

**The European Regional
A Report to the IASI Presidium and Executive Committee,
At the Annual Meeting
Barcelona, March 14-18, 2002**

1. IASI-ENSSHE Relationships

ENSSHE Forum, Aug.30-Sept 2, 2001:

Alain Poncet, President, IASI and I attended the 6th Forum in Budapest, Hungary on behalf of IASI. The Faculty of Sport Sciences and Physical Education at the Edelweiss University did a splendid job of organizing the forum.

The European Network for Sports Sciences in Higher Education, which has recently changed its name to European Network of Sport Sciences, Education and Employment (ENSSEE), was founded in 1991. Its members come from 220 sport sciences institutes and sport organizations, responsible for educational programs and/or research in sport in 34 countries throughout the European Union and affiliate countries. Every 2 years the network holds an annual meeting or forum. There are two major elements of this forum: 1) professional lectures and workshops and 2) the organization part with committee meetings, election, etc.

Through formal presentation and non-formal talks and discussions, two IASI goals were achieved: 1) outlining the work of IASI in the promotion of Sport Information, 2) suggesting new ways of collection sports information in Europe in order to continue the good work that was done by the now-closed Clearing House. Alain gave a very focused and clear Power Point presentation about IASI, its goals, members, and projects. Ayala sought out faculty members from different European universities in order to find or make connections to their information centers or libraries, hoping to bring more members to IASI.

Both IASI representatives took part in a very interesting meeting between the presidents of ICSPE, ENSSEE, EASM and Mr. Hans Jurgen Meyer of the Meyer & Meyer Group. The professional organizations are interested in creating an improved version of the former clearinghouse. Meyer & Meyer is well-positioned to assist in this endeavor as they have recently taken over the equipment and location of an Internet company. This gives them the opportunity to offer to build up an information center in sport, in cooperation with professional organizations.

As mentioned previously, further discussions between representatives of about 20 professional organizations in Europe on this topic will be made in Bitburg, Germany, between November 30th and December 2nd, when the Sport & Tourism office hosted a European Conference on the co-ordination of Sports Information. Alain and I took part in this conference.

At the end of the ENSSHE Forum both presidents of ENSSEE and IASI signed an agreement of cooperation. The agreement gives a formal framework to the relationship between the two organizations and declares that its main goal is to upgrade the quality and dissemination of

sport information among the members of both institutions. The agreement also states that each organization may invite to its meetings from time to time a representative of the other.

2. The European Platform – Bridging the Gap – European Information after the closure of the Clearing House

A. As mentioned above, the first step toward the construction of a new institution that will serve the European countries was made in Budapest. We were suggesting new ways of collecting sports information in Europe in order to continue the good work that was done by the now-closed Clearing House.

B. A second and major step was made at the IASI-Europe/ENSSEE/EASM Meeting, in Bitburg Germany, on October 4-5, 2001.

As a result of the groundwork done by Alain Poncet and I at the EASM and ENSSHE meetings, an additional meeting of representatives of a few European organizations met in Bitburg, Germany on October 4-5 to discuss the feasibility of creating a European Sport Information Platform. The Bitburg working group has proposed a European conference for representatives from 15 European sports organizations for November 30 to December 2, 2001 to be held in Bitburg.

C. At the November conference the main purpose was to discuss methods, strategy and first steps to be taken in creating and establishing a European Sports Information Platform. Alain Poncet and I were representing IASI in this meeting. This new organization will depend on the cooperation of all organizations to create a central service that does not duplicate work or resources found at other organizations or on other websites. Cooperative partners include the publisher Meyer & Meyer Group for the technological foundation, and other organizations for e-journals, e-learning and fulltext resources, and informational databases. After consultation of all interested parties, this extremely interesting project will be submitted to the EU for approval, recognition and funding. A task force was elected and decided to meet soon again.

D. European Forum Bitburg: The second Task Force meeting on 09 January 2002 in Bitburg (Sports & Tourism Company/Meyer & Meyer eCom) was attended by Alain Poncet, Raymond Claude, Reinhard Daus, Christoph Igel, Leo Hammes, Han-Jurgen Meyer, Winfried Vonstein.

Excused from attendance: Livin Bollaert, Alberto Madella.

Alain Poncet presented Systran as a possible and interest partner of the planned project. On basis of the papers submitted in advance by L. Bollaert, A. Poncet, R. Claude and C. Igel and the results of the 1st Task Force meeting a great deal of discussion was made.

All members agreed on the opportunity of first having a “definition project” in which the objectives, tasks and structures could be defined clearly for a following “main project”.

This way was offered as a result of the talks and contacts made by R. Claude.

As beginning area of the coming project e-publishing (e-journal) in three languages ((English, French and German) was decided on. According to the target group a reviewed magazine should be done as well as a standard one at the next step. The also discussed e-

learning was put on the back burner because it was seen as much more difficult for a beginning project in this field. However it should really be the main future objective for most of the organizations involved.

For the definition phase partners had to be selected whose members act as the working group (consortium) of the definition phase. They nominate a coordinator who is responsible for the reports and administrative tasks and so is the go-between towards the EU. In the definition project phase four partners of 2 – 4 different countries and of different areas (marketing, technique, production of contents, etc.) are necessary to appear. These partners could be University of Saarbrücken (technical partner), Systran (electronic translation programmes), Meyer & Meyer (technical provider-/marketing) and EASM (as producer of contents of a possible e-journal).

Members of all these organizations and institutions agreed to work in the consortium (L. Bollaert had basically agreed in advance), a member of Systran (contact person: A. Poncet) was proposed to be the coordinator.

To make it clear it must be mentioned again that this group is only for defining the coming main project. By the proposed members no decision was made about the members of the main project (which must be more than four). The Task Force group is well aware of only working according to the mission of the Bitburg Conference at the end of November 2001.

3. SIRC – IASI-EUROPE Relationships

In the period from April 2001 through to the end of January 2002, 2,115 records were sent to SIRC from indexing partners in the European region for inclusion in the SPORTDiscus. These records were sent by France, Finland, Italy, Poland and the new indexing partner in Portugal.

Belgium Denmark, Israel, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK are also contributing countries, but did not send any record to SIRC in this period.

Some discussion in this subject is suggested for the European meeting.