

Europe Annual Regional Report 2001 Lausanne meeting

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IASI-Europe

The European group is relatively stable, with four new institutional members since May 2000 : France, Israel, Romania, Spain* It is the largest regional group in our Association, with 63 institutional and 21 personal members.

The European system of sports information, active since 1975, was this year disturbed by a very important change in the Council of Europe's policy. I refer to the considerable reduction in the Council of Europe's budget for sports information activities which led to the dismantling of the Brussels Clearing House, formerly at the heart of the system.

Needless to say, this decision is a threat to the administrative and financial well-being of our Association, and a solution to this problem must be found rapidly. I make a point here of thanking Albert REMANS for the enormous voluntary work which he has accomplished over the past years to further the development of our activities. The loss of this relay between European Sports Information members must, in my opinion, be compensated by more active participation and closer links between IASI-Europe members. This is the expectation that I wish to transmit to our incoming regional Vice-president.

Activities in 2000

Since our last executive committee meeting at Valparaiso, the activities of the Europe Region have been centred on developing IASI programmes and relations with the main organizations that the IASI cooperates with.

The first item on the IASI agenda was organizing the 2001 Congress, in which several European members took an active part. To supplement the efforts of the local organizers, Bruno ROSSI - MORI kindly accepted to put his talent and authority at our service by accepting the Presidency of the Programme Committee. The programme for the Congress was elaborated at two on-the-spot meetings in January and October 2000. As organizer of the last Congress in Paris 1997, I have kept up with the preparatory work which, thanks to the diligence and competence of the local organizers, will I am sure make this Congress a great success.

*: France: SPORTDOC, French-language national network of sport documentation
Israel: The Zinman College of Physical Education
Romania: The Ministry of Youth and Sports
Spain: The INEF library

Another pole of our activity was following and translating into French the IASI.org website. Multiple connections with SIRC ensured the follow-up of the presentation of the site set up by our Webmaster Jean-Michel JOHNSON, whom I wish to thank for his excellent work.

On the subject of relations with IASI-affiliated organizations and in the first place the IOC, the main event was the distribution of the *Manual for a Sports Information Centre* both in IOC member countries and in our own network. 6 000 copies were printed and 4 500 copies have already been distributed throughout the world.

The second IOC-related action was the setting up of a Centres of competence Directory of IASI and NOC Sports Information Centres. You will find a special report on this process, based on a survey using the questionnaire submitted to you, in the documents for our meeting.

These two actions testify to the interest of the IOC in our activities and largely justify our affiliation to this prestigious organization.

Our relations with our second world-affiliated organization ICSSPE also resulted in concrete actions, especially the organization of a Cyber Café during the pre-Olympic Congress at Brisbane in September 2000, in collaboration with the Oceania Region members Jill Haynes and Nerida Clarke. Jill Haynes will describe the success of this Cyber Café in a paper to be given at the Congress.

I myself had the honour of representing our Association, with a mandate from our President, at the statutory meetings of ICSSPE. The main points tackled concerned :

- the loading of ICSSPE members' scientific production references on SPORTDiscus created by SIRC;
- the plan to publish a special September 2001 issue of *Prospects*, a regular ICSSPE publication, devoted to *Sports Information* and written by IASI members;
- IASI participation in the Human Kinetics *Share the Knowledge* programme.

Lastly, the Europe Region has maintained its relations with continental organizations and in particular with the ENSSHE (European Network of Sport Sciences in Higher Education). Alberto Madella and I took part in the Website Advisory Group for this project, and we have developed a professional website in two languages English and French.

This completes my activity report for the year 2000. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who gave me their assistance and advice during the past twelve months.

These last words are to express my deep gratitude to Nerida CLARKE for her fantastic commitment to our cause. I hope her a great success in her new job.