**Country:** Romania

**Comitee:** UNODC

**Topic:** The usage of appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) and sports: their interconnection

Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern, Southeastern Europe. It has a total area of 238,397 km2. Romania has a population of approximately 19.26 million inhabitants (as of December 2020). It’s capital and largest city is Bucharest. Romania has been a country intertwined with sports since its established (1859), and therefore, the use of APED, which is the subject, is widespread. Like most countries, Romania does not support the use of APED and has regulations to prevent it.

Appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) refer to products that can be either naturally or synthetically produced and used with the intention of improving athlethic performance. They are most often used by males to increase muscle mass, strengthen physical and mental stamina and boost self-confidance. APEDs have so many varities and some of them can cause addictions as they affect the user's mood, but it does not impersonate an enthusiastic and flabby identity and thus differ from drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Prohibited performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) used in competitive sports are called doping. They are mostly used in bodybuilding, athletics and weightlifting

UNODC as a branch of the United Nations deals with drugs and related crimes since 1997 and Romania has been part of this committee since 2 November 2004. There have been 38 doping cases reported since the beginning of Romanian sports history and there are 6 pending cases from 2020 Tokyo Games. While these dopings bring injustice to sports competitions, they disrupt the morelin of all competing athletes and supporters. On the other hand, these doping and APEDs used affect the public badly. Most of the time, these dopings put the authorities in undesirable situations, collect hatred from the society, and cause unwanted statements. The performance enhancers used even lead to prison sentences in football and similar sports. In the Olympics and similar games, it can ban the country completely and innocent athletes may be disqualified from the competition due to their country. This would be situation that no country would want. There is a law enacted to prevent dobbing in Romania. (Law no: 104/2008).

If an athelete uses a performanca enhancing drug such as steroids (Androgenic or anabolic steroids which should be taken 10-100 times more than normal treatment dose months before the competition.) this is controlled by Worl Anti-Dobing Agency (WADA). If necessary, criminal action can also be applied in accordance with the international laws determined by WADA. Moreover some APED types can be fatal if taken before exercises. Even worse, some types of APED are even sold in pharmacies to improve sexual performance. And of course, considering that the structure of all APEDs are similar, these are also extremely dangerous and deadly. Apart from endurance and performance enhancing drugs, some APEDs are sold only to develop muscle, increase height and look better. According to our point of view regardless of the purpose of use, legal regulations and all similar drugs should be withdrawn and deterrent penalties should be imposed. People always want to look beautiful or be successful, and these are hard things to suppress, so at this point the government has to step in and stop it.