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WADA launches Call for Proposals for 2018 Social Science Research Grant Program

Today, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) launched a Call for Proposals for its 2018 Social Science Research Program; for which, proposals must be received, via WADAGrants, no later than 16 July 2018 (23:59 GMT).

‘Increasing and enhancing research-led anti-doping education’ is one of WADA’s strategic priorities. Accordingly, WADA’s Education Committee is tasked with identifying relevant areas of social science research in the field of anti-doping to inform more effective doping prevention strategies. WADA-supported research requires that anti-doping education programs and initiatives are grounded in scientific knowledge and evidence. Proposals are invited for research that specifically ‘measures the effectiveness of existing anti-doping strategies and interventions’.

All proposals, regardless of topic, should provide a strong rationale, underpinned by a sound appraisal of the evidence base.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the results of the proposed research have the potential to inform the development of effective doping prevention programs.

WADA seeks to expand the portfolio of social science research to include a diverse range encompassing, amongst other things: work based on single social science disciplines; research which combines disciplinary approaches; research focused on advancing scientific theory; and research aimed principally at developing practical applications.

It should be noted that, proposals that demonstrate partnerships and collaboration between research institutions and anti-doping organizations will be looked upon favorably during the decision-making process. Similarly, interdisciplinary proposals drawing from multiple social science fields (e.g., sociology, psychology, law, economics, and management science) are encouraged. Extra weighting will also be given to projects involving more than one country.

WADA is keen to support research that is ambitious and has the potential for high impact in preventing doping in sport. As such, we are willing to award funding in excess of USD 100,000 where applications can clearly demonstrate that the research project builds on an established program of research.

All proposals responding to the terms and conditions of this Call for Proposals will be evaluated by external peer-reviewers, whose recommendations will be reviewed by WADA’s Social Science Research Project Review Panel and the Education Committee for recommendation to the Agency’s Executive Committee. Applicants will be notified of the results at the end of 2018.

For further information regarding the 2018 Program, including the application process, please refer to the Social Science Research section of WADA’s website and the welcome page and FAQ section of the WADAGrants platform.

Rob Koehler
Deputy Director General