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2023 – 2025 Work Programme

‘Human Rights at the heart of drug and addiction policies’

INTRODUCTION

The Pompidou Group provides a forum for open debate to discuss different approaches to drug policy, offers innovative solutions, and facilitates capacity building across disciplines to enhance knowledge for better informed and evidence-based drug policy choices. Given the global nature of drug problems, the Group, as an enlarged partial agreement, has established itself as a bridge between European and other world regions. Through this international co-operation the Pompidou Group has proven competence and capability to move human rights-oriented drug policies forward thus helping to reduce drug use and the associated negative social and health consequences.

The adoption of a revised statute by the Committee of Ministers in 2021 set the impulse for important changes by strengthening the focus on human rights, extending the Pompidou Group’s scope of action beyond illicit drugs and fostering synergies within the Council of Europe. Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis have also inspired the Pompidou Group to use new working methods and activity formats. All of which is reflected in this work programme.

Over the next three years the focus will be on promoting sustainable drug and addiction policies in conformity with human rights, safeguarding democratic societies by addressing addictions that impact on human autonomy and decision-making, protecting the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable and risk groups, as well as reducing trafficking of illicit drugs and preventing the diversion of precursors. The regional networks in Europe and beyond will be further developed through sustainable activities such as MedNET, the Mediterranean network, the Criminal Justice and Health in Prisons Programme and the South-East Europe Cooperation.

The over-arching goal of any policy in the field of drugs and addictions is that of well-being as described by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the preamble to its 1946 constitution – “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. The Pompidou Group seeks to contribute to accomplishing this goal in all its actions.

1. PROBLEM DESCRIPTION AND ROLE OF THE POMPIDOU GROUP

Problem description: People who use drugs or suffer from addictions should not experience attrition of their human rights. Apart from the human rights and public health dimensions of the drug problem, illicit trafficking raises rule of law issues because of its adverse effects for society. The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem in 2016 (UNGASS 2016) marked the paradigm shift towards a public health approach and human rights centred approach. More effective and humane responses to the problems of drugs and related disorders need to be explored.

Role of the Pompidou Group: Being an integral part of the Council of Europe, representing the organisations core values, the Pompidou Group as an enlarged partial agreement can make significant contributions to developing and enhancing drug and addiction policies that guarantee a balance between public safety and the protection and promotion of the individual's rights. The Pompidou Group is recognized at international level for its expertise in promoting humane and sustainable policies by providing multidisciplinary responses to address consequences resulting from use and addictive behaviours. This way it can provide new insights, guidance and tools for policy makers, managers and practitioners involved in drug and addiction policy development, implementation and evaluation.

2. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND FOCUS

The priorities for the Pompidou Group have been set by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the *Council of Europe Strategic Priorities 2022 – 2025* ([doc. CM \(2022\) 1, p. 100](#)) as follows:

- Promoting sustainable drug and addiction policies in conformity with human rights
- Safeguarding democratic societies by addressing addictions that impact human autonomy
- Protecting the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable and risk groups
- Reducing trafficking of illicit drugs and preventing the diversion of precursors

In line with the new mandate defined in the Resolution of the *Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions* ([doc. CM/Res \(2021\) 4](#)) the Pompidou Group in executing its mission is focused on:

- Promoting human rights compliance in drug policy responses and exploring strategies to address addictions including those related to the use of communication and information technologies and applications.
- Avoiding overlap of work with other actors in the field and finding synergies in cooperating with international partner organisations, in particular EMCDDA, WHO, UNODC and CICAD with whom the Pompidou Group has cooperation arrangements.
- Achieving further synergy effects and increasing visibility and relevance by engaging with and contributing to related activities of other Council of Europe entities, notably on issues concerning women, children, vulnerable and risk groups, information society, health in prison, money laundering and cybercrime.
- Addressing human rights, gender and civil society participation as transversal aspects in all Pompidou Group's activities.
- Enhancing capacity building activities that, where appropriate, may be implemented by the newly created International Drug Policy Academy to provide added value.
- Continue the regional sustainable networks such as the Mediterranean network MedNET, the Criminal Justice and Health in Prisons Programme and the South-East Europe Cooperation.

3. ACTION

In the pursuit of accomplishing its mission and addressing the binding priorities set by the Committee of Ministers, the work programme has been developed along the following lines of action:

PRIORITY	ACTION
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN DRUG POLICY	Aligning policy responses with human rights standards
	➤ Supporting implementation of human rights standards in drug and addiction policies
	➤ Improving access to and quality of drug treatment services
	➤ Promoting access and availability of controlled substances for medical purposes
	Reducing stigma and discrimination
	➤ Creating opportunities to move from stigma to inclusion
	Applying alternative options
	➤ Legal responses to acts under the influence of psychoactive substances
	➤ Promoting application of alternatives to coercive sanctions
	➤ Application of court-ordered detention for drug use and court-ordered treatment in line with human rights standards
SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY ADDRESSING ADDICTIONS	Addressing new forms of addictions
	➤ Understanding addictions facilitated by technologies and online practices
	➤ Exploring available on-line interventions and tools in self-help and treatment
PROTECTING RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO VULNERABLE AND RISK GROUPS	Reducing vulnerability through target group specific action
	➤ Ensuring health and treatment in prisons
	➤ Defining needs for prevention as well as early identification and intervention
	➤ Exploring ways and means to support children whose parents use drugs
REDUCING ILLICIT DRUG AND PRECURSOR TRAFFICKING	Exploring new responses to illicit drug production, distribution and profits
	➤ Improving law enforcement against drug trafficking through airport and via general aviation
	➤ Preventing and countering the diversion of precursor chemicals, preventing and combating the production and sale of drugs
	➤ Analysing new trafficking developments by air, sea, land and waterways

- Analyse ways to combat money laundering and seizing assets and proceeds in cooperation with MONEYVAL
- Promoting action against online sale and distribution of illicit drugs

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

Output - What the Pompidou Group is expected to produce:

- Policy input on drugs and addictions: policy papers, guidance documents and cooperation arrangements
- Tools for policy development, implementation and evaluation: manuals, online resources, developing and maintaining networks
- Capacity building activities through enhancing professional skills and competences: trainings, seminars workshops, symposiums
- Multimedia and online resources, audio-visuals, interactive applications

Outcome – The intended and expected effects:

1. **Short term:** Governments have enhanced capacity to make informed and evidence-based drug and addiction policy choices in line with human rights standards. Public authorities and non-state actors cooperate across sectors and disciplines.
2. **Medium term:** Member States have developed drug and addiction strategies ensuring coherence and cooperation between different sectors involved, increasing the effective responses to the drugs phenomena, as well as other addictive behaviours.
3. **Long term:** Public health-based drug and addiction policies integrating human rights will have improved human rights protection for people affected by drug use and addictions, and enhanced public safety and security.

Deliverables

The deliverables aim to bring an enhanced level of knowledge for better informed and evidence-based drug policy choices that will enable to attain the expected outcomes.

	Deliverables → Output	Target 2025
IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1	Policy papers, guidance documents and cooperation Arrangements	4
	Trainings, seminars, symposiums	16
	Number of state and non-state actors using tools for assessing human rights compliance of national drug policies	20
	Reviewed national drug policies, strategies and action plans	3
IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 2	Countries engaged in regional cooperation and networking activities	35
	Participants have gained new knowledge from training and capacity building activities	85%
	Materials and tools developed for capacity building	10
	Active engagement of civil society organisations in Pompidou Group activities	40%

5. PLAN OF WORK

In addition to its statutory meetings (the Ministerial Conference, the Permanent Correspondents and their Bureau), the Pompidou Group will conduct the following activities to achieve the expected results.

Terms of reference for activities under this work programme are adopted by Permanent Correspondents taking into account (i) existing work by other organisations, (ii) aim for potential synergies with implementation partners, and (iii) ensuring that the expected results demonstrate the potential benefits and the added value of the Pompidou Group.

The implementation of activities in support of the desired outcomes and outputs is conducted by the Secretariat and supervised by the Permanent Correspondents and the Bureau under the *Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents (doc P-PG (2021) 6 final)*. All activities are subject to financing by the Ordinary Budget of the Pompidou Group (OB), Voluntary Contributions from member States (VC) and other Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR).

ACTIVITIES & TOPICS	DELIVERABLES	BUDGET OB/VC/ EBR	TIMEFRAME
Expert Group on Human Rights and Drug Policy	<i>On-going activity</i>	OB	2023-25
➤ Implementing human rights self-assessment tool	Annual review and update		2023-25
➤ Access to and quality of drug treatment services	Guidance document		2024
➤ Access and availability of controlled substances for medical purposes	Policy paper		2025
Expert group elaborating responses to new forms of addictions	<i>New activity</i>	OB	2023-25
➤ Understanding behavioural addictions facilitated by technologies and online practices	Strategy outlining responses towards safer use of online applications + stakeholder conference		2023-25
➤ Exploring available on-line interventions and tools in self-help and treatment	Overview of examples of current practice and evidence		2024
➤ Presenting and promoting new prevention practices for a digital world	<i>Digital Prevention Prize</i> awards for successful projects serving as models for replication		2025
Annual Conference of Drug Control Networks	<i>Modernised activity</i>	OB	2023-25
➤ Ways to combat money laundering and seizing assets and proceeds	Plenary segment		
➤ Analysing new trafficking developments by air, land, sea and waterways	Plenary segment		
➤ Online sale and distribution of illicit drugs	Plenary segment		

➤ Controlling drug precursor production and counter NPS distribution	Precursor Control Network segment		
➤ Trafficking through airport and via general aviation	Airports and Aviation Network segment		
Law enforcement resource management	<i>On-going activity</i>	OB	2023-25
➤ Resource Bank on Controlled Deliveries	Annual review and update		
➤ Handbook on General Aviation	Annual review and update		
➤ General aviation	Training materials		
International Drug Policy Academy	<i>Modernised activity</i>	OB / VC	2023-25
➤ Aligning policy responses with human rights standards	Drug Policy Executive Course	VC	2023-24
➤ Prevention needs for young people and early intervention	Thematic Training	OB	2023
➤ Improving access to and quality of drug treatment services			2024
➤ Alternative options for dealing with addiction related offences in the light of the general objective of reducing consumption and crime			2025
➤ Drug trafficking through airport and via general aviation	Capacity building seminar, Resources and tools	OB	2024
➤ Role of police in drug prevention			2023
3rd Symposium on evolution of drug policies	<i>New activity</i>	OB	2025
➤ Prerequisites for and examination of the different cannabis legal frameworks and their consequences in the light of the general objective of reducing its consumption and related crime	High profile awareness event in cooperation with international partner organisation		
Vulnerable and risk groups: children and addictions	<i>New activity</i>	OB	
➤ Children whose parents use drugs	Presentation of guidelines Seminar		
➤ Children and addictions			
Harm reduction symposium	<i>New activity</i>	OB	2023 2025
➤ Stigmatisation and discrimination	High profile awareness events in cooperation with international partner organisation		
➤ Innovative harm reduction practices			
➤ Supervised drug consumption facilities			
MedNET network		<i>On-going activity</i>	VC/EBR

➤ Access to and quality of drug treatment services	Trainings, support facility, resources in the context of the MedNET annual work programmes		
➤ Behavioural addictions facilitated by technologies and online practices			
➤ Health and treatment in prisons			
South-East Europe Cooperation Network	<i>On-going activity</i>	VC	2023-25
➤ Health and treatment in prisons	High profile regional conference, trainings, support facility, resources		
➤ Drug trafficking through airport and general aviation			
➤ Behavioural addictions facilitated by technologies and online practices			
Criminal Justice and Health in Prison Programme	<i>On-going activity</i>	VC	
➤ Health and treatment in prisons	Capacity building seminars, support facility, resources		

6. EVALUATION

The implementation of activities is regularly reviewed by the Bureau and discussed annually in the fall meeting of PCs. In addition, the following assessments are conducted with respect to each activity:

- Process evaluation
 - Post activity questionnaires (participants feedback)
 - Individual internal evaluation (Secretariat)
 - Collective internal evaluation (Secretariat)
 - Mid-term assessment (Permanent Correspondents)

In terms of the priorities the results of the PG's work shall be assessed by an:

- Outcome evaluation
 - Compliance of activities and outputs with the set priorities.

In 2024 a mid-term evaluation will assess the progress of work and provide guidance for activity implementation during the remainder of the work programme.

The work of the Pompidou Group and involved stakeholders programme is conducted with due consideration of the rules and practices of the Council of Europe to manage conflicts of interest.