

Raising the Visibility of Social Science Research in Sport Integrity

Council of Europe

European Commission

International Olympic
Committee (IOC)

Partnership for Clean
Competition (PCC)

United Nations
Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization
(UNESCO)

World Anti-Doping
Agency (WADA)

**A Communiqué from the
Social Science Research
Collaboration Platform**

Social Science Research (SSR) Collaboration Platform

The '**SSR Collaboration Platform**' is an informal community of practice for organizations that support social science research aimed at having a positive impact on clean sport.

We convene to share experience and best practices, using our collective insights to improve the benefits of research by taking action to reduce duplication and improving the way in which research is disseminated, understood and adopted by actors in the field of sport.

Our aim: **to help improve public and sport policy to protect the sporting experience for all.**

There are currently six different organizations that attend meetings of the Platform:

- ❖ Council of Europe
- ❖ European Commission
- ❖ International Olympic Committee (IOC) (The Olympic Studies Centre and the Medical & Scientific Department)
- ❖ Partnership for Clean Competition
- ❖ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- ❖ World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

As an informal network, other international and regional organizations that have a role in supporting social science research in sport are welcome to join us at any time. The network also welcomes private organizations and other supporters of social science research in sport integrity.

While maintaining the informal character of the network, in our work we refer to the formal requirements laid out for the organizations involved in anti-doping. The World Anti-Doping Code, on the one hand, and the international treaties of UNESCO and the Council of Europe, on the other, oblige their respective stakeholders to encourage and promote anti-doping research, as well as share the results of available anti-doping research with other stakeholders.

As part of our collective aims, we want to raise the visibility of social science research in sport, as well as help to improve policy, promote investment opportunities for researchers, raise awareness of research programs and maximize opportunities to disseminate research findings. This Communiqué profiles each organization's individual role in supporting social science research and identifies common research themes in which we are all interested.

Research Themes

Although each organization of the Collaboration Platform identifies its own specific research priorities, which are outlined in this Communiqué, the overarching research themes that capture our common interests are:

- ❖ Sport integrity
- ❖ Athlete welfare/wellbeing
- ❖ Values education
- ❖ Sport governance and capacity
- ❖ Effectiveness of education
- ❖ Equality and inclusion in sport
- ❖ Athlete environment/influences on behaviour
- ❖ Impact of technology on sport integrity

The Importance of Social Science Research to the Collaboration Platform

Social science is concerned with society and the relationships among individuals within a society. It is valued for its role in providing evidence and insights about individual, organizational and societal factors that influence people's beliefs and behaviours. Social science research frequently challenges common assumptions about the world, emphasizing the need for robust evidence collection before drawing conclusions that impact society. By framing major societal challenges into questions, social science researchers support policymakers to answer such questions. Investment in social science research informs public policy choices and anticipated societal benefits.

Social science has demonstrated how it contributes to the development and improvement of society through the understanding of human behaviour and how it is influenced by a complex and dynamic interplay of factors. The more social science aids our understanding of these complex factors, the more effective we can be in our public policy initiatives, particularly where these behaviours are harmful to individuals and/or society. Understanding people, the choices they make and how they are influenced, and then using this insight to inform what organizations do, can be termed evidence-based practice or evidence-informed policy making.

Each organization associated with the Collaboration Platform values the role and importance that social science research plays in furthering their missions to contribute to a better society through positive sport experiences for all, outlined by the above benefits. There is a recognition also that there are challenges in supporting social science research. These include limited resources, attracting applicants and projects aligned to research priorities, effectively translating research into practice and policy, and promoting research findings in clear and easy-to-read formats.

As a collective, the Collaboration Platform recognizes that these challenges can be addressed together as a “community of practice” by the following means:

- ✔ Generating awareness of each other’s research programs, including raising visibility of research facilitates coordination where common priorities are identified, collaboration where they are complementary, and reduction in duplication where they overlap, thus helping to maximize the resources available.
- ✔ Sharing practices of how we each look to support evidence-informed policy and practice, identifying principles and methods that work well, including effective communication strategies, helping to translate the results of research.
- ✔ Identifying avenues and channels where we can share key research, ensuring it reaches a wider and relevant audience and creating opportunities at events and conferences where research is afforded a platform.

A profile of each organization will now be outlined followed by key events and conferences where research will be promoted, providing an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to come together to discuss and share ideas.



ORGANIZATION:

Council of Europe

Who we are:



The Council of Europe is an international organization established in 1947 to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe.

What we do:

The aims of the Council of Europe are pursued through international treaties. The Anti-Doping Convention (1989) is an international treaty ratified by 52 states, promoting the national and international harmonisation of the measures to be taken against doping. The Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO) supports the States parties in implementation of the Convention by drawing up recommendations. It also evaluates how the States parties comply with the commitments under the Convention by analysing the results of annual reports and evaluation visit reports.

Our role in research:

Each State party to the Anti-Doping Convention undertakes to encourage and promote research into ways and means of devising scientifically-based physiological and psychological training programmes that respect the integrity of the human person, as well as devise and implement programmes emphasising the dangers to health inherent in doping and its harm to the ethical values of sport.

How we support research:

There is no direct funding for research available from the Council of Europe.

The Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention through its Advisory Groups on Science and Education coordinates the research work of the States parties and thus indirectly contributes to the research activities by:

- ❖ Providing a platform for the State Parties on research matters
- ❖ Sharing the information about research opportunities for State Parties
- ❖ Disseminating research findings

- ❖ Analysing the research needs
- ❖ Convening expert groups and supporting communities of practice
- ❖ Recommending the State Parties to support targeted research activities

Where can you find out more?

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/anti-doping-convention>

Whom can you contact to find out more?

sport.t-do@coe.int

ORGANIZATION:

European Commission

Who we are:



The Sport Unit of the European Commission is part of the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. The Sport Unit deals with the sport policy at the level of the European Union and coordinates the Sport Actions under Erasmus+.

What we do:

The Sport Action in the Erasmus+ Programme aims to support European partnerships on grassroots sport to:

- ❖ Tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, match fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination.
- ❖ Promote and support good governance in sport.
- ❖ Promote education in and through sport and encourage the dual careers of athletes.
- ❖ Promote voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity, through increased participation in, and equal access to sport for all.
- ❖ Support awareness development in the protection of the environment and fight against climate change.

Our role in research:

The Erasmus+ Sport Actions allow the financing of projects in one of the horizontal or sport-specific priorities. Projects can support research, practical activities or a blend of both.

How we support research:

The Sport Action in the Erasmus + Programme – Overview

How much do we fund?

EUR 41 600 000 for year 2021

What is the size of projects?	Applicants can receive funding for projects at five different value points: EUR 30 000, 60 000, 120 000, 250 000 and 400 000. Projects worth EUR 30 000 or 60 000 need a minimum of two partners from two different Programme Countries. Larger projects require at least three partners from three different Programme Countries.
Who can apply?	<p>Any participating organization established in a Programme Country can be the applicant. This organization applies on behalf of all participating organizations involved in the project.</p> <p>An organization or a public body active in the field of sport and established in a Programme Country or in any Partner Country. The non-exhaustive list includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A public body in charge of sport at local, regional or national level ❖ A National Olympic Committee or National Sport Confederation ❖ A sport organization at local, regional, national, European or international level ❖ A national sports league ❖ A sport club ❖ An organization or union representing athletes ❖ An organization or union representing professionals and volunteers in sport ❖ An organization representing the 'sport for all' movement ❖ An organization active in the field of physical activity promotion ❖ An organization representing the active leisure sector
From where can they apply?	Please consult the list of countries following the link https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node/3_en
What is the application process?	Projects are financed through an annual Call-for-Proposals. Applicants send their application within the deadline.
When can they apply?	For 2021, the deadline for the Call for Proposals is 20 May (17:00, CEST).
How do we decide?	Projects are checked against exclusion criteria and then evaluated by independent experts. The Agency EACEA sends notification letters informing all applicants of the outcome of their application. Selected projects for the 2021 Call start in early 2022.

In what are we interested?	We are interested in projects with a European dimension that tackle one of the horizontal or sport-specific priorities of Erasmus+.
Where can you find out more?	https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en
Whom can you contact to find out more?	Eac-Sport@ec.europa.eu

ORGANIZATION:

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

(The Olympic Studies Centre)

Who we are:



International
Olympic
Committee

The IOC Olympic Studies Centre

What we do:

- ❖ As recognised source for Olympic knowledge, the IOC Olympic Studies Centre's mission is to foster and support academic research, education and dissemination and make the knowledge accessible to stakeholders of the Olympic Movement and the academic community.
- ❖ Its programmes and services aim to stimulate and share up-to-date and relevant information and knowledge about the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement and facilitate a permanent dialogue between the IOC and academics engaged in Olympic Studies.
- ❖ Through **targeted** programmes and communications, the OSC also fosters the direct exchange with Olympic scholars and a worldwide "network" of university-based Olympic Studies and Research Centres.
- ❖ The unique library collections of the OSC hold over 36,000 monographic titles and over 10,500 digital documents which are easily accessible via the Olympic World Library (www.olympic.org/library), the OSC's library catalogue. The collection includes all official publications from the IOC and the Organising Committees of the Olympic Games, dating back to the foundation of the IOC in 1894, as well as Games-related publications by National Olympic Committees and International Sports Federations and a rich collection of academic books, articles, and journals. At its facilities in Lausanne, Switzerland, researchers are welcomed to access the physical library collection and access the IOC Historical Archives for research purposes.

All information on the OSC can be found at www.olympic.org/studies.

Our role in research:

We promote and support research by:

- providing access to our collections,

- answering to any factual and historical information requests,
- facilitating exchanges and collaboration between university-based Olympic Studies and Research Centres, researchers, professors and students who share a common interest in Olympic studies and
- creating opportunities for dialogue between the IOC and the academic community.

In addition, every year we fund Olympic-related research with a humanities or social science perspective via two grant programmes: the PhD students and Early Career Academics Research Grant Programme and the Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme for established researchers.

How we support research:

Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme

How much do we fund?	USD 120,000 (distributed in approximately 6 projects per edition of a maximum of USD 20,000 each).
Who can apply?	University professors, lecturers and research fellows who have completed their doctorate and who currently hold an academic/research appointment/affiliation.
From where can they apply?	Anywhere in the world.
What is the application process?	The rules and the application form are available at https://www.olympic.org/olympic-studies-centre/research-grant-programmes
When can they apply?	Every year between November and around the beginning of February.
How do we decide?	The process includes IOC staff experts, academic reviewers and our Selection Committee.
In what are we interested?	We annually publish a list of IOC priority fields of research. The list for the last edition (2021/2022) is available here: https://www.olympic.org/olympic-studies-centre/research-grant-programmes
Where can you find out more?	All the information concerning our research grant programmes are available at https://www.olympic.org/olympic-studies-centre/research-grant-programmes
Whom can you contact to find out more?	studies.centre@olympic.org

PhD Students and Early Career Academics Research Grant Programme

How much do we fund?	USD 32,000 (distributed in around 4-6 projects per edition)
Who can apply?	PhD students and academic staff members and postdoctoral fellows who have completed their doctorate or equivalent terminal degree (including masters, depending on the field) in the past three years.
From where can they apply?	Anywhere in the world.
What is the application process?	The rules and the application form are available at https://www.olympic.org/olympic-studies-centre/research-grant-programmes .
When can they apply?	Every year between May and the end of September.
How do we decide?	Applications are reviewed by our Selection Committee members and the OSC representatives. The decision is made by the Grant Selection Committee.
In what are we interested?	Scholarly research on any aspect related to Olympism, the Olympic Movement, the Olympic Games and the athletes.
Where can you find out more?	All the information concerning our research grant programmes are available at https://www.olympic.org/olympic-studies-centre/research-grant-programmes
Whom can you contact to find out more?	studies.centre@olympic.org

ORGANIZATION:

Partnership for Clean Competition

Who we are:

**PARTNERSHIP FOR
clean competition**

Founded in 2008, the Partnership for Clean Competition is the premier anti-doping research collaborative. Our mission is to fund scientific research globally which advances knowledge in the anti-doping sphere and contributes meaningfully to the protection of clean athletes.

What we do:

By combining the resources and expertise of America's leading sports entities, the PCC supports non-partisan and independent scientific research by making targeted grants to various universities and other world-class research institutions.

Our role in research:

PCC-supported research contributes to a movement in addressing doping's root causes and ultimately decreasing the use of performance-enhancing drugs by all participants in all sports at all levels of play.

How we support research:

Partnership for Clean Competition – Overview

How much do we fund?	USD 2,000,000-5,000,000 per annum
What is the size of projects?	Average funding \$ 200,000 Micro-Grants < \$ 75,000
Who can apply?	Any research institution or organization, e.g. universities, ADOs, private companies, sport organizations.
From where can they apply?	Anywhere in the world.
What is the application process?	Two-stage: Pre-application first before projects are approved to complete a full application.
When can they apply?	Pre-application deadlines are 1 March, 1 July, 1 November.

	Full applications are due 1 April, 1 August, 1 December. Applications for micro-grants are open throughout the year.
How do we decide?	Applications are reviewed by the SAB and the Board of Governors. Micro-grants are reviewed by the SAB chair.
In what are we interested?	PCC social science research priorities are outlined below. As access to specific elite athlete populations are a critical component of successful social science research, applicants should consult with relevant sport organizations, anti-doping agencies, or others to have a commitment in principle to collaborate on such projects before submitting an application.
Where can you find out more?	https://cleancompetition.org/
Whom can you contact to find out more?	Mr. David Kumbroch dkumbroch@cleancompetition.org

PCC social science research priorities

Social science projects aimed specifically at an elite athlete population in Olympic, Paralympic, Pan-American, and professional sports are of interest to the PCC, including:

- ❖ Development of effective quantitative and qualitative measures of deterrence
- ❖ Impact of technology and innovation to improve effectiveness of anti-doping programmes (e.g. GPS whereabouts, unwitnessed sample collection)
- ❖ The use of supplements and their impact on doping behaviour
- ❖ Relationship of the banned substance/Prohibited List on perceived fairness in and effectiveness of the anti-doping system
- ❖ Relative influence of risk factors in doping behaviour

ORGANIZATION:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Who we are:

 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 Anti-doping Convention	UNESCO Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport
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What we do:

Established in 2008, the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport assists States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport to develop and implement anti-doping projects.

Our role in research:

We provide practical and technical support as well as financial assistance to competent public authorities for the implementation of national and regional projects.

How we support research:

UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport – Overview

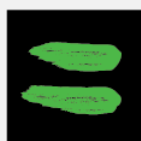
What is the size of projects?	National Projects – \$35,000 Regional Projects – \$95,000
Who can apply?	Only States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport can submit applications to the Fund.
From where can they apply?	Anywhere in the world.
What is the application process?	All requests must be made by the National Commission for UNESCO or a designated government channel (e.g. Ministry in charge of sport).
When can they apply?	Single request per biennium.

How do we decide?	Draft applications are reviewed by the Secretariat. Final Application is approved by the Fund's Approval Committee.
In what are we interested?	Three priority areas for funding are available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Education projects focusing on youth and sports organizations ❖ Policy advice projects ❖ Mentoring and capacity-building projects
Where can you find out more?	https://en.unesco.org/themes/sport-and-anti-doping/fund
Whom can you contact to find out more?	antidopingteam@unesco.org

ORGANIZATION:

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

Who we are:



**WORLD
ANTI-DOPING
AGENCY**
play true

WADA seeks to protect the health of athletes and to provide the opportunity for athletes to pursue human excellence in sports competition without the use of prohibited substances and methods that threaten the principles of fair competition and clean sport.

What we do:

In order to maintain the integrity and value of clean sport, we coordinate harmonized and athlete-centred anti-doping programs worldwide with regards to the prevention of doping.

Our role in research:

WADA runs two parallel research programs, natural science and social science. A core aim of the Social Science Research Program is to invest in research to increase our understanding of the behaviours we are seeking to reinforce or prevent.

How we support research:

WADA Social Science Research Grant Program – Overview

How much do we fund?	USD 300,000-500,000 per annum
What is the size of projects?	Projects from less than USD 20,000 up to USD 150,000
Who can apply?	Any organization with an interest in Clean Sport.
From where can they apply?	Anywhere in the world.
What is the application process?	Two-stage: Expressions of Interest first before projects are approved to complete a full application.
When can they apply?	Annually. Expressions of Interest are open in October/November. Full application deadline is January/February.

How do we decide?	Two peer reviews per project. Members of WADA's Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group analyses each project and presents to the WADA Education Committee that recommends projects for investment to the WADA Executive Committee for approval.
In what are we interested?	<p>Research priorities are outlined in the grant program documentation, you can access them directly here.</p> <p>These priorities are based on levels of influence on athlete behaviour that WADA is interested in, starting with the athletes themselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Athlete ❖ Athlete Support Personnel ❖ Education Programs ❖ World Anti-Doping Program ❖ Sport Environment ❖ Society
Where can you find out more?	https://www.wada-ama.org/en/social-science-research
Whom can you contact to find out more?	ssr@wada-ama.org

Social science research contacts for the Collaboration Platform

Organization	Contact
Council of Europe	sport.t-do@coe.int
European Commission	Eac-Sport@ec.europa.eu
IOC – Olympic Studies Centre	studies.centre@olympic.org
Partnership for Clean Competition	dkumbroch@cleancompetition.org
UNESCO	antidopingteam@unesco.org
WADA	ssr@wada-ama.org



For further information about the Social Science Research Collaboration Platform, please contact ssr@wada-ama.org.