



**WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG)
Meeting
12-14 April 2021
Meeting Outcomes**

MEMBERS

Rob DONOVAN (Chair)
Thierry ZINTZ
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OBSERVERS

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The [Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group](#) met virtually on 12 - 14 April 2021. The main focus for the meetings was to consolidate the review process outcomes of the 2021 [Social Science Research Grant Program](#) applications and to recommend the successful social science research project proposals for the approval of WADA's [Education Committee](#).

The outcomes and summary of the key agreements made by the Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group are outlined below.

1. The Chair of the Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG) – Prof. Robert Donovan (University of Western Australia, Australia) presented the results of the review process for all Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 project applications received. In total, 140 reviews were conducted. Thirty Tier 1 and 2 projects were sent for two independent peer reviews in addition to reviews conducted by members of the Social Science Research Review Panel (SSRRP), a sub-group of the SSREAG. Projects with divergent peer reviews were assigned to a third independent reviewer. Thirty-two Tier 3 applications were reviewed independently by two members of the SSRRP only.
2. The results of the review process conducted by the SSRRP and by independent peer reviewers fed into the two-day deliberations of the SSREAG meeting. The members who had declared a conflict of interest for projects that were to be discussed, abstained from these discussions and left the meeting when such projects and those in the same tier were being considered for funding.

The deliberations focused on how the project proposals aligned with WADA's social science research [strategic priorities](#) and took into account the quality and significance of the project, the appropriateness and balance of the research team, the value for money, the expected outputs and impact of the project, as well as, the quality of the proposed dissemination plan.

3. The thorough analysis of project proposals served as the basis for recommendations that the SSREAG made to the WADA Education Committee at a joint meeting held on 14 April 2021. The recommendations were;
 - Twelve Tier 1 projects were discussed, two were recommended for funding to the Education Committee.
 - Eighteen Tier 2 projects were discussed, five were recommended for funding to the Education Committee.
 - Thirty-two Tier 3 projects were discussed, eleven were recommended for funding to the Education Committee.
4. Some projects were recommended for funding subject to clarifications and conditions. If approved by the WADA Executive Committee, WADA will liaise with each relevant applicant to seek those clarifications and to ensure conditions are agreed.
5. The SSREAG identified projects with significant potential in different regions as needing further support and possibly some mentoring. WADA will follow up with these projects to offer support where possible.
6. The SSREAG noted that the Education Committee accepted their proposals for funding and that the Chair of the Education Committee agreed to present these funding recommendations to the Executive meeting to be held on 20 May for their formal approval.
7. The SSREAG was pleased to see the positive outcomes of the changes introduced to the Social Science Research Grant Program to better align this to the strategic aims of the [WADA Social Science Research Strategy 2020-2024](#) (the Strategy), such as the introduction of tiers. The group was especially impressed by the geographical spread of the project proposals and found that closely aligned with the commitment made in the Strategy, with the number of recommended projects exceeding WADA's ambition of 35% social science research grants be allocated to non-European countries.
8. The SSREAG supported the proposal that the next meeting be held in September 2021.