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# IAPSS STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2004 - 2008

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The International Association for Political Science Students is a worldwide network of political science individuals and associations (local and national). In the last years IAPSS has grown tremendously reaching a point where it is in need for more comprehensive methods to ensure further successful development.

## **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The mission of IAPSS is to offer opportunities for political science students through the development of an international network of individuals and associations. In pursuing its mission, IAPSS is committed to the values of political independence, professionalism, respect for diversity, and knowledge.

After only five years of existence, IAPSS includes thousands of students from more than 44 countries. Also, in this period, IAPSS and the Association's members have encouraged or organized hundreds of events worldwide.

The Association has recently radically changed its organizational structure by establishing the permanent seat and expanding its activity worldwide. Furthermore the planning process was introduced.

Institutional strengthening is contained under the first strategic goal (A). The outstanding Program under this strategic goal is the 'Permanent Seat Program' – developed to ensure the smooth long-term functioning of the Permanent Seat of the Association.

The second strategic goal (B) addresses the issue of development – regional through Regional Centers, financial through the IAPSS Fund for Assistance and in general through IAPSS mediating support by students for students.

The third strategic goal (C) focuses on research and students and is composed of academic Programs such as POLITIKON – IAPSS Journal of Political Science, IAPSS Working Groups, or the IAPSS Annual Academic Conference.

The fourth strategic goal (D) refers to the relationship between IAPSS and other organizations world wide. IAPSS will focus on developing positive relationships with associations in the field of political science and will also pay considerable attention to the relationships with non-academic institutions, organizations, etc. and with academic structures from border fields.

The fifth strategic goal (E) concerns the non-formal education as to contribute to facilitating access for political science students to relevant information in the field, and therefore to contribute to offering a better education in political science around the world.

The sixth strategic goal (F) focuses on the formal education by contributing to and shaping political science as a discipline – through the Programs 'Political Science Curricula' and the 'IAPSS Four Seasons University'.

The seventh strategic goal (G) addresses career-related issues – by offering internship programs and other programs related to career.

### **III. ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION**

#### **WHAT IS IAPSS**

IAPSS is an international, politically independent, non-profit association for political science students. It is comprised of political science students and graduates of political science.

IAPSS was established to unite political science students worldwide. Within five years we have embraced more than 10000 members.

IAPSS is an information network; an umbrella joining local associations and students by granting them constant information flow of the ongoing matters in the field of political science.

We are an international organization aiming for a global impact in political science sphere; an organization with its own content and confident ambitions in striving for distinction in political science by consistently merging professionals from several continents.

Our local organizations encourage IAPSS members to actively participate in debates, round tables, discussions, lectures and encourage students to keenly observe community from a more critical point of view.

Besides benefits in local sphere IAPSS offers advantages in the international field as well: all together some 200 events each year.

IAPSS' bodies are: General Assembly, Executive Committee, Supervisory Committee, Disciplinary Commission, POLITIKON Editorial Board.

IAPSS was established on the 31st of October 1998 in Leiden the Netherlands.

#### **MEMBERS**

Members of IAPSS are associations of political science students as well as individuals that are studying political science. They come from different countries: *Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Nepal, Nigeria, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, The Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South African Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey and the United States of America.*

Membership is opened for political science students associations based on university or department level that are official and representative of their institutions, national political science students associations and all individuals, political science students, that are not part of association members.

## **IV. MISSION, VISION AND VALUES STATEMENTS**

### **1. Vision Statement:**

Gathering and promoting opportunities for full actualization of political science students cooperating through a global network.

### **2. Mission Statement:**

Our foreseen vision, based on trust and values shared within our community, is about to be fulfilled by offering a social network, academic development and organizational experience for promoting activity among members.

### **3. Values Statements:**

#### **a. Political Independence**

We value political independence as we believe the association should not speak or act in a single voice on political issues.

#### **b. Professionalism**

We value professionalism as we believe that every member should be committed to act responsibly towards IAPSS.

#### **c. Respecting diversity**

We value diversity as we believe tolerance is indispensable for international communication and cooperation.

#### **d. Knowledge**

We value knowledge as we believe it is the foundation for critical thinking which is essential in political science and it is knowledge the we promote to acquire also outside arenas provided by universities.

### **4. IAPSS Goals:**

1. Setting up and extending an international network of political science students and of local associations for political science students;
2. Stimulation of contacts between members of the aforementioned associations and universities;
3. Stimulation of international discussions about various topics in the field of political science;
4. Encouraging and promoting world-wide exchange of students, information, knowledge and local associations;
5. Encouraging the formation and development of Political science students associations on all levels, without trespassing on their domains.

Students need to communicate among themselves in order to get information, they need to develop and actively involve in society.

IAPSS is an association of possibilities and opportunities. One of our goals is to enable students to take advantage IAPSS offers them.

Establishing and keeping contacts is the path to tolerance and understanding, mutual development to prosperity and cooperation. Using our knowledge and experiences we want to improve the system of communication among political science students all around the globe.

Our ultimate goal is an active, worldwide association for political science students that can improve understanding among nations through their most valuable assets: its people and especially, its students.

## **V. STRATEGIC GOALS AND PROGRAMS (STRATEGIES):**

### **STRATEGIC GOAL A: Institutional Strengthening**

*Ensuring the necessary organization of the IAPSS system*

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Ensure the ongoing development of the IAPSS Permanent Seat.
2. Internal Organization
3. Organization of the IAPSS Annual Conference.
4. Organization of the IAPSS General Assembly.
5. Ensure the development of the IAPSS Alumni Club.

#### **1. Program: Permanent Seat Program**

The program 'Permanent Seat Program' will consist of the activities assuring the sustainability of the IAPSS Permanent Office in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

#### **2. Program: Internal Organization Program**

**COMPLETED IN 2004**

The program 'Internal Organization' results from the necessity to operate organizational transformations in order to implement the Permanent Seat. This will include a general reconsideration of IAPSS organizational structure and the integration of the provisions of the newly adopted Statute.

#### **3. Program: IAPSS Annual Conference Program**

The program 'IAPSS Annual Conference' will consist of the organization of the IAPSS Annual Conference in accordance with the IAPSS Statute.

#### **4. Program: IAPSS General Assembly Program**

The program 'IAPSS General Assembly' intends to facilitate a good organization of the General Assembly in accordance with the IAPSS statute. Priority will be given to the issues connected to the further steps necessary for ensuring a continuous development of IAPSS.

#### **5. Program: IAPSS Alumni Club Program**

The program 'Alumni Club' is a development of the former IAPSS Project with the same name. It will create an organizational area specific for former active members of IAPSS.

#### **Ad-hoc Project: Internal Regulations**

The Ad-hoc project "Development of the IAPSS Internal Regulations" is intended to have as outcome the tool for explaining in detail the provision of the IAPSS Statute, for specifying those parts that are unclear or those ones which have more than one interpretation.

### **STRATEGIC GOAL B: Development**

*To Promote IAPSS Values Through the Development of a Worldwide Network of Political Science Regional Centers.*

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Establishment of the Regional Development Program
2. Establishment of Regional Centers
3. Creation of the IAPSS Fund for Assistance
4. Establishment of the network Students for Students

#### **1. Program: Regional Development Program**

**COMPLETED IN 2004**

The Program 'IAPSS Regional Development' intends to facilitate both the sustained interaction among the local associations from one area and the management of new members. The program is based on the assumption that local association from one area have the interest to develop relations among themselves, know best the area (in terms of political science institutions, students, possible opportunities), and, most important, have access to regional funds.

## **2. Program: Regional Centers Program**

The Program 'IAPSS Regional Centers' intends to facilitate active involvement of the political science students in solving regional problems faced by their communities. This will be realized through supporting a high level of interaction among political science student associations/students from one area as well as through supporting a permanent collaboration with relevant organisms. The program is based on the assumption that local association from one area have the interest to develop relations among each other, know best the area (in terms of political science institutions, students, possible opportunities), and, most important, have access to regional funds.

## **3. Program: IAPSS Fund for Assistance**

The program 'IAPSS Fund for Assistance' intends to develop an IAPSS fund for political science associations and students. This fund would also facilitate the participation of students at international events in the field.

## **4. Program: Students for Students**

The program 'Students for Students' intends to mediate support from students for students in disadvantaged areas/situations (e.g.: providing books).

## **STRATEGIC GOAL C: Research and Students**

*Promoting Academic Work as the Main Field of Activity Within IAPSS.*

### **Strategic objectives:**

1. Development of POLITIKON— IAPSS Journal of Political Science;
2. Development of IAPSS Working-groups;
3. Organization of the IAPSS Academic Conferences.
4. Development of the network Students and Community
5. Provision of Academic Resources for Students

### **Program 1: POLITIKON— IAPSS Journal of Political Science Program**

This program intends to further develop the fruitful work already undergone in the field of POLITIKON. The Editorial Board of POLITIKON-The IAPSS Journal of Political Science with its new structure should to ensure continuity and develop strategies on short and long term for improving the Journal.

### **Program 2: IAPSS Working Groups Program**

The program IAPSS WORKING GROUPS will make common student research on an international level possible. The program will facilitate the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly on working groups by establishing the Working Groups Office within the IAPSS Academic Department.

### **Program 3: IAPSS Annual Academic Conference Program**

The Program 'IAPSS Annual Academic Conference' will facilitate concrete interactions on the academic level between students from all over the world developing academic work in the field of political science. These conferences will be, thematically, very broad and will also constitute an opportunity for the presentation of the working groups' results.

### **Program 4: Students and Community**

The Program 'Students and Community' intends to match student research with institutional needs by correlating thesis and dissertations with institutional needs of research.

### **Program 5: Academic Resources for Students**

The Program 'Academic Resources for Students' intends to facilitate access to academic resources for political science students, such as reductions for Journal subscriptions.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL D: IAPSS in the World**

*IAPSS as a Relevant Actor in the International Arena*

### **Strategic objectives:**

1. To empower students to be an active part of the international community.
2. To contribute actively to the development of an international political science community.
3. To encourage interdisciplinarity as a mean to promote communication and understanding between fields and cultures.

### **Program 1: Students Voice**

The program 'Student's Voice' will develop the necessary links among international institutions and INGOs and students, in order to allow for the work of students to meaningfully contribute to the tackling of issues these institutions/organizations are facing. Students' works and involvement if more focused and correlated with the needs of International Institutions and INGOs can bring a significant added value to the work of these institutions/organizations.

### **Program 2: Pol Sci Community**

The program 'Pol Sci Community' intends to first integrate IAPSS in the network of political science associations and institutions and further to contribute to the strengthening of the community of political sciences. This program will focus on the importance of networking and further support for common projects.

### **Program 3: Interdisciplinary World**

The program 'Interdisciplinary World' intends to contribute to intensifying the networking among student associations, schools, institutions, from different fields and cultures. Communication and common projects are essential for developing an intersubjective understanding of our communities.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL E: Non-Formal Education**

*Contribute to the Education of Political Science Students through Non-Formal Methods.*

### **Strategic objectives:**

1. Development of IAPSS Worldwide
2. Development of IAPSS Yellow Pages
3. Establishment of the IAPSS Student Exchange
4. Establishment of the IAPSS Mentoring Program
5. Establishment IAPSS Twinning
6. Development of the IAPSS Leadership Program
7. Strengthen Political Science Student Representation

### **Program 1: IAPSS Worldwide**

The Program 'IAPSS Worldwide' will make IAPSS accessible in all Political Science Schools in the world. The program will concentrate on making sure that any student who is enrolled in a Political Science School has the possibility to contact IAPSS and to integrate in the IAPSS community.

### **Program 2: IAPSS Yellow Pages**

The Program 'IAPSS Yellow Pages' will develop the IAPSS web-page into a useful tool for any student who intends to complete an education in Political Science. Already important steps have been taken in this direction. The web page shell became a friendly tool to be used in exploring the opportunities available worldwide for political science students.

### **Program 3: Student Exchange**

The Program 'Student Exchange' intends to facilitate access for political science students to a different educational system and to intercultural experiences.

### **Program 4: Mentoring**

The Program 'Mentoring' will ensure knowledge transfer within the political science community, i.e. through mentor-mentee relationships such as between professors and students, students and students, alumni and students.

### **Program 5: Twinning**

The Program 'Twinning' intends to stimulate study visits between local associations and by this ensure the exchange of knowledge among IAPSS Members.

### **Program 6: Leadership**

The Program 'Leadership' aims at promoting leadership skills among political science students.

### **Program 7: Strengthening Political Science Student Representation**

The Program 'Strengthening Political Science Student Representation' intends to contribute to the development of efficient student representation mechanisms.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL F: Formal Education**

*Promote Active Involvement of Political Science Students in the Continuous Development of the Political Science Curriculum.*

### **Strategic objectives:**

1. Shape the Political Science Discipline
2. Establishment of the IAPSS Four Seasons University

### **Program 1: Political Science Curricula**

The Program 'Political Science Curricula' aims to get involved actively in the shaping of the political science as a discipline through curriculum analysis and development.

### **Program 2: IAPSS Four Seasons University**

The Program 'IAPSS Four Seasons University' will contribute to political science students' education through offering credited political science courses within a multicultural environment of both students and professors.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL G: Career**

*Contributing to Ensure the Development of Permanent Communication Channels between Political Science Students and Possible Employees.*

### **Strategic objectives:**

1. Establishment of the Internship Program
2. Establishment of the IAPSS Internship Program
3. Development of the Career Tracks
4. Creation of the Career Days
5. Development of Job Related Activities

### **Program 1: Internship Program**

The Program 'Internship' intends to facilitate internship opportunities to political science students in institutions/organizations relevant for their career goals.

### **Program 2: IAPSS Internship Program**

The Program 'IAPSS Internship' aims to facilitate internship opportunities at IAPSS locations.

**Program 3: Career Tracks**

The Program 'Career Tracks' intends to develop a description of possible careers in the political science field.

**Program 4: Career Days**

The Program 'Career Days' will provide students with a valuable insight on specific careers through organizing meetings with professionals in different fields of work.

**Program 5: Job Related Activities**

The Program 'Job Related Activities' intends to facilitate organized contact among political science students and possible employers, for example by creating a database with job offers and student CVs

## **APPENDICIES:**

### **A. ACTION PLANNING: PROGRAMS:**

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL A: Institutional Strengthening**

1. [Program A.4: Permanent Seat Program](#)
  2. [Program A.2: Internal Organization Program](#)
  3. [Program A.3: IAPSS Annual Conference Program](#)
  4. [Program A.1: IAPSS General Assembly Program](#)
  5. Program A.5: IAPSS Alumni Club Program
- [Ad-hoc Project: Internal Regulations](#)

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL B: Development**

1. [Program B.1: Regional Development Program](#)
2. [Program B.2: Regional Centers Program](#)
3. Program B.3: IAPSS Fund for Assistance
4. Program B.4: Students for Students

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL C: Research and Students**

1. Program C.1: POLITIKON— IAPSS Journal of Political Science Program
2. Program C.2: IAPSS Working Groups Program
3. Program C.3: IAPSS Annual Academic Conference Program
4. Program C.4: Students and Community
5. Program C.5: Academic Resources for Students

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL D: IAPSS in the World**

1. Program D.1: Students' Voice
2. Program D.2: Pol. Sci. Community
3. Program D.3: Interdisciplinary World

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL E: Non-Formal Education**

1. [Program E.1: IAPSS Worldwide](#)
2. [Program E.2: IAPSS Yellow Pages](#)
3. Program E.3: Student Exchange
4. Program E.4: Mentoring
5. Program E.5: Twinning
6. Program E.6: Leadership
7. Program E.7: Strengthening Political Science Student Representation

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL F: Formal Education**

1. Program F.1: Political Science Curricula
2. Program F.2: IAPSS Four Seasons University

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL G: Career**

1. Program G.1: Internship Program
2. Program G.2: IAPSS Internship Program
3. Program G.3: Career Tracks
4. Program G.4: Career Days
5. Program G.5: Job Related Activities

## **B. DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING USED**

The strategic planning model used is a combination of the Issue-Based (or Goal Based) Planning—Model two and the “Basic” Strategic Planning—Model one developed by Carter McNamara in Basic Overview of Various Strategic Planning Models.

Model one is specific for new associations that have never used strategic planning before. IAPSS is not a new association, but it has not used this management tool before, therefore some of the model’s provisions are important to consider.

Model two is a “more comprehensive and effective type of planning.” IAPSS, even though it has not used yet strategic planning has reached a specific organizational complexity that requires more developed planning method than the basic model, therefore the model two seems to provide the most appropriate insight on planning IAPSS activity. (McNAMARA, Careter, *Basic Overview of Various Planning Models*, The Management Assistance Program for Nonprofits, 1999)

## **C. STRATEGIC ANALYSIS DATA:**

### **1. Brief External Environment Scan ::**

#### Political Science Environment:

1. Political Science institutions (Universities, faculties, departments, institutes, think tanks) a considerably large number worldwide, with possibility to collaborate with student associations and partially involved in international cooperation (or consider international cooperation an important, positive value - meaning possibility of support for international networking).
2. Political Science students: growing number → increasing target group for IAPSS, increasingly organizing themselves in associations, still the majority of the students is inactive. Some are not aware of/reject the benefits of association or coordinated activity.
3. Political Science associations: existence of international, regional, national and local political science associations. Collaboration possible through different channels, with potential to be expanded in the future.

#### Institutional Environment:

1. International governmental institutions
2. National institutions: (eg. Ministries, local institutions, etc) willing to support student activities.
3. International NGO’s
4. National NGO’s
5. Private sector
6. Informal groups
7. Other donors

The above mentioned groups of institutions may be willing and able to support students, youth and research activities. Some also may have special programs where student organizations can apply for assistance of any kind.

#### Students and Youth in General:

1. Number: number of students increasing.
2. Associations: number of student and youth associations increasing, developing networking and more professionalism. Although the majority of students and youth is not aware of/reject the benefits of organization and collaboration.

3. Programs: development of a considerable number of programs for students and youth at all levels (local, national, regional, and international).
4. Importance: students and youth are future active contributors to the development of the community.

#### Higher Education and Research:

1. Universities: generally very supportive of international networking at student and staff level, still financial and institutional constraint.
2. Research Institutes and Institutions: possible collaborators for developing research within the international community of political science students.
3. European Higher Education Area and other regional mobility programs: EHEA is putting a great emphasis on networking and student mobility.

## **2. SWOT Analysis:**

### a. Strengths:

- i. some motivated volunteers;
- ii. international character;
- iii. commitment of executive committees;
- iv. further support of former executive committees' members;
- v. good relationship with some other associations in the field of political science;
- vi. interest shown at the international meetings by the delegates;
- vii. successful implementation of the Permanent Seat;
- viii. optimal working conditions for the ExCom;
- ix. use of strategic planning;
- x. financial management.

### b. Weaknesses:

- i. legal issues;
- ii. human resources;
- iii. public relations;
- iv. no interest shown by the delegates in-between the international meetings;
- v. instability of students;
- vi. number of committed members;
- vii. reduced interaction among members;
- viii. lack of employees;
- ix. lack of sustainable research activity and international interactions;
- x. low level of networking;
- xi. funding instability;
- xii. POLITIKON—The IAPSS Journal;
- xiii. Opportunity Center.

### c. Opportunities:

- i. international relations,
- ii. some active motivated local association members;
- iii. relations with universities;
- iv. relations with faculties / departments /institutes of political science;
- v. relations with research institutes in the field;
- vi. relations with public institutions;
- vii. donors;
- viii. associations in the field of political science (international, regional, national);
- ix. the positive value attached to international networking;
- x. increasing number of students in political science;
- xi. importance of higher education;

- xii. cultural differences—when handled properly;
- xiii. relations with the Slovenian institutions.

d. Threats:

- i. high costs of traveling;
- ii. high costs for international events;
- iii. conflicts among countries;
- iv. long distances among different countries;
- v. lack of communication among continents;
- vi. cultural differences—if not handled properly,

**D. BUDGET PLANNING:**

[Budget 2004/2005 and provisional budget for 2005-2007](#)

**E. FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

[1999](#)  
[2000](#)  
[2001](#)  
[2002](#)  
[2003](#)  
[2004](#)

**F. MONITORING PLAN:**

Every three months a summarizing monitoring report is composed, monitoring the implementation of the programs above.

**G. COMMUNICATION PLAN**

1. Internal communication:

The Strategic Plan is a result of the common work of the Executive Committee, other IAPSS Staff, volunteers and members. The communication channels are: IAPSS Members and IAPSS Staff – lists and pages and IAPSS Webpage.

2. External communication:

Donors, partners and collaborators receive adapted forms of the Strategic Plan containing relevant information according to their needs and interests.