



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

ESPAD Principal investigators

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EMCDDA position statement on the value of surveys carried out by the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)

Data from the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) provide a valuable source of comparable information on alcohol, tobacco and drug use among 15–16 year-old students in Europe. They also help track trends over time in the development of patterns of substance use among school students.

ESPAD data have become an increasingly important component in reporting on the European drug situation and are highly complementary to the EMCDDA's key indicator of drug prevalence in the general population.

ESPAD and the EMCDDA collaborate on various technical issues and maintain a close working relationship under a 'cooperation framework' signed in 2008. The EMCDDA has directly supported aspects of ESPAD's work (e.g. surveys in the Western Balkans, expert thematic groups, publications, training, etc.).

The role of the EMCDDA is to provide 'factual, objective, reliable and comparable information at European level (including candidate and potential candidate countries to the EU) concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences'. This objective includes reporting on drug use, drug availability and young people's attitudes to drugs.

Data collected through the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (Reitox), and reported by the EMCDDA, play an important role in assisting European Union Institutions and Member States in evaluating their actions, including the EU drugs strategy and action plan.

The EMCDDA supports the collection of comparable data on school students and views the ESPAD survey and methods as a good model for data collection in this area. We encourage interested parties to support and participate in the work of ESPAD and to encourage sampled schools to participate in the data collection, noting that participation in ESPAD makes a useful contribution to the overall understanding of drug use in Europe.


Wolfgang Götz
Director

CC: Reitox national focal points

EMCDDA–ESPAD cooperation framework

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_45923_EN_espada.pdf