

Crime prevention policy

EU- priority	Drugs
Country	Belgium
Year	2018

1. Overview of the field

Definition of problematic

The Belgian government consider psychoactive substance (alcohol, drugs) use and addictive behaviour (betting and gambling) primarily as a public health phenomenon.

Nevertheless, possession and use of drugs are prohibited.

In the “security” perspective, priority is given to the fight against production and the market of illicit drugs.

Assessment of trends and developments

Increase production of synthetic drugs, moving issues from Dutch and German borders to Belgium.

Antwerp remains an important entry point in Europe for illegal drugs.

Recent overview of statistics and research

Statistics:

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Possession	39.578	37.408	39.531	41.318
Trade	7.734	7.632	8.010	7.521
Use	1.362	1.303	1.416	1.342
Import and export	2.903	2.637	2.529	2.604
Production	1.923	2.047	1.928	1.738
Other	1.632	1.412	1.419	1.421
TOTAL	55.132	52.439	54.833	55.944

Research:

The Belgian government develop a specific research programme on the topic:

http://belspo.be/belspo/organisation/Publ/rappdrug1_en.stm

2. Crime strategy and coordination

Objectives of the crime strategy

Demand reduction:

- Deter drug use and harmful use of alcohol
- Delay as long as possible the first use of drugs/alcohol
- Reduce risks and damages associated with drug/alcohol use
- Provide quality care and assistance to people with alcohol and drug problems

Reducing the supply of drugs:

- Tackling illegal market (including darknet)
- Tackling production of drugs

Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level

On state level: more focus on tackling illegal market and production of drugs (Police and Justice) > connection with local level

On regional level (and in a subsidiary way, the state level): responsible for developing actions in the field of “demand reduction” (see above the objectives) : general campaign on prevention, subsidy policy for both primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, determine rules and laws in awareness, harm reduction, care and support relative to the consumptions of psychoactive substances and addictions.

On local level: responsible for the care in the field of tertiary prevention with the financial support of state/regional level and with operational support of non-profit organizations or institutions active in awareness, prevention, harm reduction, care and support relative to the consumptions of psychoactive substances and addictions. It is at the local level that are deployed “social-health house” (ex: <http://mass-bxl.be/>)

Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)

National plan included in the National Security Plan.

Responsible level:

- For the axis “demand reduction” : Federated states and local authorities
- For the axis “reducing the supply”: Federal Government (Police, Justice)

Coordination ensured by the “General Policy Cell Drugs” (composed of representatives of governments and external experts and experts from the administration).

Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

Working groups: General Policy Cell Drugs

(Public) Partners at federal and federated level : Public health bodies, Police, Justice, Regions, Customs agency

Partners at local level: Local Police, Justice, Prevention bodies, Non-profit organization

specialized in the care of drugs addicts.

Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.

Belgium is part of Europe policy and international conventions on the subject.

3. Good practices

Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

Socia-health house : <http://mass-bxl.be/> (in several cities in Belgium)

Safer consumer room: <https://www.ulg.ac.be/upload/docs/application/pdf/2013-12/tadam.rapportfinal.pdf> (project has been relaunched since 2018 at Liège)

reception and accommodation center for drug users : <https://feditobxl.be/en/membres/transit/>
<http://www.asblphenix.be/>

program for drug addicted prisoners:
https://justitie.belgium.be/nl/themas/en_dossiers/gevangenis/leven_in_de_gevangenis/drugsbeleid/drugsprogramma_s_voor_gedetineerden