



Invitation for Expressions of Interest Key Topics for the World Leisure Special Interest Groups

World Leisure Organization would like to invite and encourage academics and professionals within and beyond the organization to submit expressions of interest to contribute to defining the **key topics** of the World Leisure **Special Interest Groups**¹.

Concurring with the implementation of the 2015–2020 Strategic Plan, we are seeking to align the topics of our Special Interest Groups with the **future challenges** in the field of **leisure research, education, knowledge transfer, and advocacy**.

Background

From Commissions to Special Interest Groups

WL Commissions were initiated in the 1970s. For many years they have provided a context and a medium for members of like interest to act collectively at the world level supporting the organization's four main objectives: research, education, knowledge transfer, and advocacy. At the Members' Assembly, during 2016 LARASA World Leisure Congress, and in an open debate, WL Commissions were among the topics discussed. Considering the comments received from all sources, a bottom-up approach will be put in place, with a change from the current Commissions to an open and accessible **Special Interest Groups** approach which will be member-generated and member-driven.

How to apply

We are looking forward to your contribution!

If you are interested and would like to take some responsibility in developing and/or promoting a SIG, please share your ideas, comments and views by sending an email to

secretariat@worldleisure.org with:

- Your name, organization and email address.
- Name of the proposed topic with a short description.
- Reasons why this topic needs to be addressed (societal/scientific relevance)?
- Possible collaborators

Deadline

The formal deadline for this call is **31 October 2016**. However, we will welcome your ideas and comments at any time!

Process

WL Secretariat will gather all the received ideas and topics in order to facilitate the organization of new Special Interest Groups. Furthermore, and in order to meet this objective, WL will carry out work in parallel developing a plan for the Special Interest Groups, ensuring active participation at every stage throughout the process. While SIGs may be generated at any time, early expressions of



interest will be incorporated into planning for the **2018 World Leisure Congress** that will take place in **Sao Paulo, Brazil**. They will also be identified in the **World Leisure Journal**, now indexed in **Scopus**, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.

WLO Secretariat will generate and facilitate cooperation among SIG members and bolster the different possible activities (e.g. conference presentations, debates, joint publications, etc.). SIG members will be encouraged to be proactive and organize any activity that will be supported by a community of academics and professionals, practitioners and decision makers around the globe.

Contact

For further questions about this call or the Special Interest Groups (former Commissions), please email secretariat@worldleisure.org.