

## **Protocol of the WSCS General Assembly April 14, 2026 18:00-20:00 CEST**



The General Assembly was held in Vienna, Austria.

### **Opening of the General Assembly and Welcome**

The World Sturgeon Conservation Society Treasurer Thomas Friedrich opened the General Assembly (GA) as the moderator of the assembly at 18:00. The protocol was taken care of by WSCS Secretary General Molly Webb. The Treasurer welcomed the participants in person (see Appendix 1) and online (Appendix 2).

### **Adoption of the Agenda and Organizational Matters**

The agenda (Appendix 3) was explained and adopted. The General Assembly slide presentation is attached in Appendix 4.

### **Presidents Report**

From November 2025 to April 2026, people from 76 countries visited the WSCS website. A total of 193 people currently receive the WSCS newsletter. ISS10 was held in October 2025 in Yichang, China. Due to a limited number of manuscript submitted, the ISS10 proceedings will not be published, but a special issue with manuscripts presented at ISS 10 will be published for those that have declared their interest.

Members and non-members were reminded to submit news and information to be posted on the website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

PayPal or the German bank account are the preferred modes of payment. The Canadian account was closed in 2025. The balance for 2025 was checked by two independent WSCS members and reviewed with attendees. The tentative 2026 budget was reviewed and approved by membership.

### **WSCS Student Grants**

Samuele Pagani (Italy) and Linnéa Jägrud (Sweden) received the ISS10 travel grants in 2025 to attend ISS10. Chiara Samassa (Italy) received the first Student Exchange Grant in 2025. Lucia Snyderman (UK) received the second Student Exchange Grants in 2026. The third call for the grant will be open June 1st. Two grants per year will be awarded.

See the detailed description for the requirements and procedures at <https://www.wscs.info/second-call-for-wscs-student-exchange-grants/>

### **WSCS Board of Directors Election 2026**

The next WSCS Board of Directors election will take place in 2026. The elected Board of Directors comprises the President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and 3 Board Members at Large. The procedures for the election of the new Board (2027-2030) are :

- **Members eligible to vote must be in good standing by Jun 30 2026**
- Term of office of the new Board of Directors: Jan 1 2027 - Dec 31 2030
  
- Dates for the submission of nominations: Apr 30 2026 - Sept 15 2026
- Date of confirmation of acceptance of nominations: Sep 30 2026
- Ballot distribution date: Oct 1 2026
- Voting period: Oct 1 2026 – Nov 30 2026
- Date of announcement of results: Dec 15 2026
- Start date of the new Board of Directors’ term of office: Jan 1 2027
- End of term of office of the current Board of Directors\*: Dec 31 2026
- End of the transition period\*: Feb 15 2027

\*Note the transition period for the current Board of Directors and the new Board of Directors will occur from Jan 1-Feb 15 2027.

**WSCS Student Subunit**

WSCS Student Subunit Presentation days since 2023

- 1. Research in Italy, Georgia and Austria (Dec 2023)
- 2. Sturgeon Genetics (July 2024)
- 3. Communication and Outreach in Science (April 2025)
- 4. Sturgeon telemetry (joint meeting with NASPS) (Dec 2025)
- 5. is planned for Summer/Autumn 2026

The Subunit email address is [wscs.subunit@gmail.com](mailto:wscs.subunit@gmail.com)

**Drawbacks in Conservation of Sturgeon Populations**

Each region of WSCS identified 3 primary threats to sturgeon populations. The common threats were climate change, habitat loss, and population decline. The specific factors recognized across regions are listed in the following table.

<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>Habitat Loss</b>	<b>Population Decline</b>
Change in spawning time/location	River fragmentation/migration barriers	Vessel strikes
Asynchrony in spawning and larval rearing	Spawning and rearing habitat loss	Poaching and bycatch
Drought	Water quality changes to flow, temperature, dissolved oxygen	Presence of non-native predators
Exotic algal blooms	Reduced productivity	Targeted fisheries
Increased summer temperatures	Sand mining	Contaminants

	Water pollution	Insufficient stocking
		Low genetic diversity

**Closing Remarks**

The next General Assembly to be held in 2027. Full details will be announced before the end of the year. The meeting was closed at 20:00 by the Treasurer.

## **Appendix 1: Participants on site**

Thomas Friedrich  
James Crossman  
Leonardo Congiu  
Gabor Guti  
Elisa Boscari  
Andreas Janhardt  
Jan Krystolik  
Camille Musseau  
Beate Stridbel  
Marie-Laure Acolas  
Marc Ordeix  
Stoyan Minor  
Victoria Bekbergenova  
Jakob Neuburg  
Marija Smedervac-Lalic  
Tihmir Stefanov  
Alison Debney  
Eric Rochard  
Arne Ludwig  
Cristina Munteanu  
Heidi Eichhorn  
Lena Graf  
Rikard Åhsén  
Linnea Jagrud

## **Appendix 2. Online attendees of the 2026 WSCS General**

**Assembly** Samuele Pagani  
Sean Sullivan  
Molly Webb

### **Appendix 3. Agenda of the General Assembly.**

#### **Invitation to attend the 2026 General Assembly of the WSCS**

To: All Members of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society

Dear colleagues and fellow sturgeon enthusiasts,

We cordially invite you to the General Assembly of the WSCS on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 18:00 CEST.

As outlined in the announcement sent by December 24<sup>th</sup>, this year's WSCS General Assembly is integrated into the workshop programme on best practices in sturgeon conservation in Europe which will be held in Vienna, Austria.

Since we had the last General Assembly recently at ISS 10, we will refrain from the regional reports this time and facilitate a discussion on the main drawbacks in sturgeon conservation in the different regions and potential solutions to help solving. This information could be valuable for reshaping the focus and activities of the WSCS.

#### **General Assembly Agenda**

18:00-18:10 Welcome and opening of the General Assembly

18:10-18:30 President's Report

18:30-18:45 Treasurer's Report

18:45-19:45 Discussion round: Drawbacks in conservation of sturgeon populations

19:45-20:00 Closing Remarks

The General Assembly will be available online via Zoom for WSCS members not attending in person using the following link:

<https://unipd.zoom.us/j/2736565722>

We are looking forward to seeing you in Vienna or online.

## **Appendix 4. General Assembly Slides.**



# General Assembly

April 14, 18:00 – 20:00 CEST

Vienna (Austria)

# GA, 14 April, 2026

*Moderator:* Paolo Bronzi  
Joern Gessner

*Facilitator:* Leo Congiu

*Protocol:* Molly Webb

## Agenda

18:00-18:10 Welcome and opening of the General Assembly

18:10-18:30 President's Report

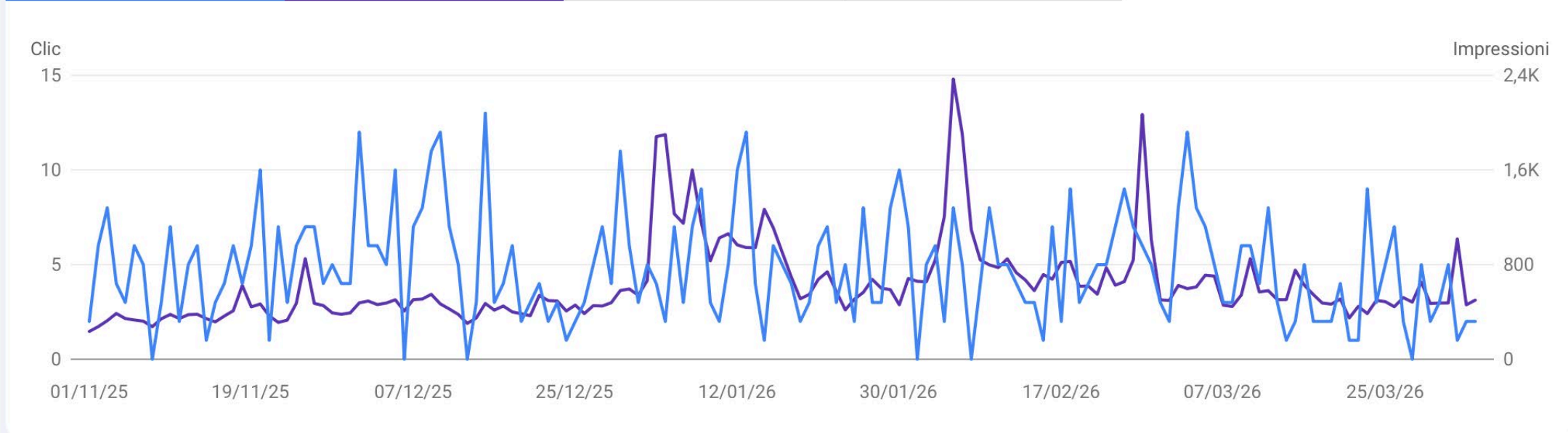
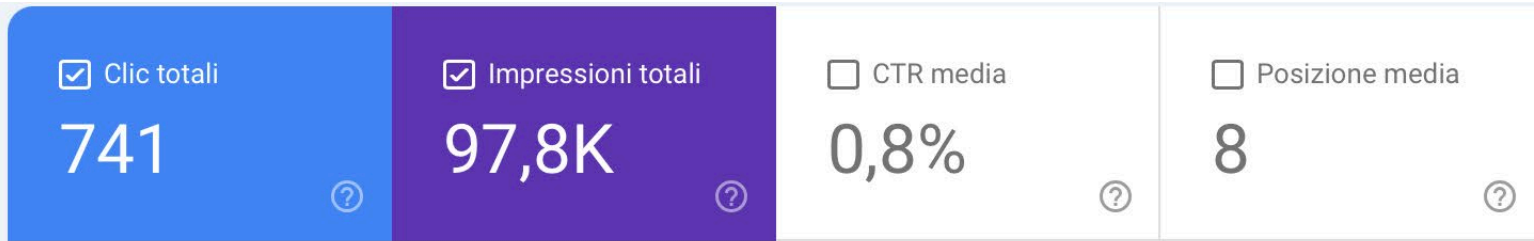
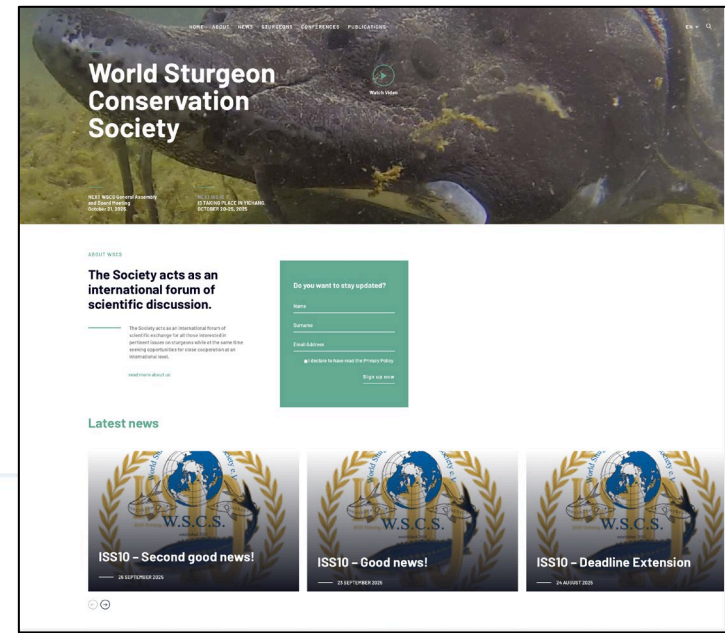
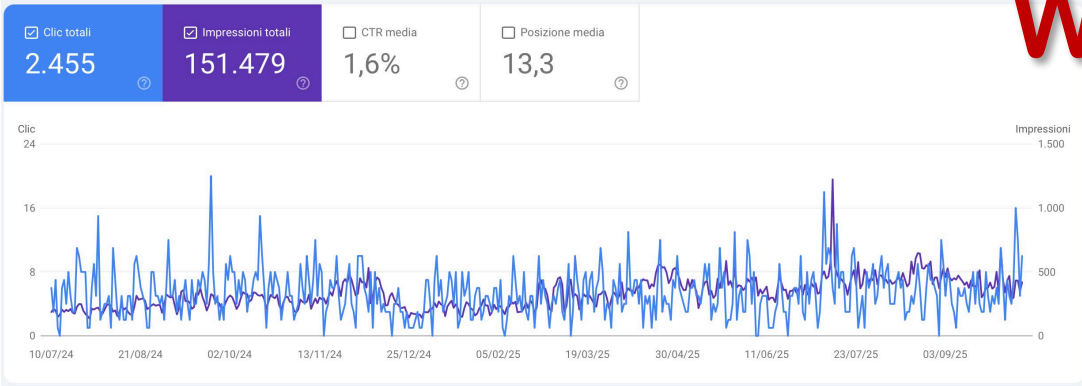
18:30-18:45 Treasurer's Report

18:45-19:45 Discussion round: Drawbacks in conservation of sturgeon populations

19:45-20:00 Closing Remarks

Closing of the meeting

# WEBSITE



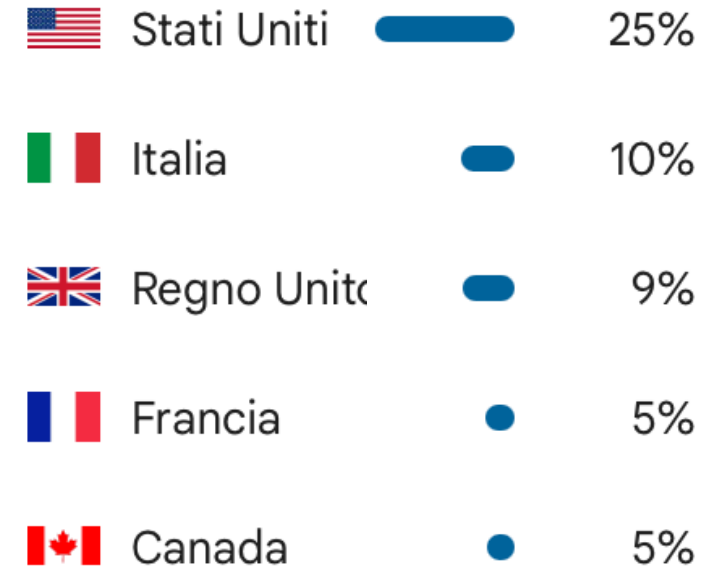
WSCS General Assembly 2026, April 18<sup>th</sup>



	clik	impressions
Stati Uniti	174	46.056
Italia	56	1.738
Regno Unito	52	7.926
Canada	43	3.259
Francia	42	1.150
Germania	33	2.013
Austria	32	553
Svezia	25	728
Russia	22	480
Iran	21	306

# WEBSITE

Main countries (last 3 months)



From November 2025 to April 2026

A total of **76 countries**

**741 CLICS**

**94555 IMPRESSIONS**

CLIC: total number of time users clicked from search result to our website

IMPRESSIONS: Number of times the site appeared in a search result

# NEWSLETTERS

193 recipients

**World Sturgeon Conservation Society NEWSLETTER**

This is the *tenth* issue of the bimonthly newsletter that the WSCS sends to subscribers that registered via the website box.

In this Newsletter we summarize the news of the previous two months, views, problems, opportunities that came to our notice on sturgeon and caviar. If you discover facts, view that you consider to be of interest for a larger audience, please, share them with us at:

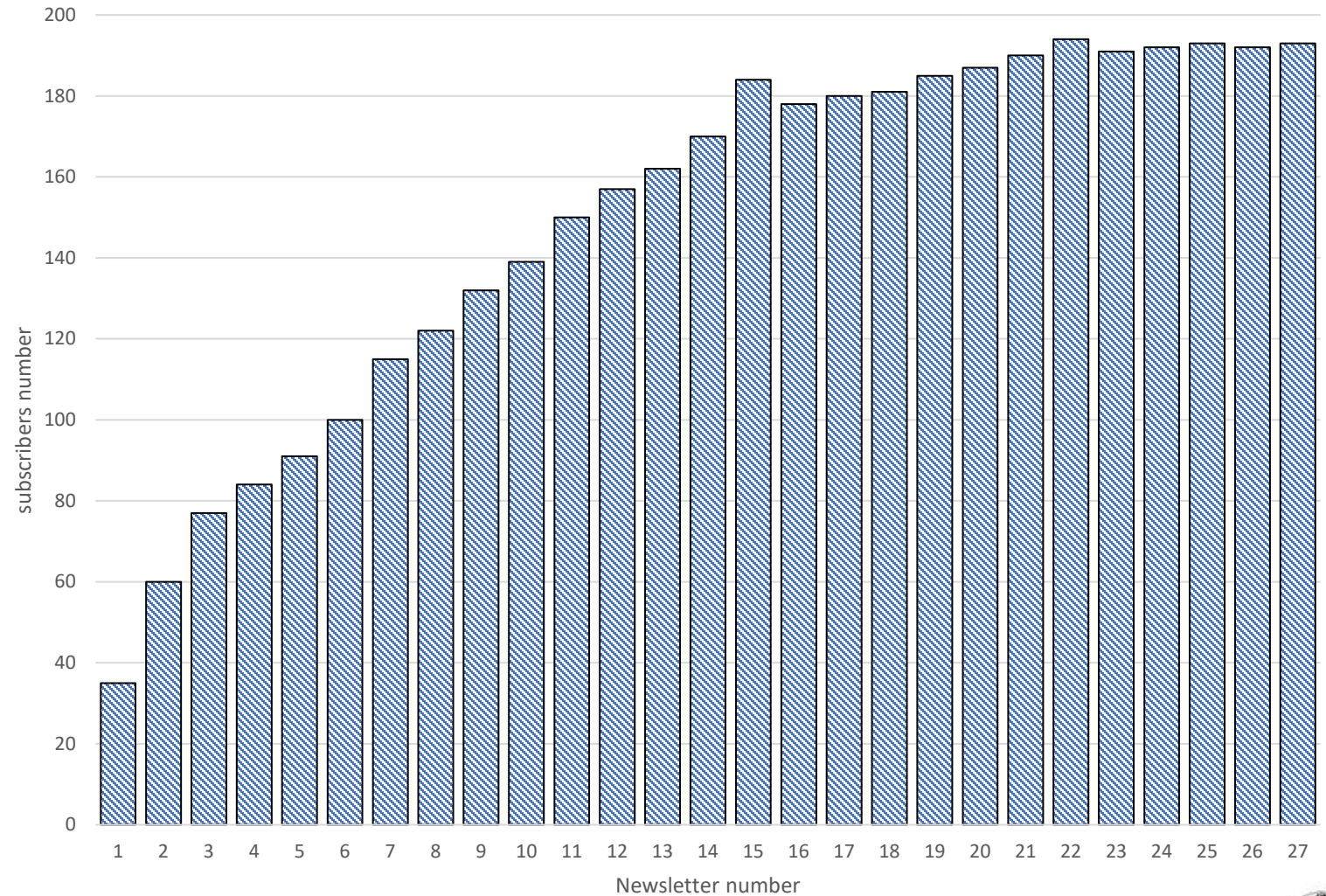
We hope you will enjoy the news service!

Those of you who are not yet a member can register clicking the button below:

**Join us**

**ACCESS TO JAI NOW AVAILABLE**

The WSCS offers to WSCS and NASPS members in good standing the possibility of accessing and downloading the papers published on the JAI (Journal of Applied Ichthyology) since 1985, through a dedicated link that can be found in the page "documents" in the reserved area of the website.



# Communication

## ISS10 summary report

(<https://www.sciepublish.com/article/pii/717>)

## Book of Abstracts—The 10th International Symposium on Sturgeons (ISS10)

World Sturgeon Conservation Society<sup>1</sup> Wuhan University<sup>2,\*</sup> ✉ China Fisheries Association CFA<sup>3</sup> NERC<sup>4</sup>  
China Three Gorges University<sup>5</sup>



Views: 3745

Downloads: 1263

Due to a limited number of manuscript submitted, the proceedings will not be published, but a special issue with “manuscripts presented at ISS 10” will be published for those that have declared their interest.

# Treasurer's Report

WSCS General Assembly 2026

Apr. 14. 2026

Thomas Friedrich



# Modes of payment

- Paypal or the German bank account are the preferred modes of payment
- Include your membership No. in payment reference
- Canadian account was closed in 2025
- Balance 2025 has been checked by two independent WSCS members

# WSCS Student Grants

1. Chiara Samassa (Italy) (2025)
2. Lucia Snyderman (UK) (2026/1)

**The second Call for WSCS Student exchange grants opened Jan 1st, 2026 to Jan 31st, 2026.**

**The third Call for grant will be open June 1st.**

**See the detailed description for the requirements and procedures at <https://www.wscs.info/second-call-for-wscs-student-exchange-grants/>**



**Samuele Pagani (Italy) & Linnéa Jägrud (Sweden) - ISS10 travel grant (2025)**

# WSCS Student Subunit



# Presentation days

- Presentation days since 2023
  - 1. Research in Italy, Georgia and Austria (Dec 2023)
  - 2. Sturgeon Genetics (July 2024)
  - 3. Communication and Outreach in Science (April 2025)
  - 4. Sturgeon telemetry (joint meeting with NASPS) (Dec 2025)
- 5. is planned for Summer/Autumn 2026

# Contact and Exchange Platform

- Subunit Mail address : [wscs.subunit@gmail.com](mailto:wscs.subunit@gmail.com)
- Exchange Platform Google Drive
  - **Board Area**
    - Subunit board member access only
  - **Member Area**
    - All subunit members have access
    - Presentation Day presentations
    - Other exchange material

## Eligibility requirements for candidates

- Previous experience on a governing board of professional society
- Able to invest time and effort into the development of the WSCS
- Must be a member in good standing of the WSCS
- Must have travel permission and encourage institutional support

### *Elected Positions:*

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary General
- 3 Board Members at Large

### *Invited or Nominated:*

#### Regional Representative Positions:

Regional Representatives ensure sufficient influence of principal regions (Europe, Russia, Middle East, China and Far East, and the Americas)