

OFDT 2022-2024 work programme: assessment and prospects

July 2022

The French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT) is a public interest grouping (GIP), bringing together government authorities (Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours and 11 ministerial departments) and the National Federation of Regional Health Observatories (FNORS), responsible for centralising, producing and disseminating scientific knowledge on licit and illicit drugs, drug use behaviour and addiction. The OFDT is also the national focal point for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

After 25 years of activity, marked by the production of regular surveys and the adaptation of its field of monitoring to changes in addictive behaviours and uses (with, in particular, the inclusion of gambling in its scope of observation since 2020), the OFDT now includes the study of addictive trends in its official name in French: *Observatoire français des drogues et des tendances addictives*. The transformations in the field of drugs and addictions and the emerging monitoring and analysis issues made it necessary to consolidate the permanent surveys implemented by the OFDT and to adapt the information system to the necessary changes. The OFDT's three-year work programme (2022-2024) was drawn up with the support of its Scientific Committee (renewed in 2021), based on a wide-ranging consultation with its governance bodies, institutional partners and experts, researchers and actors in the field of drugs and addictive behaviours, which made it possible to define the main lines of work and thematic priorities for the next three years.

These guidelines were approved by the Scientific Committee and the General Assembly in March 2022. In this three-year work programme, the OFDT sets out 5 strategic axes, which will be addressed by its permanent monitoring system, the support it provides to the public authorities and the EMCDDA, and specific projects carried out on themes identified as priorities. The architecture of the OFDT's 2022-2024 work programme thus distinguishes three blocks of activity, five strategic priorities and three interdisciplinary topics - gender, social inequalities in health and regional specificities -, summarised in the diagram below.

3 BLOCKS OF ACTIVITY

Permanent monitoring system

Support to public authorities and the EMCDDA

Specific projects on priority themes

5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Axis 1: Ensure regular measurement of drug use and addictive behaviour

Axis 2: Describe the trajectories and care pathways of drug users

Axis 3: Improve knowledge of drug supply and markets

Axis 4: Report on the social and health consequences of drugs and addictions and analyse the conditions of implementation and the impact of public responses

Axis 5: Strengthen international monitoring and comparative approaches

3 INTERDISCIPLINARY TOPICS

Gender

Social inequalities in health

Regional specificities

The objective of the three-year planning exercise was threefold:

- consolidate the OFDT's permanent monitoring system, from general population surveys to the TREND-SINTES (Emerging Trends and New Drugs and National Detection System of Drugs and Toxic Substances) qualitative information system, via the analysis of medico-administrative activity and the people received in the medico-social system (specialised drug treatment centres, youth addiction outpatient clinics, harm reduction facilities);
- put figures into perspective by using complementary quantitative and qualitative methods, in order to provide public authorities and professionals with robust, up-to-date, validated, and commented data, integrating them as far as possible into international comparisons;
- organise the OFDT's activity in a way that is understandable, both externally and internally.

In addition to these three general issues, there was the objective of investing in gambling studies, now part of the OFDT's monitoring duties, thanks to a three-year "road map" of activities to be implemented.

The reflection on the observation priorities responding to the needs for knowledge for the period 2022-2024 is presented in a [document in French](#) which details the steps in the construction of the OFDT's work programme.

- First, it recalls the approach and method for developing this three-year business plan.
- It then goes on to explain the five strategic axes chosen to guide its activity (with, for each axis, the projects included in the work programme and the partners).
- Finally, it outlines the 2022-2024 planification of the OFDT's work, in the form of a summary table of the projects included in the activity from 2022 onwards, followed by a presentation of the planned formats for promotion.