ESPAD

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The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Application form for use of the ESPAD 07 Database

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Working title of the project:
Prevalence and predictors of cannabis-related problems in adolescents. A cross-country analysis in 17 European countries

Abstract: (Please describe objectives, methods and specify the research question(s), maximum 250 words.)
Background: Relatively stable and high prevalences of cannabis use, especially in adolescents, raise the question of potential negative consequences for the individual or its environment. From a public health perspective, it seems to be necessary to identify those individuals who are at risk for developing health and/or social problems from their cannabis use in order to refer them to targeted early interventions. However, information on the prevalence of cannabis-related problems in the general population is scarce.
Aims: Aim of this paper is to describe the prevalence of cannabis-related problems in European adolescents. Moreover, potential predictors of problematic forms of cannabis use will be analysed (socio-demographic variables, other substance use variables, social variables). Special emphasis is put on the question if the patterns of cannabis use and their association with negative consequences differ between countries.
Methods: Data from the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) will be used. In 2007, the survey included a short screening scale to assess cannabis-related problems as an optional module. This 6-item scale, the Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST), measures different aspects of harmful cannabis use and allows a classification into low-risk and high-risk users. A total of 17 out of the 35 ESPAD countries implemented the cannabis module and will be included in our analyses.
Results: Based on the indicators of the CAST scale, descriptive data on the prevalence of risky consumption patterns in adolescents will be presented and compared across the participating

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[1] This can only be a Principal Investigator or a Chair of an ESPAD Thematic group. When the application is approved the Principal Investigator/Chair of a Thematic group has to sign an agreement that the delivered copy of the 07 Database only will be used for the applied project and that the database will be handled according to the rules in the document "*Rules for the use of ESPAD databases*".

countries. Moreover, regression analyses will be conducted in order to assess associations between cannabis-related problems and different individual and social risk factors.

Planned type of publication: ☒ Paper/article ☐ Report ☐ PhD
☐ Other, which:

Variables to be included in the analysis:
Weight
Schooltyp
Age
Gender
CAST
All items on cannabis and illegal drugs
Items on risk behaviour
Items on alcohol and tobacco use
Sociodemographic variables

Countries to be included in the analysis:

☐ All accessible countries (Level 2)
☒ A more limited number of countries, namely:
Armenia, Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany (7 out of 16 Bundesländer), Greece, Isle of Man, Italy, Latvia, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, United Kingdom.

To have the application reviewed by the Application Committee please e-mail this document to:
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