

MONITORING GROUP (T-DO)

ANTI-DOPING CONVENTION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Strategy of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)

Introduction

The aim of this document is to determine the mission statement of the Monitoring Group of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO), its vision and a long-term strategy.

This Strategy shall be seen in conjunction with the Anti-Doping Convention, and in particular Article 11 defining the role of the Monitoring Group.

This document is a continuation of the T-DO Mid-Term Strategies 2015-17, 2018-20 and 2021-24 and reflects the Council of Europe (CoE) Strategic Framework and Operational Programme 2024-2027. The Strategy will guide the T-DO and is subject to review should new challenges or opportunities arise.

Concrete tasks for the implementation of the strategy in the course of the CoE programme and budget 2024-2027 will be defined in the T-DO Operational Programme 2024-2027, which will be reviewed, as necessary, at the meetings of the Monitoring Group.

Mission Statement

The Monitoring Group was set up to monitor the application of the 1989 Anti-Doping Convention – the first international legal instrument in the fight against doping. It plays an active role to promote the national and international harmonisation of the measures to be taken against doping.

On the basis of its monitoring activities, it leads the work of the CoE in the anti-doping sphere and aims to put its expertise at the disposal of authorities and organisations seeking advice and support in promoting clean sport.

The Monitoring Group is the entity that interprets the Anti-Doping Convention and, on the basis of existing good practice and recent developments, formulates recommendations and proposes new standards for measures to be taken by the States Parties and their competent agencies.

The Monitoring Group acts as a consultative and expert body for the Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) and through CAHAMA or directly for the Committee of Ministers in addressing anti-doping political, legal and financial issues within the sphere of competence of the 46 governments of the Council of Europe.

On the policy and strategic planning level the Monitoring Group cooperates with leading organisations in the fight against doping - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the European Union, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) - to harmonise international standards, rules, regulations, recommendations and guidelines, share knowledge and good practices in the regulatory field of anti-doping programmes and avoid duplication, in particular regarding monitoring activities.

At the operational, programme implementation and technical expertise level the Monitoring Group cooperates with the entire spectrum of stakeholders involved in implementing internationally agreed anti-doping standards – national anti-doping organisations, international sport federations and other relevant international organisations such as the Institute of the National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO), the International Testing Agency (ITA), doping control laboratories, universities, law enforcement agencies and athletes – with the aim of carrying out joint, coordinated activities of mutual interest.

Values

The Monitoring Group represents and shares the Council of Europe's core values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as core sports values, such as respect, tolerance, honesty, health, fair play, integrity and good governance.

The Monitoring Group's activities are based on and guided by these values, and it will promote the application of these values by the cooperation partners in order to broaden their impact across the European continent and beyond.

Strategic Aims

1. Ensuring that its activities are clearly linked to the CoE's core values and promote the human rights of athletes, as derived from the European Convention on Human Rights and European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case-law, rule of law in sport, fair trials in doping cases, democratic governance and separation of powers in the anti-doping sphere;
2. Promoting gender equality, protecting the rights of children as well as preventing and responding to violence, racism, xenophobia and discrimination in the context of sport's governance and management and the organisation of sporting events;
3. Developing new standards for implementation of the Anti-Doping Convention with a focus on the need to promote the core values and standards of the CoE, taking into account ECtHR case-law and addressing the CoE's priorities, such as the children's rights, fight against corruption, violence, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and the misuse of artificial intelligence that poses a threat to democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
4. Improving monitoring activities by ensuring that
 - all States Parties are evaluated over a defined period of time, specifically targeting those Parties where implementation of the Anti-Doping Convention could be improved, as well as prioritising the countries planning to host major sporting events;
 - evaluation activities are carried out in close coordination and cooperation with WADA and other relevant sport organisations to ensure maximum synergy and reduce duplication; and
 - the evaluation process is followed by practical cooperation activities aimed at implementing the recommendations formulated by the evaluation report and approved by the Monitoring Group.
5. Strengthening and enhancing references and links between the activities of the Monitoring Group and specific UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
6. Developing sustainable links with grassroots civil society organisations, especially athletes' associations.
7. Maintaining existing partnerships with the European Court of Human Rights and the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) programme, as well as developing new synergies of transversal cooperation with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport of the Council of Europe (EPAS) and with other sectors of the Council of Europe, especially the relevant monitoring bodies such as the European

Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO);

8. Focusing on implementation of the tasks agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding with WADA;
9. Working on enhancing relations with the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport, its Bureau, the Conference of Parties and the Secretariat;
10. Working with national and international law enforcement-related agencies, especially INTERPOL and World Customs Organisation, to limit the availability of doping substances and methods and against the trafficking in such substances;
11. Promoting and enhancing digitisation and innovation in anti-doping in every possible way to ensure sustainable forward-looking action with due consideration of data privacy;
12. Improving communication to increase awareness of the Monitoring Group and its activities among the Council of Europe member states and their general public.

Adopted in June 2021 at the 53rd meeting of the Monitoring Group and revised in November 2023 at the 57th meeting of the Monitoring Group