

Pompidou Group 2017 Executive Training

*Integrating and adapting challenges resulting from NPS
into demand reducing strategies*



28 – 30 March 2017

30 May – 2 June 2017

Training Course Outline

Scope and Purpose of the Training

The rapid emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) has reshaped the global drug scene. At the same time NPS is fundamentally challenging the way we until now have regulated, listed and controlled (illegal) drugs. This has serious implications for both, supply and demand reduction policies.

The reshaped drug scene raises the need to consider how to adapt this phenomenon to traditional prevention, treatment, risk and harm reduction measures and potential needs for new approaches that can effectively reach a range of different user groups. When deciding on how to deal with NPS, it is a unique opportunity to learn from existing drug policies and programmes. The experiences and lessons learned should be the basis to determine the most effective measure to deal with the phenomenon.

Integrating NPS into existing demand reduction policies and strategies requires first of all a clear understanding of the emergence of these substances, the substances itself, user groups, motivation for use and associated risk and harms. As NPS are extensively used for recreational purposes by young people, it is of a great importance to focus the attention on early intervention as well as on the role of the internet in marketing and informing on these substances. At the same time there is growing evidence that NPS are used by those already using illegal drugs, substituting these with NPS when not available or too costly. Among this target group are many vulnerable and addicted users.

While taking into account existing effective responses and experiences that can be employed in NPS demand reduction, it is also important to develop new interventions tailored to the specificities of NPS where existing measure are not feasible.

The training aims to provide insights on the lessons learned from experiences with existing regulations and programs dealing with other psychoactive substances and to look at promising new avenues, such as substance testing, safer-night life advisories etc., that require further elaboration and development.

Dates and Locations

28 - 30 March 2017

1st module, Israel

30 May – 2 June 2017

2nd module, Alicante, Spain

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 working language will be English.

Deadline for submission of applications

15 January 2017

Contact and further information

Ms Elena HEDOUX
Responsible Executive Training
Pompidou Group
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
FRANCE
E-mail: elena.hedoux@coe.int
Web site: www.coe.int/pompidou

Training objective

The objectives of the Executive Training are:

- Identifying user groups, patterns of use and adequate responses;
- Analysing existing effective prevention, early detection and intervention and treatment programmes in view of application to NPS;
- Identifying aspects of prevention, treatment and harm reduction that are specific to NPS and require modification of existing approaches;
- Exploring existing new demand reduction approaches and models that have been recently developed specifically for NPS in view of the transferability and adaptability in different country contexts;
- Providing the necessary knowledge and skills to develop effective demand reduction responses in the national contexts of member States.

Drug policy managers from participating countries will be able to share their national experience and benefit from on-site visits in the countries hosting the training modules. In addition participants are expected to elaborate practical ideas for different professions and services dealing with NPS and related problems. These insights will help to provide guidance for more effective treatment services, to better reach target groups with prevention measures, and to reduce individual and public health risks.

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:

- NPS phenomenon as such,
- motivation and behaviour of different NPS user groups,
- different existing approaches to tackle the problem,
- applicability of existing resources and tools to NPS,
- benefits of pursuing a balanced approach towards NPS,
- different civil society actors, their roles and potential contributions in dealing with NPS,
- recognition of the need to provide more general addiction-oriented treatment than intervention offers focusing on specific substances

In addition, by the end of the training participants are expected to formulate concrete proposals for the Permanent Correspondents with suggestions as to how the Pompidou Group could contribute to and support national and international efforts to deal with the challenges associated with NPS.

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: To ensure a highly participatory learning process the training is limited to a maximum of 35 participants (preference will be given to Pompidou Group and Council of Europe member States in case this number is exceeded). High-profile facilitators and resource persons 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. The deadline for submitting the application form together with a CV is **15 January 2017**.

1st Module: Seminar – Setting the scene and focusing on successful approaches

During this seminar (3 days) participants will explore the specificity of NPS phenomenon as such with the focus on existing prevention and treatment offers. Knowhow transfer and shared experiences will be provided by study visits to successful projects in the fields of drug prevention, early detection and treatment with special perspectives and offers related to NPS.

2nd Module: Seminar – From practice to reflection

The second seminar (4 days) will consist of two parts. In part I participants will continue exploring existing measures and concepts and their applicability to NPS. Part II will provide reflection sessions where participants will identify which existing demand and harm reduction approaches, including available risk reduction offers, can be applied to NPS and how they can be implemented in practice and in national context.

Additional value

Pompidou Group Executive Training targeting managers working in different spheres of drug field aims at enhancing not only the knowledge related to the work domain, but also to strengthen their managerial capacities and skills.

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, as well as ways to improve the quality of work, 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](#).