

Risk Factors within Doping Behavior Related to Personality Structure and Social Environment of the Athletes

Fast development of elite sport, together with its strong advertising led to a radical change of athletes and managers behavior expressed mainly through the quest for victory, by any means. Thus, the tendency of prohibited substances use and the violation of sports ethic regulation.

According to Article 6 of Anti-Doping Convention of Council of Europe, "the parties undertake to encourage and promote research, in cooperation with the regional, national and international sports organizations concerned, into ways and means of devising scientifically-based physiological and psychological training programs that respect the integrity of the human person." In this regard, many researches developed within previous years have shown on one hand the importance of individual factors of athletes' personality and on the other hand the importance of the social environment, represented especially by coaches and the correlation between them for accepting or rejecting the use of prohibited substances.

The project of National Anti-Doping Agency, in compliance with World Anti-Doping Agency and Monitoring Group of Council of Europe requests has the purpose to present in a veridical and complex description the way this problem appears in Romania.

Up to the present, in Romania have been developed laboratory researches in the domain of elaboration of analytical methods for prohibited substances identification and quantitative determination and excretion studies in the purpose of analytical technologies development for the extension of prohibited substances range identified within doping control. In social sciences, there has not been developed any research by now, which leads to the lack of an image of doping practices on Romanian athletes as well as to the lack of some concrete data concerning the information level of the population and within institutions, expressed or latent attitudes towards prohibited substances use, users profile, risk-exposed population, motivation for use and its effects.

This research has a hypothetical-deductive character expressing the hypothesis that the variables of Type A Behavior Pattern (TABP) together with some variables of athletes' social environment represent the basis of doping behavior. Research methodology involves questionnaires, interviews, personality and attitude inventories on 14 – 28 years old athletes, their coaches and managers. The project that will be developed on a 2000 subjects pool, illustrative for Romanian athletes, will lead to the gathering of information necessary for theoretical and for practical steps, in the purpose of the development of some efficient educative projects against doping use. By finding more details about this phenomenon we can discover the real values of Romanian athletes and we can identify target groups we are going to address in the future so that we could reduce the number of performance enhancement drugs users. The pool on which this research will be developed will include junior athletes too, who are now in full process of development, their patterns not being concrete yet and their perceptions, beliefs and behaviors may be influenced by a fair, clean and healthy sport. Finally, we intend to encourage the performance obtained with fair play and respect for ethical values and to enhance morality level of the entire sport population.