

## Project description sheet issued by a federal administration

This description sheet is issued by a federal administration. It describes the nature of the project it wants to implement, the tasks that should be attributed to a scientific team yet to be selected, the budget and timing devoted to the scientific team. It also describes the way the public institution will implement the end result of the scientific team both in terms of integration in its own functioning as in terms of dissemination of valuable information for researchers and the public at large.

### **Practical information**

Name of the public institution who has issued the project: Centre for equal opportunities and opposition to racism ([http://www.antiracisme.be/fr/cadre\\_fr.htm](http://www.antiracisme.be/fr/cadre_fr.htm) )

Name of the project: Insights into the socio-economic background of children and young people who are confronted with a measure within the terms of special youth assistance.

Timing of the scientific tasks to be accomplished: 21 months

Deliverables and valorisation activities by the scientific team (not foreseen in the project description below):

- *International seminar (beginning of the project, state of the art concerning the data/work to perform) ;*
- *brief report* exposing the way the data concerned by the project could make international/European comparisons or harmonisation possible by the public authority;
- *Valorisation activity by the end of the project:* the team will make a proposal in this respect in its submission form.
- Deliverables from the research contract with federal Science Policy Office: *project description* (max. 25 lines in French, Dutch, English and German for the Web site of the Science Policy Office), *summary of the project* in max. 10 pages in F/D/EN/G for the web site of the Federal Science Policy Office, *a document in max. 40 lines destined to the AGORA Newsletter at the end of the project in F/D/EN*, *interims reports* (max. 2 pages, issued every 6 months destined to the financing of the project), *reports for the users' committee* (see below) ;

All these activities are to be financed within the allocated budget.

Working of the project:

The public authority steers and manages the project and collaborates closely with the team and the federal Science Policy Office (which form the technical committee of the project). The project is followed up by a users' committee who comes together at least three times in the course of the project (at the beginning, in the middle and at the end). Its role is to give a positive input to the team and the public authority in the management of the project. The scientific team is in charge of preparing the documents for this committee, the public institution is responsible of the agenda and the minutes of the meetings.

Date of the information session with a delegate of the public institution (inscription at least a week in advance by e-mail – [naji@belspo.be](mailto:naji@belspo.be) . without mark of interest, the meeting will be cancelled): 13 January, room 7 of the Federal Science Policy Office, 10 a.m.

## **The project**

### **1. Name of the Public institution**

Centre for equal opportunities and opposition to racism – Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion, Koningsstraat 138, 1000 Brussels.

This project will be executed in close cooperation with the three Belgian Communities – Flemish, French speaking and German speaking (and in particular with their ‘Special youth assistance’ administrations), in the context of the ‘Cooperation agreement between the federal State, the Communities and the Regions concerning the continuation of the policy on poverty’<sup>1</sup> (see also the documents in the appendices).

### **2. Name of the project**

Insights into the socio-economic background of children and young people who are confronted with a measure within the terms of special youth assistance.

### **3. Acronym**

PCP (Placing of Children and Poverty)

### **4. Description of the project and its position in the context of the organisation.**

#### **a) Position of the organisation**

As a consequence of the question raised in the General Report on Poverty (1994) into a structural instrument concerning consultation about poverty and social exclusion the Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion was established and placed under the auspices of the Centre for equal opportunities and opposition to racism following the **Cooperative agreement between the federal State, the Communities and the Regions concerning the continuation of the policy on poverty**’ in 1998. The Service organised various thematic consultative groups, in which both associations of people in poverty as well as other actors concerned with the fight against poverty (trade unions, health care associations, organisations working in that field, academics, etc.) take part. On the basis of the insights and recommendations that arise from these consultations a biennial Report is drawn up, which is handed over to the chairman of the Interministerial Conference ‘Integration in society’ and thereafter to all governments in the country. The biennial reports thus function as an aid in the implementation of policy concerning poverty and social exclusion.

In the Cooperative Agreement specific attention is also given to **the importance of indicators as a instrument in the fight against poverty and social exclusion**: *“After consulting people in the academic world, the competent administrations and institutions, the social partners and the organisations in which the poor take the floor, the signatory parties shall investigate which quantitative and qualitative indicators and instruments can be used and/or developed in order to analyse the evolution of all domains as intended in Article 2, so that the competent governments can intervene in the most appropriate manner.”* (Art. 3 of the Cooperative Agreement) The Service has also already - in collaboration with its partners and in particular with the associations of poor people - been active for several years examining the question of how poverty and social exclusion can be measured.

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<sup>1</sup> Can be consulted on (only French or Dutch):  
<http://www.armoedebestrijding.be/samenwerkingsakkoord.htm>

In 2002 the **project 'Investigation – action – education: a different approach to indicators of poverty'** was started, in which a group of people who live in poverty, academics, and representatives of administrations and institutions have spent a year and a half examining the issue of measuring poverty and social exclusion. The final report with insights and recommendations relating to the themes of the financial aspects, work and employment, the exercise of rights, and human feelings was presented in March 2004 ([www.armoedebestrijding.be](http://www.armoedebestrijding.be)).

In 2004 a **consultative group related to the theme 'knowledge and indicators'** was started as well, again involving representatives from the various actors.

The consultative group has – in a more extended format – also examined the question of how data relating to the care orders issued for children can be correlated to socio-economic data, and has also considered the content of the present AGORA<sup>2</sup> project proposal.

In addition it is important to report that since 1998 **a dialogue group has been active within the French Community on the theme of "placing of children"**. This group consists of representatives from: the Luttés Solidarités Travail and the ATD Quart Monde associations, counselling services, and the 'aide à la jeunesse' administration of the French Community. The Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion supports this dialogue group.

#### b) Description of the project

In the General Report on Poverty (1994) the concern of people in poverty was already being expressed in relation to the care orders issued in respect of their children. Several times a relation was drawn by various people involved between the care orders and living in a situation of poverty.

In the present AGORA research project we wish to obtain **insights into the socio-economic background of children and young people who are confronted with a measures within the terms of special youth assistance**. We wish to know whether children and young people from poor families are confronted more often with such measures than other children and young people. This project should also lay the basis for longitudinal studies, which would examine what the socio-economic situation of these children and young people in adult life is. To what extent do the services offered by special youth assistance give children and young people chances in their later life?

We want to obtain the information **by linking up with 'data warehouse labour market'**<sup>3</sup> (via the state registration number of the child, and by linking with the 'claimant' and 'recipient' of the child allowance for this child. In the AGORA research project a check should be made about which data from the departments 'special youth assistance' need to be collected in order to be linked to the 'data warehouse employment market' of the Crossroads Bank of Social Security (KSZ), which variables are the most suitable for describing the socio-economic background of the children and young people involved, how this material can be processed, and how longitudinal research can be conducted on the basis of the material.

In the spirit of the method as used by the Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion in its various consultative initiatives, the evolution of the project should take place **in consultation and dialogue with the various actors involved**: associations representing the poor, administrations and institutions, and academics.

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<sup>2</sup> AGORA Mission offering scientific support to the administrative databases

<sup>3</sup> See the website of the Crossroads Bank for Social security (only in french or dutch): [http://ksz-bcss.fgov.be/fr/statistiques/stats\\_1.htm](http://ksz-bcss.fgov.be/fr/statistiques/stats_1.htm) . A description of the project can be found on <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=AG/DD/001>

The project will be conducted **in close cooperation between the Service and the three Communities**; a cooperation that is framed in the 'Cooperative agreement between the federal State, the Communities and the Regions concerning the continuation of the policy on poverty'.

## 5. Task to be carried out

### a. By the research team

- Further definition and description of the issue being studied and examination of which basic data are needed in order to research the issue, in consultation with the various actors;
- Exploring the data/the model in a European/international perspective in order to allow for harmonisation or comparability. The team will produce a report in this respect;
- Development of a procedure with respect to passing on the data of the children and young people who are faced with a care order by the administrations of the Communities to the 'data warehouse employment market'. In particular this relates to the state registration number of the children and young people involved. In addition the possibilities should be investigated with respect to passing on the data related to the other measures in the context of the 'special youth assistance';
- Development of a proposal concerning the choice of the variables with respect to the 'socio-economic background', in consultation with the various actors;
- Development of a proposal in relation to the possibilities of processing the information obtained;
- Development of a guideline for longitudinal research on the basis of annual delivery of this information;
- Compilation, follow-up and as necessary amendment of a dossier for the request to link the data of the 'special youth assistance' with that of the 'data warehouse employment market';
- After approval is received for linking with the 'data warehouse employment market' the exploitation and interpretation of the first results of such a link in consultation with the various actors.

During the investigation process it is expected of the research team that they will make maximum use of the possibilities for participation by the various actors in the development and follow-up of this research (associations where poor people can make their voice heard, academics, administrations,....).

### b. By the public institution:

#### 1. *Prior to the project*

Reporting the proposed connection to the Privacy Commission, and following up the points of view expressed by the privacy commission concerned.

#### 2. *During the project*

- Support and guidance of the research activities in close cooperation with the administrations of the three Communities. The Service will in addition highly involve the various actors, with whom it consults in the context of its commissions, in the scientific study.
- Introduction of a request to link up with the 'data warehouse employment market' in the course of the AGORA research project.
- Financing of the operating costs in respect of the linking of the data within the 'data warehouse employment market'.

## 6. Final product

### a. By the research team

- Design for a procedure relating to passing on the data of the children and young people who are confronted with a care order by the administrations of the Communities, to the 'data warehouse employment market'. A brief overview of the possibilities in respect of information exchange related to the other measures in the context of the special youth assistance.
- List of variables that should be requested by the 'data warehouse employment market', and a request file by way of introduction to the 'data warehouse employment market'.
- Report related to the possibilities of processing the information obtained.
- Guideline and planning for longitudinal research.
- Report on the basis of the exploitation and interpretation of the first results from such a link. Drafting of a final report including the processed data.

### b. For the Public Institution

The Service and the Communities will through this link have a better insight into the socio-economic background of the children and young people in the 'special youth assistance' and with respect to the longitudinal follow-up of these children and young people.

## 7. Valorisation of the end product

### a. For the public institution: integration of the end product into its own operation

- The Service and the Communities will with this link have a better insight into the socio-economic background of the children and young people in the 'special youth assistance'. In particular with reference to preventative work these results could lead to a more effective policy.
- The results will be used in the thematic consultative groups of the Service, and subsequently in the texts of the Biennial report of the Service (this report is handed every two years to the various governments in the country).
- Moreover the results of the study can form the basis for further longitudinal research and the research material can be supplemented with focused qualitative research.

### b. for the 'public': access conditions and modalities for scientific users and for the general public

- The general public will can obtain secondary information from the various institutions that will use this material in the context of their work (the administrations of the three Communities, the Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion).
- A final report, with the processed data, will be made available.

## 8. Timing, planning of the research tasks and allocated budget

### a. Timing of activities

1 September 2006 – 31 May 2008

b. planning of activities: phases in tasks

1. *for the research team*

- initial period of familiarisation with the issue, and consultations with the various partners to clearly define the research question: 3 months
- research in relation to information exchange between the special youth assistance' and data warehouse employment market' administrations: 4 months
- drafting of a list of variables, and of the request file : 2 months
- submission of request within data warehouse (by the Service), development of the possibilities for processing and with respect to longitudinal research: 3 months
- exploitation and interpretation of first results: 6 months
- report and translation: 3 months

Comment: with this plan schedule we have attempted to take into account the fact that the data concerned are in the administrations of the three Communities, and with the aim of achieving the highest possible involvement of the various actors in the research process.

2. *For the public institution*

The Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion and the 'special youth assistance' administrations of the three Communities will be highly involved in these research activities. The Service will in particular support the participation of the various actors in this research process.

**9. Special conditions**

a. suggestion for the composition of the users committee

Associations where poor people can voice their opinions; research institutions; 'special youth assistance' counselling services; 'special youth assistance' administrations of the three Communities; POD Scientific Policy; FOD Social Security and Public Institutions of social security; POD Social Integration; Crossroads Bank for Social Security ; FOD Justice ; statistical services of the Regions; Centre for equal opportunities and opposition to racism (Service for the fight against poverty, insecurity and social exclusion).

b. Confidentiality clause in respect of data (if applicable)

c. Presence of the research team in the institution (if applicable)

In any case close cooperation with the Service (with respect to knowledge of the groups involved, and the involvement of the various actors) and with the administrations of the three Communities (with regard to the delivery of data, and the later implementation).

d. others

- Special attention on the part of the scientific team for the involvement of actors in the development and follow-up to the research (with support from the Service).
- Cooperation between various research institutes in the various parts of the country is recommended.