ESPAD 03 Database Rules
Non-ESPAD Researchers

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**Background**
The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) has collected data four times in an increasing number of countries. The first data collection in 1995 included 26 countries, the second in 1999 30 countries and the third in 2003 35 countries. The fourth survey in 2007 also gathered 35 countries. The first three international ESPAD reports were based on standardised national reports produced by each national ESPAD researcher, while the result section of the report from 2007 was based on a common database.

The possibility of gathering the 2003 data in a common database was discussed at several ESPAD Project meetings and a large majority of the ESPAD researchers was always in favour of this idea. As a pilot project, Thoroddur Bjarnason gathered and analysed some national datasets from the 1999 data collection. For this purpose he produced a limited database. His experiences were positive and resulted in a database containing data collected in 2003 in around 30 countries.

There are several aspects to consider about an ESPAD database, including who should contribute and who should be allowed to use it and under which conditions. The decided rules for the use of ESPAD databases by non-ESPAD researchers are presented in this document.

**Access to the ESPAD database**
- The use of a new ESPAD database is restricted to ESPAD researchers.
- Old ESPAD databases are open for use by non-ESPAD researchers.
- Researchers must follow all rules specified in this document.
- The ESPAD 03 Database is open for external use from April 1, 2010.

**Application procedure**
- The ESPAD application form should be used.
- The application form should be sent to the Principal Investigator in the country where the researcher is located. If a non-European wants to apply he/she has to find an ESPAD researcher to apply via.
- Applications should be forwarded by the Principal Investigator to the coordinators. Decisions shall be taken by the ESPAD Application Committee (see Appendix 1).
- Possible overlaps with other applications will be informed about by the Application Committee to let the external researchers decide how to deal with them.

**Ethical aspects**
- ESPAD databases may not be used for any commercial purposes.
- Direct or indirect funding from the alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceutical and gambling industries is not allowed when using an ESPAD database.
- If results might be controversial to a country the Principal Investigator in that country should be contacted for comments.

**Conditions**
- When an application is approved, the applicant will get the whole database on a CD.
- It is strictly prohibited to use data from the database for any other purposes than those mentioned in an approved application.
- If an applicant wants to extend the analysis to other variables than those mentioned in an approved application, he/she needs the approval of the Application Committee.
- The applicant is not allowed to forward data to any person that is not directly involved in the approved research project.
- When an application is approved the applicant should sign a contract with the rules before the CD with the ESPAD database is delivered.
- The applicant is allowed to use an ESPAD Database up to 12 months.
- After 12 months the applicant shall confirm in writing to the ESPAD coordinators that the CD is destroyed and that all possible copies are deleted. This document shall be accompanied by all papers, articles, reports etc. in which ESPAD data have been used.
**Authorship and acknowledgements**

- The first author of any publication based on an ESPAD database will be the individual who played the primary role in conceptualising, designing, interpreting and writing about the analyses reported in that article, paper or report.
- Other major authors will be those individuals who make substantial contributions to conceptualising, conducting, interpreting and/or writing about the analyses in that publication.
- After a collaborative analysis has been completed, a draft report of the findings should be provided to all participating authors. These partners are expected to respond to the draft in a timely manner and to submit to the first author of the publication their suggested additions, revisions and corrections.
- The following acknowledgement footnote should be used in all publications using data from ESPAD databases: “This article (paper, report) includes data from a database produced within the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD), a collaborative European project coordinated by the Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAN). This article (paper, report) is written in line with the rules for the use of ESPAD databases. The National Principal Investigators providing data for this study were (name, country, institution) (in alphabetical order by country).
- The ESPAD Steering Committee will review and resolve possible disagreements about authorship or substantive content of publications that cannot be solved informally. The ESPAD Steering Committee will be the final arbiter of such issues.
Appendix 1

ESPAD Application Committee
By February 2011 the Application Committee consists of Björn Hibell (Sweden) chair, Thoroddur Bjarnason (Iceland), Gerhard Gmel (Switzerland), Ulf Guttormsson (Sweden) and Marina Kuzman (Croatia).