Application for Candidacy as a Member of the WAPP Executive Board (2027-2028)

Dear Member,

Congratulations on your nomination for the WAPP Executive Board election! If you are interested in running as a candidate, please complete this application form. The information you provide will be shared with all WAPP members prior to the election to assist them in making their voting decision. Thank you for your participation!

1. **Title, First Name, Last Name**:

   Mr. Sergiu Maxim

2. **Current Occupation** (private practice, center, hospital, university etc.):

   Private Practice

3. **Field of psychotherapeutic specialization** (e.g. child and youth, couple, family therapy, etc.):

   Individual therapy with adults and couple/relationship therapy

4. **Academic and Professional Qualifications** (e.g., university degrees, dissertations, professorships, etc.):

   Master's degree in Educational Management and Institutional Communication

   Master's degree in Inclusive Education

   Associate faculty member, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeș-Bolyai University – lecturer for "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the Workplace" and "Group and Organizational Decision-Making Strategies"

   Coaching Specialist

   Trainer for Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking

5. **City and Country of current Residence**:

   Cluj-Napoca, Romania

6. **Email Address**:

   srgmaxim@gmail.com

7. **Membership Status in WAPP** (e.g., Certified Positive Psychotherapist, Basic/Master Trainer, Center Manager, Organizer of Trainings, etc.):

Candidate Master Trainer

8. **Current Role in WAPP** (e.g., Board Member, Committee Member, Working Group Member, National PPT Association Board Member, etc.):

   Positive Pedagogy Curriculum Working Group Member

   Positive group Psychotherapy Working Group Member

9. **Previous Leadership or Management Experience**:
   Have you held a leadership or management role in a professional organization or institution (e.g., association, university, hospital, company)?
   Yes □ No □

   If yes, please provide details of the organization, your role, and the location:

   Head of Human Resources, NTT DATA Romania, Cluj-Napoca

   Kindergarten Director, "Happy Kids" Foundation, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (2008-2009)

10. **Publications**: Have you authored scientific articles, books, or specialized texts?
    If yes, please provide examples:

    Maxim, S. (co-author). Chapter in Messias, E., & Peseschkian, H. (Eds.). Positive Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychology: Clinical Applications for Positive Mental Health (2nd Edition). Springer Nature Switzerland AG, Cham, 2025. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-94645-5. ISBN: 978-3-031-94644-8 (Print), 978-3-031-94645-5 (eBook).

    Hum, G. (coord.), Maxim, S. (co-author). Learning by Sharing: A Guide of Experiences Written by and for Learning & Development Specialists. Editura Trei, Bucharest, 2021. ISBN: 978-606-40-1012-4.

    Bernat, S.-E. (coord.), Maxim, S. (chapter author). "Giving Feedback to Training Participants," in Trainer – Advanced Development: Trainee Manual. Editura Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca, 2010, pp. 208–211. ISBN: 978-973-53-0422-5.

    Popescu, D. I. (coord.), Maxim, S. (co-author). From Group to Team: A Practical Counseling Guide for Supporting Student Collaboration and Team Spirit Building. Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Career Counseling and Guidance Center, Cluj-Napoca, 2026.

    (2015) Workshop Methodology for People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion, Decision-Makers, and Policymakers. Developed within the TAP – Together Against Poverty project, 2014-P-1-PL01-KA204-003326, funded by the EU through the Erasmus+ Programme, KA2. Presented at a training session in Turin, Italy (22–26 September 2015).

    (2008) "Are Children with Special Educational Needs Left Behind in Mainstream Education?" in Social Inclusion and Exclusion in Education, by Tony Bodfield, John

Doyle, Siegfried Kiefer. Texts from the SINEX Intensive Programme summer schools, Poland 2007 and Linz 2008.

(2010) Co-author. Trainer's Manual. Coordinated by Simona-Elena Bernat, SC Learn&Vision.

11. **Special Achievements**: Have you received any honors, awards, or other forms of recognition?

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12. **Membership in Other Professional Associations**: If applicable, please list them:

    Romanian Association for Positive Psychotherapy

13. **Vision and Goals for the WAPP Executive Board**:
    Please provide a brief description of your vision for contributing to the WAPP Executive Board. What specific skills, experience, or perspectives will you bring to the Board? Why should members vote for you?

    My vision for the WAPP Executive Board is to help strengthen the global reach and practical relevance of Positive Psychotherapy by building bridges between academic research, clinical practice, and organizational application. With over 15 years of experience spanning individual and couple psychotherapy, organizational psychology, coaching, and adult education, I bring a multidisciplinary perspective that connects the clinical foundations of Positive Psychotherapy with real-world settings, workplaces, universities, and communities.

    As a certified Positive Psychotherapy Consultant and an associate faculty member teaching Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Decision-Making Strategies, I also bring substantial corporate experience, including several years as Head of HR at NTT DATA Romania, where I led organizational development, performance management, and talent strategy for large teams. Alongside this, I have worked extensively as a business coach and trainer, designing and delivering leadership, team development, and soft skills programs for companies across various industries. This combination gives me a practical understanding of how Positive Psychotherapy principles can be adapted and applied within demanding organizational and business environments.

    If elected, I would focus on:

    - Expanding training and educational resources that make Positive Psychotherapy accessible to practitioners working in organizational, corporate, and community settings, not only clinical ones;
    - Promoting inclusive practices within WAPP's training and certification programs, drawing on my DEI expertise;
    - Strengthening collaboration between WAPP members across regions through shared publications, workshops, and mentorship opportunities.

I believe my combination of clinical training, corporate leadership experience, and extensive field experience in coaching and organizational development would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the Board's mission helping Positive Psychotherapy grow as both a rigorous method and a practical, applicable approach worldwide.

I believe in the power of teamwork not as a slogan, but as something I've lived. I have led HR teams, trained trainers, and guided managers and leaders through difficult moments of change, and I have learned that lasting results come from mutual trust and a shared purpose. I would bring exactly this kind of energy to the Board: the ability to truly listen, to build bridges between different perspectives, and to turn diversity of opinion into a strength rather than an obstacle.

For me, running for the WAPP Executive Board is not about a title, it is about responsibility and gratitude toward a community that has given me tools that changed the way I understand people, both in the therapy room and in the training room. I would consider it an honor to give back what I have received, working alongside colleagues from around the world to help Positive Psychotherapy reach as many people as possible who need it. This is the kind of mission I am ready to commit to with all my seriousness and passion.

14. **Photo**: Please attach a recent photo to this application.

Commitment

☐ If elected as a WAPP Executive Board member, I accept the position and agree to the following:

- The role of a WAPP Board member requires a minimum of 4 hours of work per week. I confirm that I am willing to devote this time to the duties of the Board on a voluntary basis. This may include holding roles such as Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary-General, or chairing one of the WAPP Committees.
- I am committed to collaborating with colleagues across countries and cultures with openness, mutual respect, and without prejudice, regardless of political circumstances.

Date and Place: _____

Signature: _____