



Open Philately Working Group

Open Philately Working Group Report to the FIP Board on 2025 activities

The Open Philately WG as appointed by the FIP Board in December 2022 (Peter Suhadolc Slovenia, Birthe King UK, Elisabeth Hisey USA, Kazuyuki Inoue Japan, Jari Majander Finland, and Iva Mouritsen Germany). The WG has continued as previously with Peter as Co-Chairman and liaison to the FIP Board, Birthe as Co-Chairman, and Iva as Secretary. The WG is grateful to Kelly Ong for organising the zoom meetings.

The WG has met on fewer occasions than in 2024, partly because the bulk of the work on the Guidelines having progressed very well, and the WG had decided that the number of meetings could be reduced to six (22 January, 19 March postponed to 30 April, 18 June postponed to 16 July, 1 October, and 3 December).

The majority of time at the meetings has still been occupied with the Guidelines ensuring that the language was as clear as possible, particularly with regards to the many philatelists who have English as their second, or third, language. The intention has been to present this final version to a meeting in Dubai 2026 for all nominated delegates to the future Open Philately Commission for comments and questions. The Guidelines would then be presented for approval to the FIP Board and for ratification at the FIP Congress in Macao 2026. The aim of the WG has continued to be to keep the Guidelines as 'open' and clear as possible, while at the same time to clarify some of the questions that have continued to be raised at exhibitions and displays at national and international exhibitions. It has also been the aim to keep the Guidelines to four pages A4 with the addition of a small section on Synopsis.

The WG presented a very successful FIP Open Philately Juror Qualifying Seminar at the international exhibition in Uruguay in February 2025, with Peter Suhadolc assisted by Jari Majander. A translation of the Guidelines into Spanish by Peter Suhadolc has been electronically distributed to those interested. 48 people attended, and they all received a 'thank you' letter with a number of positive replies indicating their interest. Replies to a few individual questions were sent as has been the case after previous Qualifying Seminars.

In order to expedite the time to acquire more FIP accredited jurors in Open Philately, the WG studied the replies received from participants in at qualifying seminars, and two exhibitors were encouraged to cross-accredit. Most individual replies have encouraged potential jurors to become national jurors and to follow on with FEPA, FIAF, or FIAP accreditation first to gain experience.

The OP website is gradually improving, thanks to Kazuyuki Inoue, who has followed up various comments arising from our meetings. The website is now available at: openphilately.f-i-p.ch. A website is a living entity, and as such it must be under continued development and updating.

The WG has completed a judging exercise over a number of meetings, using examples from Open Philately exhibits from EXPONET. One of the aims was to choose some examples for the OP website, but most were not quite as up-to-date as we had wanted, so we intend to use examples from recent exhibitions, of course with the agreement of exhibitors, to either show on the OP website or with links to an appropriate website.

The WG intends to continue its outreach work in the future by attending exhibitions, international, national, and regional to encourage philatelists and other collectors to learn more about this class, which has so much to offer with its combination of philatelic and non-philatelic material together in one exhibit.

Birthe King and Peter Suhadolc
(OP WG Co-chairs)