

Interview with ICSSPE's Executive Board Member – Dr. Claire Boursier

- 1. You have recently transitioned from ICSSPE's Development Committee (2021–2025) to its Executive Board. How has your experience on the Development Committee shaped your vision for your new role, and what are the key priorities you hope to promote from this elevated position?**

I joined ICSSPE Development Committee in 2018, during ICSSPE's 29th General Assembly in South Africa. I then was re-elected on the Development Committee in 2021, and finally joined the Executive Committee this year in July. My commitment to ICSSPE is linked to my other ones linked to the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity, Special Olympics International and other organizations linked to Sport, Science, health and quality of life for all. On behalf of ICSSPE and during my term within the Development Committee I was elected to represent ICSSPE in the scope of UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee. I had the opportunity to engage ICSSPE's partners to be panelists or main actors during international forums and congresses of UNESCO and joined Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games events.

Now elected on the Executive Board, my vision is clear:

- 1. Give more visibility to ICSSPE's mission and priorities through the establishment of stronger relationships with international organizations such as UNESCO, UN, WHO, IOC and all those linked to Sport Science, Physical Education, Physical Activity and Health.*
 - 2. Strengthen actively the relationships between members of ICSSPE and elaborate new projects involving not only the representatives of members from the Executive Board or Development Committee and bring new members to ICSSPE's network.*
 - 3. Develop awareness campaigns through social media, webinars, and training to promote evidence-based policies, programs and practices.*
- 2. As Past President of IFAPA (International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity) and a longtime advocate for adapted physical activity (APA), you bring a deeply informed perspective on inclusion. How do you see ICSSPE strengthening its work on disability and adapted activity, particularly in relation to global sport policy, education, and research?**

Inclusion is not the only keyword about IFAPA. If we take a look at the acronym APA, Physical Activity should be accessible to everyone, whatever each one's situation, health conditions, location, etc. The main issue is the recognition of everyone's abilities, with a special focus on their potentialities, active participation in physical activity and sport at all levels. On behalf of

IFAPA and ICSSPE I had the opportunity to participate in the elaboration of MINEPS V, VI, VII, GAPPA, ensuring that all policies and procedures include the perspective of persons with disabilities, with long term diseases or any kind of vulnerability. As advocate and researcher in the domain of APA, and now member of the Executive Board of ICSSPE, I will ensure that “no one will be left behind” from our projects and perspectives.

The strong links between ICSSPE, IOC, IPC, WHO with the recent Sport and Health Capacity Development Initiative include at all levels the question of inclusion and adapted physical activity.

The close relationship with UNESCO should be strengthened within the scope of Fit For Life projects and many others linked to Sport, Physical Education, Physical Activity and Health.

- 3. Your work has often focused on bridging academic research and real-world practice (e.g., working with PE teachers, creating programs for traditional games adapted to intellectual disability). In your view, what are the biggest gaps between research and implementation in adapted physical activity today — and how can ICSSPE use its platform to close them?**

This is one of the main issues: how to bridge gaps between researchers and practitioners, people. There are many opportunities. The first one is to make knowledge and research accessible to all. That means developing new ways to disseminate through social media, training, webinars, publications and using appropriately the innovative technologies such as IA to solve the challenge of languages.

Implementing more training programs with researchers, practitioners, students, NGOs and target groups could also be an option. Also, support from politicians in the implementation of such initiatives at local, national and international levels is crucial (as we did in Madagascar with UNESCO, ICSSPE, ICSP and IFAPA when we contributed to the elaboration of the new law on inclusive Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport).

ICSSPE platform should give a voice to all stakeholders, giving space for researchers to express their findings, giving cues on how to implement them with interactions with practitioners.

- 4. You have represented ICSSPE at major international forums, such as UNESCO events on sport and health. Given ICSSPE's mission to influence policy and promote physical activity worldwide, what new partnerships or advocacy strategies would you like to pursue to ensure that adapted physical activity becomes more central to global sport and health agendas?**

ICSSPE should be more pro-active towards UNESCO, especially the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee, proposing specific forums and events dedicated to sport and health agendas, involving as many members as reasonable, which might be challenging but can be very rewarding. Participation in MINEPS and CIGEPS (elaboration of the documents, strategies, in-person attendance, follow-up) by the board of directors, members of the EB and DC is also very important for ICSSPE relations with UNESCO.

Another objective would be to work more closely with Special Olympics International, Handicap International/Humanity and Inclusion, the NPIS (scientific society on non-pharmacological interventions), Sport and Citizenship, etc.