

IASSID SPECIAL INTEREST RESEARCH GROUPS (SIRGs)

The Council of IASSID wishes to encourage members to develop special interest research groups (SIRGs) that are designated by a specific research interest or topic, e.g., SIRG on Quality of Life. This is a summary of the rules offered by the IASSID Council regarding the establishment and activities of such groups.

Establishment

To be recognized as a SIRG within IASSID, a minimum of 10 individual members must agree to a set of common objectives and must receive the written approval of the Council of the IASSID for the establishment of such a SIRG.

SIRGs are established with a specific purpose with regard to the group's mission, have the required 10 IASSID individual or organizational members, and wish to establish a permanent structure. SIRGs need to maintain bylaws, have elected officers and a Committee, keep written minutes, and hold regular meetings. (The periodicity to be determined by the group). Such groups are entitled to designated session time on the quadrennial IASSID Congress program. All SIRGs should endeavor to be multidisciplinary in their composition.

Organization & Administration

In becoming a SIRG, the members should elect a chairperson, deputy chairperson, a secretary/treasurer, and at least four other members to form a Committee responsible for the affairs of the group and with which the Council may communicate. Over and above this minimum requirement, the group may make its own decisions as to the exact size and structure of its committee, sub-committees or work groups and other matters.

Membership

SIRGs must maintain membership registers, noting the name and mailing address of members. A copy of the register is to be filed with the Secretary of the IASSID annually.

The formal membership of SIRGs shall be inclusive, not exclusive; all groups must accept any active IASSID member, individual or organizational.

SIRGs may collect an annual membership fee to cover operational expenses. A charge for attendance at functions, such as workshops or seminars, at a level sufficient to cover the costs specific to such functions, may also be made. Operational expenses shall include mailings, newsletters and other business functions, but not activities such as conferences, round tables and workshops.

The Secretary of a SIRG will notify to the Membership Secretary of IASSID, the names of all its members, both organizational or individual.

Responsibilities

SIRGs should plan and conduct activities appropriate to their missions. These activities might include, but not be limited to: conferences, roundtables, workshops, dissemination of newsletters, etc.

All SIRGs shall provide the IASSID Council with an annual report of activities. This report must be submitted no later than March 1st of each year.

Fiscal and Legal Status

The IASSID is not liable nor responsible for any financial arrangements or debts incurred by any formal or informal SIRGs.

SIRGs may, with the permission of the IASSID Treasurer, open their own currency account to administer funds procured through donations or extramural grants. When such an account is held, checks issued must require the signature of two designated members of the SIRGs elected officers and/or committee. The SIRG must submit a statement of accounts annually to the IASSID Treasurer.