



The European Drug Prevention Prize

A Pompidou Group initiative where participation of children and young people is fundamental

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- ## The Pompidou Group

(Co-operation 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 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; co-operation network with Mediterranean Region (MedNet))

• The Structure of the Pompidou Group

- Secretariat (12 persons) is based in Strasbourg
- 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 – seeking innovative, evidence based practises**
 - Treatment – improving treatment for specific groups, adapting to new trends
 - Research – support better use of research evidence in policy and practice
 - Ethics – devising guidelines and setting standards in addressing drug-related ethical issues
 - Criminal justice – co-operation between law enforcement, health/care and social services
 - Airports & aviation – harmonising procedures to improve the efficiency of controls in European airports

- ## The Prevention platform

- identify new approaches and technologies in achieving more effective and widespread impact with prevention efforts
- nature of prevention = multi-faceted -> activities are carried out through a number of different projects focusing on local realities (...)
- identify specific trends and needs as well as the most effective, practical solutions
- bring about more targeted and effective prevention

- **The European Drug Prevention Prize - A concrete example of youth participation**
- It serves as a window to exceptional grass-root projects
- Encourages young jurors to assume their responsibility (entrusted with the decision-making)
- 2006 Ministerial Conference: wish to encourage and promote youth participation in drug prevention + organisation of the Prize approved
- 2008 Mid-term conference: need for tools better drug prevention was raised; after award ceremony, many delegations showed interest in the Prize
- Strong political support BUT there is also need for financial support

• The European Drug Prevention Prize



- Created in 2004 to recognise the importance of active youth participation in creating a better environment
- Awarded every two years -> 2004, 2006, 2008 and next 2010
- 3 active youth drug prevention projects rewarded (except in 2006, only two projects were rewarded)
- Now 5000 € monetary benefit, trophy and diploma

Prize 2004	Prize 2006	Prize 2008
44 applications	31 applications	34 applications
Slovenia Switzerland United Kingdom	Ireland Norway	Bulgaria Greece The Netherlands

Objective: promote youth involvement in drug prevention

- brings added value
- youth not only has the right to participate – they have a right to say and decide for themselves
- they are the experts on youth issues
- they know better what message is effective
- they also learn a lot from participating in decision-making meetings

Young people bring a 4th dimension into the work of the Pompidou Group: we already work with policy makers, researchers/scientists and professionals (practitioners, social workers, etc.)

Pompidou Group's methodology



- select jurors (gender balance and geographical representation)
- raise the jurors' awareness on values (Council of Europe, Pompidou Group, drug prevention)
- train the jury on project evaluation



- Stimulate exchange of ideas
- encourage their autonomy in the decision-making process
- Support the work plan the jurors have set up
- Involve the jurors and the projects in the follow up

Pompidou Group is willing to share...



"Hugs my favourite drugs"

- 8 years of practical experience in youth participation
- what we have done so far shows it is feasible, and may be replicable
- it is appreciated by both sides - decision makers and young people involved
- it helps to make prevention programme more effective and efficient

→ we have skills that we are ready to share

→ if it works in the drugs field, it should be possible to transfer this experience to less controversial and political subject matters



You'll find more information about the Prize
on the our website

www.coe.int/pompidou

Of course, you may also contact the Secretariat directly

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Today, 2 December 2009, we have the great honour of being able to
launch the Prize 2010
here in Helsinki where it all began 8 years ago!

We hope we have convinced you and therefore can count on your help
in disseminating the information within your networks



"Hugs my favourite drugs"



Thank you very much your attention!