

SSRG-LARIA Merger agreement

This document describes arrangements for a merger between The Social Services Research Group (hereafter 'SSRG') and the Local Area Research and Intelligence Association (hereafter 'LARIA') on 01/07/2017. The new organisation will be called LARIA, but there will be a new research interest group to be called 'SSRG in LARIA'.

This agreement covers the following specific topics:

- Membership & governance
- Finances
- Publications
- New interest group
- Website

Membership & governance

1. All current SSRG members, including members of SSRG's Scottish Section, will become full, individual LARIA members at the point of merger. Full LARIA members are classed as having signed up to the LARIA Charter¹. In recognition of this commitment to LARIA and the sector they will be entitled to the post-nominal letters 'LARIA' after their name (as specified in LARIA rules²).
2. Members of the merged organisation will get the full benefits of SSRG membership including the SSRG e-bulletin and journal, Research Policy and Planning (hereafter 'RPP'), as well as existing LARIA benefits available to full members.
3. LARIA members will also have access to SSRG membership benefits including RPP.
4. Existing and future members of SSRG will be invited to renew their subscription to LARIA annually to remain full members. Those who do not renew membership will become Associate members of LARIA and will not receive the full benefits of LARIA or current SSRG benefits of membership.
5. SSRG and LARIA acknowledge close parallels between the LARIA charter and SSRG constitution³ and common aims and objectives. LARIA Council may wish to consider the need for amendments to its charter to incorporate any SSRG aims and objectives that cannot be assimilated/incorporated.
6. Once the merger occurs, LARIA's Council will act on behalf of both SSRG and LARIA members with major decisions affecting members being made at the LARIA AGM.
7. Discussions about more detailed operational arrangements to support the new interest group will take place between LARIA and SSRG following the merger.

Finances

All SSRG funds, including reserves will be transferred to LARIA on the condition that a ring fenced budget is established based on costs previously shared with LARIA Council members, and allowing for inflation to fund the SSRG journal, RPP, the SSRG e-bulletin and other reasonable costs needed to maintain and develop the new interest group 'SSRG in LARIA'

¹ <http://laria.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/laria-charter/>

² <http://laria.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Laria-Rules-May-2013-Final.pdf>

³ <http://ssrg.org.uk/ssrg-constitution/>

for a minimum period of two years from the date of the merger; and to promote activity or involvement from Scotland reflecting the level and proportion of funds transferred from SSRG Scotland. At the end of this period, LARIA Council will review funding arrangements for RPP, the newsletter and other costs and consider whether to renew this agreement on an annual basis.

Publications

1. Research Policy and Planning (RPP) will be published for at least three years, or for 12 editions (3 volumes).
2. The e-bulletin will continue for the same period, or until discussion LARIA Council facilitates dedicated space within the LARIA newsletter for SSRG/ social care related information following the merger.

New interest group

1. The new research interest group will be called 'SSRG in LARIA.'
2. The interest group will in the first instance comprise current members of SSRG's Executive Committee elected at the AGM and members of LARIA who put themselves forward. Further discussion between SSRG and LARIA representatives will clarify how new members are elected/selected for this interest group.
3. An area of the LARIA website will be dedicated to SSRG, and will contain links to RPP
4. The group will continue to meet and propose social care contributions for future LARIA Annual conferences and topic-specific events and other activities.
5. The group will consist of former SSRG Executive Committee members and LARIA members who wish to join this interest group.
6. Three members of the interest group will sit on the LARIA Council. These members shall have the same rights and responsibilities as other Council members.

Website

1. Following the merger, a new page on the LARIA website will be created, with a prominent link to the existing SSRG website
2. The SSRG homepage will indicate that SSRG has merged with LARIA and that the site is under development, but the existing information will remain available until arrangements can be made to transfer information to the SSRG section of the LARIA website.
3. The following information will be transferred to the LARIA website when this can be organised
 - a. Information about Research Policy and Planning (aims and objectives, how to prepare and submit an article etc.)
 - b. Past editions of Research Policy and Planning.
4. SSRG EC members will identify other information for transfer to the LARIA website.
5. Arrangements will be made to transfer the information to the LARIA website and close the SSRG website.

Signatures

Signed _____

Name _____

Chair LARIA

Signed _____

Name _____

Chair SSRG