

Nikos Comoutos' (former Zourbanos)

Nominated by Dr. Robert Schinke Seconded by Dr. Yu-Kai Chang
For: Secretary General



Biography (250 words)

Dr. Nikos Comoutos is Professor in Psychology of Physical Education and Sport at the University of Thessaly, Greece. He holds a BSc from University of Thessaly-Greece, an MSc in Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology from the University of Wales, Bangor (Onassis Foundation scholar), and a PhD from University of Thessaly funded by the State Scholarships Foundation. He has six years of postdoctoral experience on European (FP7) and national projects, collaborating with many international research teams. Nikos has been a Member-at-Large of the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) since 2017 and has served in various scientific bodies, including eight years with ENYSSP and six years as President of the Hellenic Society of Sport and Exercise Psychology. He is Associate Editor (*International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*); prior Assistant Editor of IJSEP (10+ years); editorial board in *Journal of Sports Sciences*, *Scientific Reports*, and guest editor (*The Sport Psychologist*, others). He has more than a decade of teaching experience in the European Master of Sport and Exercise Psychology, and has supervised over 50 international students in both research theses and applied practice. His research focuses on self-talk, motivation, self-regulation, and interventions promoting well-being, and sustainable health behaviors through physical activity. Nikos has published more than 80+ peer-reviewed articles and 9 handbook chapters; reviewer for 40+ international journals. Outside academia, Nikos enjoys family life with his two sons, playing tennis, and exploring wine and olive oil traditions from his native Zakynthos.

Statement (250 words)

I am honored to present my candidacy for the position of Secretary General of ISSP at this important time of growth for our society. My vision is to serve ISSP with transparency, efficiency, and dedication, ensuring that our structures and operations fully support the mission of advancing sport and exercise psychology worldwide. A priority will be to enhance communication between the Managing Council members, and partners so that clarity, inclusiveness, and meaningful engagement are promoted across regions and professional contexts. I will also work to ensure that ISSP initiatives reflect the diversity of our global community in geography, culture, and professional identity, making ISSP a Society where all members feel represented and valued. According to our Statutes, the Secretary General carries important responsibilities, which I am fully prepared to undertake. These include coordinating committees established by the President and Council, collaborating with the President on administrative matters such as meetings, minutes, letters, and elections, maintaining communication with members, managing social media outreach, and ensuring the smooth day-to-day operation of the Society. I will perform these duties with care, responsibility, and openness, safeguarding ISSP's integrity while promoting innovation and efficiency. I also look forward to strengthening ISSP's flagship initiatives, the *International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, the ISSP Masterclass, ISSP Registry, Thinktank, and events around the world that connect ISSP members. With deep respect for ISSP's history and commitment to its future, I will dedicate my energy to ensuring that ISSP remains inclusive and globally visible.

Social Media Statement (60 words)

I am honored to stand for ISSP Secretary General. With long service to ISSP and dedication to sport and exercise psychology, my goal is to strengthen communication, foster inclusiveness, support students and early-career professionals, and ensure effective management, keeping ISSP transparent, vibrant, and impactful for all members worldwide.