

Pompidou Group 2016 Executive Training

*Training for effective cooperation:
Interaction between governments and civil society organisations*



6 - 8 June 2016

12-15 September 2016

Training Course Outline

Scope and Purpose of the Training

Civil society organisations (CSOs) constitute an important element of the democratic process. They provide citizens with an alternative way, alongside those of political parties and lobbies, of channelling different views and securing a variety of interests in the policy planning and implementation process. CSOs can bring benefits of knowledge and independent expertise to the process of decision making. In the majority of countries the interaction between governments/public institutions and civil society organisations is not always developed to its full potential, thus affecting the efficiency of policies and distribution of financial and human resources.

This training aims to provide both policy managers and civil society organisations with guidance and tools for meaningful and efficient mutual cooperation in the field of drug policy.

Training objective

The Training provides a unique opportunity for the representatives from both government and public institutions, and civil society organisations in the field of drug policy to jointly explore efficient ways of cooperation in order to achieve the common goal of improving the lives of people.

Expected results

Following the training, participants will have developed new competences that are directly relevant to their day-to-day work. As a result they will have gained a clear understanding of:

- benefits and potential levels of engagement with civil society in effectively developing, and implementing and evaluating drug policies;
- different civil society actors, their roles and potential contributions;
- main barriers limiting an effective cooperation between governmental and public institutions and CSOs;
- methodologies on how to cooperate, to build trust, enhance transparency and accountability;
- how to establish the criteria for cooperation, to define potential partners, to find the opportunities for engagement and to do the risk assessment in cooperative partnerships.

In addition participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the Pompidou Group proposals for government interactions with civil society on drug policy issues containing principles, ways and means, opportunities and challenges which are currently under preparation and expected to be adopted by the Pompidou Group's Permanent Correspondents at the end of 2016.

Dates and Locations

6 - 8 June 2016

1st Module, Helsinki, Finland

12-15 September 2016

2nd Module, Stockholm, Sweden

The Programme targets

- Managers from governmental institutions that are responsible for developing and/or implementing drug policies and/or coordinating related programme implementation, service delivery and cooperation with stakeholders;
- Representatives from civil society organisations working in various sectors of drug field.

Languages

To ensure a highly interactive training and to allow direct communication between all participants the main working language will be English.

Deadline for submission of applications

15 February 2016

Contact and further information

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Working methods

The Executive Training consists of two interconnected modules that are facilitated by conducting two seminars. The work is conducted in plenary sessions and working groups in a highly participatory format combined with on-site visits to selected projects and institutions. The activities are planned and organised by a group of experts in cooperation with the Secretariat and Permanent Correspondents. Participants are required to commit themselves to prepare for and participate in both seminars. It is not possible to participate only in one module.

Participation: Participation of both, professionals from government bodies and civil society organisations, is essential to attain the highest level of expected results. Therefore nominations for two participants from each country, one from the government sphere and one from relevant civil society organisation, are requested, wherever possible.

To ensure a highly participatory learning process the training is limited to a maximum of 40 participants (preference will be given to Pompidou Group and Council of Europe member States in case this number is exceeded). High-profile facilitators will be identified and engaged on the basis of the elaborated topics to provide the best available expertise meeting the needs of participants.

Preparation: A detailed participation form filled in by participants together with their CVs will help the group of experts to get an overview over the individual profiles of participants and serve as a basis to prepare the training.

1st Module: Seminar - Setting the scene and identifying needs

During this seminar (2.5 days) participants will explore the issues and aspects of their work related to the interaction between government/public institutions and civil society organisations. They will understand the benefits and identify factors and competences that are needed to overcome obstacles and barriers in their cooperation, as well as identify the main aspects needed to work deeper in the second Module.

2nd Module: Seminar - Building competence and generating qualified feedback

The second seminar (4 days) will be based on the needs and specific topic areas defined during the first seminar. The activity will consist of two parts. Part I will provide input, study visits and reflection sessions on the key issues identified for in-depth work. Part II will provide the participants with the opportunity to review and give feedback on the draft guidance on cooperation with civil society on drug policy issues being prepared by the Ad hoc working group of Permanent Correspondents.

Additional value

In addition to the capacity building effect of the training activity, the seminars will produce information of interest to policy makers. In particular, knowledge on ways how to overcome barriers and obstacles in policy development and implementation is a valuable source of information for the decision making level.

Follow-up

The Executive Training provides the basis for networking among participants, thus setting an impulse for delivering further beneficial insights and understanding on all relevant aspects. The Secretariat of the Pompidou Group will assist in facilitating this process.

To know more about the Pompidou Group Executive Training, please watch this [video](#)