

**Fourth Biannual Report of the
European Society for Environmental History,
2007-2009**



6th August 2009

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The report provides an overview on the development and actions of the European Society for Environmental History in the period between the Fourth Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) in Amsterdam, in June 2007 and the Fifth Ordinary General Meeting in Copenhagen, in August 2009.

1. General overview

Board and Regional Representatives

During the Fourth Ordinary General Meeting of the ESEH on Thursday June 7, 2007, in Amsterdam a new Executive Board for the period 2007-2009 and new Regional Representatives for Britain and Ireland, francophone countries, germanophone countries, the Iberian peninsula, Italy, Russia & additional Eastern European countries for the period 2007-2011 were elected. The elections resulted in the following composition of the Board of ESEH 2007-2009:

Executive Board:

President: Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, *EHESS, Paris, France*

Vice-President: Petra van Dam, *VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Vice-President: Mauro Agnoletti, *University of Florence, Italy*

Secretary: Martin Knoll, *Technische Universitaet Darmstadt, Germany*

Treasurer: Ulrich Koppitz, *University of Duesseldorf, Germany*

Ex-Officio: Poul Holm, *Roskilde University, Denmark* (Poul Holm resigned from his office as Head of the Local Organizing Committee of WCEH 2009 early this year and consequently left ESEH Board as Ex-Officio member.)

Regional Representatives:

Britain and Ireland: David Moon, *England, UK*

Francophone Countries: Stéphane Frioux, *France*

Germanophone Countries: Christian Rohr, *Austria*

Hungary: Lajos Racz, *Hungary*

Iberian Peninsula: Antonio Ortega Santos, *Spain*

Italy: Simone Neri Serneri, *Italy*

Czechia & Slovakia: Leos Jelecek, *Czech Republic*

Low Countries: Adrian de Kraker, *The Netherlands*

Nordic Countries: Timo Myllyntaus, *Finland*

Russia & additional Eastern European Countries: Julia Lajus, *Russia*

Membership

In July 2009 ESEH has 355 members, 278 (78%) of them affiliated in Europe. In a revision in June 2007 those persons who had joined the ESEH mailing list before the approval of the constitution and had not responded to requests to pay their membership fees in the following years, were removed from the database. In the last two years since this revision the society has welcomed 68 new members.

Overview: Members affiliated in countries

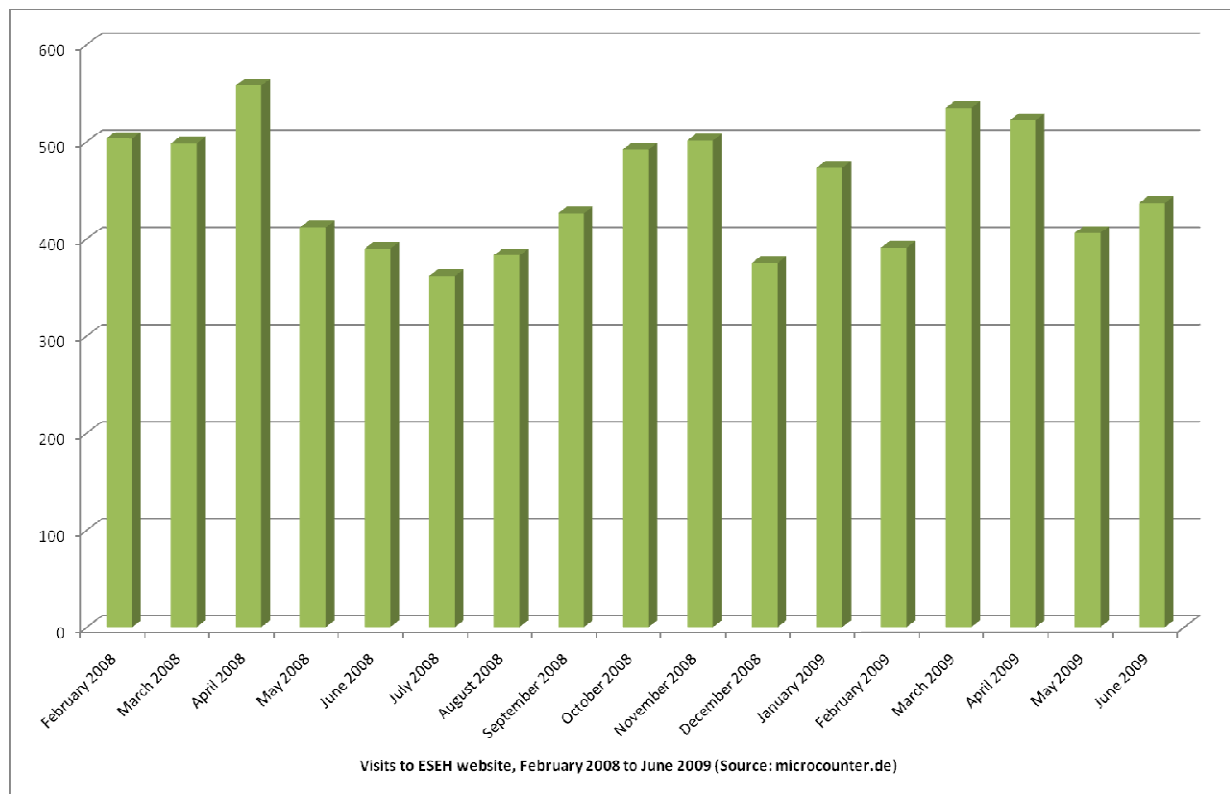
Australia	4	Greece	1	Norway	4
Austria	12	Greenland	1	Poland	2
Belgium	5	Hungary	3	Russia	11
Canada	7	Iceland	1	Slovakia	1
Costa Rica	1	Ireland	2	South Africa	2
Croatia	2	Israel	1	Spain	11
Czechia	25	Italy	22	Sweden	13
Denmark	6	Japan	3	Switzerland	17
Finland	12	Netherlands	19	Turkey	2
France	24	New Zealand	3	U.S.A.	51
Germany	52	Nigeria	1	United Kingdom	34

Societal communication (Notepad, website, mailings)

There are three ways of communication with our members and the wider scientific public with information about the Society: The ESEH notepad; the website www.eseh.org; and e-mail. Kindly supported by *Environment & History*, the notepad newsletter is published four times a year in this scientific journal. ESEH members are granted free online access to the recent issues of *Environment & History*. The ESEH notepad advertises news, announcements and reports on current activities. It is also available as a download in PDF format on the ESEH website www.eseh.org.

This website is physically located on a server purchased and owned by ESEH. This server and the URL are hosted at Roskilde University, based on an agreement negotiated by the former ESEH President Poul Holm. The website contents are updated by the ESEH Secretary. The site provides a broad range of documents (ESEH constitution, conference reports, OGM minutes etc.) and news items (calls for papers, conference announcements etc.). Thus it remains an important communication tool for the dissemination of information about ESEH and current developments in the field of Environmental History. However, at the moment important interactive features of the website, such as a submission system for an Environmental History bibliography project, a membership directory enabling members to create and manage their own websites and an internal discussion forum for ESEH members are not maintained. Whereas the bibliography project is subject to an ongoing process of evaluating new ways and exploring potential partners for a continuation, the membership directory has encountered severe technical problems with running the content management system. The reactivation of online interactive membership services and a further development of the website for making it more attractive for users from inside and outside ESEH is an important subject on the society's agenda. As this only can be realized in course of a major relaunch, ways of raising expertise, manpower and/or additional funding have to be explored.

The development of the number of visitors has been traced by the free service "microcounter.de" since mid January 2008. See the following overview of visits per month between February 2008 and June 2009:



Compared with the figures provided by the Biannual Report 2005-2007 (gathered with compete.com) one may notice a higher average visitor frequency. However, the doubts expressed in the Biannual Report 2005-2007 about the reliability of such figures have to be underscored. In Google the website's position when searched for environmental history is 13 (followed by H-Environment on position 14 and the ASEH-website on position 16; date of test: 22th July 2009).

The distribution of mass e-mails to all ESEH members is still an important means of internal societal communication, even if an increasingly problematic one. For some official purposes like the notice of an Ordinary General Meeting according to the constitution e-mail remains without an alternative. However, due to changes in contact data not communicated to the Secretary or Treasurer, but first of all due to more and more rigid spam filters this means of communication is threatened with losing its efficiency. Even if not adequate for items of legal relevance, the distribution of information via the H-Environment network has proven as valuable alternative. Therefore ESEH members are encouraged to subscribe for the H-Environment network.

Actions and meetings

On January 12th 2008 at the second business meeting of the term in Düsseldorf, Germany, the Board approved the project plan 2008/2009 submitted by the Executive Board. The project plan which can be found in the appendix of this report identified the most important subjects to be dealt with in order to maintain and further develop ESEH and the societal activities. In the project plan an agenda for the Board's activities during the remaining term before the 5th OGM in Copenhagen was laid down. Chapter 1 "Society's activities, services and tools" identified the following tasks:

- Conferences: ESEH as co-organizer of the first World Congress of Environmental History 2009 in Copenhagen, preparation of regular societal events at the conference venue – such as business meetings, OGM, publication prize award ceremony; preparation of the 2011 ESEH conference: finding venue and local organizers
- Website: exploring ways for the improvement of the architecture and functionality of the ESEH website and acquisition of expertise and funding for this task
- Bibliography: evaluation of options to revive the currently dormant project of an ESEH Bibliography for European Environmental History
- Book series: negotiation with external partners to set up a publication series in Environmental History
- Summer School: setting up a Summer School in Environmental History together with institutional partners for developing the field and providing high level training for young scholars
- Regional initiatives: activities by ESEH Regional Representatives to promote Environmental History and ESEH in their regions by networking activities such as regional newsletters etc.

Chapter 2 “Society’s internal business” focused two important problems:

- Fundraising and communication: development of a strategy to overcome the insufficient funding of ESEH by finding new partners and improving the society’s public relations
- Revision of ESEH constitution: reform of our constitution to achieve better democratic representation of our members and to maintain the functioning of the Board.

Chapter 3 “ESEH bonds and representation in the scholarly press and beyond” addressed two issues:

- Co-operation with scientific journals in the field
- Promoting ESEH expertise: improvement of ESEH’s visibility and credibility and making Environmental History expertise available for civil society by promoting ESEH as expert group in international institutions and political bodies.

The Executive Board met twice (Amsterdam, 2007-06-09, Leiden, 2007-10-06 to 07), the Board convened four times (Amsterdam, 2007-06-08, Düsseldorf, 2008-01-12 to 13, Lyon 2009-03-21 to 22, Copenhagen 2009-08-05) to discuss and coordinate the actions raised above. Furthermore four provisional committees were set up and put in charge of dealing with a revision of the conference evaluation process, communication and finances improvement, the preparation of constitutional revision and the setting up of a publication series. The President’s report and the reports by ESEH Vice Presidents to be found in Appendix 2 and the report by ESEH Vice President Petra van Dam to be found in Appendix 3 provide detailed information on the recent outcome of the working process.

Martin Knoll, ESEH Secretary

Copenhagen, 2009-08-06

2. Financial report 2007-2009

a.) Account 2007-2008

aa) Expenses

The most important expenditures of this period were made in 2007 to cover about half of the travel costs for the conference committee (€ 2894) and to secure the participation of board members from Eastern Europe (€ 3103) as well as of one additional travel grant applicant (€ 250) in our 4th ESEH conference in Amsterdam.

Apart from this conference, three further board meetings were organized in 2007 (Leiden), 2008 (Düsseldorf) and 2009 (Lyon). As not all travel and accommodation costs could be covered privately or by other institutions, the ESEH budget bore expenditures of € 3306 altogether (€ 126 in 2007, € 1054 in 2008, € 2126 in 2009) representing less than one-half of the approximate total costs.

Another considerable but permanent expenditure are the fees for credit card acceptance and obligatory leasing of equipment (€ 925 in 2007-2008) - which is expensive but useful because about one-half of ESEH members do not have a bank account within the Euro currency zone. Fixed costs are bank and notary fees (€ 296 in 2007-2008).

ab) Income

On the other hand, income from membership fees was oscillating between about 2,000 and 3,500 Euro in a non-conference or conference year respectively. This is due to the high international transfer fees so that payment in cash at the conference is still the most economic way. Moreover, in 2007, a generous private donation (€ 1000) secured the ESEH Publication Prize, for 2009 and after. In 2008 there was a request from a research program based in Florence for a bibliographical survey concerning historical landuse patterns in Europe at a fixed price (€ 2500) which was compiled subsequently by the regional representatives of ESEH. Other encouraging donations (€ 180) and some net interests (€ 33) completed an income of € 9,290 in two years which was balanced against expenses of 8,649 during the same period, although the Publication Prize (€ 500 plus travel costs) is falling due in August 2009 on occasion of the 1st World Congress of Environmental History in Copenhagen.

ESEH Account 2007

Income 2007	Income Sort	Income €	Expenses 2007	Partner	Expenses €
<i>from 2006</i>	<i>giro+savingsbook 06</i>	6.644,68	bank fees	Postbank Dortmund	130,24
membership fees	via conference desk	1.470,00	credit card fees	Postransact	450,71
	via credit card	1.023,45	notary fee	Palmer	30,94
	via bank transfer	1.100,00	SC Amsterdam hotel (partly)	Scientific Comm.	2.754,18
interests	net interests 2007	16,83	Amst. travel/accom. (partly)	board members	3.103,80
	donations	50,00	travelgrant Amsterdam	conf. particip. add.	250,00
priv. donation	publication prize	1.000,00	travelcosts Leiden	boardmember	126,20
	Income 2007	4.660,28		Expenses 2007	6.846,07
<i>Balance:</i>	<i>total 2007 incl. rest 06</i>	<i>11.304,9 6</i>			
<i>31.12.07 savingsbook</i>	<i>529,81</i>		<i>giro plus savings 31.12.07</i>		
<i>31.12.2007 giro</i>	<i>3.929,08</i>		<i>= total minus expenses 2007</i>	<i>= 4.458,89</i>	

ac) Sponsorship

Again, more important than the financial possibilities of ESEH itself were applications for sponsorship, so that a budget of roughly ten-thousand Euro in two years 2007-2008 is compared with almost fifteen-thousand Euro in sponsorship for ESEH activities in the same period:

In 2007 the Breuninger Foundation sponsored travelling costs for the scientific committee who prepared the conference program and chaired sessions in Amsterdam (ca. € 3000). The local organizers of our conference in Amsterdam 2007 found sponsors for conference fees of committee and board members from Eastern Europe (€ 2000). Moreover, seventeen travel grants enabled participants from disadvantaged regions to join the conference in Amsterdam (€ 10000). At the board meeting 2008, travel costs of Eastern Europeans (ca. € 1800) were partly covered by the society of friends and sponsors of Duesseldorf University.

ESEH Account 2008

Income 2008	Income Sort	Income €	Expenses 2008	Partner	Expenses €
<i>from 2007</i>	<i>giro+savingsbook 07</i>	4.458,89	bank fees	Postbank Dortmund	134,17
Inst. Univ. Florence	bibliographical survey	2.500,00	credit card fees	Postransact	474,25
Membership Fees	via credit card	820,81	SC travel remainder 07	SC member	140,00
	via bank transfer	1.162,40	Boardmeeting DdfHotel	partly accom.+room	370,00
interests savings book	net interests 2008	16,83	BM Duesseldorf Travel	Boardmembers	684,13
	donations	130,00			
	Income 2008	4.630,04		Expenses 2008	1.802,55
<i>Balance:</i>	<i>total 2008 incl. rest 07</i>	9.088,93			
31.12.2008 Savingsbook	3.529,81		<i>giro plus savings 31.12.08</i>		
31.12.2008 Giro	3.756,57		<i>= total minus expenses 08</i>	<i>= 7.286,38</i>	

Ulrich Koppitz, Treasurer

Duesseldorf, 2009-07-24

3. Budget 2009

For the current year 2009, apart from the ESEH Publication Prize (€ 500,- + travel 300,-) and fixed costs (€ 1000), the board meeting in Lyon decided to spend about € 6.000,- on four issues:

- 1.) the Lyon meeting itself (€ 2126,-),
- 2.) the ESEH website, and the World Congress in Copenhagen (WCEH) in terms of
- 3.) funding for ESEH Regional Representatives from Eastern Europe as well as
- 4.) an anniversary toast at the WCEH commemorating the roundtable organized in Dietramszell 1999 where the ESEH was founded.

Further issues can be raised after the elections to the new board according to the next project plan.

As usual in a conference year, the balance 2009 depends on the development of income from membership fees which are collected mainly during the conference and afterwards.

Ulrich Koppitz, Treasurer

Duesseldorf, 2009-07-24

4. Appendices

Appendix 1

List of committees and committee members

Financial Control Committee

Martina Kaup (Chair), *Bielefeld University, Germany*

Phia Steyn, *University of Stirling, UK*

Nomination Committee

Stéphane Frioux, *ENS Lyon, France*

Eva Jakobsson, *University of Stavanger, Norway*

Julia Lajus, *European University St. Petersburg, Russia*

David Moon, *University of Durham, UK*

Christian Pfister, *University of Bern, Switzerland*

ESEH Publication Prize Committee

Stephania Gallini, *National University of Colombia, Bogota, Colombia*

Eva Jakobsson, *University of Stavanger, Norway*

Tomasz Samojlik, *Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Białowieża, Poland*

Committee for a revision of the conference evaluation process (provisional)

Mauro Agnoletti, *University of Florence, Italy*

Leos Jelecek, *Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic*

Timo Myllyntaus, *University of Turku, Finland*

Petra van Dam, *VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

Committee for communication and finances improvement (provisional)

Stéphane Frioux, *ENS Lyon, France*

Christian Rohr, *University of Salzburg, Austria*

Petra van Dam, *VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

Committee for the preparation of constitutional revision (provisional)

Martin Knoll, *Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany*

Julia Lajus, *European University St. Petersburg, Russia*

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, *EHESS, Paris, France*

Simone Neri Seneri, *University of Siena, Italy*

Committee for the setting up of a publication series (provisional)

Petra van Dam, *VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

David Moon, *Durham University, UK*

President's report at the OGM

In January 2008, the current ESEH Board adopted a Project Plan which presented our programme for the two coming years (one year and a half, actually). I will report on the items we can consider as achievements, but also on those that will require another term to be brought to fruition, and finally on those we have failed to progress on so far.

Five major points can be considered as achievements for the outgoing Board:

- Firstly, our next conference is on the tracks! I am pleased to confirm that our next conference, "Encounters of Sea and Land" will be held in Turku, Finland. It is prepared by a committee chaired by Timo Myllyntaus. Timo will tell you more about this conference.
- Second point that is really positive, the initiatives taken by our RRs to improve ESEH visibility and environmental history visibility. Put the ESEH at the chore of the national or, where possible, regional networks of environmental historians, create newsletters, mailing lists of regional interest... This was another of the aims we announced in the Project Plan. The ESEH produces now a newsletter or a list in six different languages. Some of them are more elaborated than others but they will doubtlessly get better with time. All these newsletters provide information of regional interest, references of books that are usually not in English. They do not compete with the website, which has a more general focus, nor of course with H-Environment, which is a global list. They play the role of an intermediary between our members and the larger community of environmental historians. Let me congratulate and thank all our RRs for their efforts and achievements.
- Third point, another initiative we can be proud of, the launching of a book series. This has been the work of our vice-president Petra van Dam and our RR for Britain and Ireland, David Moon, that I thank warmly on behalf of all the Society. Petra will tell you a few words about this series.
- Now, an item which is less dramatic, but very important, and which has required an important investment from a committee composed of four members: Julia Lajus, Russia, Simone Neri Serner, Italy, Martin Knoll, Germany, and myself, the reform of our constitution. You have been informed through H-Environment, more than one month ago, that a draft of this new constitution was available on the website. I hope you the time to have a look at it. As it was indicated, this was only a draft, as the Board had yet to adopt it, and possibly to modify it. This has been done yesterday, but the changes brought by the Board are only editorial changes, so we have thought that it would be useless to provide you with a new written version. I will just mention one addition made by the Board yesterday, because it is a significant one: our article two lists, as it is usual, the objectives of the society. We have added a new one, "providing scientific services". I hope that you will agree that this clearly one of our tasks, but it was not mentioned in our constitution so far.

Let me summarise briefly the reasons why I proposed this revision and what are the main changes. After ten years, there were several reasons to update our constitution:

- o First, the writing of our current constitution had not been easy. Everything was to invent, or almost everything. We did rather well, but some points remained blurred, and some issues were totally absent: Who does this or that in the Society? Is there is deadline to do this or that... This sort of questions. Then the first thing we have done is to complete the constitution on points that were simply absent or unclear. For instance, we have clarified the composition and the role of the various committees, which play an important role in the society, not least the Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee. To make their work easier, we have made clearer what is awaited from them and in which conditions this should be done.
- o Then there was a problem bound to the growth of the number of regions covered by ESEH, and the prospect of a further widening in the future, especially in Eastern Europe. Which

regions should be given a RR of their own? Which countries should be gathered or treated separately? This was a tricky issue, and one which also opened on a governance issue: the larger the number of RRs would be, the larger the Board. But a very large Board could not work properly. First because we cannot expect a Board of 20 or 25 members to be efficient. The decision making process would have become a very heavy process. Secondly, a Board needs to meet now and then, and the funding of meetings involving so many people would have become too difficult, not to say impossible. We cannot afford such expenses, while it was my firm intention, as I announced it in Amsterdam, to give the Board a true role he has not had in this Society so far. Furthermore, our Executive, composed as it is now, with only five persons, can hardly face all the tasks. This has led us to a redefinition of the instances governing the society, which I would like to present now:

If we adopt the proposed constitution, we will now have a Board composed of 5 officers similar to those we named till now "Executive" (1 President, 2 Vice-Presidents, 1 secretary and 1 treasurer)... *AND* in complement of these 5 officers, 5 others, chosen among the RRs and elected by them among a totally new instance that will be called "Council of RRs".

This Council (the CRRs) will count as many RRs as we will deem appropriate to have in the future. This CRRs will be granted a number of powers:

- it will elect half of the Board, as I have just said, amongst the RRs.
- it will be entitled to make any suggestion regarding ESEH policy to the Board.
- it will decide of the place where the next conference will be held, on proposition of the Board.
- it will be consulted on the project plan.

The CRRs will meet after each OGM to appoint its representatives to the Board. But it will not meet between two OGM, for the reasons I've said. This original system has been adopted by the current Board in March, after a first project was rejected last year.

- o Finally, we have tried to improve the democratic character of the society. Not that our current constitution is not democratic, but as you know, there are very different levels of democracy and we have tried to improve that of our society. This has first gone through a specification of the number of terms each candidate can apply to. So far, it was limited for the President, but not for the rest of the ESEH officers. In order to improve the turn-over, we have limited all the mandates to two for each member (with an exception for the Treasurer and the Legal representative).

The new Constitution forbids the nomination by themselves of the members of the Nominating Committee.

We have also added directions to follow as far as gender and all other criterion likely to improve equity, are concerned.

The new constitution includes an obligation of secret ballot for all votes regarding members of the Board and RRs, and the possibility to organise one on the demand of a single person for any other vote regarding a person.

A very important change, we have made contested elections possible for all offices, while this was possible only for a number of them. Note that contested elections do not exempt candidates to apply towards the Nominating committee, and to do so before a deadline, and following a procedure which has been made clearer. This procedure includes the providing, on the website, of information on the candidates. We have already implemented this measure for the coming elections: all the nominees have provided a CV that you could see on the website.

And of course, we have also brushed up a number of repetitions, articles or precisions badly situated in the text etc.

This constitution has been discussed with great serious, including in the details and of course we hope you will adopt it. You may have questions about it. I suggest that the members of the committee and myself answer them a bit later, just before we proceed to the vote, in order that we can follow now the agenda.

- The fifth topic on which we have progressed is the ESEH Summer School. The project to create a permanent Environmental History Summer School was also mentioned in the Project Plan and I engaged in this way as soon as the beginning of 2008. A first attempt was done which I will not detail here as it was given up although much work had already been put in it during one year. The ESEH Board, which as you can see, has been a demanding one, rejected this project on last March. But the Board remained favourable to this idea of creating a Summer School, and I was asked to have another try. During a few weeks, I hoped it would be possible to organise the first Summer School next year, in Budapest. But this does not prove possible, in the end. This is why, two days ago at our 10th anniversary Toast, I told you that we would probably not be able to hold a Summer School next year in 2010.

But things have changed since then, and I am particularly happy to inform you that a Summer School will be held next year. Our French colleague Grégory Quénet, from the University of Versailles, France, has offered to share a project he had anyway with the ESEH, which will give his school a wider impact. As for the conferences, there will be a local committee which will organise the Summer School, under the banner of the ESEH. The details of the theme and the programme remain to be settled, but our first European Summer school in environmental history should deal with the history of catastrophes and risks or something close to this.

This Summer School will not remain an isolated initiative. As I said, our aim is to settle a permanent, that is, a biannual, Summer School. It will be held every two years, alternatively with our conferences. This is why I am particularly happy to announce that we also have a candidacy for the organisation of our second Summer School, to be held in 2012. This second one should be organised in common with the Rachel Carson Centre, in Munich. I won't tell you more, as this is still a project, but it seems to me that we are on the right way.

Now there are two items on which we have made what I would call a first step.

- The first of them is the promotion of ESEH expertise. The outgoing Board considers it of importance to improve ESEH's visibility and credibility and to make environmental history expertise available for civil society by promoting ESEH as expert group in international institutions and political bodies. First steps have been taken due to the work of ESEH Vice President Mauro Agnoletti. Based on the contacts he had set up ESEH has been involved in:
 - o Ministerial Conference of the Protection of Forest in Europe: collaborating institution for the preparation of the scientific document concerning the incorporation of social and cultural values in sustainable forest management policies adopted by the 35 member states,
 - o Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention: Organization invited to attend as "observer" at the works of the conference at the Council of Europe,
 - o Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Rome): scientific institution collaborating to the development of the "National Catalogue of Outstanding Historical Rural Landscapes".
- The second is the participation of the building of the ICEHO, the International Consortium of Environmental History Organisations. This Consortium, and its aims, were presented to you at the opening session, so I won't repeat what has already been said. But it is obviously an important project in which the ESEH is keen to be involved.

Finally, there are three fields in which we have barely progressed, or even failed, and which will call for a specific attention in the future

- Fundraising and external Communication
- Website and internal communication
- Bibliography

These are no minor issues. We have not forgotten them, a few ideas have been discussed, contacts taken already, but it would be lying to say that we have come to a result. The website and the bibliography issues have in common that they will probably not be solved without money to appoint somebody that will be specifically in charge of them. These are time consuming tasks, and none of us is currently likely to provide this time on the top of our many scholarly duties. I strongly encourage our future Council of Regional Representatives members to be attentive to this when they will choose their representatives to the Board. My hope is that our next Board will include people likely and anxious to work seriously on these issues.

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, ESEH President

Copenhagen, 2009-08-06

Appendix 3

Report on the book series project by Vice President Petra van Dam

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the Rachel Carson Centre for Advanced Environmental Studies in Munich, Germany, have established, in conjunction with Berghahn Publishers (Oxford/New York), a series of books that investigate the interrelationship between human society and the natural world from a cultural and historical perspective. The main, but not sole, focus will be on the Global Environmental History, with a special interest for Europe, located in its wider context. The series would offer a counterpart to existing series such as the Studies in Environment and History by Cambridge University Press.

The series will complement the current predominance of American and British scholarship on global environmental history. As such, it would both reflect the considerable strength of current research on environmental history, and would meet a real need among teachers of existing courses on the environmental history and those developing new courses.

The series will encourage a wide interdisciplinary and comparative approach to studies in environmental history. Themes would include perceptions of natural disasters, contributions to the global environmental movement, weather extremes as a force in history, changing perspectives on landscape transformations, national traditions in designing national parks, perceptions of urban pollution, interaction of environmental and technological sciences, and resources management. It will welcome studies that employ diverse forms of analysis and from all scholarly disciplines, including archaeology, history, history of science and technology, historical geography, social sciences (sociology, anthropology), and the natural sciences (ecology, biology). Part of such books in the series could include translations from several European languages.

The name of the series is: The Environment in History. International Perspectives.

Petra van Dam, ESEH Vice-President

2009-08-01

Appendix 4

Short reports from Regional Representatives

Britain and Ireland:

Research and teaching in environmental history have continued to develop at universities in the UK over the past two years. It is not possible to include all developments, individual scholars and institutions. To take a few examples, however, the centres at Stirling and St Andrews universities in Scotland have continued to promote the subject, sponsor research, and train undergraduates and postgraduate students. The African Studies Centre and Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at Oxford University have continued to do the same. A major development has been a substantial award from the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council to Peter Coates at Bristol University for a project on 'Militarized landscapes in 20th century Europe'. In Nottingham Rob Lambert in History and Karen Jones in Geography have established Master Programmes in environmental history. Elsewhere the numbers of academic staff conducting research in environmental history have continued to grow. The long-standing annual meeting of the European Association for Environmental History UK Branch, organised by Peter Brimblecombe and Raymond Smith, which always provides an informal and stimulating forum for the discussion of new research in the field, is now run in association with the ESEH.

David Moon, Jan Oosthoek, 9th July, 2009

(See also the comprehensive report in ESEH Notepad 29 in Environment & History vol. 15 (2009) Nr. 1, pp. 123-126, also available on www.eseh.org)

Czechia and Slovakia:

The progress in the field of environmental history is increasing continuously. Such statement holds for the field of geography as well as historiography. The "historical wing" devoted research to the development of historical landscapes (especially of so-called baroque one, colonization and abandoned villages etc.). Also 18 vols. of "Historical atlas of Czech Republic Towns" have been published by Historical Institute of Academy of Sciences already. Last volumes bring along with old maps also GIS maps of towns landscapes changes. Research in the "geographical wing" has been focused mostly on landscape changes, historical land use and historical climatology; newly is developing research of landscape as heritage and identity. Many relevant maps will be published in the prepared Atlas of the Czech Republic Landscape. Our internet journal Klaudyán (www.klaudyán.cz) is published twice a year. As important step we see establishment of first course in "Environmental History" at the Geographical Institute of Masaryk University in the city of Brno.

Leos Jelecek, 8th July, 2009

France:

Among the main events of these last two years in French environmental history should be noted an international conference organized at EHESS, Paris, by Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud and Stephen Mosley : "Common Ground, Converging Gazes - Integrating the Social and Environmental in History" (September 2008). Some presentations will be published in a book, forthcoming 2010. Since Autumn 2007, as a Regional ESEH

Representative I have published a French environmental history news bulletin, the "Bulletin d'histoire environnementale", distributed electronically to 125 people; eight issues have already been released. It is available online at: <http://www.leruche.fr/> (archives) and http://pradis.ens-lsh.fr/article.php3?id_article=192. Lastly, a new Environmental History Association has been created (thematic groups already exist, working on Forest History and Wetlands History). Its name is "RUCHE" (Réseau universitaire de chercheurs en histoire environnementale) and it gathers more than 35 scholars, from PhD students to young doctors and faculty professors (<http://www.leruche.fr>).

Stéphane Frioux, 16th July, 2009

(See also the comprehensive report in ESEH Notepad 28 in Environment & History vol. 14 (2008) Nr. 4, pp. 611-612, also available on www.eseh.org)

German speaking countries:

Germanophone countries: Several professorships for environmental history and related areas have been established at universities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland: University of Bern (full professorship for environmental history and historical climatology), University of Bochum (junior professorship for environmental history), Technical University of Darmstadt (full professorship for urban and environmental history), University of Kiel (junior professorship for environmental history, junior professorship for environmental archaeology), Universities of Klagenfurt and Vienna (full professorship for environmental history). Furthermore, new research centres and working units could be financed: University of Goettingen (DFG research group for graduate students "Interdisciplinary Environmental History"), University of Kiel (graduate school "Human Development in Landscapes"), University of Munich (Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies), Universities of Klagenfurt and Vienna (Center for Environmental History). Christian Rohr distributed information on environmental history (conference announcements, new initiatives, new research units, new publications) via circulars. The members from the Germanophone countries constitute the largest group within the Society (82 members) and are still becoming more.

Christian Rohr, 10th July 2009

Hungary:

See the comprehensive report in ESEH Notepad 31 in Environment & History vol. 15 (2009) Nr. 3, pp. 409-410, also available on www.eseh.org.

Italy:

General interest for and activities in the field of environmental history in Italy no doubt increased in the period, although ESEH membership is steady. ESEH RR addresses a newsletter ("Ambiente e storia", ten issues already appeared) to more than 120 people, in order to let circulate information about ESEH, events, cfp, publications, etc.

Research and academic relevance of environmental history is still very poor, even if some courses and almost a summer school were activated and some PhD candidates are engaged in environmental research. Moreover, social and public actors show an increasing interest for contributions of scholars trained in EH.

Italian environmental historians and members of EH participated many national and

international conferences, and promoted at least two national conferences about contemporary environmental history. An international journal ("Global environment. A journal of natural and social sciences") and a national one ("I frutti di Demetra") are half-yearly published in Italy, as articles in other scientific journals, contributions in collective books and at least five-six research or small text books were published in the period. Italian researchers are also co-editing the ongoing project of a "World Environmental History Encyclopedia" by Unesco-Eolss.

Simone Neri Serneri, June 2009

Low Countries:

See the comprehensive report in ESEH Notepad 30 in Environment & History vol. 15 (2009) Nr. 2, pp. 265-268, also available on www.eseh.org

Russia and additional Eastern European countries:

Center for Environmental and Technological History of the European University at St. Petersburg – the main institution in the field in Russia – organized several events: in 2008 international seminar "Resources, technology and environment: perspectives of development of environmental and technological history in Russia", with participants from Russia, UK and USA (working language was Russian); in 2009 winter school for students from North-West part of Russia "Relations between society, nature and technology in historical perspective"; 2008 joint Austrian-Russian seminar in Vienna on fresh-water fish communities in historical perspective. A book of translations of classical papers in the field "Man and Nature: environmental history" / Eds. Daniel Alexandrov, Franz-Josef Bruggemeier and Julia Lajus is published. Syllabus on environmental history of Russia published and the course on environmental and technological history is included into curricula of the European University for 2010. Participation of Russian scholars in international scientific meetings on environmental history increased.

Julia Lajus, 20th July, 2009

Nordic countries

During the reporting period environmental history has stabilized its institutional position in the Nordic countries. Courses have been continued in those universities, which provided them also in the early part of the decade. Some research posts have been available but no new teaching post has been set up. However, the temporary professorship in environmental history at the Swedish Royal University of Technology in Stockholm was refilled as a permanent post. A clear growth has taken place in the number of M.A. theses and Ph. dissertations, published articles in international journals, and participation in international conferences. Nordic environmental historians are not only studying the past of their home countries but also researching developments in the environmental history of other countries.

Timo Myllyntaus, 3rd August, 2009

ESEH Project Plan 2008-2009, accepted by the Board on January 2008, 12th

1. Society's activities, services and tools

1.1 Conferences

ESEH will co-organise the First World Congress in Environmental History to be held in Copenhagen in August 2009 in participating in all its committees. The Executive will prepare the next Board meeting and the Ordinary General Meeting which will be held at this occasion. It will also organise the 2009 Prize award, equally to be held in Copenhagen, and secure a prize for that.

The venue of the 2011 conference will also be set. Its organisers will be handed the reports written by the Local Organising Committee of the Amsterdam conference.

1.2 Website

The Executive will strive to improve the general architecture of ESEH website and to provide more interactive features for the ESEH members. It is nonetheless acknowledged that this issue is mainly determined by the financial possibility to hire a specialist for that. (see also point 2.1)

1.3 Bibliography

ESEH bibliography in environmental history has been dormant for two or three years. The Executive will pursue the aim to keep its independence from any other existent bibliography and to revive it as soon as possible. Just like the website issue, this one is determined by the financial capacity of the society. The Executive will explore the possibility to find an institutional partner to support us in this valuable task.

1.4 Book series

The Executive will negotiate with several scholarly publishers of international renown the possibility to create a series in environmental history likely to facilitate the publications of our members and wearing ESEH's name and logo beside those of the publisher.

1.5 Summer School

The Executive is mandated to create a Summer School in Environmental History, aiming to develop the field, provide a high level of training and make it attractive for young scholars. This will possibly be made in association with universities or other institutions.

1.6 Regional initiatives

The ESEH needs to develop and improve its visibility. In order to reach this goal, the Executive will foster and support the Regional Representatives in their attempts to promote environmental history and ESEH by networking activities such as regional newsletters, mailing lists etc...

2. Society's internal business

2.1 Fundraising and communication

ESEH insufficient funding has become a major hindrance to the development of the society activities. The Board deems necessary to develop a strategy to acquire more funding and find new partners. Finding institutional members may be a solution of this problem, but we foresaw to erect a committee to work on the problem.

2.2 Revision of our constitution

Since the birth of ESEH, the Board has been more or less composed on the basis of linguistic areas. This system has reached its limits with the geographical widening of our membership in Europe and beyond. The Board will propose to the next Assembly a reform of our constitution aiming to a better democratic representation of all our members.

This revision will also offer the opportunity to make our constitution more accurate on a number of minor points.

3. ESEH bonds and representation in the scholarly press and beyond

3.1 Journals

New valuable online or paper journals interested in environmental history have recently appeared on the “scholarly market”. The Executive will support a friendly collaboration with them while maintaining its historical bonds with *Environment and History*, the British journal which publishes its “Notepad” and offers ESEH members a free access online to its current year issues.

3.2 Promoting ESEH expertise

In order to improve its visibility and credibility and to make its historical expertise available to the civil society, the Executive will promote ESEH as an expert group within international institutions and political bodies such as EU Ministerial Conference and European Landscape Convention.