

**The 2008-2011 Government plan — Approved on 8 July 2008 by the Prime Minister, the Government plan to combat drugs and drug addiction for 2008-2011 includes several objectives:**

**1. Prevention** — Anticipating the initial consumption of illegal substances and avoiding alcohol abuse, particularly among the young and in the work place, by expanding the arsenal of preventive measures to include those having a dissuasive effect on consumption (including training courses focusing on the dangers of using narcotics, encouraging adults to be more aware of their legitimate role as educators, in addition to adopting clearer arguments vis-à-vis the public to ensure that the rules applicable in this field are easy to understand).

**2. Fight against national and international trafficking** — intensifying the fight against trafficking by initiating action further upstream, i.e. by boosting international cooperation in this field, and combating the illicit cultivation of cannabis; increasing and adapting law enforcement skills to changing methods of traffickers, and to facilitate seizure and confiscation of criminal assets.

**3. Health and research** — Expanding and diversifying health and social care for drug addiction by targeting exposed and vulnerable population groups, and focusing in particular on research, and developing training.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The web site [www.drogues.gouv.fr](http://www.drogues.gouv.fr) provides up-to-date information for the general public, the media and professionals. It also provides surfers with the latest news from the MILDT in addition to a monthly electronic newsletter ([www.lalettredelamiltdt.fr](http://www.lalettredelamiltdt.fr)).

Specialised telephone numbers are available to the public:

**Drogues Info Service (Drugs Info Service)**

+33 (0) 800 23 13 13

**Écoute alcool (Alcohol advisory service)**

+33 (0) 811 91 30 30

**Écoute cannabis (Cannabis advisory service)**

+33 (0) 811 91 20 20



**MILDT**  
35, rue Saint-Dominique  
75007 Paris – France  
T. 33 (0) 1 42 75 80 00  
F. 33 (0) 1 42 75 69 03  
[www.drogues.gouv.fr](http://www.drogues.gouv.fr)



## INTERMINISTERIAL MISSION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION

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# DRUG AVAILABILITY IN FRANCE



### High consumption levels

The treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco users and the fight against the health and social problems related to the use of such substances have all improved significantly in France over the last 15 years. However, drug use has remained at a high level, or in some cases has even increased as is the case with cocaine and synthetic drugs. The use of heroin has certainly declined due to the development of substitution treatments, but experimentations are increasing, especially among young people, due to an increase in the supply of opium.

However, the policy implemented by the government in recent years is beginning to bear fruit. The use of cannabis and ecstasy has been decreasing significantly among young people.

Finally, in order to fight against binge drinking (massive, intentional bouts of alcohol consumption), a major concern for the community, the law of July 22, 2009 prohibits the sale and supply of alcohol to minors and the open bars.

### Government strategy

To reduce the consumption of illegal drugs and the excessive consumption of alcohol, the Government intends to anticipate the initial consumption of illegal substances and avoid alcohol abuse, particularly among the youngest consumers, while also involving adults; to intensify the fight against drug trafficking and to diversify the health and social support programmes in the case of addiction, by targeting those who are exposed and vulnerable.

The huge variety of factors involved in drug use and alcohol abuse, in addition to the growing need to more effectively combat the supply of narcotics and the promotion of excessive drinking require us to put forward a global approach, which can only be coordinated by an inter-departmental organisation.

# INTRODUCING THE MILDT

### The MILDT's activities

Founded in 1982, and reporting to the Prime Minister, the MILDT has the task of organising and coordinating the State's activities regarding the fight against drugs and drug addiction, particularly in areas such as the monitoring, research and prevention of drug use, the treatment and reintegration of drug users and finally, the provision of training for those involved in the fight against drugs. To do so, the MILDT prepares the decisions of the *Comité interministériel de lutte contre la drogue et la toxicomanie*, ensuring that these are enacted. On 8 July 2008, the committee adopted the new government plan to combat drugs and drug addiction for 2008-2011.

### International, European and local aspects

Internationally, and via the European Union, the MILDT works closely with the Prime Minister's office and with the support of the General Secretariat for European

Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, to coordinate France's position within the international bodies, with responsibility for all issues related to the fight against drugs and drug addiction. It represents France on the specialised bodies reporting to the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe, and is also a member of the Executive Board of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

In the provinces, the MILDT runs and supports efforts carried out by its partners in the public sector in all areas relative to the fight against drugs and drug addiction. In consultation with these key players, it launches and supports innovative experiments. Run by a Chairman assisted by a deputy, the MILDT is able to operate thanks to the staff of various ministerial departments.

# SPECIFIC CREDITS



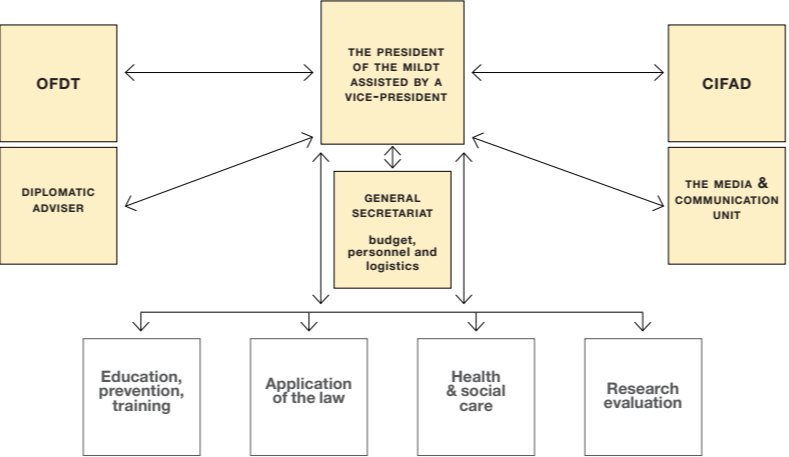
### Financial factors

The MILDT's budget enables it to promote and coordinate the state's activities in the fight against drugs and drug addiction. For greater efficiency in inter-departmental coordination, these are being transferred to the "Government action department", a mission reporting to the Prime Minister. The MILDT's budget makes it possible to promote and coordinate the activities carried out by the ministries concerned by public policies to combat drugs and drug addiction, by providing them with general information, communication and scientific knowledge resources, not to mention the training they need in order to carry out their work. It also supports innovative projects in areas such as prevention, and the health and social services aspects, observance of the law and the fight against national and international drug trafficking. Finally, the budget provides the departmental project managers with the means

they need to carry through their policies to combat drugs out in the field.

### The MILDT's operators

The MILDT also finances two public interest groups: — the French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT) which monitors and assesses the drug phenomenon in addition to publishing statistics; — the Interministerial Training Center for the Fight Against Drugs (CIFAD), situated at Fort de France (Martinique) which makes it possible to circulate best practices in the fight against drug trafficking throughout the Caribbean, which is a priority region.



# THE TERRITORIAL NETWORK

### Implementing activities nationwide

In order to have national policies implemented in the field, the MILDT has a network of project leaders in the various French provinces appointed from within the prefectorial staff, that can lean on a regional support to implement preventive actions.