

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we welcome all participants from the various different countries that will visit us during 14th International Congress of the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) Seville 2017. It's been over 5 years since the Andalusian capital offered to prepare a competitive candidacy to host these major event in Spain for the second time.

Although, the road along the way has been long and sometimes hard, we are sure that the community of people who are interested in Sport Psychology and Physical Activity will enjoy a unique opportunity to share their knowledge and experience in Sevilla.

I would like to thank the ISSP, the Spanish Federation of Sports Psychology (FEPS) and all institutions and sponsors for the trust they have placed in the Local Executive Committee (LEC), which has worked tirelessly from day one to attract the greatest number of participants in the history of the ISSP Congresses .

The motto "*Integrating Science and Practice Through Multicultural Bridges*" is perfect for a city full of history. Amongst its heritage, Sevilla has ties to Roman history, but also a rich variety of religious backgrounds including Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures. Andalusia also has the honour of being the place where Christopher Columbus set off from to discover a New World and we've worked hard to make this cultural presence a central part of the 2017 Congress. Never before has there been so many participants from Latin America and by extension from our sister Portugal, and from Brazil.

Sports Psychology has continued to grow in value. Few now dispute our importance in the sporting community. In the face of past resistance, today, athletes, coaches and managers, who see Psychology and Psychologists, as another pillar of performance, recognize our work. This Congress allows us to open our eyes, to share, and to have new opportunities for our professional field. We are and will always be a bridge between the past and the present, promising a bright future for those who love healthy living and active lifestyles.

More than 60 themes will be presented among different works, divided into ten large sections that will enhance our knowledge of the field. Some of the countries participating this year will present papers for the first time ever at the ISSP Congresses. Further, more than 1,600 abstracts presented an extraordinary number of symposia and posters that with hard work, dedication and illusion have been submitted by their hard working authors. This Congress will also open the door to the debate of opening up to other languages like Spanish, which is the second most spoken language on the planet.

I ask you to enjoy the city and its cultural wealth. I encourage you to explore each church; our gastronomy, folklore, and above all our people because Sevilla is like its most emblematic tower: La Giralda, proud and simple at the same time, beautiful and open as the river Guadalquivir that led its people to cross the Atlantic.

We are certain that the 2017 ISSP Congress in Sevilla will be a reflection on new opportunities, ideas, and cultures.

Welcome to Sevilla, Andalucía and Spain

José Carlos Jaenes Sánchez. Congress President