



Application form for use of ESPAD Databases

Date: 28/10/2013

Name: Nicoletta Balbo

Institution: Bocconi University, Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics

Country: Italy

E-mail: balbo.nicoletta@unibocconi.it

Telephone: +39 333 3778648

Are you an ESPAD Principal Investigator or Contact Person? Yes
 No

Which database(s) do you apply for? 2003
 2007 (Non-ESPAD researchers from July 1, 2013)
 2011 (Non-ESPAD researchers from July 1, 2015)

List of authors (preliminary):

Nicoletta Balbo, Ross MacMillan

Working title of the project:

Adolescent substance use: assessment of risk factors and risk prevention in a comparative perspective

Work Plan: (Please describe objectives, methods and specify the research question(s), maximum 250 words.)

The aim of the research project is threefold. First, it aims to develop rigorous and reliable measurements of risk assessment, particular perceptions of health related risks of substance use. An important aspect of this research will be the creation of meaningful psychometric indexes, for which validity and reliability can be tested across sub-populations (e.g., males and females) and across countries. We know little about adolescent risk perceptions and it is thus important to understand the nature of such perceptions and how they might vary with respect to type of substance (e.g., alcohol, marijuana) considered, frequency of use (e.g., frequent versus "recreational"), and their interaction with personal traits, as well as the context in which the adolescent is embedded.

Second, the project will build sophisticated structural model that provides a statistical accounting of the relations between risk factors in the production of risk assessments and risk behaviors in an effort to empirically identify causal sequences that represent the social and psychological processes in the etiology of substance use. These models will examine and test different expectations on how adolescent's risk perceptions are connected to the co-influence of family, peer and community factors that are background for psychological development. Here, the overall goal is to identify causal pathways that trigger, enhance, limit or prevent adolescent substance use. Finally, the research will replicate the structural models cross-nationally to better understanding of how macro-level institutional and cultural settings shape the causal mechanisms that link risk factors in the production of substance abuse among adolescents.

Planned type of publication: Paper/article Report PhD

Other, which:

Questions (see Questionnaire(s)) to be included in the analysis: (Please indicate the question numbers.)

1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14(all questions) 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43(2003 only) 44(2003 only) a1 a2 a3 a4 a5(2003 only) b1 b2
b3 b4 b5 d1 d2 o1 o2 o3 o4 o5 o6 o7 o8 o9 o10o11o14 r1 r2

Countries to be included in the analysis: All accessible countries

A more limited number of countries, namely:

ESPAD Principal Investigators and Contact Persons should e-mail this document to espad@can.se.

Non-ESPAD researchers should e-mail this document to an ESPAD Principal Investigator or Contact Person (see www.espad.org), who will forward it to the coordinators.