Greetings from the Communications Director
María Dolores (Marilín) González Rivera

Dear IAPESGW members, colleagues and friends!

I hope you are well and in good health. It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new communications director of IAPESGW. I would like to start by giving a very special mention to our new Honorary Live Member Janice Crosswhite, former Vice President 2013-2017 and Communication Director, for her extraordinary work during the 16 years of service for IAPESGW, for her support at any time, for her perseverance in updating all the news around the globe to achieve greater visibility of girls and women in sport and physical education. Thanks Janice!

In September 2021 we celebrated the 19th International Quadrennial Congress which was organized in cooperation with Tianjin University of Sport (China). This Congress was a virtual conference and streamed live via Zoom. Although this new modality was a big challenge for the organization and the congress organizers in China, but it was a big success. We enjoyed six keynote speakers, presenters of different panels, oral and poster presenters, and advanced workshops around the world addressing topics for Promoting Leadership, Empowerment and Sustainability through Physical Education, Sport and Physical Activity.

You can find more information of this conference on our webpage: https://iapesgw.com/19th-iapesgw-quadrennial-conference/
Many thanks to all the members and participants who presented and attended at the 19th International Quadrennial Congress.

Special thanks to organizing team of Tianjin University of Sport for hosting us and for its extraordinary work.

At the end of the Congress the new members of the Executive Board were appointed for the period 2021-2025:

- President: Rosa Diketmüller (Austria)
- Vice President: Beatriz Ferreira (Brazil)
- Vice President: Marianne Meier (Switzerland)
- Treasurer: Katherine L. Ludwig (USA)
- Secretary: Maria Luisa M. Guinto (Philippines)
- Communications: María Dolores González Rivera (Spain)
- Executive Board: Maryam Koushkie Jahromi (Iran)
- Co-opted Members: Fadma El Faquir (Morocco), Arisa Yagi (Japan), Usha Sujit Nair (India), Zhen Yang (China), Geraldine Bernardo (Philippines)

Many thanks to all our former board members for their amazing work to achieve the values and goals of IAPESGW: Gladys Bequer (Cuba), Keh Nyit (Taiwan), Rosa Lopez de D’Amico (Venezuela) and Janice Crosswhite (Australia).

We are deeply grateful to Gladys Bequer for her cooperation, support, and events organized in Cuba to help achieving the values and goals of IAPESGW during her 8 years on the executive board.

A special thanks also to all our IAPESGW national representatives who have been with us and those who continued or just started their cooperation with the association, thank you for your work and support!

And last but not least: a special thanks to our former president, Rosa López de D’Amico, for her kindness, always with a smile and encouraging words and supports which was very important to continue our efforts. It has been an honor for us to have Rosa López as the president of IAPESGW. She has done a memorable work for the association. Thank you very much for everything!

Rosa Lopez de D’Amico, after two periods (from 2013 to 2021) as president of IAPESGW, and during the 19th International Quadrennial Congress held in September 2021, was awarded as Honorary Life Member of our Organization, for all her contribution and dedication to the
development of IAPESGW. It is important to note that she is the first Latin American to have been distinguished with this nomination. She is also the first Latin American to be president of IAPESGW. She was preceded in this position by 2 presidents from the USA, 1 from France, 1 from Austria, 1 from Germany and 3 from the United Kingdom.

Currently, and since September 2021, our president is Rosa Diketmüller from Austria. A great appreciation to her for accepting the presidency of IAPESGW.
Greetings from the President  
Rosa Diketmüller

Dear members and friends of IAPESGW,

this is the first newsletter in my position as President of IAPESGW and I’m really looking forward to be setting the scene for the next four years together with the vice presidents Beatriz Ferreira from Brazil and Marianne Meier from Switzerland and excellent and competent board members from all over the world: Maria Luisa M. Guinto (Philippines) as the new secretary-general, Kathy Ludwig (USA) as experienced treasurer (USA), Marilin González (Spain) as Communications Director and Maryam Koushkie Jahromi (Iran) as elected board member; and the co-opted board members Fatima El Faquir (Morocco), Usha Sujit Nair (India) and Arisa Yagi (Japan) as well as the former organizer of the 2021 IAPESGW World Congress in Tianjin (China) Zhen Yang, and the organizer of the coming 2025 IAPESGW World Congress in Cebu (Philippines) Geraldine Bernardo. And in addition, we really appreciate being supported by our Board of Consultants with the former presidents and honorary life members.

Our vision for IAPESGW is - of course - to continue the excellent work that the former presidents and boards have done for 73! years to promote the UN right to Physical Education and sport for girls and women worldwide and to support and get members from all over the world.

As a democratic NGO it is important that this international exchange is embedded into transparent and participatory processes within a strong and diverse team and members. Although the last two years of Covid Pandemic have influenced all our lives, it has also opened up new opportunities for collaboration for international organizations and its members.

One of our main goals for the next year is to strengthen the exchange with our members and the national and regional representatives. We’d like to come up to you during the next few months with a membership survey and regular online-meetings to discuss the results and to exchange ideas for further cooperation and strategies for the organization.

Another task is the exchange of scholars and practitioners by setting up topic-specific working and research groups and through webinars for different target groups. To empower young scholars and practitioners is key for our development and gently forces also the “old lady” IAPESGW to embark on the journey to use all the modern forms of communication.

In addition, we’d like to continue our successful exchange and collaboration with the relevant global organizations in the field of women’s sport advocacy and women’s sports (IWG, WSI, ...), Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE, ICSP, AIESEP, ...), sports (IOC, ENGSO, ...), human rights (UN, UNESCO, ...) and other important political players (MINEPS, ...) to contribute to policies and actions around the world. For March 2022, the global women’s sport advocacy group will be present at the NGO CSW66 with two sessions (details see events).

On behalf of the entire board I’d like to thank you for your support so far and look forward to a good cooperation and your suggestions!

1 See list of abbreviations in the Annex
Events

NGO CSW 50th Anniversary - Virtual Parallel Events 14-25 March
Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes
and
Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work

IAPESGW is presenting in both parallel events.
You are invited to join! – Please register the registration link.

Parallel NGO CSW66 Event ID: #12479: March 16, 2022 at 3pm (90mins)
Women’s Wellbeing – Effects of Climate Change and Other Global Disasters
Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PAiaFgp_RQCbXofjeyjiig

Parallel NGO CSW66 Event ID: #12479 March 23, 2022 at 2 pm ET
“Women in the Workplace: The Intersection of Sport & Economic Empowerment”
Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ShcbunWcSme7fqUnlZg

The 8th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport in New Zealand has been postponed to November 14-17, 2022

IAPESGW is member in the IWG Global Executive as one of the two NGO representatives and supports the IWG Secretariat. See further information: www.iwgwomenandsport.org
Global News

Athlete rights advocate Payoshni Mitra announced CEO for Global Observatory for Women, sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity

IAPESGW is delighted to support the appointment of Payoshni Mitra as the first CEO for The Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity.

In 2020, IAPESGW was collaborating closely with the other global organizations: the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG), Women Sport International (WSI) and UNESCO on the Feasibility Study for the Global Observatory. A special thanks goes to the former IAPESGW presidents Tansin Benn and Rosa Lopez de d’Amico, who supported IAPESGW in this study. The appointment of Dr Payoshni Mitra as CEO of the Global Observatory offers a unique opportunity for overcoming the global inequalities women and girls experience in sport, physical activity and Physical Education. As already in the past, IAPESGW is looking forward to collaborate with her and the global Observatory to step forward in our important goals.

Full press release:

This appointment marks a crucial step towards establishing the first-ever Global Observatory for the promotion of gender equality and inclusion in and through sport.

Lausanne, Switzerland, 27 January 2022 – The Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity (hereafter: The Global Observatory) has appointed Dr Payoshni Mitra as its first Chief Executive Officer. In the process of establishing its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Global Observatory aims to create a coherent global movement for all girls and women in sport and promote gender equality in and through sport.

Dr Payoshni Mitra is a gender and sport scholar, a prominent athlete rights advocate, and a leading campaigner in the abolition of sex testing policies in women’s sport. She has more than a decade-long experience of working closely with women athletes across Asia and Africa to enable them to address human rights violations in sports. Her advocacy work on inclusion and non-discrimination in sport has influenced important social, institutional, and structural changes on an international scale.

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) welcomes the appointment of Dr Payoshni Mitra. With her expertise and experience, the FDFA is confident that the Global Observatory will contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals in and through sport.
Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO): “In a world where women’s and girl’s rights continue to be curtailed, the promotion of women and sports is a fantastic way forward to increase self-confidence and autonomy. This is why UNESCO is investing in this and partnering with the Swiss authorities to launch the Global Observatory for women and sports. Today, we celebrate the appointment of the CEO of the Observatory. We are confident that the Observatory will benefit greatly from Dr Payoshni Mitra’s experience in the field of sport and human rights. We look forward to working with her to make women count in sports and sports count for women.”

With her research and advocacy work, Dr Mitra has been able to help athletes win legal cases on complex gender issues on more than one occasion. She was instrumental in assisting Indian athlete Dutee Chand to regain her rights to compete in athletics and was one of the ten-member team who testified for South African Olympian Caster Semenya at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Speaking of her appointment, Dr Payoshni Mitra said: “I am both humbled and proud to join the Global Observatory, where I look forward to putting to good use my years of advocacy and research work as well as my own experience as an athlete who dropped out after experiencing abuse. Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and the Global Observatory will build on the already existing gender and sport movement across the world to continue pushing for progress. As we look to rebuild following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, inclusion, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination in and through sport will be central to the Global Observatory’s work.”

A former badminton player, coach, and Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Fellow from Jadavpur University, India, Dr Mitra taught Sport Sociology at Birkbeck, University of London, UK, and is a Director and Trustee at the Geneva-based Center for Sport & Human Rights.

About The Global Observatory

In July 2021, it was announced that the first-ever Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity was being established in the Olympic Capital Lausanne, Switzerland. In collaboration with UNESCO, the Swiss Confederation appointed the City of Lausanne, the Canton of Vaud, and the University of Lausanne (UNIL) to ensure the necessary conditions for its creation. Today, the three entities, which consequently united and co-founded an association, are putting in place the foundations to render the Global Observatory operational, and the appointment of a leadership marks a crucial step towards that goal.

The Global Observatory is a direct result stemming from the Kazan Action Plan adopted in 2017 by the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS) of UNESCO. It aims to overcome global and systemic inequalities to achieve gender equality and empower girls and women in all their diversity in and through sport.

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IOC Women and Sport Award Winner


IAPESGW member and IAPESGW national representative Prof. emer. Kari Fasting from Norway has been awarded for the IOC Women and Sport Award Winner for Europe 2021. We congratulate Kari to this prestigious award!

Kari was also awarded at the IAPESGW Congress 2021 with the IAPESGW Dorothy Sears Ainsworth Award for her outstanding scholarly work that has furthered the aims of the Association across the fields of Physical Education, Sport, Dance, and Physical Activity for girls and women.

IAPESGW congratulates also all the continental winners announced February 2022:

- **Africa:** Natsiraishe Maritsa (Zimbabwe)
- **Americas:** Figure Skating in Harlem (USA)
- **Asia:** Zhang Xia (China)
- **Europe:** Kari Fasting (Norway)
- **Oceania:** Tracey Holmes (Australia)
The IberoAmerican Council and the training program

The IberoAmerican Council (CID) at its Spanish Agency Training Center (AECID) located in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia organized a series of modules open to all people from the sport ecosystem. The online seminar “Governance of Sport Organizations in the frame of the 2030 Agenda” took place from November 22th to December 3rd. It had six modules and one of them was dedicated to gender equality in sport. The supportive team from AECID was very professional and supportive. The event benefited many people from IberoAmerica, it was conducted in Spanish language. Every module had tasks that were given to the participants and through the Moodle platform they were able to complete assessments, to watch the videos of the presentations and suggested literature. All the module has very good speakers. The opening session could be watched in the following link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqPDw4XBaZo

The gender module had as speakers: Elida Alfaro (Spain), Carme Salleras Campo (Costa Rica), Rosa López de D’Amico (Venezuela) and Claudia Rojas (Colombia). It was a very rich seminar and the talks and experiences were very significant. Thanks to Belén Lara (Project Manager – Superior Sport Council – CID) and Karina Olaechea (LOC AECID coordinator) for the invitation to participate in this experience!

Information received from Rosa López de D’Amico (Venezuela, former IAPESGW president)
In Austria the number of female coaches is quite low. Therefore, the Federal Minister of Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sport, Werner Kogler, initiated a gender-trainee program to change the situation. With this program he is sending a powerful signal to offer young women in sport a perspective and to position them sustainably in sport.

The 4-year Gender-Trainee-Program is a unique “training on the job” program and a joint initiative of the federal government and the provinces towards a gender equity in sport. The 3 possible training programs – (1) sport science with sport-specific state coach training, (2) sports management, (3) sports science/talent coach – are advertised nationwide and publicly. The selection is carried out by a selection committee set up specifically for this purpose. Every year, new young women are to be admitted and trained for 4 years. The aim is to position well-trained women in all areas of sport. A total of 65 young women are to complete the trainee program.

Internationally, Austria is considered a best-practice example in the field of dual careers (education and competitive sports). At the 9 renowned youth competence centers (one in each federal state) as well as the special facilities for winter sports (Stams, Schladming, Saalfelden, Nordic Training Centre Eisenerz, Bad Hofgastein), summer sports (ÖLSZ Südstadt) and the VÖN (Association of Young Austrian Competitive Sports Models - www.nachwuchsleistungssport.at) 2,800 talents in the age group of 14-19 years are trained. The Gender-Trainee-Program takes place at these 16 training centres for young professional sport and the motto is: learning “on the job” and from the best young experts in the dual career.

The training costs are covered by the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sport and the housing costs by the federal states. The trainee program is accompanied by „training off the job“ in cooperation with the Federal Academy of Administration (https://www.oeffentlicherdienst.gv.at/vab/index.html), regular networking events and campaigns on social media (see Facebook and Instagram profile: BMKÖS). The program is highly successful – in 2021, 15 young women (in all three training programs) have already started their
trainee program full of motivation and commitment. The selection for the second cohort is currently underway.

Further details: https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/sport/gleichstellung.html

Questions: Mag. Katja Kosak: katja.kosak@bmkoes.gv.at

© Trainee-Kompetenzzentren Sport

Katja Kosak and Karin Glatt (Austria)

CROATIA

News from Croatian Olympic Committee

The following are three links with information on some of the actions carried out by the Olympic Committee to promote women in sport:


Information received from Constanza Lizačić, national representative of Croatia
The AFIDE 2021 event "IX International Convention on Physical Activity and Sport" was held in Cuba on November 17th to 19th, 2021 in a virtual format. One of the themes of this event was Women and Sport and Rosa Lopez de D’Amico, former president of IAPESGW and Honorary life member, gave a lecture entitled "Academic organizations in the area of gender and sport". For more information, please click on the following link to: http://www.convencionafide.com/es/default/principal

Information received from Rosa López de D’Amico (Venezuela)

Sobiech, G. & Leipert, S. (2021). Older women being active in fitness gyms: benefits or constraints? Results from a qualitative interview study (southern Germany and East Coast of USA). German Journal for Exercise and Sport Research https://doi.org/10.1007/s12662-021-00777-9 Received: 20 April 2021 Accepted: 6 October 2021

Information received from Gabriele Sobiech, national representative of Germany

In Guatemala took place the XI National Congress and IV International Congress of Physical Education organized by the Guatemala Association of Physical Education. The theme for this year was ‘Pedagogical and didactic innovation in Physical Education in the hybrid context’. It was celebrated in a virtual format on November 17th to 19th, 2021. The opening conference was addressed by Rosa López de D’Amico, former president of IAPESGW and Honorary life member. The talk was about ‘Women’s participation in Physical Education’. You can follow AGEFISICA in the Instagram account.

Information received from Rosa López de D’Amico (Venezuela)
IRAN

Sports activities in Iran

There are many indigenous games in Iran that are on the verge of being forgotten due to the distance of children and youth from them.

Recently, to promote and introduce better and more of these games and improve health in cities and villages, an attempt has been made to identify these games and hold local and traditional sports festivals in different parts of the country.

Games such as Haft Sang, Choob Keshi, and Dal Pelan are among the regional competitions to be held as a league. Efforts have also been made to register some indigenous games worldwide.

In the past, there were local games for girls and women that played on various occasions, including feasts and holidays. The re-promotion of such games, besides the health promotion, leads to talent identification, prevention of adverse effects of cyberspace, and the proximity of locals and villages to each other. Many indigenous and local games are derived from the culture and customs of the region.

Sarah Hojjati, national representative of Iran

PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Olympic Committee Encourages National Sport Associations to Create Women’s Commission

Even with many years of effort to achieve gender equality in sports, there continues a huge disparity between women and men sport participation. More men continue to sit in executive positions in sport institutions. More men serve as technical officials. More men coach sport teams including teams that are purely composed of women athletes. More men participate as athletes. Sport continues to be male-dominated.

The Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) Women in Sport Committee, in response to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Women in Sport Commission’s efforts to promote gender equality, initiated a workshop to inform, educate and encourage National Sport Associations (NSAs) to create their own Women’s Commission. Among 47 NSAs in the Philippines, only 3 have Women’s Commission- Golf, Obstacle Course and Muaythai. The workshops in midyear of 2021, aimed to inculcate in the NSAs the need for a Women’s Commission that will make sure that officials, coaches and athletes of the association are aware of gender equality and will be guardians in the proper implementation of policies and processes that protect the rights of women and girls in every aspect of the sport. From October 2021 up to early this year of 2022, the NSAs are expected to already have created their Women’s Commission.
The main goal of this project is to see more women participate as athletes, in executive positions in sport institutions/associations, and in coaching and technical staff/officials. In the desire to strongly encourage and unify NSAs, and sustain their active involvement in efforts for gender equality, this logo was created:

The logo captures the heart and soul of women in sports—the arms of women are shaped as hearts volting-in as one. Red represents love, passion and energy. Blue signifies serenity, stability, inspiration and wisdom. Yellow means optimism, energy, joy and happiness. These colors are what constitute the Philippine flag.

Source of information: Pearl Managuelod (Project Facilitator), reported by Bing Valbuena

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**SPAIN**

In Spain, the following project is being carried out: **REGeES: Relaciones De Género en Educación Secundaria** [Gender Relations in Secondary Education]. The purpose of this project is to promote positive gender interactions in secondary school students through physical-sports activities. You can check this initiative on the website: [https://www.ucm.es/proyectoregees/](https://www.ucm.es/proyectoregees/)

Information received from Carmen Rodriguez Fernandez, national representative of Spain

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**VENEZUELA**

Women Football and leaders who make a difference

It is indicated in the literature that leaders, and particularly women leaders, have to be promoted from the grassroots level. In this short news I will mention Natasha Andrievic. She is member of the technical team of ‘Aragua Football Club’ in Venezuela. She started as a mom bringing her two boys to practice and as time went by she has become the Delegate of the women’s team. Her dedication and commitment to the team in the last two years, even in pandemic time made a difference. First she is the only woman in the technical team in the club. She did many activities to support the girls, coach, brought among her friends, experts to help the team, she served as mentor to many of the girls. The result is that in December 2021 they won the state championship, which was unthinkable early in the year. The girls have their self-esteem higher and she has achieved a great cohesion and commitment from all of them. Good work!

Information received from Rosa López de D’Amico
Sobiech, G. & Leipert, S. (2021). Older women being active in fitness gyms: benefits or constraints? Results from a qualitative interview study (southern Germany and East Coast of USA). German Journal for Exercise and Sport Research https://doi.org/10.1007/s12662-021-00777-9 Received: 20 April 2021 Accepted: 6 October 2021
First cross-national prevalence study on interpersonal violence against children (IPV)
Rosa Diketmüller & Anna Kohl (Austria)

Recent years have seen unprecedented attention on the abuse of children and athletes in sport. Strategic responses are critical and must be informed by robust evidence on the scale and nature of these abuses. The CASES Erasmus+ project 2019-2021, funded by the European Union, aimed to provide evidence on the prevalence of interpersonal violence experienced by children (people under the age of 18) who participate in sport, across different national contexts. This is the first cross national (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Rumania, Spain) prevalence study to gather data on interpersonal violence against children in and outside the sport context. CASES is a collaborative partnership between 7 universities, 2 national sport agencies and 1 international sport federation. The University of Vienna under the lead of Rosa Diketmüller was one of the partners.

A total sample of 10,302 individuals (age 18-30 years), took part in the study and was surveyed about their experiences in and outside sport before the age of 18. The online survey included questions regarding type of interpersonal violence, characteristics regarding the perpetrator(s), as well as frequency, duration, location and disclosure of the experiences. Interpersonal violence was categorized into “psychological violence” (e.g. humiliating, threatening or isolating behaviors), “physical violence” (e.g. hitting, kicking, shaking or forcing athletes to use drugs or play when injured), “sexual violence with and without body contact” (e.g. verbal, visual, digital or physical sexual harassment and abuse) and “neglect” (e.g. failing to ensure that children perform their sport in safe conditions, risking their health by not providing the necessary supervision or medical treatment). Results showed that the experience of interpersonal violence in children’s and youth sport is a widespread problem.

• In all countries surveyed, around three quarters of respondents reported having had at least one experience of IPV inside sport before the age of 18.
• The most common experience of IPV against children inside sport was psychological violence (65%), followed by physical violence (44%), neglect (37%), and non-contact sexual violence (35%), the least common experience inside sport was contact sexual violence (20%).
• Moreover, results showed that the prevalence of IPV against children inside sport is higher for boys than girls in all countries.
• Furthermore, the prevalence of IPV against children increased with level of sport participation (recreational level - lowest, international level - highest).
• The sport club was by far the most common place of experiences of IPV in sport.
• Perpetrators of IPV against children inside sport were predominantly identified as male, but not exclusively. Females were indicated less often as perpetrators, yet – against common expectations – were responsible for a substantial proportion of the experiences reported by respondents.
• And least, IPV against children was perpetrated by both adults and peers.

Find more results, materials and recommendations under:
https://sites.edgehill.ac.uk/opss/projects/child-abuse-in-sport-european-statistics-cases
https://www.cases.univie.ac.at
Annex

List of abbreviations

ACSM       American College of Sports Medicine
AIESEP     The International Association for Physical Education in Higher Education
ENGSO      European Sports NGO
ICSSPE     International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education
ICSP       International Council of Sports Pedagogy
IOC        International Olympic Committee
IWG        International Working Group on Women and Sport
MINEPS     International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport
UN         United Nations
UNESCO     United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WSF        Women’s Sports Foundation
WSI        WomenSport International