

## **Project Skinner (UK)**

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### **An Investigation into staff perceptions concerning the legitimacy of anti-doping policy implementation in regional anti-doping organisations**

There is growing evidence that anti-doping policies are not being implemented harmoniously across nations. Further, there is an increasing concern that athlete judgements of WADA's legitimacy are negatively influenced by perceptions that anti-doping testing conditions are unequal across nations. This undermines (a) drug testing as a deterrent to doping and (b) WADA's legitimacy as the organisation responsible for drug-testing. The aim of this study is to identify the practical challenges faced by WADA in harmonising drug testing practices across NADOs, through understanding the difficulties confronting Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (RADO) responsible for supporting new anti-doping regimes. To achieve this aim the following objectives will be addressed:

- (1) interview RADOs to explore how staff evaluate the legitimacy of anti-doping implementation,
- (2) conduct observational fieldwork at the annual RADO conference to provide additional insight into the challenges and solutions that RADO and NADO staff have utilised, and
- (3) based on the data collected from the first two tasks, provide recommendations to improve global harmonisation of testing conditions.

In doing so, it is anticipated WADA can improve its legitimacy and, as a consequence, behavioural support from athletes and increase the harmonisation of anti-doping practices.