

ANNEX M: Data Protection, Anonymisation and Data Management Plan (GDPR)

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Data Protection, Anonymisation and Data Management Plan (GDPR)

*Substance Abuse Among Adolescents in Northern Cyprus:
Trends, Risks, and Preventive Responses*
RESEARCH ETHICS DOCUMENTATION

This plan documents the data-protection and anonymisation measures applied throughout the study, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/679, GDPR) and relevant national data-protection legislation.

1. Lawful basis and data minimisation.

The study collects no personal or directly identifying data. Questionnaires are fully anonymous at the point of collection; no names, dates of birth, contact details, device identifiers, IP addresses, or tracking metadata are recorded. Only the minimum non-identifying information necessary for the research objectives is collected.

2. Anonymous administration.

The questionnaire is administered electronically via Google Forms, configured to ensure privacy so that no personal identifiers or tracking metadata are collected, ensuring that responses cannot be linked to any individual student, class, or device. Mandatory-response settings were used so that submitted questionnaires contained no missing items.

3. Storage, access and security.

Anonymised data are stored on access-controlled, password-protected systems accessible only to authorised members of the research team. No third party is granted access to raw data. Analytic outputs are derived solely from the anonymised dataset.

4. Retention and re-identification risk.

Because no identifiers are collected, the risk of re-identification is negligible. The anonymised dataset is retained only for the period required for analysis, verification, and reproducibility, after which it is managed in accordance with institutional and national retention requirements.

5. Reporting and dissemination.

All findings are reported exclusively in aggregated form. No cell, table, or figure permits the identification of any individual, school, or small subgroup; low-frequency categories are combined or suppressed where necessary.

6. Data controller and contact.

Data controller: the research team, on behalf of the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission. Contact for data-protection enquiries: Dr. Zafer Bekiroğlu, Principal Investigator and Project Coordinator (corresponding author), to whom all data-protection enquiries should be addressed.



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Principal Investigator and Project Coordinator

On behalf of the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission

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