



GOUVERNEMENT

*Liberté
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PIRALAD

INTERMINISTERIAL
PROGRAM OF
RESearch
APPPLIED TO THE
FIGHT FOR
COMBATTING
DRUGS

MILDECA | Interministerial Mission for Combating
Drugs and Addictive Behaviours



MAIN GOALS OF PIRALAD

Current events remind us how illicit drugs represent a growing threat for health, security, economy and the rules of law.

In this regard, while the changing and international phenomenon of illegal drug trafficking keeps expanding and mobilizing numerous public services, it is necessary to support applied and partnership-based research dedicated to reducing illicit drugs supply and to its criminal justice response. Further pursuing its efforts dedicated to health and prevention, the french Interministerial Mission for combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviors (MILDECA) advocates for administrations benefiting from a recognized scientific expertise on the illegal drug market. This ambition falls within the framework of the French national plan for combating drugs.

Thus, in 2022, la MILDECA launched an **Interministerial Program of Research Applied for combating drugs (PIRALAD)** allowing for :

- ▶ **The production of thematic strategic research** responding to the needs of administrations and services.
- ▶ **The development and provision of socioeconomic, criminological indicators** useful for the driving and assessments of public policies.
- ▶ **Sharing competences, methods and knowledge** between academia and law and law enforcement administrations, thus **strengthening the scientific culture and partnership approach** of the actors in the fight against drugs¹.
- ▶ **The diffusion and valorization of the efforts** to combat drugs in France and at the international level.
- ▶ **The Support and structuration of a research community** allowing to benefit from a growing and sustainable expertise closely related to the needs of law and law enforcement administrations.

The PIRALAD project aims at improving the management, innovation, anticipation and reaction capacities of law and law enforcement administrations.

¹ Following the efforts initiated by several international, European and national agencies such as the partnership between Euro-pol and the EMCDDA, collaborations between academia and the American Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or the English Home Office (which produce classified documents and open-access publications).



AXIS 1 : « Understanding better in order to fight better »

This axis is dedicated to the production and diffusion of thematic knowledge on the recent evolutions of the illicit drug supply.

AXIS 2 : « Measuring the achievements »

This axis aims to improve production and data processing for the creation of new socio-criminological indicators in order to drive and assess policies and actions in the fight against illicit drug trafficking. As they represent significant needs for the policy makers, these indicators would be very useful to the driving and assessment of antidrug strategies both at the local and national levels.

	AXIS 1	AXISE 2
AMBITION	To encourage knowledge applicable to antidrug fighting	To equip policy makers with robust indicators on antidrug fight actions
GOALS	To answer the services and administrations' need for knowledge	To create long-lasting quantitative indicators on the effects of antidrug fight
OUTPUTS	To answer the services and administrations' need for knowledge	Panel of instruments for the policy makers
DURATION	varying (1-3 years)	varying (2-3 years)

PIRALAD seeks to promote and diffuse the results of the funded research, primarily directed towards the law and law enforcement administrations. Depending on the subject and after concertation with the partners, open sources communication of the results will be encouraged.

PIRALAD aims to stimulate relations between partners through bringing forward the needs of the administrations and their complementarity in the production of knowledge. Moreover, the program encourages coproduction of research between academics and professionals² in order to improve the quality of the work, notably through an easier access to data for the administrations and through their operational goals. Furthermore, this approach allows for the dissemination of the knowledge and methodologies (symposiums, formations, workshops, etc.) between law and law enforcement administrations and academia.

PIRALAD supports the appearance of a French and European research community specialized in illegal drug supply and its criminal justice response through supporting partnerships between research teams. In addition, **PIRALAD supports the rise of a new generation of researchers through funding PhD theses.**

² According to the principle of cross-fertilization of knowledge and themes, mobilized in the UNODC 2021-2025 strategy [UNODC-Strategy-WEB.pdf](#)



FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PIRALAD

The management of the interministerial program is integrated to the steering committee (COPIL) of the support fund «Fond de concours drogues» (FDC) which is in charge of validating the annual programs and provisional budgets and (b) approving the scientific and financial activity report.

An executive committee (COMEX) is composed of the French Police, Gendarmerie, Justice and Customs representatives as well as French Mission of precursor control (MNCPC), French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT), the Statistics and Studies Sub-directorate (SDSE) from the Ministry of Justice, Ministerial Statistical Service of Internal Security (SSMSI). The COMEX leadership and secretariat is carried out by the MILDECA.

On its initiative, the COMEX can consult other French European and international administrations or institutions (as well as any other legal entities, public or private, involved or interested in the issues addressed by PIRALAD). The overseas all of PIRALAD's activities.

It notably performs the following functions : (a) to propose, discuss and write the program along with its terms and conditions before its approval / in the interministerial steering committee of FDC ; to contribute to the drafting of the scientific and financial activity report ; (c) to validate the scientific valorization modalities ; (d) to facilitate access to data and to administrations ; (e) to define the activities' evaluation terms, in particular prior to any decision related to its potential renewal.

The COMEX gathers two to three times a year and prepares the FDC steering committee's decisions.

Operational management of the program is carried out by MILDECA.

MILDECA organizes bilateral consultations with the administrations benefiting from FDC, contacts with French and international academia (identifying research teams and subjects). It is in charge of the organization and secretariat of the COMEX, the draft and circulation of thematic calls for projects, the supervision of research and valorization of results.