

The Pompidou Group and the cooperation in the Mediterranean Region

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The European Framework



Council of Europe

1949 : oldest political organisation in Europe, Strasbourg

Aim : create a democratic and legal area in Europe (47 countries) with respect of fundamental values : human rights, democracy and the rule of law

DG I – Human Rights and Rule of Law

1971: Pompidou Group

1980: partial agreement

European Union

European Commission

DG - Justice, Freedom and security, Brussels

- EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012
- Development of a new EU Drugs strategy 2013-2018

EMCDDA

1993 in Lisbon

Role = provide the EU and its Member States with an overview of European drug problems

(Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs)

- **intergovernmental body** set up in 1971 at the suggestion of the French President Georges Pompidou.
- Integrated into the Council of Europe in 1980 as enlarged agreement
- Co-operation includes countries towards Central and Eastern Europe (Ukraine) and the Mediterranean Region with MedNET.
- 2012 : 37 member states. Morocco: most recent one.

- **Mission:** contributes to the development of multidisciplinary, innovative, effective and “evidence-based” drug policies in 37 member states.
- **links policy, practice and science.**
- **multidisciplinary forum** at the wider European level where it is possible for policy-makers, professionals and researchers **to discuss and exchange information and ideas** on drug misuse and trafficking problems.
- **bridging role** between EU countries and non-EU countries (Federation of Russia, Ukraine) as well as countries from the Mediterranean Region
- Follows Council of Europe values on **respect of human rights.**

- Secretariat in Strasbourg, Council of Europe
- Ministerial Conference (held every 4 years) -> adopts work programme
- France chairs the Group for the mandate 2011-2014
- Permanent Correspondents = representatives of the 36 member states; senior officials in ministries in charge of drug issues implement the programme.
- The Pompidou Group covers demand reduction and supply reduction activities including research which plays a role for formulating drug policy.
- Activities are funded on the ordinary budget (yearly contributions by the Member States) and voluntary contributions made for specific activities.
- Activities are decided each year to take into account emerging concerns.

The MedNET network of cooperation on drugs and drug addiction

Aim: promotes cooperation exchange and two-way transfer knowledge on drugs and drug addiction between countries of both rims of the Mediterranean (North-South and South-North exchanges) as well as within countries of the Mediterranean (South-South exchanges).

13 countries = Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia

Activities meet countries needs for capacity building and information exchange.



- 1999 : First conference about cooperation in the Mediterranean Region in Malta
- 2003 : Launch of the MedSPAD (Mediterranean adaptation of European School Survey project) in Rabat
- 2006 : MedNET network set up after feasibility study by France and Netherlands
- 2008 : First MedSPAD in Lebanon and Morocco
- 2009 : First high level conference acknowledges the role of PG in fostering cooperation between the countries of the Mediterranean
- 2011 : Morocco: first non Council of Europe country to join Pompidou Group
- 2012 : 13 Member countries = Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia

How does the network operate ?

In each country, the Minister in charge of drug issues nominates a national representative who participates in the biannual MedNET meetings.

The country representative presents a proposal for work based on their needs. These proposals are adopted by all the MedNET representatives. These proposals made up the annual work programme.

A Secretariat based within the Pompidou Group at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg administers and coordinates the work programme (flexibility according to priorities).

The budget is made up of voluntary contributions + South Joint EU/CoE Programme,

A yearly activity report assesses the work programme.

Network open to outside experts (Norway, Ireland, Switzerland, UK) share their expertise.

MedNET invites international organisations according to the topic dealt with.

Main activities per country

Algeria,

Seminars to train medical staff (150) in the treatment of drug users
Seminars on law enforcement including precursors

Morocco,

Training of medical staff through setting up of addictology university courses in Casablanca, Rabat
Introduction to opiate substitution treatment through training in France, Netherlands and Switzerland
Prevention material
MedSPAD survey

Tunisia,

Official visit in October 2011 after the revolution followed with the first consultative seminar in May 2012 to develop a drug strategy and an observatory on drugs and drug addiction + MedSPAD + addictology seminar

Jordan,

Vocational training for experts in Malta

Collection of data on treatment from treatment centres

Lebanon,

Introduction to opiate substitution treatment with 3 workshops

Assessment of the needs for treatment of drug users with recommendations to change the law included a visit in France

Training of prevention agents

Egypt,

Assessment of the needs for treatment of drug users with recommendations to change the law included a visit in UK and in Italy

Project on the gender oriented care of substance dependent women

Regional actions

High Level Conference on setting up a Mediterranean Monitoring centre 2009

Regional training seminars to introduce the participants to national observatories on drugs and drug addiction :

Seminar on treatment, Cairo, 2010

Seminar on data collection, Amann, 2010

Seminar on synthetic drugs, precursors, supply indicators, Beirut, 2010

Seminars to lay the foundations for setting up national monitoring centres, Rabat, Brussels, 2011

Seminar on use of research in policy in the Mediterranean Region, Rabat, 2012

Support to other initiatives

Regional seminars on the prevention of risks and diseases associated with drug use for 4 countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) within Menahra

Support to the integration of addiction education and training in drug policy and therefore in the education systems . Working group where European countries participate along with Morocco and Lebanon : recommendations for drug policy at national level and at European level

3^{ème} colloque international francophone « traitement de la dépendance aux opioïdes », Genève, 18-19 octobre 2012 organisé par L'Office Fédéral de la Santé publique Suisse. Rencontre organisée en synergie avec le congrès annuel de l'International society of addiction Medicine (ISAM) du 15 au 18 octobre 2012. Support to the participation of MedNET representatives,

Outlook for the future

Continuation of the MedNET activities.

Consolidation of the membership in continuing to replying to the countries needs

Extension to other countries if interested.

Keeping the interest of the current donors countries and finding more donors.

Access to MedNET could be a step towards accession to the Pompidou Group.

Promoting MedNET as a forum where country's needs are listened to, where experience is shared, where methodology is adapted to each country with a view of improving the implementation of a coherent drug policy based on health in all participating countries, taking into account the cultural factors.

What MedNET offers ?

- Adaptation of methodology recognised in Europe to the Mediterranean context
Eg MedSPAD survey
- A wide range of activities to get a comprehensive approach to the drug problem
- A bridging role between Europe and the Southern part of the Mediterranean
- Exchange of knowledge/experience within the countries of the South. Eg training
- Activities based on real needs expressed by the countries
- Flexibility in the implementation of programmes
- Regular evaluation by all stakeholders
- Cost effectiveness

Thank you for your attention !
For further information, please visit our
website

http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/pompidou/default_en.asp

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