



The International Association of Physics Students

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IAPS Strategic Plan 2024-2027

AGM 2024

The IAPS Strategic Plan describes the vision of the Association for the coming three years and serves as a guideline for future Executive Committees to align its initiatives with the core values of the strategic plan. Due to IAPS' growing relevance in the international community, its expanding membership, and the rise of multiple international conflicts, the development of a three-term vision allows the association to set sail toward its envisioned future and remain steadfast in its core beliefs and drives.

- 1. Sustainability**
- 2. Internationality**
- 3. Inclusion**
- 4. Engagement**



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1. Sustainability

Undeniably one of humanity's greatest challenges, sustainability has become an even more important task for our association. For the next three years, we want to proclaim sustainability as one of the four key values of our Strategic Plan.

Sustainability is a broad and ambitious value, striving after it is more crucial than ever. Thus, embarking on the process of improving the sustainability of our association better earlier than later is the objective here. Following the wish to assess sustainability in any action and any process performed in this association, understanding the facets of the term sustainability will be necessary.

The objective of sustainability will thus have multiple partial goals. Firstly, the understanding of what areas sustainability consists of for which orientation around the aspects covered by the United Nations SDGs will be valuable. Secondly, the awareness in which processes, from event organization to time management, the opportunities of sustainability lay in. And thirdly, the focus on the conceptualization and execution of concrete actions to advance our association towards the vision of a fully sustainable organization.

This initiative will also strongly resonate with the international community around the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development and will likely be welcomed by these partners. This framework also allows us to coordinate initiatives and thought processes with partners, maximizing impact and reducing resources needed.

2. Internationality

The International Association of Physics Students is and continues to be a body of international collaboration. Despite a number of rising conflicts in the world, our association acts with the goal in mind to remain a place of peace, togetherness, and internationality.



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Internationality in itself holds two core aspects. One of them is the continuous task of reevaluating whether the internationality our association testifies itself to have is still the true standard we are living in our day-to-day operations. The other one is the constant striving for more internationality, for a more diverse community while still not losing track of the promise we gave to ourselves to be inclusive in our actions and duties.

Building upon those two aspects, a broad variety of approaches can be taken to secure this vital value that is even so pregnantly represented in our name. However, work on this value can not be successful without the participation of our members. Hence, connecting to resources from the resort of Membership and Advocacy, internationality is also performed by locally strengthening our members, ensuring capacity and freedom to approach topics that extend the reach of their territory and tap into aspects of strengthening collaboration among adjacent members. Parallel, the strengthening of internationality through initiatives coordinated by the Executive Committee and its Working Groups allows individual physics students around the world to approach those offers. Such offers must keep low-threshold entries like for example ICPS is already offering them.

Hence, the encouragement and support of members locally to approach collaboration over the edge of their horizon as well as the steadfast low-threshold offering of opportunities to experience the spirit of internationality will lead to the increasing international understanding that we desire to foster.

3. Inclusion

Inclusion in times of discrimination, judgment, inequality, and growing frustration in the world is a value we strive to foster in our association. Herein, inclusion is the vision of a welcoming and open association that may not have the means to allow each individual that would like to be included to experience it but that dares to approach issues and challenges excluding members of our association and its activities.

This courage can manifest in those ways it is needed in the moment. This is given that inclusion is strived for by actively encouraging discussion with members and cultivating an aura of openness and approachability. Predefining, on assumptions of which pain and struggle members experience, and which measures must be taken to improve the inclusion of the association will likely not be fruitful. However, co-designing measures and initiatives with members who chose to communicate with us will definitely address truly existing issues and most likely those of a broader group of IAPS members.



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Moreover, the courage to approach inclusivity where it is needed is closely connected to the tools that are given to the association they may use. These tools often come in the form of reach and reputation to partners of our association since their network of partners and contacts often expands far over those of our association. Thus, we will be able to utilize the help and the befriended bodies with increasing influence and say on matters where the voice of IAPS is too silent to change the situation impactfully. This, of course, advocates for strengthening the relationships with partner organizations to allow IAPS to draw from a diverse set of tools when courageously approaching the important value of inclusion.

4. Engagement

Our association has been carried toward its today's status, reputation, and membership in the hands of volunteers who invested many hours into IAPS for it to grow and flourish. With the growing reputation and the growing involvement in large-scale initiatives, the manifold of opportunities is growing, leading to the demand for engagement from our members increasing. Thus, the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 shall focus on one aspect of the topic of engagement.

Strong engagement of volunteers in an association is a complex task that takes a multistep process to support a healthy and positive volunteer experience.

IAPS is currently placed in a situation where the list of possible engagement opportunities with new partners but also in our association is diverse and thrilling. Every motivated member who is interested in contributing to the development of the association can move essential steps in large-scale processes. Furthermore, engagement opportunities can be found on local, territorial, and international levels, offering free choice toward the scale and abstractness of tasks and responsibilities.

With this thrilling bouquet of tasks, motivating members to engage in activities of IAPS is a highly effective task. However, it is equally important that motivated individuals receive tasks appropriate and fitting for their skills and likes. Therefore, allowing volunteers to experience joy and meaning in their tasks.

Lastly, engagement does not end with finalizing a concrete task. The work and effort of volunteers must be respected, valued, and celebrated appropriately, allowing volunteers to recharge and, if wished for, to approach the next task.

Approaching the holistic view and challenge of engagement will strengthen IAPS' fundament ensuring a thriving and positive association throughout the next decades.