

# 1 SUMMARY

**Objectives:** The first aim of the proposed study is to compare the prevalence of enhancement, social, conformity, and coping motives among adolescents from Canada and Switzerland. In addition, it will be investigated if, in Canada and in Switzerland, the same relation between drinking motives and adolescent alcohol use and excessive drinking exist. The second aim is to assess to what degree drinking motives depend on the social environment. More precisely, it will be investigated if the mean level of enhancement, social, conformity, and coping motives in a school class is able to explain variance in individual students' drinking in addition to his or her own levels of these drinking motives. Additionally, the proposed study examines whether there is a closer relation between a particular individual drinking motive and alcohol use if an individual is in a school class in which students drink mainly for this particular motive.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional data of 7,193 students in Switzerland as part of the international European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Drugs (ESPAD) and 4,882 students in Canada based on a screening survey for a school-based alcohol abuse prevention program (Conrod *et al.*, in press) will be used. Statistical analysis is based on linear structural equation models and multi-level regression models.

**Expected value:** The proposed study will demonstrate to what degree it is possible to transfer knowledge on drinking motives from North America to the Swiss drinking culture and will therefore provide evidence if the current developments in prevention that include drinking motives can easily be applied also in Switzerland. In addition, the proposed study will clarify the role and interplay of individual drinking motives and other students' motives in the important social environment of the school classroom. This knowledge is important to successfully apply prevention approaches including drinking motives in the classroom. Acceptance of the two proposed resultant manuscripts in international peer-reviewed journals guarantee the quality standard of the manuscripts through the peer-reviewing process and the dissemination of the research findings to an international audience.