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## Special Group in Coaching Psychology News

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## Report

# Special Group in Coaching Psychology News

Dasha Grajfoner

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**A**S I AM TAKING ON the role of Chair of the Special Group in Coaching Psychology I would like to say hello and a warm welcome from the Committee and myself.

To begin with I must mention our 4th International Congress in December. What a superb and a diverse event! A big thank you to everyone who helped shape it and to all participants who attended and made it possible.

The number of streams and the variety of speakers were just fantastic. We had presenters and attendees from 25 different countries and a range of backgrounds. The Congress really celebrated diversity and inclusivity of our profession and people who work in it.

The event was also a good indicator of how we aim to take the SGCP forward. The Special Group of Coaching Psychology is – now more than ever – open, inclusive, collaborative and welcoming.

As we are looking forward – inclusivity is at the centre of my message.

- First of all – inclusivity within the SGCP. We are a Special Group for a reason. We are incredibly lucky to have such a diverse membership. The wealth of knowledge and experience is immense and we must make the most of it. I would like to take this opportunity to invite our members to come forward and to contribute to the work of the Committee. Please let us know how you would like your Special Group to be shaped and what you expect from it. We will soon send out a short survey asking you about different aspects of the SGCP – please take time to tell us how you feel and what you think.



- Secondly – inclusivity within the British Psychological Society. The Society is making a major move towards collaboration between the member networks. And we are at the forefront of it. The International Congress was a good example of demonstrating our links between coaching and mental health, occupational, sports, clinical and neuropsychology. Our group is still young, but one of our aims is to explore and set training routes that respect diversity of backgrounds and welcome people who have achieved their accreditations via other divisions or other professional bodies.
- Last but not least – inclusivity outside the Society and outside psychology. The Congress was celebrating collaborations with groups and professions outside psychology – sport, law and politics to name a few. I strongly believe that what matters is how we can be useful in real life situations. I also believe that our identity

will strengthen by being open and inclusive rather than closed and exclusive. The second aim is, therefore, to establish links and collaborations with other professional bodies that are relevant for coaching but do not necessarily fall under psychology.

In the spirit of collaborations, I am very pleased to say that we organised an inaugural meeting of the International Coaching Psychology Research Network, which took place at the Congress. This will shortly be followed up with a research network workshop and collaborative research projects, hopefully resulting in good quality coaching psychology data and evidence. If you are interested in research collaborations, please get in touch.

While what lies ahead of us is ambitious, we must not forget that coaching psychology is about releasing one's true potential – including our potential and the potential of the SGCP.

Finally, I would like to invite you to our SGCP Annual Conference on the 10–11 December 2015 in London. Please watch this space for more information and looking forward to seeing you all then.

**Dr Dasha Grajfoner**

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