

Report from EASE

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The European Association of Science Editors (EASE) has changed its status. It is now a “company limited by guarantee”. This important change was made to reduce the financial liability of both the Council members (roughly equivalent to the CSE Board of Directors) and EASE members at large. It was considered justified, considering the increasing amounts of money involved in the organization of conferences and other activities. The new status does not change much for the members. For them, the most important change is that an annual general meeting is to be held; the first took place in Barcelona on 8 February 2002. Previously, general meetings were held only during the association’s triennial conferences.

The EASE policy is to become more active, with—if possible—a joint meeting with other organizations in the years between triennial conferences. To that end, a joint seminar with the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences

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(ALSSS) and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) was held in London on 17 January 2001, and a joint conference with the Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE) will be held in Halifax, Canada, on 14-18 September 2002. The next EASE triennial conference will be held in Bath, England, on 8-11 June 2003.

Apart from those large meetings, the yearly *BMJ-EASE* workshop, aimed primarily at editors in the (bio)medical sector, will continue to be held. The last took place in Tunbridge Wells, England, on 18-19 October 2001; the next is being planned for later in 2002. The success of this workshop is reason for the Council to consider the possibility of organizing comparable events for editors in other disciplines.

The increase in EASE activities is also reflected in the more frequent publication of *European Science Editing*, which is now published four times per year, as opposed to three times in previous years. The high quality of the articles will be maintained by continuation of the current peer-review procedure. A higher quality of the presentation has been obtained, starting with the first issue of 2002, through redesign from cover to cover. It is intended to keep the

presentation of the journal in step with developments in the field.

The publication schedule of looseleaf chapters in the *Science Editors’ Handbook* has been changed and the activities in this framework have been restructured in the last year. It is intended to release a new edition of the *Handbook*, with updated or revised chapters and a relatively large number of new chapters, at the 2003 conference in Bath. Members and non-members are encouraged to contribute, and the *Handbook’s* editor still welcomes suggestions of topics to be treated.

The various EASE activities fit within a scheme that follows from a strategic plan that has been discussed by the Council and the Editorial Board. The plan foresees, already for the near future, more workshops for science editors, particularly in less developed countries. Three workshops were given in 2001: in Brno, in Warsaw, and in St Petersburg. These courses are quite successful, but the funding is difficult. Regardless, training being one of the major EASE objectives, it is intended that the workshops continue.

Further information about EASE and its activities is available at www.ease.org.uk.

