



LA PRESIDENTA
DE LA
JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

**SALUDA DE LA EXCMA. SRA. PRESIDENTA DE LA JUNTA DE
ANDALUCÍA PARA EL XIV CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE LA
SOCIEDAD INTERNACIONAL DE PSICOLOGÍA DEL DEPORTE
(ISSP) EN 2017**

(INGLÉS)



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Seville, epicentre of sport science

From 10 to 14 July 2017, Seville will be hosting the ISSP 14th World Congress, the largest world congress of sport psychology, which takes place every four years. It returns to Europe after being held in Morocco (2009) and China (2013). By hosting this extremely important forum, Andalusia will have the honour of representing sport science internationally. This edition will welcome around one thousand experts from more than 50 countries, and the theme will be 'The Integration of Science and Practice Through Multicultural Bridges, Gender and Social Equality'. This theme invites us to reflect on how sport affects society today.

Sport in all its aspects has become a development factor and a reflection of the level of progress of contemporary societies. From a social point of view, practising sports helps to integrate people, encourages personal growth and is an undeniable source of values and healthy habits, especially for young people. Furthermore, from an economic point of view, it's a sector that is able to create a large amount of employment and wealth – 7.644 billion euros in Andalusia, i.e. 5.4% of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with more than 75,000 jobs.

The Andalusian Government's sport policy focuses mainly on making physical exercise accessible to citizens, by means of activities, infrastructure and equipment all over the region. With this strategy in Andalusia we aim to reach the levels of the most advanced countries in Europe in terms of sport practising. By taking a look at the results, we believe we are on the right track –in the last five years, the amount of people who exercise has increased by 12%, reaching almost 46% of the population.

Another of our goals is to encourage young people to do sports at the grassroots level, and to improve conditions so that our athletes may achieve the best results in official events. There are also measures being implemented to strengthen research, development and especially innovation in this field, through two leading institutions: the Andalusian Institute of Sport (IAD) and the Andalusian Centre of Sport Medicine (CAMD).

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The public administrations and the rest of actors involved in sports (federations, clubs, universities, companies, coaches, athletes and scientists) must work together to achieve the following common goals: increase the amount of people who do physical exercise; boost competition at all levels, from the grassroots to the elite; foster professionalisation and the application of R&D&I; and promote the role of this activity as a productive sector that is highly capable of generating wealth and employment.

To conclude, I would like to say that I hope the 14th ISSP World Congress will be a great success in terms of exchanging experiences and reaching conclusions on the latest perspectives of the theories of sport and its applications. And, of course, I would like to welcome you to Andalusia –a region that will welcome you with open arms– and invite you to discover a destination that boasts a wide variety of products and places that are hard to match, infrastructure that connects us practically with any country in the world, a top quality range of services and places to stay, and excellent professionals.

Susana Díaz Pacheco