**eass**

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT

**Newsletter 2/2011**

Dear members of the *eass*,

The year 2011 was very successful for the *eass*. The number of *eass* members increased and the number of participants in the conference at Umea was very large. The evaluation of the conference was expressed by participants in statements like these : “on the whole, it really was a great conference”, “it was an excellent conference, well organised, with attention paid to details”, and “let it stay as it is”. Beside that quantitative increase a qualitative progress can be seen in the conference presentations as well as in the articles submitted for publication in the journal of the *eass.* In summary this means that during the past nine years (since the first conference in Vienna, 2002) the *eass* has become a well-known and esteemed scientific organization for social scientists working in the field of sport, move­ment and health. But of course further steps and further efforts are necessary to stabilize these positive trends.

One of the instruments to realize this goal is the newsletter. It is intended to be a forum of information and exchange of news. Proposals to improve the newsletter or to add new kinds of information are always welcome. Please send such proposals to the Secretary Gene­ral.

**CONTENTS**

**1.*eass* Board meeting in Umea**

**2.Report on the eass conference in Umea**

**3.Report on Young Researcher Award 2011**

**4. Report on MEASURE**

**5. Dates to remember**

1. **Report on the Board meeting**

The 11th *eass* Board Meeting in Umea, Sweden, took place on May 18th, 2011. Participants: Nicola Porro, Georg Anders, Hannu Itkonen, Andrzej Pawłucki, Siegfried Nagel, Davide Sterchele (guest), Kim Wickman, Tor Soderstrom (guests). The points of the agenda were reports of: President, Secretary General, *ejss* Editor-in-Chief and YRA chairman. President Nicola Porro gave a report thanking all the members of the *eass* Board for their activity in favour of the association and the Umeå colleagues. He underlined that one of the main reasons of the increasing success of *eass* events` ‘formula’ seems to rest in a correct relationship between the *eass* international team and the local organizers, giving birth to a friendly synergy instead of a bureaucratic *top-down* procedure. Regarding the role of eass he pointed out that the association seems to identify its mission more and more as a promoter of scientific events, able to involve and stimulate different scholars and various traditions of studies, as well as a point of reference for satisfying an increasing quest for social research on sport. The programmes and initiatives of eass are perceived by non European researchers and by scholars who dedicate to a broad field of research on sport which is not determined by a very narrow definiton of sociology. This fact reflects the attractiveness of eass and is to be seen as a point of strength of the association. In this way eass copes with the diversity and complexity of sport as a field of research and teaching. Sport is a heterogeneous and multi-facet subject of research which offers many opportunities for analysing the system of cultural, economic and social interdependences in these times of globalization. So it requires a close cooperation among scholars of various competences and cultural sensitivities. The title chosen for our conference in Umeå and the list of keynotes and sent abstracts seem to be a promising expression of our cultural project. The main instruments for succeeding in our purposes are: the capacity of making our non bureaucratic organizational structure able to capture more and more members and to enforce our network of relations with organizations without giving up our mission and cultural legacy; our support to qualify *ejss*, appreciating and encouraging the work already developed by Siegfried Nagel and his collaborators and by all the colleagues who dedicated in the past their activity to our review; a further promotion of young researchers, who represent our scientific and organizational future and who are in the privileged position to enlarge and sometimes to rethink our approach to sport and social sciences.

Secretary General Andrzej Pawłucki mentioned the growing attractiveness of the *eass* and the increasing number of participants also students involved in the conferences. The number of members has been continually increasing since 2006, when the *eass* started to count separately *eass* conference participants and *eass* members (who pay the mem­bership fee). Today the number of the *eass* members is steady, however these are not personally the same members. He gave the numbers from the conferences in Bled, Rome and Porto. He appealed on the participants to motivate other colleagues to become members. It is necessary that members pay their fee. Money is needed for financing the journal. The financial situation is characterised by the fact that the only income of the *eass* are the membership fees and most of the income is used for the *ejss*. Financial alternatives have to be discussed. According to the decision of the former eass Board the Newsletter is forwarded twice a year to all the *eass* members. The last issue 1/2011 has been sent to over 150 members.

*ejss* Editor-in-Chief Siegfried Nagel reported on the state of the journal. He appealed on the members to support the *ejss* strongly by making publicity and contributing to the journal. He touched the problem of: a) ideas regarding *ejss*: official publication of the *eass*, medium of interchange and communication, stimulate academic discussion among European sport sociologists b) concept of the new editorial team: continue the tradition of *ejss* and the cooperation with the publishers *Waxmann*, four issues per year, improve the quality of the papers and enhance the international reputation, consequent peer review process, broad thematic focus but underlying connection to questions and concepts within the sociology of sport; goal is to become a journal with a high impact factor and citation index c) overview of 2011 issues.

Young Research Award Chairman Davide Sterchele gave a report on the third edition of YRA (see below).

Conference manager Kim Wickman gave report on the preparations of the conference in Umea. She characterized the conference in numbers. There are expected 188 participants and 144 presentations from 30 countries (22 in Europe). Among them are 52 Swedish participants, 41 students, 6 keynote speakers from 5 countries. The conference is organized in 25 sessions, chaired by professors from 13 countries. The abstracts were reviewed by specialists from 6 countries.

Further conference manager Siegfried Nagel responsible for the conference in Bern gave the information on the 9th *eass* conference “Sport in Globalised Societies. Changes and Challenges”, which will take place at Bern University (Switzerland) on 20 – 23 June 2012.

In point *Other business* Davide Sterchele presented the proposal of a closer cooperation with the European Sociology Association ESA.

**2. Report on the conference in Umea**

The 8th *eass* conference "People in Motion. Bridging the Local and Global” took place at Umea University, Sweden, from 18th to 22nd of May, 2011. Umea University is one of the major research and educational universities in sport in Scandinavia.

It hosted 248 participants (scientists and researchers 170, students 78) from 23 countries in four continents (Sweden 68, Norway 12, UK 12, Finland 11, Denmark 8, Belgium 6, Canada 5, France 5, Ireland 5, Italy 5, Switzerland 5, Czech Republic 4, Germany 4, The Netherlands 4, Poland 4, Slovenia 4, Japan 3, Portugal 3, Spain 3, Croatia 2, Australia 1, New Zealand 1, Romania 1).

Once again, an *eass* conference proved to be an excellent forum to meet and to facilitate well-needed international networking between researchers on social science of sport. Further, among the participants there were quite a lot young researchers, doctoral candidates and students. It was encouraging to see young colleagues taking the paths we have opened to them. Their presentations were very good, so we should not worry about the further development of the sociology of sport in Europe. We thank the organizers for the successful conference.

1. **Report on Young Researcher Award** **2011**

Davide Sterchele thanked all the young colleagues who have submitted their papers. The aim of the award is to facilitate the integration of outstanding graduate students and young researchers into the European community of sociology of sport scholars. The award is granted to a scholarly paper, authored by a young researcher, which is deemed by a panel of judges to be of highest quality. The winning author was invited to receive the award and present the paper during the closing ceremony of the 8th *eass* Conference in Umeå. Monetary prizes sponsored by Sport e Sicurezza and ENGSO Youth were granted to the winner and the two authors receiving an honourable mention. He thanked the *Selection Committee*composed of Tess Kay, Mojca Doupona Topic, Hannu Itkonen, Josef Fahlén. The winner of the third edition of YRA was Koji Kobayashi (University of Otago, New Zealand). His research report dealt with "Globalisation, Corporate Nationalism and Orientalism: Negotiating Japanese Identity between the East and West within Asics Global Advertising Production". The authors of two honourable mentions were Oli Williams (University of Leicester, UK) "Eating for Excellence: Eating Disorders in Elite Sport: Inevitability and Immunity" and Stephanie-Alice Baker (University of Western Sydney, Australia) "From Sporting Transgression to Social Tragedy: Situating Zidane’s World Cup head-butt on France’s postcolonial stage".

1. **Report on MEASURE**

As a part of the eass conference in Umea the third expert meeting of MEASURE took place on May 20th. 30 experts from 12 countries participated in the meeting. The session started with six presentations of experts in the field of sport participation research in Europe, including two invited speakers, Annet Tiessen-Raaphorts (the Netherlands) and Nick Rove (United Kingdom). In the last expert meeting of MEASURE, October 2010 in Leuven, it was decided that Annet Tiessen-Raaphorts and Nick Rowe would both do some research on new standards for sport participation research and present this to provide a starting point for the discussion on this topic within the third expert meeting of MEASURE. Other presenters were Jeroen Scheerder (Belgium), Hanspeter Stamm (Switzerland), Charlotte van Tuyckom (Belgium) and Antonio Mussino (Italy). The presentation will be downloadable at [www.measuresport.eu](http://www.measuresport.eu). The presentations paid attention to sport participation research in general, methodological issues as well as debates on the social and cultural concept of sport and the development of new standards for sport participation research. The contribution provided a very fruitful basis for further discussions within the MEASURE network. The attendants expressed the need for more in depth studies within countries to get a better understanding of differences in sport participation. Questions could be added to national surveys concerning ‘what are barriers for sport participations’ and ‘what are motives to participate in sport’. It would also be interesting to use these questions in European surveys, such as the Eurobarometer or the European Social Survey. This topic will be put on the agenda for the next meeting of MEASURE. The *eass* Board members, who were attending the meeting, agree that the involvement of MEASURE in future Eurobarometer studies is desireable in order to avoid the translation problems and to provide assistance by determining what is measured with regard to sport and physical activity. It is generally agreed that good research is needed to get an insight in policy implications. As a result the meeting decided that MEASURE should aim to be represented in working groups of the European Commission. The tasks of MEASURE include disseminating knowledge and bringing sport monitoring on the European agenda. MEASURE should use the data they have collected, among other based on the factsheets and the knowledge that is combined in the special issue of the EJSS on sport participation in Europe, to put the network more prominently forward. To establish and strengthen the position of MEASURE it was suggested to write the position paper ‘From science to practice’ for the European Commission, to make clear what can be expected of MEASURE in the future (and what not). The attending board members of the *eass* stress that they support MEASURE and its activities and are willing to present the position paper of MEASURE to the European Commission.

There is expected a new modules call for the European Social Survey at the end of 2011 or begin of 2012. In 2012 the meeting of MEASURE will be incorporated in the *eass* conference in Bern. Probably there will be a meeting on the first conference day (Wednesday) and one or two thematic sessions of MEASURE with presentations and a discussion as part of the conference.

**5. Dates to remember**

Bern University (Switzerland) will be the host of the 9th *eass* conference in 2012, June 20-23. Please visit the website of the organizers http://www.eass2012.ch

Concerning the 4th Young Researcher Award 2012 visit <http://www.eass2012.ch/YRA.html>

Please forward the call for papers to eligible participants.

And the 10th eass conference will take place at Cordoba University (Spain) in 2013, May 8 - 11. Visit the official website of *eass* [*http://www.eass-sportsociology.eu*](http://www.eass-sportsociology.eu)

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Our best regards,

and wishing you a *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year*

*NicolaPorro GeorgAnders* *Andrzej Pawłucki* President Past President Secretary General

Rome, Köln, Wrocław, 2011.12.23.