

Contract Notice in respect of a Population Survey to be commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs & The Drug & Alcohol Information & Research Unit (NI)

Background

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) was established in July 2000 to advise the Irish Government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment/rehabilitation and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland, based on analysis of research findings and information. The Committee is overseeing the delivery of a three-year work programme on the extent, nature, causes and effects of drug use in Ireland. The Committee comprises representatives nominated from relevant agencies and sectors both statutory and non-statutory. The Committee operates under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and report to the Minister of State responsible for the National Drugs Strategy.

The Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU) was established in May 2001 to develop and manage a programme of information and research work in support of the joint implementation of the Northern Ireland Executive's Drug and Alcohol Strategies, building on previous work to support the Drugs Strategy alone. DAIRU is located within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Further information can be obtained from the DHSSPS website: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>

The Brief

As part of efforts set out in the EU Action Plan on Drugs to establish the prevalence of drug use in the general population, the NACD and DAIRU have decided to jointly undertake a population survey to be completed by end May 2003 so that for the first time we will have robust statistical information on drug use on an all island basis, and for both jurisdictions. This will enable us to make comparisons across regions and to meet commitments to provide the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) with the relevant information. The proposed survey will be carried out using a pre-prepared questionnaire and face to face interviews (preferred method under EMCDDA guidelines) among the 15 - 64 age group. Information on lifetime use, last year and last month use will be just some of the issues explored.

We are developing our survey based on the guidelines produced by the EMCDDA which state as the main aims:

- To report prevalence and continuation rates of the most common illicit drugs in the general population by gender and age groups;
- To allow cross country assessment of relationships between general patterns of use of illicit and licit drugs;
- To allow the assessment of relationships between particular population attributes and the use of illicit drugs.

Requirements

Prospective tenderers must submit an expression of interest detailing the following:

- Qualifications to carry out and analyse such a survey and the proposed methodology to be employed;

Technical ability and financial standing to carry out and analyse the survey in Ireland and Northern Ireland;
Track record of project management team and any consultants to be used;
The capacity, including fieldwork, to carry out the survey within the proposed timescale in both jurisdictions;

As this is an all island survey, the successful tenderer must demonstrate the capacity to conduct interviews in Ireland and Northern Ireland with an appropriate skilled workforce. However, the NACD/DAIRU would welcome consultants forming partnerships with other consultants to bring particular expertise to the project and/or to ensure adequate coverage of both Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, partnerships will be required to nominate a project manager who will oversee and be responsible for all aspects of the project.

Once the data have been collected a comprehensive analysis must be carried out. The substantive report will include an analysis by drug, by age, by gender and by region. It would be expected that comparisons be made between groups together with a commentary on the results. The main findings should be summarised. A separate complete financial report for the project will also be required. Copyright will rest with the NACD and DAIRU.

An invitation to tender for the survey will be issued to between 5 and 10 companies based on the information received to this notice. Contract documents will issue with a more detailed tender notice at the next stage. Selection criteria for evaluating tenders will be set out in the full tender notice.

Closing Date: Applications should be forwarded by Friday 21st June 2002

Tenders should be submitted, addressed to:

Secretary
NACD
3rd Floor, Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
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Fax: (01) 667 0828.
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