

**The International
Drug Policy
Academy**



Drug Policy Executive Course

2025

Course

Valletta – Malta

Strasbourg - France

Kraków - Poland

**Registration deadline:
30 December 2024**



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

Course Outline

2025 Drug Policy Executive Course

Target audience: This advanced course of the International Drug Policy Academy is designed for professionals who work as managers or senior team members in the area of drug policies and addictions. The course contains all key competency areas required for exercising managerial duties related to drug policy development, implementation and evaluation. The course is offered to a maximum of 20 participants.

Module 1 - Competency Area Policy: Substances, Behaviour, Addictions

Module 2 - Competency Area Science: Health, Safety, Human Rights

Module 3 - Competency Area Practice: Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication

Time frame: The three-module course will start in March 2025 and finish in September 2025:

- **25-28 March 2025:** Module I seminar: Valletta, Malta
- **10-13 June 2025:** Module II seminar: Strasbourg, France
- **23-26 September 2025:** Module III seminar: Kraków, Poland

To register ► [click here](#) ◀ Deadline 30 December 2024

Learning format: Each module includes a 4-day in-residence seminar. Between modules, participants will work on a research assignment under the mentorship of a designated supervisor. The working format during seminars is highly interactive and the course language is English.

Certification: Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be awarded the ***Certificate in Advanced Drug Policy Management*** by the International Drug Policy Academy, which is validated with 120 academic Contact Hours.

Tuition fee: The tuition fee for the complete three-module course is **€ 1500**. A number of full and partial grants are available, also for travel and subsistence costs. Further information will be provided upon request.

For further information about course registration, practical arrangements and fees please contact:

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Course Elements

Module I

**Competency Area Science:
Substances, Behaviour and
Addictions**



Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this module, participants will have the knowledge and practical skills to:

- Conceptualise professional practice in accordance with the specific effects and features of different psychoactive substances;
- Analyse the basic cognitive neuroscience impact of major categories of psychoactive substances and how this relates to addiction potential and risk;
- Manage medical use of controlled substances, medication-assisted addiction treatment and access to and availability of essential medicines;
- Understand criteria and processes of scheduling psychoactive substances in national and international legal instruments;
- Explore current and emerging trends in new psychoactive substances (NPS) and consumption patterns;
- Construct interventions based on the knowledge of behavioural health and behaviour change theory and the connections between mental health, trauma and substance use/addictive behaviours;
- Critically assess the risks and addiction potential of specific psychoactive substances based on their physical properties and evidentiary data;
- Identify connections between the use of psychoactive substances and behavioural dependencies such as on-line gambling other and gaming addictions.



The first module seminar will be held at the University of Malta, academic co-operation partner of the International Drug Policy Academy.

Module II

Competency Area Policy: Health, Safety, Human Rights



Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this module, participants will have the knowledge and practical skills to:

- Formulate the key concepts of drug policy and explain how to integrate these into larger health and security objectives;
- Define the components and structural elements for drug policies on both national and international levels;
- Construct intersectional work procedures and develop effective approaches to drug, alcohol, tobacco and addiction policies and congruency with other policy areas;
- Analyse the impact of national and international policies on illegal drug markets and demand-related behaviour;
- Determine what works and what does not: developing responsive drug policies and processes to adapt to changing situations and new evidence;
- Recognise the importance of the human rights dimension and ethical standards in national and international drug policies;
- Analyse the proportionality and consequences of drug policies on individuals, gender and social groups;
- Create partnerships across sectors and disciplines, including managing serious unforeseeable developments like pandemics.



The second module seminar will include analysis of case studies and exchanges of professional experiences during study visits to the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights.

Module III

Competency Area Practice: Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication



Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this module, participants will have the knowledge and practical skills to:

- Systematically collect analyse and interpret data for monitoring policy;
- Identify and adopt best available methods and technologies to monitor drug policy, trends and related scientific developments;
- Analyse research findings and models of practice for use and application in policy development and implementation;
- Design effective methods for evaluating drug policies, strategies, action plans and related services and programmes;
- Communicate effectively the aims, objectives and outcomes of drug policies to different stakeholders and audiences;
- Bring to the attention of decision makers the links between policy, practice and research;
- Manage people, programmes and opportunities.



The final module will be organised in cooperation with the National Centre for Prevention of Addictions under the Ministry of Health of Poland. Here the official ceremony marking the end of the course and formal handover of Certificate in Advanced Drug Policy Management will be celebrated.

About the International Drug Policy Academy



The concept: The International Drug Policy Academy (IDPA) was launched by the Pompidou Group and aims to link policy, research and practice across sectors and build capacities for more effective elaboration, management and evaluation of coherent and sustainable drug policies and related programmes. The IDPA utilizes engaged active learning and international collaboration to support effective drug policy management. 50 years of international cooperation and capacity building facilitated by the Pompidou Group and 10 years of experience with the successful concept of Executive Trainings on Drug Policy developed by the Pompidou Group, have gone into the development of the IDPA. On the academic side the IDPA works closely with faculty from Syracuse University (New York) and the University of Malta to offer programmes that meet academic standards. Through attending the IDPA course offers, professionals working in drug policy-related areas will obtain formal recognition of their further education enhancing their professional skills and competences.

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

Profile of beneficiaries: Courses are designed for professionals from governmental and non-governmental institutions that take part in developing and/or implementing drug policies and/or coordinating related programmes and service delivery. The courses are open to participants from all countries. In the registration process preference is given to Pompidou Group and Council of Europe member States when capacity limits are reached or exceeded.

Governance and administration: The IDPA has a Governing Board comprised of representatives of the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group and the cooperating academic institutions.

