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Activities of the Pompidou Group

by **Florence Mabileau**
Programme Manager Pompidou Group

Florence.Mabileau@coe.int – www.coe.int/Pompidou

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Council of Europe

- Set up in 1949, it is the oldest political organisation in Europe
- It aims at creating a common democratic and legal area throughout the whole of the continent (47 countries), ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

  Seat is in Strasbourg



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Pompidou Group: cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- Set up in 1971 by late French Président Georges Pompidou,
- Integrated in the Council of Europe in 1980 as an 'Enlarged Partial Agreement', allowing countries outside the Council of Europe and outside Europe to become member of the Group.
- Today, the Group has 35 countries. Cooperation extends to non member countries towards Central and Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean Region with the MedNET network.
- France is chairing the Group for the mandate 2011-2014

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The Pompidou Group's aim

- Promotes objective and open debate on the effectiveness of drug policies
- Core Mission : contributes to the development of multidisciplinary, innovative, effective and evidence-based drug policies in its member states
- Seeks to link policy, research and practice in offering a multi-disciplinary forum at the wider European level.
- Bridging role between EU and non EU members

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Pompidou Group work programme

- 2011-2014 programme adopted at the PG Ministerial Conference
- Permanent Correspondents, senior officials in charge of drug issues nominated by Ministers, implement the programme.
- Aims at meeting the needs of policy makers and contribute to give effective responses to drug related-issues.
- Gives space to allow emerging concerns to be addressed.
- Balanced programme between drug demand reduction and supply reduction where research plays a role for formulating drug policy

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Activities 2011 (1)

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1. Research on the comparison of coherent drug policies and indicators of policy effectiveness

Objective: reply to What are the best structures to reach coherent drug policies ? Which types of models to test whether a coherent policy reaches its goal ?

Expected result: analysis of the structures in 6 participating countries and a list of possible indicators to measure the effectiveness of policy.

2. Road traffic and substitution treatment

- Since substitution therapy is part of drug treatment programmes, the aim is to explore the state of present practice in Member States.

Expected results:

- Overview on approaches in Europe about driving in road traffic whilst being in substitution therapy treatment and how is it reflected in legal frameworks;
- Analysis of existing practices, both medical and legal;
- Draft set of principles for good practice, both medical and legal.

Activities 2011 (2)

3. Ad hoc Expert Group on the Prevention of Drug Precursors' Diversion

Objective : More rapid and direct contact among law enforcement officers and representatives of regulatory boards with regard to:

Legal aspects : from identification of suspect consignments to investigation, evidence collection, prosecution, and sanctions in precursor diversion cases.

Expected results: accelerated information and intelligence exchange among representatives of different agencies improves seizure and investigation.

4. Cooperation Group of drug control services at European airports and in General Aviation

Objective: develop a harmonised multidisciplinary strategy for drug-detection at European airports and enhance inter-airports co-operation by:

a) Improving information exchange at airports.

b) Proposing buddy-approach assistance to airports with tools, systems and tactics.

c) Associating airports control services in MedNET States to the work of the Group.

Expected results: improve seizure and investigation results at national level. Better coherence to harmonise international control strategy at international airports.

Activities 2011 (3)

5. EXASS Net

Objective : Connect professionals and PCs with the centres of competence in Europe that give insights into practice and policy implementation.

Expected result : a two-way exchange and knowledge transfer between institutions and professionals.

6. Executive training for 35 drug policy-managers from Europe and USA

Objective is to facilitate know-how and build capacities for more effective implementation, management, evaluation of drug policies and programmes.

Expected results: know-how for more effective policy implementation, management and evaluation of drug control policies and programmes, based on needs identified by participants, will be provided.

Profile of beneficiaries: managers from governmental institutions responsible for developing and/or implementing drug policies and/or coordinating related programme implementation.

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Activities 2011 (4)

7. Cooperation in the Mediterranean region on drugs and drug addiction : the MedNET network in 12 countries:

Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Spain, France, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia

Aim : improve the quality of drug policy implementation in all participating countries.

Objective : promote co-operation, exchanges and two-way transfers of knowledge between countries of the southern Mediterranean and PG European states (North-South and South-North exchanges) as well as between countries of the Mediterranean themselves (South-South exchanges).

Expected results:

Consolidation of the cooperation between the 12 participating countries in continuing to reply to the needs of these countries.

Establishment with EMCDDA of the foundations for national drug observatories in 2011, by an inventory of existing information, surveys and data collection

More cooperation in the supply reduction field in 2011

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Women and drug use within the Pompidou Group

•1984 : a working party started to collect and analyse research studies. This led to the first symposium on this topic in1988 in Switzerland.

•1993 : a seminar on women and drugs in Prague brought together demand reduction experts from six countries of central and eastern Europe.

•1995 : a second symposium on women and drugs in Bonn and focused on the prevention of drug misuse by girls and young women.

•1997: a symposium on “pregnancy and drug misuse” in Strasbourg

•1998 : consultant’s report on “special needs of children of drug misusers”

•2000 : consultant’s report on problem drug use by women: focus on community-based interventions : compilation of case-studies on community-based well-reputed projects, guidelines for good practice on community-based intervention strategies for female drug users in particular of opiates and benzodiazepines.