

WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

6 September 2023

MEMBERS

Rob DONOVAN (apology received)

Thierry ZINTZ

Gretchen LOWERISON

Sian CLANCY

Kim NOLTE

Thais CEVADA

Andrew HEYES

Derwin CHAN

Susan BACCKHOUSE

WADA

Tony CUNNINGHAM

Kelsey MARTIN

Nelson MORALES

OBSERVER

David PAVOT (apology received)

The meeting of WADA's Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) was held virtually on 6 September 2023. The main focus of the meeting was to provide an update on the developments since the last meeting, agreement on the process of the 2024 Social Science Research (SSR) Grant Program, and to update the members on the SSR Strategy as well as other project updates. Expert input was also sought on elements of the upcoming Global Education Conference in February 2024.

The outcomes and key summary of agreements made by the SSREAG are outlined below.

1. Apologies were received for Chair Rob Donovan and Observer David Pavot for their absence. Head of Policy & Research (Education) Tony Cunningham hosted the meeting after communicating with the Chair on agenda items to be presented.
2. The SSREAG members declared no issues with the previous meeting outcomes and agreed on the meeting objectives.
3. The SSREAG were presented with an overview of the 2024 SSR Grant Program, review process and timeline with expectations from the sub-groups. This includes the responsibility of the Review Panel and the potentiality of the Regional Development Group to review and analyze the applications of the WADA SSR Grant Program.
 - a. SSREAG were briefed on the upcoming 2024 SSR Grant Program. Due to the likely earlier meeting of the WADA Executive Committee in early 2024, timelines for the program will be brought forward one month. The Call for Proposals will be opened in mid-September for applications and the deadline for submissions will be Monday 20 November 2023.
 - b. Following feedback from the review of the 2023 Grant Program and the constrained timelines, there will be no Expression of Interest for the 2024 Grant Program. One application will be received for all three tiers, with Tier 3 submissions still expected to be slightly shorter applications.
 - c. Kelsey Martin thoroughly went through the SSR Grant Program process. All Tiers 1 and 2 applications will be reviewed by external peer reviewers. A Review Panel consisting of members of the SSREAG will concurrently review all applications that will then be discussed in detail in virtual meetings in December (and possibly January 2024), and finalised at the SSREAG in-person meeting in February 2024. Recommendations from that meeting will be brought forward to the WADA Education Committee before a final decision will be made by the WADA Executive Committee.
4. SSREAG were updated on a social awareness campaign to be led by WADA's Communications Department, highlighting the dangers of anabolic steroids. Members provided input on how the impact of the campaign may be assessed and evaluated.
5. SSREAG members were briefed with an update to the SSR Strategy, specifically dissemination initiatives. The main objective being to disseminate SSR findings in ways that increases their translation into practice and to convert complex information into a concise and easily understandable format. The primary purpose is to communicate the main findings of projects funded by WADA in ways they can be acted on. Examples of the work being conducted include:
 - a. A website transformation, turning the current content project list into a dynamic searchable database with keyword filters. This is a process of gathering information from all 146 projects based on their summaries and final reports to increase their accessibility.
 - b. An Infographic of certain projects is an additional dissemination tool that will be added to the SSR project webpage. The purpose is to design an infographic that summarizes the most relevant findings of each SSR project into a more user-friendly format.

6. SSREAG members were updated on the Unintentional Doping Project in collaboration with the Fonds de Recherche du Quebec (FRQ).
7. SSREAG was provided with an update on the developments of the Global Education Conference Program that will take place in Cannes, France, 28-29 February 2024 and how SSR will be integrated into the program. This will include an SSR Symposium the day before in association with Université Côte d'Azur, poster presentations and the possibility of a Young Investigator Award.
8. It was confirmed with the SSREAG members that the next meeting will take place during the first week of December, 2023.