

Report from the activities of the Presidium of International Association of Sport Kinetics (IASK) in the years 2001-2003

by
*Włodzimierz Starosta**

Ladies and Gentlemen! Dear Friends – Members of the IASK!

I am enormously happy to be able to welcome you again. This time we are meeting in a picturesquely located castle of the Polish princes and kinds in Rydzyna. The castle in Rydzyna is the pearl of the Polish baroque situated between the historical town and a 12 hectare parkland. In the past it was an ancestral residence of the king Stanislaw Leszczynski and of the Sulcowki princes. The historic atmosphere, the stylish decor and the excellent cuisine will allow you to become familiar with the Polish tradition and hospitality.

Two years have passed since our last meeting in Tartu. The conference “7. Sport Kinetics 2001” in Tartu was a very significant event in the life of our Association. Participants from 23 countries, including Canada, Belgium, Finland and Botswana took part in the conference. In the report herewith, I shall focus on this last period of 2 years, and I shall devote some space to the development of our Association since its establishment on 28th April 1990. This is justified by the fact that on 29th November we will be celebrating the 12th anniversary of our existence. Looking back to what we have achieved, we may ascertain with satisfaction that the Association is fulfilling correctly its set objectives, and particularly the most important one – the integration of the growing number of experts on human kinetics and sport kinetics, not only from

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Eastern and Western Europe. The prestige and international recognition of the Association grows gradually.

The Presidium of the Association is composed of the following persons: **W. Starosta** (president), **P. Blaser, P. Hirtz, T. Jurimae, D. Milanovic** (vice-presidents), **W. Osinski** (general secretary), **K. Aniol-Strzyzewska** (treasurer), **A. Cichella, B. Jost, J. Kasa, W. Ljach** (members of the Presidium). The Revisory Commission: **R. Szeklicki, F.Merni**.

In the report I shall focus on the most crucial issues.

Members

The numbers demonstrate the quantitative development of the Association. In 1991 we had only 80 members, 2 years later there were –260, at present we have 330. In the last 2 years 30 new members have registered. Most of them come from Belorussia, Poland, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro, Italy, Russia and the US. The great majority of the new members are professors, including well known experts: **P. Komi (Finland), J. Skinner (USA), H. Sozanski (Poland), T.Poljakowa (Belorussia), S. Squatrito (Italy), D. Poliszczuk (Ukraine), M.Kukolj (Serbia–Montenegro)**. A significant increase in the number of members was observed despite the strategy of the Presidium concerning the quality of the new members. Only professors have free access. In order to become members, candidates should distinguish themselves by proving special achievements. Only after a year of waiting and upon a reception of a positive evaluation of their output, should they become members. (Dr. A.Klusiewicz has undergone such a qualification positively, and I have the pleasure to hand him the membership card and a diploma). It is also worth mentioning that the diploma was substantially and graphically elaborated by him, for which I would like to thank a lot.

We still care about the expansion of our Association through acquiring new members from Western Europe (Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark), and from other parts of the world (South America, Asia, Africa, Australia and Oceania). We have strengthened our influence in a number of countries (i.e. Belorussia, Croatia, Poland, Russia, the USA, Italy), and a few members have turned up from other countries (Finland, Serbia and Montenegro). I regret that so few members from our Association, including the Presidium, participate in the realisation of this key task.

It is important to note that in 10 countries we have had the opportunity to establish National Branches (Sections) of our Association. However, in the last 2 years no new Branch has been opened. The task of our Association for the near

future should be the recruitment of new members? leading experts on human kinetics – from countries which are not present in our Association yet. I repeat my question: who should be in charge of recruiting new members? All of us and particularly the members of the Presidium. We are happy to have new members, at the same time we are upset when some of them leave us. **The Academic World Champion in Fencing, creator of the Polish Ringo game, editor Włodzimierz Strzyzewski, M.A., has passed away.** Let us honour the memory of him with a minute of silence.

International Scientific Conferences (tab. 1).

The number of national and international conferences organised under the auspices of IASK increases constantly. During the period of 12 years members of our Association have organised 35 international scientific conferences, out of which most were held in post-communist countries: Belorussia, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia. Nine of them were organised in Germany and one in Italy. On average, 3 conferences were held per year. **I wish some of them had been clearly announced as IASK conferences.** These incomplete statistics illustrate the efficiency of the Association. I am extremely grateful to all the active members and I wholeheartedly encourage members of other countries to participate actively. I am especially thankful to those members who have organised national and international scientific events in the years 2001 – 2003.

Prof.P.Hirtz organised on the 8-9.03.2003 in Zinnowitz (Germany) a scientific vocal voice under the auspices of IASK, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the existence of the Bernstein's Circle in Greifswald, which was entitled "**Co-ordination ability – co-ordination competences – a look back, evaluation and perspectives**". In the event 100 people from Germany, Poland, Russia and Switzerland took part.

Prof. P.Hirtz was the organiser of an international symposium under the auspices of IASK, entitled "**Health and Movement**" and held in Zinnowitz (Germany) on 8-9.03 2002. There were 80 participants from Germany, Sweden, Great Britain.

Table 1 Major importance scientific international conferences organised under the auspices of International Association of Sport Kinetics in years 1990-2001

No	Year	Name of conferences	Number of authors	Number of papers	Number of countries	Number of participants
1.	1990	„Bewegungskoordination im Sport“ [Gorzów Wlkp., Poland]	42	35	5	over 60
2.	1991	”Sport Kinetics ’91” [Olomouc, Czechoslovakia]	120	69	9	84
3.	1992	” Selected aspects of sport kinetics” [Brest, Belarus]	51	39	5	ca. 75
4.	1993	”Sport Kinetics ’93” [Poznan, Poland]	155	102	11	105
5.	1993	“Physical education under new social condition” [Prešov, Slovakia]	85	69	6	ca. 80
6.	1995	“Science in sport team games” [Biala Podlaska, Poland]	94	67	11	76
7.	1995	”Sport Kinetics ’95 ” [Prague, Czech Rep.]	176	98	12	123
8.	1996	„Bewegungskoordination & sportliche Leistung integrativ betrachtet” [Zinnowitz – Usedom, Germany]	76	48	6	over100
9.	1996	“Physical development and motor performance of children and youth” [Prešov, Slovakia]	160	100	7	ca. 100
10.	1997	” Theories of Human Motor Performance and their Reflections in Practice” Sport Kinetics ’97 [Magdeburg, Germany]	150	135	16	ca. 210
11.	1998	”Movement Coordination in Team Sport Games and Martial Arts ’98” [Biala Podlaska, Poland]	92	75	9	ca 100
12.	1998	” Physical Education and Health of Students and Youth at the Boundary of Centuries” [Minsk, Belarus]	226	105	12	over 100
13.	1999	”Theories of Human Motor Performance and their Reflection in Practice” Sport Kinetics ’99 [Ljubljana, Slovenia]	ca 300	185	19	ca. 150
14.	2001	“Human Movement as a Science in the New Millennium” 7 th Sport Kinetics ’2001 [Tartu, Estonia]	132	123	22	over 150
15.	2001	„The role of Physical Education and Sport in Transition Countries of Central Europe” [Brno, Czech Republik]			6	128
16.	2003	“New ideas in sport sciences: current issues and perspectives” 8 Sport Kinetics [Rydzyňa, Poland]	253	153	24	ca. 180

Prof. P.Hirtz was the organiser of an international Polish-German symposium held on 22-23.05.2002 in Greifswald (Germany). The symposium was dedicated to young scientific researchers and it was entitled “**Movement, Sport and Health in a Regional Aspect**”. There were 25 people from Czech Republic, Germany and Poland. The event was also organised under the auspices of IASK.

Prof. P. Hirtz organised in Leipzig (Germany) a German-Japanese workshop entitled “**Co-ordination Abilities between Tradition and Perspectives**”. 40 people from Japan, Germany, Poland and Russia participated in it.

Prof. T. Jurimae was the organiser of the 23rd international symposium related to the science of sport entitled “**The Measurement and Testing in Physical Fitness, Physical Activity and Health: New Perspectives**”. The symposium was held in Tartu (Estonia) on 5-8.09.2002 and representatives of 5 countries: the Republic of South Africa, Belgium, Brazil and Estonia participated.

Prof. D.Milanovic organised in Opatija (Croatia) on the 25-29.09.2002 a 3rd International Scientific Conference “**Kinesiology- New Perspectives**”. The co-organisers of the conference were the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education and Sport, Croatian Olympic Committee. The conference was held under the auspices of IASK and the Croatian Association of Theoretical and Experimental Kinesiology. There were 340 people from 32 countries participating, including lecturers (i.e. E.Muller, K.Hardmann, I.Vuori, A.Viru, J.Borms, J.Tihanyi, R.Renson, W.Starosta). 221 papers were presented, and their printing took 956 pages.

Prof. M. Belej and **Prof. K. Fec** were the organisers of a very successful international scientific conference entitled “**Physical Education and Sport in the Third Millennium**”. The conference was organised at the university in Presov (Slovakia) on the 26-27.06.2003, under the auspices of our Association. Representatives from: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Hungary, the USA presented 7 commissioned papers, 100 papers, which comprised nearly 700 pages of text. This was the most prestigious conference ever organised in the scientific centre.

Traditionally, I would like on behalf of the Association, to thank very much all the above mentioned people for their courage, activity, enormous effort put into the efficient preparation of the conferences and symposia, and moreover, to hand them symbolic diplomas as a proof of our gratitude and recognition.

Now briefly about our near and further future.

Prof. P. Blaser is organising in Germany, on the 14.10.2003, a viva voce entitled “**Motor Behaviour and Training in a Multifaceted Sport Activity**”.

The participation of 60 people from Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Russia, Italy and the USA is expected. 30 papers will be presented and the event will take place under the auspices of IASK.

Though the conference "8. Sport Kinetics" in Rydzyna has just started, we do ask a question: where will the next "9.Sport Kinetics 2005" take place? Our members from the oldest university in the world in Bologna, for some time have lain claim to become the organisers. They are serious candidates, though for the first time we were forced to change the organisers of the conference 12 month before the date of its commencement. We hope this time we will see the event take place in Bologna – Rimini.

The Works of the Presidium in the year 2001-2003

The activities of the Presidium focused on the following issues: 1. Ensuring a high scientific quality of the international conferences organised under the auspices of the IASK. 2. Expanding the reach of IASK by acquiring members from countries not represented in the Association. 3. Caring about the high level of the IASK journals : "**Journal of Human Kinetics**", "**Anthropometrics**", "**Kinesiologia Slovenica**" and seeking authors dealing with original subjects. 4. Looking for sponsors for participants from less wealthy countries who wish to participate in conferences organised under the auspices of IASK. 5. Maintaining proper contacts with other international organisations (i.e. ICSSPE) and keeping them informed about scientific events organised by us. 6. Taking care of the development of young research workers (through organising contests and awarding prizes for the best works). 7. Publishing experimental scientific works dealing with human kinetics and sport kinetics, in particular, in recognised scientific journals. 8. Developing international co-operation between scientists from all over the world. 9. Defining the place of the science about movement within the system of the science about sport. 10. Providing key information about the activities of IASK on the web and in the bulletins and electronic journals, which have international reach.

The activity of particular members of the Presidium varied greatly. We had only one meeting where the attendance of participants was incomplete (Tartu 2001) and one where the number of participants was limited (Opatija 2002). Considerable part of our work was carried out through correspondence. However, we have encountered some difficulties since some of the members replied to every 3rd or 4th e-mail only.

The most active members of the Presidium included:

Prof. P. Hirtz – organiser of 4 scientific events of international character, the founder of IASK and vice president since 1990, an exceptionally meritorious person for the development of our Association (see laudatio).

Prof. W. Osinski – remarkably efficient and spirited organiser of the international conference “8.Sport Kinetics 2003” in Rydzyn near Leszno.

Prof. K.Mekota – a long standing vice-president of IASK, receives a diploma for his entire scientific activity in the former Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic and internationally.

Dr. of medicine K. Aniol-Strzyzewska receives a diploma for her 10 years of disinterested and hard work as a treasurer of IASK.

The great majority of the members of the Presidium have worked in Scientific Committees of various national and international scientific conferences; have presented introductory and commissioned papers; have published not only experimental works but also a number of original course books and monographs. The efficiency of the works of the Presidium would have been certainly higher if all the members had participated. Hence, during the elections it is important to consider who really wants and may effectively contribute. As far as communicating with the 330 members from 40 countries of the world, invaluable credit should be given to **Mrs Tatiana Pawlowa-Starosta, M.A.** who has been running for years the secretariat of the IASK and managing the correspondence in 4 languages, on a welfare basis.

The volume of the work may be partly identified by the number of e-mails sent within the **last 9 months of this year 675**. On behalf of the Presidium and of mine, I heartily thank all those who actively contributed to the works of the Presidium. To those especially meritorious I have the pleasure to hand this modest but sincere token of our gratitude.

International Collaboration

One of the key objectives of our Association is to initiate international scientific collaboration. We started such a collaboration between the Institute of Sport Sciences of famous universities in Germany and the **Institute of Sport in Warsaw** and of **Institute of Physical Education in Gorzow** in 1991 (Dortmund, Greifswald, Magdeburg, Warsaw, Poznan, Gorzów). This co-operation expanded later on to other countries and university centres (**Preszov, Kiev, Magdeburg, Minsk, Nikolajev, Zagreb, Charkov**), and has been continuing until the present. Collaboration between the academic centres **in Olomouc, Katowice, Innsbruck, Greifswald** has been developing. It is not a full list of

collaborating centres. It would be worth if different forms of international co-operation developed between other scientific centres of the world.

IASK Journals

The journal "**Anthropomotorics**" (original title "Antropomotoryka") being published in Polish since 1989, has been appearing in English starting with the 20th edition under the changed title "**Journal of Human Kinetics**".

The journal appears under the auspices of IASK and the Committee of Physical Culture of the Polish Academy of Science. It was formerly published by the Academy of Physical Education in Cracow, and since 2000 by the PE Academy in Katowice. **Its founder and Chief Editor from the very beginning was the untiring and energetic Prof. J. Szopa** and in 2000 his substitute became Prof. W. Starosta. **It is worth to note that the journal is distributed to all professors gratuitously.** The Council and the Editorial Team consist of a large group of the IASK's members. They assure the high substantial level of the journal and they will make it possible for the journal to be included on the Philadelphia list. **For that reason a special Commission or Working Team will be appointed by the IASK.**

It is also worth stressing that the Polish version of the "Anthropomotorics" in the Cracow edition has not ceased to exist, and its 22nd number is the continuation of the editorial series of the periodical. The Editorial Team was reactivated and it is headed by **Prof. E. Mleczko**. An editorial Council has been appointed which includes famous scientists from Poland and abroad. The periodical is published in Polish with abstracts in English and is published **under the auspices of IASK and the Committee of Science and Physical Culture of the Polish Academy of Science.** Under the auspices of IASK another journal is also published ? "Kinesiologia Slovenica" . The more good quality journals published under the auspices of IASK we will have, the bigger will be the chances of having one of them on the Philadelphia list.

Rights and obligations of the IASK members

It is high time the members of IASK, starting with next year, covered the costs of conferences organised under the auspices of IASK at the price reduced by 10-20% in relation to other participants. We should elaborate a precise system of support of IASK members, and particularly of those coming from the post-communist countries. The system should give IASK members the possibility to participate in international co-operation and in prestigious scientific conferences. Unfortunately, the appointed Commission of the

Presidium has not shown any progress in this matter yet. **In view of this situation, the project of Prof. S. Squatrito might provide the right solution. The realisation of the project will allow us to obtain resources from the European Commission and to get a 50% financing of the costs of participation in one week of education** organised by the University in Bologna and possibly in other scientific events.

It is indispensable to obtain special financial resources from various national and international scientific foundations, from the European Council, from UNESCO, from NATO and other non-governmental organisations. **The question of financial support should be dealt with by 1-2 persons from the IASK Presidium, who would form a special Commission.** Besides, a motivation system for young researchers should be set. Some measures have already been undertaken. We think of contests for young research workers who have not been conferred Ph.D. degrees yet, to be organised during the conference "Sport Kinetics" (**Prof. P.Hirtz has specialised in that form of support and will conduct a similar contest at the conference in Rydzyna**) and of cyclic conferences organised under the auspices of IASK in Tartu (prof. T.Jürimäe) and in Poznan (prof., prof. E. Wachowski, W. Osinski, R. Strzelczyk, S. Drozdowski). The contests have enjoyed a good tradition which should be continued by improving the rules and by raising appropriate financial resources for the awards. Winners of the contest in Rydzyna will receive, apart from books, special cups founded by the **Director of the Rehabilitation and Sport Centre FIT- FAN in Warsaw – Mr P. Czachowski**, with whom we have signed a special agreement. In return for a substantial and methodical support we will receive financial resources, which we intend to **allocate to the stimulation of scientific activities of the young research workers.**

IASK in other international organisations

Since 1997 the Association has been the member of the **International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE)**. We took part in the elections to the government of the organisation during the Pre-Olympic Congress in Brisbane (Australia). Since the very beginning we have been paying reduced fees. Good contacts with the president of the ICSSPE? **Prof. G.Doll-Tepper** and her sympathy to our cause allow us to assume that our status will become strengthened. As a **proof of the above assumptions is the invitation I have received, to be the member of the International Advisory Board Pre-Olympic Congress in Tesseloniki in 2004. It is a considerable distinction for me and specifically for the entire Association.**

Table 2 International Association of Sport Kinetics special library (1990-2003)

No.	Author	Title	Year	Language
1	W.Starosta	Movement coordination in sport	1990	Polish
2	W.Starosta	Bewegungskoordination im Sport	1990	German
3	W.Starosta, N.Pristupa	Selected aspects of Sport Kinetics	1993	Russian
4	W.Osinski, W.Starosta	Proceedings of the 3 rd International Conference "Sport Kinetics '93"	1994	English, German
5	J.Bergier	Science in sport team games	1995	German, Polish
6	W.Starosta	Model of comprehensive motor education of Polish child in family	1995	English, Polish
7	J.Sadowski, W.Starosta	Movement coordination in Team Sport Games and Martial Arts	1998	English
8	V.Strojnik, A.Usaj	Theories of Human Motor Performance and their Reflections in Practice	1999	English
9	W.Starosta, F.Merni, etc.	Motor Co-ordination in Sport and Exercise	2001	English, Italy
10	W.Starosta W.Strzyzewski	Ringo – Polish game for everyone	2001	Polish, English
11	A.Skripko W.Starosta	Physical Education and Health of Youth	2002	Russian, English
12	R.Botwina W.Starosta	Mental Support of athletes. Theory and Practice	2002	Polish
13	M.Radzinska, W.Starosta	Significance, kinds, structure jumping abilities and its conditions	2002	Polish
14	M.Bajdzinski W.Starosta	Movements kinesthetic differentiation ability and its conditions	2002	Polish
15	W.Starosta, W.Osinski	New Ideas in Sport Sciences – Current Issues and Perspectives – Part I	2003	English
16	W.Starosta, W.Osinski	New Ideas in Sport Sciences – Current Issues and Perspectives – Part II	2003	English
17	W.Starosta	Motor coordination abilities (significance structure, conditions, development),	2003	Polish

The attempt to conclude

Numerous facts listed in the report herewith may confirm further development of the Association and the rise of its prestige on the international arena. It is worth reminding that IASK is one of the youngest international organisations. We are better recognised, not only because we are more and more numerous and because our members organise more and more scientific

international conferences, but mainly because papers written by IASK members and published in various journals demonstrate higher substantial value (including the ones published in the “Journal of Human Kinetics”). Our entire output in this field is quite considerable. The output is still complemented by other activities in the last 2 years. Quite significant may seem the **establishment of a special IASK library comprising 17 volumes of books (tab. 2) published in various languages (English, German, Russian, Polish)**. I invite everybody to take opportunity of the above offer, though the financing should be provided by authors individually, since IASK has no such possibilities. This, however, should not be suffice.

Facts mentioned in the report herewith demonstrate how varied is the activity of the members of the IASK Presidium and of the members from other countries. As this should be quite common regarding regular members, it should not be justified when referring to the members of the Presidium who, when volunteering to the Presidium undertake to perform additional tasks. For the sake of IASK development it is necessary to elect exclusively such members to the Presidium who have demonstrated their remarkable involvement and intend to continue demonstrating it. A considerably higher efficiency and a more visible development of our Association may be expected then.

Each newly elected Presidium puts forward specific tasks and then tries to carry them out as well as it is able to. However, a Presidium that works on a gratuitous basis (supported often by volunteers and by the work of the secretariat) is simply unable to resolve everything. The Presidium is expecting help, advice and suggestions from all the members. **The success of the Association depends on the engagement of each of the members.** I am convinced everybody understands this truth. We shall expect from you, dear friends, an even bigger involvement than so far, and a reflection combined with the question: **What can I do to strengthen and to affect the development of IASK? What have I done so far in this respect?** IASK is our Association and therefore each of us should care about its development.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Warsaw, 17 September 2003