

## **Project NTOUMANIS**

### **A statistical synthesis of the literature on personal and situational variables that predict doping in physical activity settings**

This project will use a statistical technique called meta-analysis to quantitatively synthesize evidence from the literature regarding the extent to which personal (e.g., attitudes) and situational (e.g., coach influence) variables predict intentions for and use of doping-related substances. The meta-analysis will look at both experimental and survey-based studies and its first aim will be to calculate the magnitude of the effects (called effect sizes) reported in the literature. Its second aim will be to identify variables that affect the strength of the effect sizes identified. Such variables are called moderators and can be demographic (e.g., gender, age) or psycho-social (e.g., cultural norms). The third aim of the project is to use the obtained effect sizes and test complex statistical models linking personal and situational predictors of doping-related intentions and behaviors. The project will aim to collect data not only from published survey and intervention studies but also from unpublished studies to avoid a publication bias which favors positive results. The primary applicant has published similar analyses for other projects. It is expected that data will be obtained from 120-150 studies.

The project fits well with the first research category of the 2012 Program as it will increase knowledge, through a quantitative and systematic review process, of factors that are predictive of doping attitudes and behaviors. It is hoped that by identifying the variables which are the best predictors of doping and the aspects of interventions that work best, the findings of this meta-analysis will serve as reference points in the future when designing interventions in this research area. From a practical perspective, and aligned with the WADA's Education Committee aims, the findings can inform the development of more efficient and evidence-based campaigns and educational programs that prevent or stop doping in sport and other physical activity settings.