

Activity Report 2008

European Science Events Association was formed in 2001 with the objectives to exchange ideas and experiences, to communicate across borders and to develop new ways of funding and marketing science communication events in Europe. (The statutes of EUSCEA can be found at <http://www.euscea.org/www.euscea.org/AboutEUSCEA/EusceaStatutes.html>)

The 8th Annual Conference and General Assembly was held in April 2008 in the Czech Republic, hosted by the Czech Academy of Sciences at the castle of Liblice, just outside Prague. 50 representatives of 33 member institutions from 19 countries participated in the conference.

The first "EUSCEA Seminar" for new members and new staff was arranged at the same time, with 21 participants.

The General Assembly elected Jan Riise, Agadem Science Communication, Sweden, for president, Herbert Munder, Wissenschaft-im-Dialog, Germany, for vice president, and Sheila Donegan, CALMAST, Ireland, for treasurer, all for the period of 2008-2010.

During 2008, EUSCEA did not coordinate or participate in any European Commission or otherwise funded projects. The final reporting and payments for WONDERS 2007 did however take place in 2008, thus influencing the financial statements of the year.

Furthermore, EUSCEA submitted a proposal for the first "FP7 Science in Society" call from the Commission, called 2WAYS, in May 2008, which was favourably evaluated and negotiated. The project started in January 2009, with EUSCEA as coordinator and six other members as consortium partners. The Launch will take place in Perugia on 17 May 2009. 2WAYS is about creating interactive presentations of ongoing or recently finished European life science research projects. The budget is almost 1 m€.

The Associazione Festival della Scienza in Genoa and EUSCEA organised a third WONDERS festival, during the Genoa Festival at the end of October 2008. 50 representatives from 16 countries presented 21 science shows in the Palazzo Ducale.

At the same time, EUSCEA invited members and representatives from European cities to Genoa to discuss the preparation of a proposal to the European Commission regarding a project on "Cities of Scientific Culture". It was submitted in January 2009 under the title PLACES, with ECSITE as proposed coordinator. The result of the call is expected to be published in summer 2009.

Members of the board have been invited to give talks and presentations at several conferences and meetings, including expert meetings at the European Commission, activities during the French presidency of EU, the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, British Council's colloquium in Manchester and the PCST-10 Conference in Malmö/Copenhagen.

The number of members in EUSCEA has increased during 2008, from 63 to 69 at the end of the year. In the first months of 2009, this figure increased considerably, and EUSCEA now has almost 90 members.

Complete financial statements are found as appendix 1 to this report. A summary of receipts and payments regarding EUSCEA – excluding the activities related to the EU funded project WONDERS – is found below.

<u>Receipts (€)</u>	
Membership fees	18,870.00
EUSCEA Annual Conference 2008 fees	24,201.00
WONDERS++ preparation support	2,748.00
Bank interest rates	60,90
<u>Total receipts</u>	<u>45,879.90</u>
<u>Payments (€)</u>	
General secretariat	6,000.00
Office costs	1,516.64
EUSCEA Annual Conference 2008 costs	24,016.64
Other meetings, preparations of proposals	6,107,85
Bank fees	328.41
<u>Total payments</u>	<u>37,969,54</u>
<u>Total 2008</u>	<u>+7,910,36</u>
Bank account, 31 Dec 2008:	19,241.15

See appendix 1 for complete financial report, including WONDERS and comparisons with previous years.

Budget 2009

The increased number of members (2009-05-01: 89 members from 34 countries) results in an income of approx 25,000 € for 2009, which is significantly more than previous years. This gives EUSCEA resources to continue the marketing efforts; to make EUSCEA more well-known, e.g. by being present at meetings and conferences and by an increased visibility through newsletters, roll-ups, etc.

The increased size of the organisation also calls for a discussion among the members on the future of EUSCEA; this will be arranged during the EUSCEA Annual Conference in Perugia, May 2009. It is reasonable to let the outcome of those discussions influence the 2009 budget. This will include priorities regarding the website, participation in future EU calls, activities to attract more members, exchange of activities, courses and seminars, evaluations etc.

However, the board proposes to

- § increase the very modest compensation to the General Secretary for the secretariat, to reflect the increased number of members
- § continue to keep a reserve of about 20,000 €, for unexpected situations or opportunities
- § keep the membership fees as they are for 2010
- § produce marketing material (flyer, roll-ups, etc) on a continuous basis

With this in mind, it is reasonable to assume that available funds for 2009 is in the size of 10,000 €, that can be used according to decisions and/or discussions at the General Assembly 2009.