

A study of surroundings influence on attitude towards and behavior regarding doping among Ukrainian athletes and non-athletes

Project Summary

The need for scientific search in the field of surroundings influence on doping attitude and behavior is underscored by the fact that the doping related problem in the Ukraine has spread beyond elite athletes. Recent surveys have suggested that doping problems have spread beyond the elite athlete population in the Ukraine. Most of the effort concerns detection among elite athletes with much less attention to preventive measures among both amateur and elite sports as well as general public. Despite the increased anti-doping effort throughout world community Ukraine suffers from lack of anti-doping experience. In order to underpin effective, targeted anti-doping intervention in the Ukraine the individual and systemic environmental factors contributing to doping behavior should be fully investigated. This approach is grounded by the fact that susceptibility to doping depends on the combination of athlete's personality and the environmental factors.

The aim of the project is to diagnose the attitude towards doping, doping preventive strategies, doping knowledge and sources among public surroundings of athletes and non-athletes and the influence of a public surroundings on athletes and non-athletes doping behavior and attitude with regard to identify anti-doping interventional points.

The first stage of the study aimed to investigate the extent to which doping attitude and behavior, knowledge and sources are influenced by surroundings. Empirical data will be collected via paper and pencil questionnaire from Ukrainian athletes and non athletes.

The second stage aimed to assess attitude towards doping, doping preventive strategies, knowledge and sources among surrounding public. Self-reported questionnaires has been adopted for collecting data among coaches, medical staff, physical education teachers, parents, mass-media workers. There are two questionnaires suggested: "Attitudes towards doping and doping preventive measures" and "Doping knowledge and sources". Questionnaires consist of questions aimed to assess information concerned awareness of the prohibited list of doping substances and harm of the doping. The questions, which were essentially closed, covered knowledge of doping agents, contact with doping on an everyday basis, training in and commitment to the prevention of doping, procedures and sources of information on doping, willingness to prescribe steroids for non-medical purposes (for medical staff). Also the respondents were questioned regarding their opinions toward preferred methods of doping education, their role in preventing doping and the effectiveness of current prevention efforts.

The third stage aimed to identify the main point of anti-doping intervention in the Ukraine. The results which will be obtained at the end of the project will be systematized. Grounded on the obtained results the intervention strategies have to be adopted using a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to drug use prevention, addressing a range of psycho-social variables including peer and media resistance training, body image and self-esteem issues and alternatives to drug use and decision-making skills.

Findings from this study will contribute to understanding the driving forces behind doping and how athletes and their surroundings wish to deal with these factors. This information will help to identify the main anti-doping interventional steps in the Ukraine and contribute to global understanding doping problem