THE POMPIDOU GROUP
ITS ROLE, ITS STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES
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The Pompidou Group
Its role, its structure and activities

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- The European framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council of Europe</th>
<th>European Union</th>
<th>EMCDDA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47 Member States Pompidou Group</td>
<td>27 Member States European Commission</td>
<td>Set up in 1993 Based in Lisbon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pompidou Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Role = provide the EU and its Member States with an overview of European drug problems</td>
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<td>• Ministerial conference (4 years)</td>
<td>•Four-Year Work Programme</td>
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- The Pompidou Group

(Competition Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs)

- is an intergovernmental body formed in 1971 at the suggestion of the French President Georges Pompidou
- at first, the Pompidou Group was an informal co-operation forum of 7 European countries (France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom) looking to share their experience of combating drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- was incorporated into the Council of Europe in 1980
- the co-operation was subsequently extended to include new countries; at present, the Pompidou Group comprises 35 member states.
• The Role of the Pompidou Group
  
  • **core mission** = contribute to the development of coherent, multidisciplinary, innovative, effective and “evidence-based” drug policies in 35 member states.

  • it seeks to **link policy, practice and science**

  • it provides a **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 the whole range of drug misuse and trafficking problems.

  • it plays a **bridging role** between EU countries and non-EU countries (Life skills programme in Ukraine) as well as countries from the Mediterranean Region (MedNet)

• The Structure of the Pompidou Group

  • Secretariat based in Strasbourg (14 persons)

  • Ministerial Conference (every 4 years) -> adopt work programme

  • Permanent correspondents = representatives of the 35 member states; senior officials in ministries in charge of drug issues (2 meetings / year)

  • Since 2003, 6 platforms (group of experts) looking at issues concerning:
    
    → Prevention
    → Treatment
    → Research
    → Ethics
    → Criminal justice
    → Airports & aviation
• **Prevention Platform**
  Look for innovative and evidence-based practice
  • Life-skills training - Building resilience
  • Develop coherent drugs policies
  • Evaluation of Prevention Policies
  • Use of Drugs in recreational settings (safer nightlife)
  • Drugged Driving – video clip

• **Treatment Platform**
  Improve treatment for specific groups by adapting to new trends
  • adopt a series of recommendations and orientations to improve practice in treatment of young (up to 25 years) drug users
  • provide an overview of the treatment systems in the member States

• **Research Platform**
  Assessing the impact of research on policy and support better the use of research evidence in policy and practice
  • Improve the exchange of knowledge (Register)
  • Signals the latest issues that arise from drug research in the social and biomedical fields and promotes interaction between research disciplines such as these and psychological drug research (publications)
  • Co-operations : ESPAD, ESSD, MedNET

• **Platform on Ethical issues and professional standards**
  Undertake reflections and to devise opinions in addressing ethical and professional issues in specific drugs- and drug abuse-related areas (drug testing at school and in workplaces)
  • Use of drug testing at school and in the workplace
  • Ethical issues of research
• **Criminal Justice Platform**
  Co-operation among specialised services (justice, health and care services, social services) to find alternative measures to imprisonment
  - Explore links between crime and drug-use (recidivism)
  - Systems of information exchange on currently uncontrolled chemical precursors/medical substances – including Regulatory Bodies
  - Collect evidence on precursor trafficking

• **Airports Group**
  Harmonise tools and systems to improve drug detection in International airports
  - Annual reviews of the development of drug seizures at airports
  - Development of an Airport Crime Risk Register
  - Promote the undertaking of multilateral drug seizure operations

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**The European Drug Prevention Prize**

- Created in 2004 to recognise the importance of active youth participation in the development of a better environment
- Awarded every 2 years -> 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010
- 3 drug prevention projects lead by youth for youth are rewarded for their work
- Monetary benefit = 5000 €, trophy and diploma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize 2004</th>
<th>Prize 2006</th>
<th>Prize 2008</th>
<th>Prize 2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44 applications</td>
<td>31 applications</td>
<td>34 applications</td>
<td>80 applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 countries</td>
<td>18 countries</td>
<td>15 countries</td>
<td>26 countries</td>
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</tbody>
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- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

- Ireland
- Norway

- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Netherlands

3 winners to be rewarded at the ministerial conference in Strasbourg
11 shortlisted projects
• **MedNET**

  - Set up in 2006
  - Objective = foster co-operation, exchange and transfer two-way knowledge between countries from the Mediterranean Region and European countries which are members of the Pompidou Group and donors
  - 12 Member countries = Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal. Russia is an Observer.
  - Target group = the network is a mechanism for professionals working on the ground: doctors, social workers, NGO representatives, public associations, researchers, policy-makers and administrative managers. It is geared to promoting interaction between the political, practical and scientific aspects

• **EXASS NET**

  - Set up in 2007
  - Arose from the need for enhanced co-operation of various actors in the law-enforcement, health and social sectors in tackling drug-related problems
  - Objective = responding to drug problems providing experience and assistance for inter-sectoral co-operation
  - This co-operation works at different levels, in European cities or at regional or national level
  - Member countries: Germany, Croatia, Russian Federation, Finland, Hungary, Moldova, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine, United-Kingdom
  - Member cities: Amsterdam, Budapest, Cracow, Frankfurt, Koper, Oslo, Preston, Turku, Viseu, Zagreb, Zaporozhye
Ministerial Conference – Strasbourg – 3 - 4 November 2010

Topic: « Towards a coherent policy on psycho-active substances »

Major outcomes:
• Balanced approach on supply and demand reduction efforts
• Consolidation of membership of the Group in Europe, specifically in South-East Europe
• Co-operation with Neighbouring regions (Mediterranean – Central Asia)
• Inter-Agency Cooperation: avoid overlaps and create synergies
• Revised working methods: flexible, pro-active instrument at the service of member states

For further information, please visit our website

www.coe.int/pompidou

Or contact our Secretariat directly

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Thank you for your attention!

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