



Joint statement on scaling up cooperation between the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

ESPAD represents a key resource for monitoring trends in substance use among school students across Europe. The EMCDDA is the designated information hub for drug-related information in the EU. Both ESPAD and the EMCDDA are committed to monitoring and understanding substance use among this important population in order to inform policymakers, promote scientific understanding and facilitate the development of effective interventions. Both ESPAD and the EMCDDA recognise the added value that is delivered through close technical cooperation and the sharing of expertise, whilst recognising and valuing the unique character of ESPAD as a working collaboration of independent researchers.

It is noted that cooperation between the EMCDDA and ESPAD has already delivered significant benefits to the ongoing work of both organisations. However, both the EMCDDA and ESPAD now recognise that there is a need to scale up the future joint work and technical cooperation activities. This will be of mutual benefit to the work of both ESPAD and the EMCDDA and importantly contribute to ensuring an ongoing and comprehensive understanding of long-term trends in drug use in Europe.

To achieve this objective:

- The EMCDDA will support the production of the forthcoming ESPAD report and an enhanced dissemination strategy will be developed that will include a multilingual approach and highlight ESPAD findings in appropriate EMCDDA publications.
- The EMCDDA will attend ESPAD meetings and ESPAD will be formally invited to relevant key indicator expert meetings and EMCDDA and ESPAD representatives will meet regularly to review their joint activities.
- The EMCDDA will note the cooperation with ESPAD in the annual and three-year work programmes and recognise ESPAD data as representing an important element in the key epidemiological indicator data set.
- ESPAD and the EMCDDA will work together to ensure harmonisation of methods and support methodological development.
- ESPAD and the EMCDDA will enhance the linkage that exists between their respective web resources.
- ESPAD and the EMCDDA will develop a joint work programme in order to contribute to long-term sustainability of the ESPAD network, encourage and undertake joint analysis, facilitate data sharing and increase synergies with other EMCDDA activities.

Done at Lisbon on 28 November 2011 in two original copies.

For the European School Survey Project
on Alcohol and Other Drugs

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For the European Monitoring Centre for
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