

WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

6 October 2022

Members

Rob DONOVAN (Chair)

Thierry ZINTZ

Kim NOLTE

Leonardo Jose MATURANA DOS SANTOS (apology received)

Gretchen LOWERISON

Sian CLANCY

Andrew HEYES

Derwin CHAN

Susan BACKHOUSE

WADA

Amanda HUDSON

Tony CUNNINGHAM

Kelsey MARTIN

Observer

David PAVOT (apology received)

The meeting of WADA's Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) was held virtually on 6 October 2022. The main focus for the meeting was to provide an update on developments since the last meeting, including updates on the Code Compliance Questionnaire and the Global Education Conference. In addition, the meeting invited discussion on key processes and priorities, and potential future updates to the 2023 Social Science Research Grant Program.

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

1. The Chair Rob Donovan formally hosted the virtual meeting and welcomed all members and WADA staff.
2. In relation to the Global Education Conference (GEC), Amanda Hudson, Director, Education, WADA provided the SSREAG members with an overview of the GEC. Plenary sessions, presentations, break out rooms discussing multiple clean sport initiatives provided a great platform for the education community to share experiences and learn from global experts.

3. SSREAG members shared their perspective and feedback relating to the GEC. Social Science Research (SSR) was an integral part of the program. Digital poster presentations from research teams allowed for participants to interact directly with research and learn about findings. SSR will continue to be prominent in future GECs. Access to presentations and materials for all participants will be added for future events where possible.
4. SSREAG members were taken through the current plan for the 2023 SSR Grant Program. A discussion occurred surrounding how the application process may be improved. Suggestions for improvement included: a shortened literature review; a larger focus on understanding the research problem presented by applicants; clearer direction on research design & methods; identifying more clearly target populations of the research; and sampling methods guidance. Lastly, further and clearer instructions regarding the budget with a newly updated budget template was suggested.
5. In line with WADA's SSR Strategy, members were updated on the International Academy of Sport Science and Technology (AISTS) feasibility project for Clean Sport Academies (CSAs) and provided input and feedback on results presented. The feasibility and practicality of the CSA concept will now be further explored internally.
6. The SSREAG was presented with an update on progress of the Prevalence Program. The program aims to develop a 'Doping Prevalence Index (DPI)' to allow anti-doping organizations to develop a profile of the behavior of doping in their sport, country, or event. There are three key pillars to the DPI: anti-doping testing data; Athlete Biological Passport data; and a survey method using indirect measurement. The WADA Prevalence Working Group is due to report on progress by the end of 2022.
7. The SSREAG was provided with an update on a proposed joint-funded project with Fonds de Recherche Quebec (FRQ) to examine the concept of inadvertent doping. The topic was presented in a session at the GEC to receive feedback from the anti-doping community. This will now be explored further with the intention of setting up a Working Group for the process.
8. The SSREAG was updated on the different Working Groups' tasks ahead of the end of the year. These include reviewing of Expressions of Interest to the Grant Program and contributing to the collation of research published in 2022 with the intention for circulation to the anti-doping community.
9. SSREAG was updated on the progress of the SSR Strategy. Of the 33 stated outputs in the Strategy, 14 have been completed, 17 are in progress, and two are yet to commence. A full progress report will be provided ahead of the end of year meeting.
10. SSREAG was presented with an update on the Collaboration Platform initiative. The SSR team is looking to re-engage and to launch a simple meta-site website. The purpose of the meta-site is to establish a platform where all Social Science (SS) research is easily accessible. The survey report is in its final stage and will be shared with the group by end of the fourth quarter.
11. An update on the Code-Compliance was presented to the SSREAG members. Tiers 1 & 2 of the Code-Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) are reviewed and submitted. The Corrective Action (CAs) process has begun. In relation to social science, of the 117 signatories who have completed the questionnaire

to date, 61 indicated that they had funded social science research in some way, with 67 stating they used social science research to inform their education programs.

12. The meeting concluded by Rob Donovan outlining the outcomes and members provisionally agreeing to a meeting on 6 December 2022.