

# Press Release

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## European Drug Prevention Prize 2008 : awards for three innovative projects

Warsaw (Poland), 26.11.2008 - The Council of Europe Pompidou Group\* is awarding its 3<sup>rd</sup> European Drug Prevention Prize to three projects that involve young people thus rewarding their participatory and innovative work in drug prevention.

The award ceremony – open to the press – will take place at 14.30 at the Marriott Hotel (room ABC) in Warsaw.

The three winning projects are:

- "Sweep the weed out of the gate!" from Varna (Bulgaria) aims at "empowering young people with a set of life-skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to combat threats to health and refrain from non-civic behaviour";
- "Resist" from Thessaloniki (Greece) aims at spreading "the philosophy of drug prevention and enhancing protective factors" to develop an assertive attitude towards peer pressure and enable young people aged 12-18 to say "no" to addictive behaviours and substances;
- "Battle of the West" from Leiden (Netherlands) is about street dancing, a hip-hop event and competition where the team is communicating with the youngsters, raising awareness and providing information on drugs thus trying to develop a "new healthy partying norm".

The Bulgarian and Greek projects used new information and communication technologies to develop a computer game which would attract young people, catch their interest and raise awareness against drug abuse.

The prizes were awarded by young jury members who examined 34 applications from 15 European countries and selected those they considered to be the most innovative. Another criteria for selection as a prize-winner was the total involvement of young people in the setting up as well as the running of the project.

The award ceremony is taking place in the framework of the Pompidou Group's [Mid-term conference](#) organised under its 2007-2010 Work Programme. This convened high-level stakeholders in drug policy to assess the achievements since 2006, and identify areas for priority action in the next two years.

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(\* The Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and illicit Trafficking in Drugs (more commonly known as the [Pompidou Group](#)) currently has 35 member states: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. The European Commission is also a member.

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