



Research programme in support of the federal drugs policy document

Project sheet for public institutions

This sheet should be filled out by the public institution. It describes the nature of the project, the tasks to be assigned to a scientific team and the time schedule. In addition, it lists the potential benefits from the research project for the public institution.

1. Name and address of the public institution proposing the project

Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
Place Victor Horta, 40 box 10
1060 Brussels

Federal Police
Kwartier Géruzet - blok A
Luchthavenlaan 10
1040 Brussels

Scientific Institute of Public Health
Epidemiology department
J. Wytsmanstraat 14
1050 Brussels

2. Project topic

Research on the players involved, and measuring of the public expenditure for policies concerning illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol and psychoactive medications (benzodiazepines).

3. Project duration and start date¹

18 months

¹ 1st September 2009 at the earliest.

4. Project description and context within the institution

4.1 Problem area (identification of short-term needs that should be covered by the research project)

There has been a growing interest in the idea of policy monitoring in recent years. Having detailed information on budget spending is a key element thereof, since it is indicative for the actual priorities set by policy makers.

Studies were carried out in 2004 en 2006 on government spending on drug policy with regard to illegal psychoactive substances. Analysis figures go back to 2003 or 2004.

The drug policy in the different Member States of the European Union goes beyond the sole illegal drugs. The prevention and assistance sector no longer regards the legal status of a product, but rather its addictive properties, as a determining factor. The federal policy document on drugs issued in January 2001 also concentrates on illegal and legal psychoactive substances. As a result, a public spending monitoring is necessary for all psychoactive substances.

4.2 Objectives (research questions and aims)

1. Developing a **measurement instrument**, which allows the federal public authorities, in an autonomous manner, to identify and quantify the public expenditure of all authorities in Belgium (federal, communities, regions, provincial and urban) for the policy in the field of illegal and legal (tobacco, alcohol and benzodiazepines) drugs, and that takes into account existing, relevant, registration systems in Belgium, and the strengths and weaknesses from the researches `drugs in cijfers I & II/drogues en chiffres I & II' <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=SO/01/008>
<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=DR/24>.
2. Giving an overview of similar measurement instruments in other countries.
3. Applying the measurement instruments and, as far as possible, comparing the results with the obtained results from previous studies in Belgium and other countries.
4. Carrying out a SWOT analysis of the measurement instrument and formulating suggestions for improvement.
5. Analyzing the organizational and financial implications for the use of the instrument in Belgium and developing a specific manual.

4.3 A description of your institution's strengths and weaknesses and the potential external opportunities and risks that should be considered.

Use the table below to describe the context in which the project has to be developed and implemented. The questions are by no means meant to be exhaustive. They can be used as a guide to complete the table. The table aims at evaluating the feasibility of the project.

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can your institution contribute to the project? • How can your institution support the researchers (e.g. financial, logistic, expertise)? • Which other existing projects can be used to inform the proposed research project? <p><i>The public institutions can make contact with other authorities and offer own data for the activities within their competences.</i></p>
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which internal elements hinder the institution to cope with find the problem presented? <p><i>No staff and methodological expertise available.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which issues or needs need special attention in the research project? <p><i>Develop a reliable, easy to handle and a valid measurement instrument for the public institution for future measurements in this area.</i></p>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you see any opportunities that might enhance the research project or maximize its impact? Which ones (e.g. collaboration with other partners)? <p><i>Optimization of the care offer with regard to addictions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you plan to incorporate these opportunities? <p><i>Make contacts with other authorities within the framework of the monitoring committee of the project.</i></p>
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which external or environmental aspects could hamper the progress of the research project? <p><i>Availability of data, which must be supplied by the public institutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you plan to constructively influence these aspects? <p><i>Involve these institutions in the monitoring committee.</i></p>

5. Project assignment (research content)

5.1 Scientific assistance expected of the scientific team

Organization of a seminar with at least 2 foreign external experts. The public institutions expect a detailed overview of the government expenditure, collected by means of a valid and reliable measurement instrument. The presentation and the analyses of the results make a comparison with the results of 'drugs in cijfers I & II/drogues en chiffres I & II' possible, as well as the comparison with other countries. An overview is made of the

organisational and financial implications for the use of the measurement instrument. A specific manual is developed for its use.

5.2 Role of the public institution prior to and during the project

The public institutions will take part in the monitoring committee and make the requested relevant information available, within their competences, for the researchers.

6. Final outcome of the project and form in which it should be delivered

A final report that contains the following information:

1. **A measurement instrument**, that allows the federal public authorities, in an autonomous manner, to identify and quantify the public expenditure of all authorities in Belgium (federal, communities, regions, provincial and urban) for the policy in the field of illegal and legal (tobacco, alcohol and benzodiazepines) drugs, and that takes into account already existing, relevant, registration systems in Belgium, and the strengths and weaknesses from the researches 'drugs in cijfers I & II/drogues en chiffres I & II'².
2. An **overview of similar measurement instruments** in other countries.
3. The results of the **application of the measurement instrument** and, as far as possible, of the comparison with the reached results from previous studies in Belgium and other countries.
4. Results of a **SWOT analysis** of the measurement instrument and suggestions for improvement.
5. Results of the analysis of the **organisational and financial implications** for the use of the instrument in Belgium, and a specific manual.

7. Timing/schedule of activities (with indication of full-time equivalent - FTE)

7.1 Description and timing of activities

1. Developing a measurement instrument which allows the federal public authorities to identify and quantify, in an autonomous manner, the public expenditure of all authorities in Belgium (federal, communities, regions, provincial and urban) for the policy in the field of illegal and legal drugs (tobacco, alcohol and benzodiazepines) and that takes into account the existing, relevant, registration systems in Belgium, and the strengths and weaknesses from the researches 'drugs in cijfers I & II/drogues en chiffres I & II'.

6 months

2. To give an overview of similar measurement instruments in other countries.

2 months

3. To apply the measurement instrument on most recent available annual data (preferably 2006 and 2008) and the results and to compare, as far as possible, these results with the obtained results from previous studies in Belgium and other countries.

² Results of these studies will be made available for use by the researchers

6 months

4. Carry out a SWOT analysis of the measurement instrument and formulate suggestions for improvement.

2 months

5. Analysing the organisational and financial implications for the use of the instrument in Belgium, and developing of a specific manual.

2 months

7.2 Estimate of the necessary scientific staff (in full-time equivalents

1 full-time equivalent for 18 months and 1 full-time equivalent in databases for 6 months.

8. Conceivable exploitation of finished product(s) (publication, seminar, database,...)

- publication in scientific journal
- work meeting with, at least, all competent public institutions
- press release
- study (afternoon) day

9. Specific conditions

9.1 Suggested composition of monitoring committee

Representatives of the competent authorities, including FPS Budget and Control Management, communities and regions.

9.2 Confidentiality clause, if any

The information that the federal public service Public Health will put at the disposal is subject to the rules of confidentiality of the federal public service.

9.3 Others

(Section to be filled out by the Federal Science Policy office)

Estimated budget:

Contact person at the Federal Science Policy office: Ms Lieve Van Daele

Briefing: on 5th March 2009 at 10:00, A room of the Federal Science Policy office

(Registration one week before by e-mail bonn@belspo.be; if there are no registrations the meeting will be cancelled)