

## Indicative solution of the Soft Drugs case (EN)

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September 2012

On 21 November 2008, a ‘Soft Drugs Summit’ (*‘wiet top’*) was held in the Netherlands to discuss the future of the Dutch policy of tolerance related to soft drugs, also known as ‘het gedoogbeleid’, which is in fact a very peculiar pragmatic way of dealing with a small but serious gap in the Dutch law. Nowadays, most Dutch citizens and policy makers agree that this policy of tolerance needs to be revised. Dutch society is nevertheless strongly divided about the direction of the revision. Currently the Dutch soft drug debate is –broadly speaking– dominated by two groups with opposing views about the direction soft drugs policy reforms. On 22 November 2008, the day after the highly mediatised summit, qualitative SD models were created for each of the opposing views (see (Pruyt 2009) for a detailed discussion and analysis of both points of view).

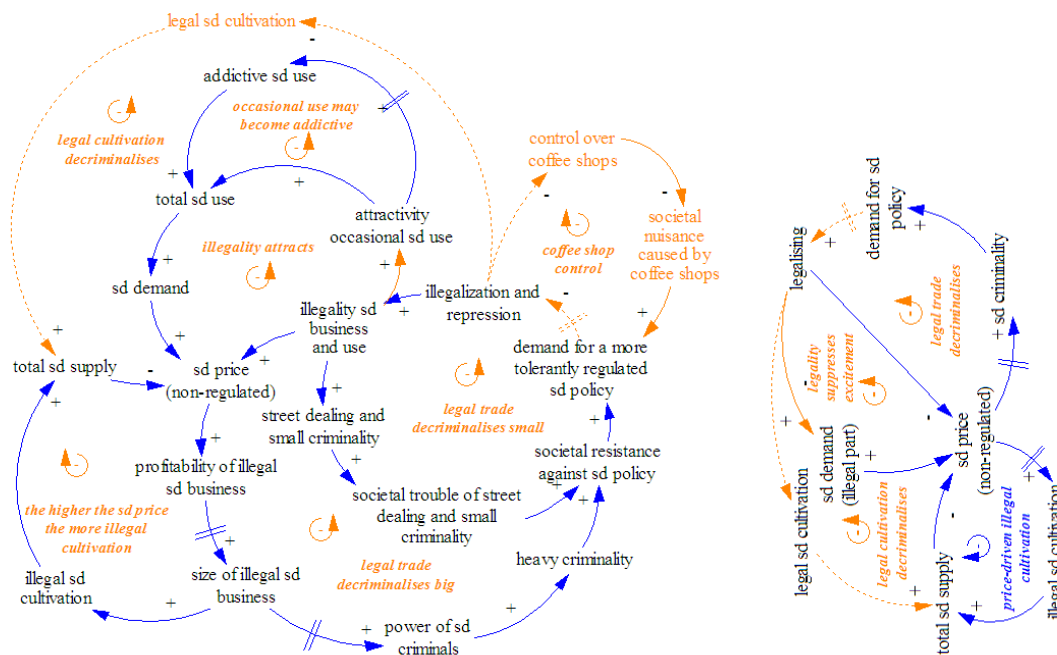


Figure 1: Detailed (left) and aggregated (right) causal loop diagrams from the point of view of the proponents of a more tolerantly regulated soft drugs policy

In the corresponding case, students need to make a qualitative model of the point view of the proponents of a more tolerantly regulated soft drugs policy. The case describes the assumptions of proponents of a more tolerantly regulated soft drugs policy. Students are asked to make a causal loop diagram from this description (see Figure 1a), to aggregate loops in order to develop an aggregated causal loop diagram (see Figure 1b), and to (mentally) simulate the model and describe its possible behaviour.

Then, students are asked to make changes to the extended and aggregated diagrams in order to model the policies proposed by their opponents, the proponents of more restrictively regulated

