

Pompidou Group – Syracuse University Trans Atlantic Executive Training on Drug Policy: Effective Governance of Coherent Drug Policies

Training Course Outline

Dates: 19 – 21 May 2011, needs assessment seminar (1st module)
19 – 22 September 2011, qualifying seminar (2nd module)
- Please note that attendance is imperative for both modules -

Place: European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe
Budapest, Hungary

Working language: English

Scope and purpose of the Training Programme

Drug trafficking and use are increasingly global in scope. Collaboration among U.S. and European drug policy experts is essential for the development of information sharing and consistency in relative policies. The absence of collaboration and information exchange creates vulnerabilities. Wherever there is a weak or vulnerable link there is an increased risk of insecurity, instability and the risk of exportation and trafficking of drugs, weapons and humans.

The U.S. and Europe each have unique expertise and contributions to the interdisciplinary field of drug prevention, intervention and interdiction. Each country and region has their own unique political and social systems that have shaped their policies. However the stigma, judgment and politics of drug issues have long overshadowed the science of recovery, prevention and harm reduction.

To address this issue the Pompidou Group and Syracuse University have developed a collaborative working relationship in the area of addiction education and training.

The translation of evidence based scientific knowledge into solid and effective policies and programmes at the state, regional and local level is only as successful as the knowledge and skill of drug policy managers who ultimately implement and administer these policies and programmes.

The Executive Training for Drug Policy Managers therefore seeks to link policy, research and science with a transatlantic dimension focusing on the promising and problematic issues of developing more coherent drug policies. The objective is to share insights on emerging trends and research findings about drug use, drug policies, and treatment programmes occurring in the US and Europe.

Drug policy managers from participating countries will be able to share and learn about new and emerging research and innovative policies geared toward preventing, treating, and reducing the use of addictive substances.

Theme

Effective Governance of Coherent Drug Policies:

- making strategic choices in times of limited resources
- moving towards integrated services for more efficient and effective responses to drug problems

Benefits

This Executive Training is a unique opportunity for reflection on a transatlantic scale for participants from the USA and Europe to get insights on

- Responsibilities and decision making in drug policy
- Evaluation and programming in drug policy development and implementation
- Using research for policy development

Range of topics

The challenge of implementing integrated response systems for prevention, supply reduction, risk reduction and treatment entails a broad range of crucial aspects such as the following:

- Integrated and complimentary services for more efficient and effective responses to drug problems
- Evaluation and programming in drug policy development and implementation
- Public health approach in drug policy
- Coordination and cooperation between supply and demand reduction efforts
- Economics: integrated planning, complimentary integration for more cost effectiveness
- Dealing with 'legal highs' (new synthetic drugs, 'natural' substances, medicines)
- Multisectoral and multidisciplinary stakeholdership and commitment
- Social conditions and drug use

Participation

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. To ensure a highly participatory learning process the training is limited to a maximum of 40 participants (from Council of Europe member States and non-member States). High-profile facilitators from Europe and the USA will be identified and engaged on the basis of the elaborated topics.

Working methods

The Executive Training consists of a preparation phase and 2 seminar modules. The work is conducted in plenary sessions and working groups in a highly participatory format. The activities are planned and organised by a Steering Group of experts. Participants are required to commit themselves to participate in and prepare for both modules.

Languages: To ensure a highly inter-active training and to allow for direct communication between all participants at all times the main working language will be English. Based on need and feasibility certain working groups can be organised in other languages (e.g. French, German, Russian) on an ad hoc basis during the seminars.

Preparation: A detailed participation form filled in by participants together with their CVs will help the Steering Group to get an overview over the individual profiles of participants and serve as a basis to prepare the programme for the first seminar that will focus on needs assessment (1st module).

Module I: Needs Assessment Seminar

During this seminar participants will explore the issues and aspects related to their work that constitute obstacles and opportunities in developing more in moving towards more coherent drug policies and integrated services. They will identify what is needed to overcome obstacles and make good use of the existing potential and expertise in their work sphere. At the end of the seminar participants will prepare proposals for the content of the Qualifying Seminar (Module II) that will meet the identified needs and take into account proposals received from colleagues in the U.S.A. who will participate in the Qualifying Seminar.

Following the needs assessment seminar the steering group of experts will take the proposals developed by participants to prepare the content for the Qualifying Seminar (Module II) and select expert facilitators accordingly.

Module II: Qualifying Seminar

The qualifying seminar will be a training activity based on the identified needs be the participants and their suggestions for supportive action that can be achieved in a training context. The activity will consist of input sessions and reflection sessions in which the relevance of the in-put to the individual work context of participants is discussed. Following the training participants will have further built their capacities and competences that are directly relevant to their day-to-day work.

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 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 will also serve as a starting point for continued networking between participants thus setting an impulse that will be prone to deliver further beneficial insights and understanding on all relevant aspects. The Secretariat of the Pompidou Group will assist in facilitating this process.

Contact and further information

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