

**POSTER FOR CANDIDATURE ELECTIONS FEPSAC MC 2026-2030
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Name MARY HASSANDRA, Associate Professor, University of Thessaly, Greece

Group member HELLENIC SOCIETY OF SPORT & EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY (HSSP)

Candidate for the position of Member at large

Mary Hassandra is an Associate Professor of Sport and Exercise Psychology at the University of Thessaly, Greece. A former competitive discus thrower, certified track and field coach (4 years), and licensed official judge and member of the Greek Association of Track and Field Judges, she brings lived sporting experience, as athlete, coach, and official, directly to her academic and applied work. Her research record spans 80+ peer-reviewed publications in leading international journals (*Psychology of Sport & Exercise*, *Psychology & Health*, *JMIR*, *BMC Public Health*) covering motivation, moral development, health behaviour change, exercise-based smoking cessation, physical activity promotion, and digital/VR interventions for clinical populations. A sustained commitment to gender equity and women in sport underpins her career: from co-authoring national educational materials on gender equality in physical education, to researching female athlete–male coach relationships and promoting equitable sport participation across Europe. As a founding contributor to the European Master in Sport and Exercise Psychology (EMSEP / Erasmus Mundus), she taught and supervised students at the University of Thessaly and the University of Jyväskylä, Finland (2010–today). Her dual academic career across Greece and Finland has given her direct, cross-cultural insight into the needs of European sport psychology stakeholders, athletes, coaches, parents, teachers, physical educators, and health professionals, and into translating evidence-based practice across diverse national contexts. Through over a decade of Erasmus+ Sport and other EU-funded projects, she has developed cross-European training materials and networks addressing safe sport coach education, addiction recovery, mental health promotion, and exercise for older adults with cognitive impairment. She is an expert evaluator for Erasmus+ Sport, COST, and Horizon Europe, and an active member of FEPSAC, ISSP, and EHPS. She received the 2012 Best Commercialisation Idea Award at the University of Jyväskylä and reviews for 25+ international journals.