27-29, Geneva (Switzerland), Contribution to the 1st Global Conference on Health in Detention

27-29, Bethlehem (Palestine*), Capacity Building Seminar on Addictology and Prevention

28, Tunis, Women's addiction workshop

July

11-12, Tbilisi (Georgia), Launch of the project 'Developing a Drug Prevention Support Network for Parents and Professionals in Georgia' and assessment visit

September

21, 2nd Bureau meeting of Permanent Correspondents (online)

October

4, 3rd meeting of UNODC-WHO Interagency Working Group of Prevention of Drug Use, Treatment and Care of Drug Use Disorders, online

4-5, Ljubljana (Slovenia), Annual meeting of the South-East Europe Airports Group

4-7, Wrocław (Poland), Executive Training on Drug Policy - Module II

18-19, Nicosia (Cyprus), 28th MedNET Meeting

25-27, Zagreb (Croatia), 2nd study visit of the group hosted by the Croatian Institute of Public Health and the Prison Administration

25-26, Ottawa (Canada), International Conference 'From stigma to dignity: Sharing perspectives, mobilising potential', jointly organised by the Pompidou Group and Health Canada in cooperation with UNODC and CICAD

November

2-3 November, Dublin (Ireland), participation in the National Drugs Forum 2022

21-22, Lisbon (Portugal), Contribution to the 3rd European Conference on Prison Health

22, Symposium on Gender and Drugs, co-organised by EMCDDA and the Pompidou Group, Lisbon, Portugal

23-25, Lisbon (Portugal), Participation in the 2022 Lisbon Addictions Conference and organisation of three sessions:

- ▶ Assessment of drug policies in the light of Sustainable Development Goals and: health, human rights and leaving no-one behind
- ▶ Gender differences and gender identities in drug use, addiction, and interventions: why gender matters
- ▶ Investigating adolescent substance use and risk behaviours in the Mediterranean region: where do we stand?
- ▶ Criminal Justice and Prison Programme poster

December

13, Lisbon (Portugal), 91st Permanent Correspondents' meeting

13-14, Lisbon (Portugal), 18th Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group

The Pompidou Group is the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions. As an enlarged partial agreement of the Council, it is open to the member states as well as to non-member states from Europe and other parts of the world. The Pompidou Group promotes a human rights-based approach to drug policy encompassing all areas, from drug policy development through implementation and monitoring to evaluation. It provides assistance to national authorities in identifying and embracing timely responses to contentions about human rights in drug policy, as well as in assessing the intended and unintended effects of envisaged drug policy measures, taking into account potential impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Recognising the paramount role of civil society in upholding human rights, the Pompidou Group offers guidance and tools to decision makers, in order to develop practical and meaningful ways for government and civil society to co-operate in the field of drug policy.

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 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.

