

WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

9 December 2021

MEMBERS

Rob DONOVAN (Chair)
Thierry ZINTZ
Gretchen LOWERISON
Sian CLANCY
Kim NOLTE
Andrew HEYES
Derwin CHAN
Leonardo José MATARUNA DOS SANTOS
(apologies received)
Susan BACKHOUSE (apologies received)

WADA

Amanda HUDSON
Tony CUNNINGHAM
Kelsey MARTIN

OBSERVERS

David PAVOT

The meeting of WADA's [Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group](#) was held virtually on 9 December 2021. The main focus for the meeting was to provide an update on developments since the last meeting, provide an end of year update, and to look ahead to key activities and priorities for 2022.

The outcomes and key summary of agreements made by the Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group are outlined below.

1. Chair Rob Donovan formally hosted the meeting and welcomed all members, WADA staff and the Observer.
2. SSREAG members stated no conflicts of interest. Members reached consensus with respect to the supplemental conflict of interest text that was discussed in the September meeting of the group. This text provides further guidance to the group in making conflict of interest decisions in general, and particularly with respect to the Research Grant Program.
3. SSREAG was updated on the SSR 2020-2024 Strategy. A key priority for 2022 activities will be on supporting the dissemination of research and facilitating the translation of research findings into policy and practice.

4. SSREAG members discussed in detail specific initiatives to support research dissemination and how this can be factored into work plans for 2022. These included better access to research reports through the WADA website and other initiatives such as publishing key summaries, supporting resources, newsletters, and a SSR hub on ADEL hosting practical social science research resources for Anti-Doping Organizations.
5. SSREAG was presented with an update on the 2022 Tier 1 & 2 Expressions of Interest following the deadline for submissions on 22 November. The Review Panel members were currently assessing submitted projects to determine those eligible to progress to a full application.
6. SSREAG was briefed on a group project currently being undertaken by Masters students at the International Academy for Sport Science and Technology (AISTS), Lausanne Switzerland. They will focus on reviewing models of practice for international networks of collaboration. This will support the proposed Clean Sport Academy initiatives referenced within the SSR Strategy. The University Development Working Group will be updated further on this project for further input.
7. SSREAG discussed a proposal for collaboration with an open access journal that would allow waivers for researchers to publish papers. The group expressed support in principle for open access for wider dissemination of research however preferred this should be done broadly rather than through a formal partnership with one journal. WADA will examine ways to promote publications through the Grant Program finance policies and through communication with journals on topics for their Calls-for-Papers.
8. SSREAG was provided with an update of the joint Call-For-Proposals with Fonds de recherche du Quebec (FRQ). Potential topics were discussed and proposed. WADA will look to confirm the topics with FRQ before publishing a Call-for-Proposals in 2022. Members of the SSREAG volunteered to contribute to this process.
9. Following the September meeting, SSREAG was updated on the Athlete Vulnerabilities Project. A descriptive report of the results from phase one of the project was presented to the group. This report summarized a number of findings from the survey that was conducted from April to June 2021 in co-operation with sport federations. The SSREAG endorsed the report subject to a final edit being undertaken prior to publication by WADA.
10. SSREAG was provided with one proposed edit of one article for the 2022 Terms of Reference of the Group bolded below:
 - a) Providing support for the dissemination **and translation into practice** of the research outcomes as an output of the Grant Program.This proposed insertion reflects the added importance of the priority of the Group in promoting research findings (see point 3 above). SSREAG supported and endorsed this 2022 Terms of Reference edit.
11. SSREAG agreed to hold their next meeting in February 2021.

