GENACIS (Gender, Alcohol, and Culture: An International Study) is a multidisciplinary international project initiated to address the dearth of data on gender and alcohol use. The study was originally conceived by a group of international alcohol researchers called the International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol (IRGGA).

The project involves researchers from more than 20 countries. Major funding is provided by the European Union (EU), the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)/National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the World Health Organization (WHO). As of January 2003, WHO has provided funding to researchers in seven low-income countries to enable them to participate in this project. Keeping in line with WHO’s Gender Policy, this project addresses the need to recognize the significance of gender as a major variable in project development, data analysis and presentation.

The study will test the association between a wide array of individual-level and societal variables and alcohol consumption/alcohol problems in women and men. Some of these variables are: familial and social settings for alcohol consumption, social networks, intimate relations and sexuality, aggression and childhood abuse, health and lifestyle, work experience, social role, gender inequality and drinking culture.

It is anticipated that the findings from the GENACIS project will suggest more culture- and gender-sensitive approaches to measurement of alcohol use and alcohol problems, as well as to treatment, prevention and international alcohol policy.

The countries currently being funded by the WHO for this project are: Argentina, Costa Rica, India, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

The EU-funded project is currently based at the Free University, Berlin, Germany and the NIAAA/NIH-funded project is based at the University of North Dakota, USA.

Data centralization for the GENACIS project is currently taking place at ISPA (Swiss Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and other Drug Problems), Lausanne, Switzerland.

Useful Websites
http://www.medicine.nodak.edu/irgga
http://www.medizin.fuberlin.de/statistik/
Gender&Alcohol
http://www.sfa-ispa.ch/genacis/intro.htm