

Seminar Summary

DRUG RECOVERY- EDUCATION SEMINAR

Naples, May 31, 2024

Castel Nuovo Maschio Angioino – Via Vittorio Emanuele III

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A thematic *Seminar* on Recovery and Education took place under the auspices of the 94th meeting of the PG Permanent Correspondents, in Naples on 31st May 2024, as organised by the Department for Anti-drugs Policies at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy.¹

The seminar brought together about 70 professionals that were welcomed and addressed by high level government representatives, the Mayor of Naples, social volunteering, and religious associations (involved in drug recovery, prevention as well as faith-based education and territorial development work.).

The **first part** of the Seminar focused on sharing practices through case studies, highlighting identified challenges. It emphasized the roles of various stakeholders in Italy, including local communities, government, and national authorities. Documentary modelled videos showcased responses to drug use and recovery, emphasizing steps taken to address and mitigate drug-related issues in three heavily affected regions: Scampia, Caivano, and Tor Bella Monaca.

The **second part** was dedicated to an overview of international practices allowing for exchange of recent developments related to recovery and education presented by representatives from other national and/or international organizations, such as : United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission ([CICAD/OAS](#)), Belgium ([Ministry of Justice and Public Health](#)), Ireland ([Trinity College of Dublin](#)), Italy ([San Patrignano Community](#)), Republic of Moldova ([National Penitentiary Administration](#)) and the [Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America](#) (CADCA).

Recent efforts have already yielded positive results by prioritizing education, early intervention, inter-agency cooperation, and grassroot working associations. Despite the challenging security environment and the continued presence of organized crime, schools, vocational clubs, and associations have successfully reached out and advocated to reallocate resources to educate young people about the risks of using drugs. This would involve teaching, coaching and engaging them with other skills while motivating the slightest progress. Moreover, prevention programmes now focus on vulnerable populations, emphasizing resilience and coping skills.

Italy's approach to drug prevention has shifted from punitive measures to a more holistic and compassionate approach. The current emphasis lies on harm reduction, community engagement and involvement, as well as evidence -and faith-based practices to effectively address drug-related challenges and become a new trend of response.

¹ Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Dipartimento per le Politiche Antidroga.

Summary of Sessions/Interventions

Mr Gaetano Manfredi, Mayor of Naples: Expressed appreciation over the Pompidou Group's work and the Group itself as a dedicated structure of the Council of Europe dealing with major issues with a focus on critical aspects related to youth work, global education, and addiction prevention while preventing crime. He further emphasised the importance of the collaboration with civil society organizations and voluntary groups, in integrating various approaches to find effective solutions. Mr Manfredi, referred to the crucial role that public institutions play and are expected to achieve today in implementing concrete results and show effectiveness.

Mr Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of Pompidou Group: Mr Huber expressed gratitude to the host country and authorities to have the 94th PC meeting in Naples, Italy. He referred to those major initiatives carried out by Pompidou Group as reflections of the Group's commitment to a humanistic approach in drug policy, as aligned with UN and specifically with the European Court of Human Rights standards. Mr Huber emphasised that human rights remain the cornerstone of the Group's work, guiding efforts toward recovery, social acceptance, and support for all individuals, including those detained or sentenced. Additionally, policies that are being tailored these days and under the support of the Pompidou Group are aimed at creating a healthy social environment, equal opportunities, and maintaining integrity. Mr Huber also referred to the Group's technical assistance activities as an angle of the service which have allowed for valuable discussions and shared professional exchanges as well as the Therapeutic Community model sharing in Moldova, Romania, and Italy.

Mr Giovanni Leonardi, Head of the Department of human, animal, and ecosystem health (One Health); and of the international relations at the Ministry of Health: On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Mr Leonardi extended a warm welcome to all participants, while recognizing the vital impact of Pompidou Group work on drug addiction prevention including the healthcare sector. Mr Leonardi presented government's efforts in the healthcare sector. One of the highlights of the presentation was the so-called 2nd Protocol; and which focuses on countering toxic tests, assisting therapeutic communities, and including here the development of the national plan to combat fentanyl use. The current Italian cross-cutting approach involves collaboration between schools, healthcare, and local authorities. Additionally, the three-year protocol emphasizes protection, education, and social/healthcare rights. An illustrative example of its practical implementation was pointed out as The Caivano project, which leverages mainstreaming and the Red Cross related associations to address the needs of vulnerable groups, including also areas such as dental care.

Mr Mauro Antonelli, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Education and Merit: Mr Antonelli referred to the role of the Pompidou Group over the past 51 years, as the leading Group to the strategy and guideline development for national authorities in charge of policy and action design on countering drugs, trafficking, addictions, and prevention. Those tools have provided for the national authorities the know-how for strategy development, particularly within the

context of the national education policy development. In Italy, recent data have shown that substance use disorder rates among 15 to 19-year-olds and it has elevated from 18% to 22%, affecting approximately 1.9 million of such age group. These substances include psychotropic drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Additionally, addictive behaviours like gambling, gaming and internet use have been identified nationally as prevalent among today's youth. Consequently, and logically, the ministry sees schools as those that can play a crucial role in addressing addiction through education once these policies (preventive and combative) are integrated into institutional responsibilities. Collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education focus on anti-drug initiatives, particularly in European regions. Gender-specific prevention measures cover around 3,000 schools, emphasizing occupational therapy, self-respect, and life skills development.

Session I – Scampia

Ms Elena de Rosa, Scampia psychologist, stakeholder in social unrest prevention network:

Ms De Rosa, a stakeholder in social unrest prevention and networking, highlighted recent developments in Scampia, a challenging area in northern Naples. The focus of her work was aiming critical concepts such as “Ties,” “Prevention,” and building/retaining “life skills.” Further on, she showcased life skill building programmes targeting young people, addressing well-being, protection, education, and social care needs. Ms De Rosa testified that the inclusion of integrated networks has proven to have further facilitated recovery and protection by engaging stakeholders, including community members, educators, and social workers. These efforts have been prioritizing the expressed needs of the community, which has long been home to populations under social housing. Moreover, collaboration between law enforcement and community members has started to show its results and proven crucial. Moreover, Ms Da Rosa referred to the recent work deliverables and results which confirm that community work fosters relationships, encourages multilateral discussions, and identifies necessary resources for sustainable interventions, while calling for future and stronger support from all stakeholders. Those are: central and regional authorities, associations, religion-based groups and social and medical care units.

Brother Enrico Muller, Institute of the brothers of the Christian Schools – De La Salle

Brothers, Scampia: Brother Enrico shared his extensive experience working with community and social housing in Scampia where out of the seven large tower buildings, three of them have been completely emptied from being used as drug dealing towers. Other reported actions included efforts in contributing to improved well-being and health and notably, through the association called “*La Salle*”. This association connects 1200 centres also from other countries. In Italy, these efforts involve collaboration with seven high schools, based on the very important concepts, those are: “relationship-building” and “trust”. This approach benefits not only children and young people but also parents who lack faith in the traditional educational pathways for their own children, while they are seeking alternatives to escape drug use and trafficking. Finally, brother Enrico, maintained that

solidarity plays a crucial role in their work, especially for fostering trust and healing within the community.

Sister Edoarda, Sisters of Providence and Father Eraldo Cacchione, Society of Jesus: Sister Edoarda, is another dedicated volunteer in Scampia who has devoted the past 30 years to working primarily with the school of “Mille Colori”, (also known as the “School of 1000 Colours”). This organization operates from a religious perspective, aiming to support and heal those experiencing stress and hardship. Their efforts extend beyond children, that is to include their families, emphasizing quality time spent together. Through community service programmes and collaboration with local associations, particularly the Society of Jesus, they have made a positive impact. Moreover, she reported that they maintain close ties with the district, ensuring that their work aligns with current needs and challenges.

Father Eraldo discussed additional examples stemming from his work with Roma children, particularly in the realm of music education and other group-based engagements. During his testimony, he highlighted the effects into the society of the certain administrative conditions such as the issue of identification and age limits required for school registration as provided by the law. Having said all that, he added that this is happening in the country that obtaining an ID card for those in movement is always a challenge, hence the difficulties in accessing educational benefits. These administrative conditions occasionally hinder the intended work format, leading to challenges and delays.

Mr Salvatore Bruno, Social Cooperative “Obiettivo Uomo”: This association is a social cooperative type association with a focus and objective on the “humans” and their wellbeing. Their actions include prevention, education, and the exchange of experiences. The musical performance featured at the end of the first day of the Permanent Correspondent meeting, demonstrated how young people are playing and taking pleasure in creating sounds while channelling and expressing their feelings in a very impressive manner. The performance highlighted contrasts within society, comparing the past to the present. Historically, the Cooperative’s work in the past was centred around prevention, addressing root causes and ensuring that exclusion, marginalization, and isolation are minimized. The current approach is now aiming to prevent organized crime and criminal recruitment among vulnerable youth and adults. By keeping these groups (young and vulnerable) less visible, less accessible and less available to criminal elements, its proven to contribute to deterring criminal activity.

Gianni Maddaloni, Social Sports Society Scampia: Mr Madaloni’s intervention was initially supported through the featuring of an impressive testimonial documentary, highlighting the contrasting elements involved in constructing the Sport Centre of the Social Sports Society in Scampia. The centre offers activities such as judo and other sports, infusing discipline and a positive lifestyle for individuals affected not only by drugs but also by crime in general. Since 2005, this facility hosts sports and social reintegration stakeholders and people with substance use

disorders by combining previously separate buildings and repurposing former sports areas. The facility is an area that once was considered highly unsafe and polluted, the centre now serves as a hub for multiple volunteers and disciplinary teams. It provides recreational spaces for young people interested in sports. Additionally, the facility collaborates with and grants access to witnesses, including not only those at risk due to drugs but also individuals associated with organized crime, as well as those whose parents are in detention or imprisoned.

Session II – Caivano and Tor Bella Monaca

Mr Ugo Taucer, Prefect, Advisor of the Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with the mandate for drug policies: Mr Taucer provided an overview on the efforts undertaken by city authorities in Caivano (a city with approximately 37,000 inhabitants) with regards to prevention and combating of drugs and organised crime. This work appears to be a continuation of efforts in the fight against drugs and criminality for many years now. As a result, and over the years, the administration and the communities have developed a model that serves as an exemplary and results-oriented project where territorial redevelopment has already provided its fruits. Their strategy combines redevelopment initiatives with targeted law enforcement measures, engaging asset seizure and confiscation while addressing financial crimes.

Mr Fabio Ciciliano, Extraordinary Commissioner for Caivano: According to Commissioner Ciciliano, the Caivano Model, has garnered attention for its innovative approach to tackling drug trafficking and organized crime. Following an earthquake in 1989, Caivano became a new shelter and housing area for those vulnerable and affected habitants from the earthquake in Napoli. Initially, it was a centre of repression, but later transformed into a hub for addressing drug-related crimes. Today, Caivano Model aims to improve social conditions and enhance administrative capacities. It combines sports, infrastructure improvements, and law enforcement efforts to create a safer and more resilient community. It includes rebuilding sports centres and other social facilities through redeveloping and redeploying measures across specific areas. Drug Prevention and Repression elements (from the law enforcement side) focus on combating drug use and related crimes, as such special Carabinieri Units have been engaged targeting drug dealers as well as intercepting criminal activities. As a result, only between 2022 and 2024, authorities seized 40 kilograms of drugs and made numerous arrests involving 359 drug dealers.

Father Maurizio Patriciello, Parish priest of San Paolo Apostolo in Caivano: Father Maurizio Patriciello delivered a very passionate speech, referring to Caivano's Parco Verde as the most important area after the earthquake. This park was once the site of low-income housing and a sports centre for children from Napoli after the earthquake. Unfortunately, over time, it deteriorated and became a stronghold for the Scarlione Clan and some other mafia members who eventually collaborated with the police in certain specific cases. Interestingly, Father Patriciello questioned the safety of the crime-fighting model employed in so far, as well as how do these models impact the in so far combating of organised crime model.

Father Coluccia, Founder of Opera Don Giustino, Rome: Father Coluccia began his intervention by discussing the use and re-use of seized assets in east Rome, which were previously associated with the mafia and organized crime. He emphasized that re-purposing these assets represents significant progress and tangible results. They are now being redirected for the greater good, benefiting vulnerable groups and those in need. However, even today, the Anti-mafia parliamentary committee and the Prosecutor General's office express concern about the situation being "out of control." The authorities face the challenging task of reclaiming areas once occupied by criminal organizations. Unfortunately, these areas remain inadequately monitored. The link between the mafia and the drug trade remains evident. For instance, in Rome, three influential clans maintain certain control over income, housing, and buildings, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. By leveraging their power as "protectionists", they recruit and oversee youth involved (recruited) in drug trafficking and distribution. Some individuals earn up to €150 per day through this "*criminal welfare system*", which operates as an organized network—with Latin Americans and Albanians playing pivotal roles. Coded communication (language and gestures) has become commonplace among those engaged in illicit activities. Unfortunately, still today surveillance footage often captures violence and death threats within neighbourhoods and even outside. Moreover, emigrants are increasingly seeking "*welfare benefits*" and finding themselves caught in this complex web. Father Coluccia's closing statement drove home the harsh reality, and that was: "*Gomorra is not [just] a movie; it's a reality!*"

[Session III– Recovery Approaches by international actors](#)

Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC: Mr Lemahieu presented his organisation's policy perspectives and some guidelines and experiences with regard to recovery support, emphasizing the UNODC's commitment to preventing and treating drug addiction. The concept of sustained recovery, as introduced through the Resolution 64/3 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) highlights the need for long-term support beyond acute treatment. Notably, recovery can involve cycles and relapses. Furthermore, Mr Lemahieu referred to the gender as playing a crucial role in providing these services, as families—especially women and girls—bear a significant care burden. The common 2020 World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNODC Guidance Standards have been serving as a reference point on this concept issues. Furthermore, Mr Lemahieu referred to this seminar's initiative of the Italian Presidency of the Pompidou Group and Pompidou Group itself as of great importance shedding light on very essential topics which still deserves attention.

Mr Antonio Boschini, Director of the medical centre and hospital in the San Patrignano Community, Italy: Mr Boschini provided his insights over the concept of addiction as a multifaceted brain disorder with far-reaching consequences. Initially, seen as a loss of control over drug use, followed with today's evolved understanding where it is recognized as a chronic, relapsing brain disorder. Mr Boschini informed the audience how scientifically the choice and

disease models have shaped societal understanding, recognizing biomedical, psychological, and social-cultural roots as well as adverse childhood experiences. He further explained that how Recovery tools—biological, psychological, educational, and social—have demonstrated that only a few months of addictive brain activity would require years of healing and recovery learning.

Ms Jo-Hanna Ivers, Associate Professor in Addiction, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland: Ms Ivers discussed the evolution of drug response in Ireland, emphasizing a health policy-led approach to drugs and alcohol. Since the early 1980s, Ireland has addressed the emerging epidemic of substance misuse, continually evaluating national strategies. The latest strategy (2017-2025) aims to reduce harm and support recovery, envisioning a healthier and safer Ireland. It prioritizes the well-being and quality of life for individuals affected by substance misuse. The strategy includes a 50-point action plan with ongoing development to meet emerging needs. Notably, it emphasizes *equitable* access to resources such as housing, healthcare, education, employment, and justice; with an explored balance of *equity* treatment which plays a crucial role in recovery, from initial access to sustained well-being. This approach was reportedly building and ensuring fair treatment and a community capital building as well as allowing Citizens Assembly on Drugs use to deliver useful and sustainable recommendations.

Ms Angela Crowdy, Assistant Executive Secretary, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission/Organisation of American States, (CICAD/OAS): Ms Crowdy presented the programming for CICAD, as aligned with the mandate of the Hemispheric Strategy for 2021 to 2025. The strategy encompasses two key angles: 1) Demand Reduction: This angle focuses on evidence-based research, care, rehabilitation, recovery, social integration, and support services. It emphasizes reducing the demand for drugs through comprehensive approaches; and 2) Institutional Strengthening: This second angle involves recovery-oriented interventions within the justice system. It aims to enhance social integration and involves working with individuals affected by substance use. During the presentation, Ms. Crowdy highlighted a series of on-going initiatives: Training programmes: providing training in Washington, DC. to address demand reduction, prevention, drug treatment, and recovery curriculum training for faith-based organizations. They were piloted in Chile and Paraguay and will soon expand further. Case Care Management (CCM) - an initiative and curriculum package model is repeatedly being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean, which focuses on effective case management for substance use-related issues. Italian-Funded Project' (FOCTALI) is another initiative aimed at strengthening therapeutic communities and treatment centres in Latin America and the Caribbean. In sum, all these interventions were brought up as models that promote good practices related to recovery and social integration.

Mr Kris Boers, Health and Pharma Counsellor, FPS Public Health, Belgium: Mr Boers introduced the Drug Treatment Court “Recovery Project” an example as in alignment with Belgium’s new inter-federal drug strategy (2024-2025). The strategy was based on the scientific study

“Evaluation of Belgian Drug Policy (EVADRUG),” addressing prevention, risk reduction, psychosocial assistance, treatment, and tackling drug-related crime and nuisance. The Recovery Project in Belgian Criminal Procedure represents the introduction of a new article in the Belgian Code of Criminal Procedure, which legally enables alternative handling of offenses related to addiction, aggression, or psychosocial issues. This provision will be enabling judges to refer substance use disorders to treatment instead of prosecution. Obviously, certain conditions have to be met, and those include also admitting to the facts, assuming responsibility of having a drug problem, and only for those that have had committed an offence for which a sentence is not more than five years as well as other aspects. The recovery project focuses on holistic assistance beyond drug-related issues. It lasts up to 18 months and aims for successful reintegration.

Mr Vladislav Busmachi, Head of International Cooperation Unit, National Administration of Penitentiary, Republic of Moldova: Mr Busmachi provided an overview of the elements of the Drug Recovery and Education in Moldovan Prisons and how the authorities are addressing drug-related issues within the prison system. Mr Busmachi informed the Group that in all 17 penitentiaries, comprehensive harm reduction services are now available, including drug dependence treatment, needle syringe exchange, and HIV testing. Another positive step forward as reported is the 2022 amendments to the Enforcement Code, which provide for Rehabilitation Programmes making the Republic of Moldova stand out in the region for its comprehensive prevention and treatment package[s] in prisons. Therapeutic communities have started to play a vital role in rehabilitation, especially with the progress in making available halfway houses, which will be allowing residents to participate in rehabilitation programmes while serving their sentences. Despite challenges such as institutional resistance management, management instability, and financial constraints, the benefits of these programmes are evident in the rehabilitation of incarcerated persons and vocational training opportunities. Also, a short visual connection with an in-prison therapeutic community called “Catharsis”, allowed for a peek demonstration of the current infrastructure.

Mr Barry L. Price, President and CEO, Community based Advocacy focussed Data driven Coalition (CADCA), United States (vc connection): Since its inception, CADCA represents over 5000 community coalitions involving individuals from key sectors such as schools, law enforcement, youth, parents, healthcare, media, and tribal communities. These coalitions span every US state/territory and more than 30 countries worldwide. In his video presentation, Mr Price highlighted tools used by CADCA’s to implement its mission: that is to strengthen community coalitions by fostering collaboration among different groups and sectors. Reportedly, this approach effectively addresses issues, promotes engagement, and reduces substance use rates among youth. During his presentation, Mr Price shared experiences from a model for community change, emphasizing local solutions across 12 sectors. Moreover, CADCA’s strategic planning process has started to generate comprehensive strategies and those are with coalition members acting as driving forces for community change. CADCA’s work is built upon three pillars which have pretty

much proven to be the model ones: Advocacy--Empowering members to advocate for prevention within the complex landscape of public policy; Training--Providing resources and training to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of community initiatives; and Support--Offering tailored assistance to address specific community needs.

Conclusions

In their concluding remarks, both **Mr Paolo Molinari**, President of Pompidou Group and **Mr Denis Huber**, Executive Secretary, highlighted the seminar's critical insights. Mr Molinari stressed the importance of adopting effective methodologies and leveraging collaboration at international and national levels. He emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary approach and community engagement to address complex challenges as those presented by the speakers. Meanwhile, Mr Huber underscored the influence of faith-based organizations, discussed drug policies, and advocated for sustainable reintegration into society. He also highlighted that the recently introduced Belgian legislative model, which combines law enforcement with community-based approaches, could be considered as model to be shared and followed. Thus, as way forward, prioritizing these elements will be essential for a comprehensive strategy while maintaining a strong focus on community involvement.

The Seminar brought together valuable insights with emphasis on collaboration, multidisciplinary approaches, and community engagement providing pathways for addressing drug-related challenges effectively and in allowing to work toward positive outcomes and sustainable solutions.

ANNEX: Programme of the Seminar

DRUG RECOVERY-EDUCATION

Naples, May 31, 2024

Castel Nuovo Maschio Angioino – Via Vittorio Emanuele III

09:00-9:30 Opening and Institutional Remarks

Chair: Paolo Molinari

Gaetano Manfredi, Mayor of Naples

Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group

09:30-10:00 Remarks by Authorities

Chair: Paolo Molinari

Giovanni Leonardi, Head of the Department of human, animal, and ecosystem health (One Health) and of the international relations of the Ministry of Health

Mauro Antonelli, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Education and Merit

10:00-11:00 Session I – Scampia

Chair: Elisabetta Simeoni

Elena de Rosa, Scampia psychologist, stakeholder in social unrest prevention network

Brother Enrico Muller, Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – De La Salle Brothers, Scampia

Sister Edoarda, Sisters of Providence and **Father Eraldo Cacchione**, Society of Jesus

Salvatore Bruno, Social Cooperative “Obiettivo Uomo”

Gianni Maddaloni, Social Sports Society Scampia

Discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:30 Session II – Caivano and Tor Bella Monaca

Chair: Ugo Taucer

Fabio Ciciliano, Extraordinary Commissioner for Caivano

Father Maurizio Patriciello, Parish priest of San Paolo Apostolo in Caivano

Father Coluccia, Founder of Opera Don Giustino, Rome

Discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:45 Session III – Recovery approaches, actions and good practices by international actors and Pomicou Group Member States

Chair: Thomas Kattau

Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC

Jo-Hanna Ivers, Associate Professor in Addiction, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Angela Crowdy, Assistant Executive Secretary, CICAD/OAS

Kris Boers, Health and Pharma Counsellor, FPS Public Health, Belgium

Vladislav Busmachi, Head of International Cooperation Unit, National Administration of Penitentiary, Moldova

Antonio Boschini, Director of the medical center and hospital in the San Patrignano Community, Italy

Barrye L. Price, President and CEO, CADCA, United States (vtc)

15:45-16:00 Conclusions – Denis Huber and Paolo Molinari

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