

## ANNEX G: Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission – Ethical Approval and Ethics Statement

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T.C. Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti



### KUZEY KİBRİS TÜRK CUMHURİYETİ BAŞBAKANLIK UYUŞTURUCU İLE MÜCADELE KOMİSYONU

01/07/2025

Subject: Ethical Approval and Ethics Statement

This document serves as a consolidated ethical approval confirmation and ethics statement for the research study entitled:

*"Substance Abuse Among Adolescents in Northern Cyprus: Trends, Risks, and Preventive Responses."*

The above-mentioned study has received full ethical approval from the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission Ethics Committee following a comprehensive review conducted in accordance with internationally accepted ethical principles governing research involving human participants.

The approved research is based on ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) 2024 data collected between 01 October 2024 and 30 May 2025. The term 'ESPAD 2024' refers to the standardized survey wave and questionnaire framework, rather than the calendar year of data collection. Prior to the commencement of field implementation, official permissions were obtained from the Ministry of Education and relevant school authorities, and ethical approval was granted by the Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission during the initial phase of data collection.

Dr. Zafer Bekiroğulları serves as the Project Coordinator and Academic Supervisor on behalf of the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission and is responsible for ensuring scientific rigor, ethical compliance, and adherence to the approved research protocol throughout all phases of the study.

The Ethics Committee confirms that the study protocol complies with the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki and relevant ethical standards applicable to research involving minors. The ethical review and approval process was conducted independently by the Ethics Committee, and the project coordinator was not involved in the ethical decision-making process.

The following ethical safeguards were reviewed and approved within the scope of this project:

- Participation in the study was entirely voluntary.
- Participants and, where applicable, their legal guardians were adequately informed about the purpose, procedures, and intended use of the research outputs.
- Written informed consent was obtained prior to data collection.
- Participants retained the right to withdraw at any stage without consequence.
- Participant anonymity and confidentiality were fully protected.

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- Research data were collected, stored, and processed in anonymized form.
- Appropriate measures were taken to minimize potential psychological, social, or legal risks.

The ethical approval granted applies to the entire duration of the project, including data analysis, reporting, publication, and dissemination of findings.

This document may be used in conjunction with the individual ethical approval, data use, and publication permission documents as a formal ethics statement for academic publication reports, and institutional submissions.

Approved and authorized on behalf of the Ethics Committee.



Cemal Direkci  
**Ethics Committee Director**  
Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's  
Anti-Drug Commission