

WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

6 December 2022

Members

Rob DONOVAN (Chair)

Thierry ZINTZ

Kim NOLTE

Leonardo Jose MATURANA DOS SANTOS (not present)

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 December 2022. The main focus for the meeting was to provide an update on developments since the last meeting, including updates on the Social Science Research Grant Program review process. In addition, the meeting provided an end of year update and a look ahead to key activities and priorities for 2023.

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

1. The Chair Rob Donovan formally hosted the virtual meeting and welcomed all members and WADA staff, and presented the objectives of the meeting.
2. The SSREAG members were updated on the 2023 Social Science Research (SSR) Grant Program status. Following the deadline of Tiers 1 & 2 Expressions of Interests (EoIs) on 21 November 2022, there was a total of 34 applications from 19 countries, with 58% of these coming from typically under-funded regions.

3. As decided in the previous meeting all SSREAG members will conduct reviews of the Eols. The members were briefed on the administrative steps on conducting a review for the SSR Grant Program.
4. Emerging issues were discussed such as the gender balance in applications and the low number of French applications. The SSR team will examine potential barriers that female researchers and French applicants may face in order to encourage these under-represented groups to apply to the Program in future.
5. The SSREAG members discussed ideas to increase the number of French applications for the SSR Grant Program. Items that arose in discussion were: looking at promotion opportunities through French journals; encouraging past French applicants to re-apply; increasing promotion through WADA's Regional Offices; and targeting Francophone academics as some examples.
6. In relation to the issues arising from regional roundtable discussions at the 2022 Global Education Conference, challenges were also identified for the Asian community in applying for funding. SSREAG member Derwin Chan will join a webinar on the 12 December 2022 to present an overview of the Grant Program and discuss ways of working between practitioners and researchers.
7. The SSREAG members were updated on the ongoing priority of disseminating research to relevant partners and interested groups. By Q1 2023 there will be an updated SSR webpage. The update will include search filters to allow research findings to be more easily accessible and searchable through different categories and topics. A compilation of published research in 2022 will also be circulated to partners and interest groups.
8. The SSREAG members were provided with the SSR Strategy 2020-2024 Annual Report prior to the meeting. No further feedback or inputs were brought forth. The members were presented with high-level highlights on the SSR Strategy 2020-2024.
9. Areas of focus for 2023 were presented to SSREAG members, including:
 - a. Maintaining and increasing visibility of SSR through the Strategy's initiatives. More specifically increasing the quality of SSR grant applications through reviewer feedback.
 - b. Inadvertent doping - The SSR team will look to progress the governance of the project by establishing a taskforce in partnership with Fonds du recherche Quebec (FRQ).
 - c. Emerging topics such as gender issues in anti-doping, Esports and urban sports to be examined further as exploratory areas.
10. The SSREAG members were presented with a status update on the SSR Collaboration Platform. Firstly, a survey report conducted in 2021 was finalized and will be published in Q1 2023. This will coincide with the launch of a website highlighting the work of the group and promoting research opportunities across all member organizations.
11. The meeting was concluded by providing the dates for a future meeting in February 2023 and were presented with the proposed dates of the next in-person meeting and joint-meeting with the Education Committee on 27-29 March 2023.