

Fifth Biannual Report of the European Society for Environmental History, 2009-2011



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1. General Overview

Board and Regional Representatives

During the Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the ESEH on Thursday 6 August 2009 in Copenhagen a new Board for the period 2009-2011 and new regional representatives for Czechia, Hungary, the Nordic countries, and the financial committee was elected. At the first meeting of the newly constituted Council of Regional Representatives held on 6 August 2009 in Copenhagen, five regional representatives were elected onto the Board. In the course of 2010 6 new regions were created within the CRR following a general call for proposing new regions and RRs were nominated and provisionally appointed for these regions. The elections and CRR call resulted in the following composition of the ESEH Board and CRR for 2009-2011:

ESEH Board

President:	Prof. Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, EHESS, Paris, France
Vice-President:	Prof. Petra van Dam, VU University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Vice-President:	Prof. Christof Mauch, Rachel Carson Center, Munich, Germany
Secretary:	Dr Phia Steyn, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK
Treasurer:	Ulrich Koppitz, University of Dusseldorf, Germany
Ex-Officio:	Prof Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finland
RR German	
Speaking Countries:	Prof. Christian Rohr
RR Nordic Countries:	Dr Finn Arne Jørgensen
RR Russia:	Dr Julia Lajus
RR Hungary:	Andrea Kiss
RR Italy:	Prof. Simone Neri Seneri

Council of Regional Representatives

Benelux countries:	Dr Adriaan de Kraker, VU University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
British Isles:	Dr David Moon, University of Durham, United Kingdom
Czechia and Slovakia:	Prof. Leoš Jeleček, Charles University, Prague, Czechia
France:	Stéphane Frioux, University of Lyon 2

German Speaking

Countries:	Prof. Christian Rohr, University of Bern, Switzerland
Hungary:	Andrea Kiss, University of Szeged
Italy:	Prof. Simone Neri Seneri, University of Sienna
Nordic Countries:	Dr Finn Arne Jørgensen, Umeå University, Sweden
Spain and Portugal:	Prof. Antonio Ortega Santos, University of Granada, Spain
Russia:	Dr Julia Lajus, European University at St Petersburg

New regions

Australasia:	Dr Tom Brooking, University of Otago, New Zealand
Croatia:	Hrvoj Petric, University of Zagreb
Greece:	Dr Vaso Seirinidou, University of Athens
Poland:	Dr Tomasz Samojlik, Polish Academy of Sciences, Białowieża
Serbia:	Jelena Mrgic, University of Belgrade
South Africa:	Prof. Sandra Swart, University of Stellenbosch

Membership

In May 2011, ESEH had 425 members, of which 81% are affiliated with European universities and academic institutions. In the past 2 years, ESEH has welcomed 70 new members.

The membership on a country basis is as follows:

Australia	4	Greenland	1	Poland	2
Austria	11	Hungary	15	Portugal	3
Belgium	8	Iceland	1	Russia	18
Canada	8	India	1	Serbia	1
Costa Rica	1	Ireland	5	Slovakia	1
Croatia	1	Israel	2	South Africa	3
Czechia	26	Italy	23	Spain	11
Denmark	7	Japan	3	Sweden	14
Estonia	1	Netherlands	20	Switzerland	22
Finland	13	New Zealand	3	Turkey	2
France	34	Nigeria	1	United Kingdom	39
Germany	62	Norway	4	U.S.A.	51
Greece	3				

Societal communication

There are three ways in which ESEH communicates information on the society to its members and the wider scientific public: the ESEH Notepad, the ESEH website and e-mail. Kindly supported by *Environment and 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 and History*, and also can also subscribe to the journal at a discounted rate. The ESEH Notepad advertises news, announcements and reports on current activities. It is also available to download at: <http://eseh.org/>

The website is physically located on a server purchased and owned by ESEH. This server and the URL are hosted by Roskilde University based on an agreement negotiated by the former ESEH President Poul Holm. The website content is updated by the ESEH Secretary, and the site provides a broad range of documents (official ESEH documents such as the constitution, conference reports and OGM minutes) and news items (calls for papers, conference announcements and so forth). It is a very important communication tool for the dissemination of information on ESEH and current developments in the field of environmental history. The website, however, has become rather dated and will require a massive overhaul in the near future.

The distribution of mass e-mails to all ESEH members is an important means of internal societal communication, even if an increasingly problematic one owing to the large number of undeliverable mail. In terms of the ESEH constitution e-mail communication with all ESEH members remains without an alternative. The society continues to find H-Environment an important alternative to mass e-mail, and would like to restate the encouragement of ESEH members to subscribe to the H-Environment discussion network.

Actions and meetings

The ESEH Board met four times in the past term: at the conference in Copenhagen in August 2009, in Salzburg in January 2010, in Firenze in November 2010, and at Turku in June 2011. The Project Plan was adopted at the second business meeting in Salzburg (see Appendix 4), and the actions of the board are discussed in detail in the President's Report that can be found in Appendix 2.

Phia Steyn
ESEH Secretary
Turku, 28 June 2011

2. Financial Report 2009-2011

Planning for the First World Environmental History Congress 2009 in Copenhagen, the ESEH saved money for this event and started with a comparatively high amount of € 7.286,38 in 2009. As usual in a conference year, membership fees have been collected at the conference desk to a large extent, and after the conference via bank transfer or credit card. € 500,00 have been donated for the publication prize. On the other hand, expenditures for credit card acceptance facilities amounted to € 472,93 plus ordinary bank fees of € 218,28. Expenditures were made to enable the three board members from Eastern Europe to participate in the board meeting in March as well as in Copenhagen. The publication prize was awarded plus travel costs of the prize winner, and for the board meeting 2010 an advance was paid. It has to be mentioned that over 70-80% of travel, accommodation and other costs of the board meetings held in March and July 2009, January and November 2010 were not covered by the ESEH budget as this would not be possible.

Account 2009

Income2009	Kind of Income	SummIN	Expenses2009	Beneficiary	SummEX
<i>from 2008</i>	<i>Giro+Savingsbook 2008</i>	7.286,38	Bank Fees	Postbank Dortmund	218,28
Membership Fees	Conference Desk	1.340,00	Credit Card Fees	Postransact	472,93
	via credit card	664,33	Board meeting March09 travel partly	3 board members CZ, HU, RU	1.364,00
	via bank transfer	527,00	BM March09 accomodation partly	3 board members CZ, HU, RU	761,07
Savingsbook interests	netto interests 2009	44,41	Copenhagen Conf travel partly	3 board members CZ, HU, RU	1.385,00
	Donations	550,00	Anniv. Toast Copenhagen 250 delegates	Copenhagen Conference Office	1.356,00
	Total Income 2009	3.125,74	Publication Prize plus travel Copenhagen	Prize-winner D. Joergensen	660,00
	<i>plusCapital2008</i>	<u>10.412,12</u>	Seal and bureau material	Secretary	50,00
	-	-	Reservation board meeting 2010	Youth Hostel Salzburg	344,00
				Total Expenses 2009	6.611,28
Account	31.12.2009 Savingsbook	2.590,39			
	31.12.2009 Giro	1.210,45			
	<i>31.12.2009 Total</i>	3.800,84		Balance 2009: €	<u>3.800,84</u>

Thus, the year 2010 was rather balanced with little income as many members replied they prefer to pay at the next conference to avoid high international bank fees especially from outside the Eurozone. Apart from bank and credit card fees, expenses of € 500,- have been made for preparatory work of a bibliographical device for the website relaunch and in connection with the board meeting in November, partly for a travel cost remainder of the treasurer and moreover two invited delegates, the chair of the nomination committee and a representative from the publisher White Horse Press for negotiations of a discount etc.

Account 2010

Income2010	Kind of Income	SummIN	Expenses_2010	Beneficiary	SummEX
<i>from 2009</i>	<i>Giro+Savingsbook 2009</i>	3.800,84	Bank Fees	Postbank Dortmund	71,10
			Credit Card Fees	Postransact	449,33
Membership Fees	<i>netto incl. Transfer</i>	<i>1.701,83</i>	Website bibliographical works	Students Petersburg	500,00
Savingsbook interests	<i>netto interests 2010</i>	21,23	Part of travel board meeting Nov2010	treasurer	71,40
			<i>Guests at board meeting Nov2010</i>	<i>Dr Johnson, Dr Moon</i>	610,00
	Total Income 2010	1.723,06	<i>travel and hotel</i>	<i>WHP and Nomination Committee</i>	
	<i>plusCapital2009</i>	<i>5.523,90</i>			
				Total Expenses 2010	1.701,83
Account	31.12.2010 Savingsbook	2.611,62			
	31.12.2010 Giro	1.210,45			
	<i>31.12.2010 Total</i>	3.822,07		Balance 2010: €	<u>3.822,07</u>

The board meeting in November 2010 decided to set up a travel grant scheme to enable financially disadvantaged delegates to join the ESEH conferences in 2011 and 2013. For this purpose, donations of € 1100 have been collected, plus a basis of € 1600 from the budget to pay for 9 travel grants (€ 550 as conference fee, € 2150 as travel reimbursement). Participation of board members from Eastern Europe has been enabled with € 875,- and from an earlier donation the ESEH Article Prize of 500,- was awarded. Income by membership fees amounted to only €230,- before the conference not to endanger the quorum of the General Meeting, and in Turku € 1250 were collected from members joining the conference. Further income is to be expected after the conference when the other members are reminded to renew their membership. Running cost will amount to some 650,- so that the new board can plan to spend some € 1000 on issues of the new project plan during 2011.

Account and Budget Mid-2011

Income2011?	Kind_of_Income	SummIN	Expenses_2011	Beneficiary	SummEX
from 2010	<i>Giro+Savingsbook 2010</i>	3.822,07	Bank Fees	Postbank Dortmund	75,00
			Credit Card Fees	Postransact	500,00
Donations	for travel grant	1.100,00	<i>Notary Fees Constitution + Elections</i>	<i>Dr Palmer ca.</i>	85,00
Membership Fees	before conference	230,00	Travelgrants as registration advance	3 grantees via LOC	550,00
<i>Membership Fees</i>	<i>at conference incl Thu 30</i>	1.250,00	9 Travel Grants at Turku	6 full 300 Euro grant 3 partly	2.150,00
	<i>at conference July</i>	400,00	Publication Prize at Turku	Prizewinner Dr Richard Hoelzl	500,00
<i>Membership Fees</i>	<i>after conference ca.</i>	1.500,00	Travel costs decided BM Nov 2010	eastern board members	875,00
<i>Savingsbook interests</i>	<i>netto interests 2011</i>	25,00	<i>issue 1 t.b.d.</i>	<i>project plan for 2011</i>	1.000,00
			<i>issue 2 t.b.d.</i>	<i>project plan still for 2011</i>	100,00
		??			??
	Total_Income_2010	4.505,00		Total_Expenses_2011	5.835,00
	<i>plusCapital2010</i>	8.327,07			
				Balance 2011:	2.492,07
				€	

Ulrich Koppitz
ESEH Treasurer
Dusseldorf
22 July 2011

3. Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Committees and Committee Members

Bibliography Committee:

Julia Lajus, *European University St Petersburg, Russia*

Ulrich Koppitz, *University of Düsseldorf, Germany*

Christof Mauch, *Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany*

Committee for Communication

Stéphane Frioux, *ENS Lyon, France*

Christian Rohr, *University of Bern, Switzerland*

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

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, Bialowieza, Poland*

Financial Control Committee

Frederik Björk, *Malmö University, Sweden*

Franz Mauelshagen, *Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Essen, Germany*

Nomination Committee

Sabine Barles, *Université Paris 8, France*

Laura Hollsten, *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*

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

David Moon (chair), *University of Durham, UK*

Antonio Ortega Santos, *University of Granada, Spain*

Summer School Committee:

Dolly Jørgensen, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

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

Christof Mauch, *Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany*

Stephen Mosley, *Leeds Metropolitan University, UK*

Christian Rohr, *University of Bern, Switzerland*

Website Committee:

Finn Arne Jørgensen, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*

Andrea Kiss, *University of Szeged, Hungary*

Phia Steyn, *University of Stirling, UK*

Working Group for the Online History of Europe

Julia Lajus, *European University St Petersburg, Russia*

Finn Arne Jørgensen, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway*

Christof Mauch, *Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany*

Timo Myllyntaus, *University of Turku, Finland*

Appendix 2: President's Report to the Ordinary General Meeting

Dear colleagues and friends,

Our Society, the ESEH, is growing steadily, as is the number of its activities and the number of colleagues involved in these developments. Democracy requires that the members of a society are informed of what is done in their name. This is the aim of a biannual report. However, listening to reports is not the most pleasant thing we can dream of! In order to conciliate these two aspects, I will try to stick here to the strict necessary. You will find on the website, annexed to the biannual report and the financial report, reports written by our Regional representatives. Christian Rohr, chair of the CRR, will tell you more about this soon.

As you may know, the constitution of our Society provides that the Board draws up a project plan that defines what will be done during the coming two years. Our 2009-2011 project plan, adopted by our new Council of Regional Representatives, provided that we would, first of all, plan the next conferences. No need to insist on the fact that this has been done for 2011! We will take stock of this conference later, but I know you will agree if I say, as soon as now, that this has been a wonderful conference, extremely well organised and which has featured a very stimulating programme. Time for thanks will come, but I want to thank already Timo Myllyntaus and all those who have worked with him for months to make this possible.

As for the future, I am happy to announce that our 2013 conference is also on the tracks and its preparation going forward. It will be held in Munich, organised by the Carson Center for Environment and Society. Its topic will be "Circulating natures: Water, Food, Energy". An excellent topic, both really open and focused on a specific aspect: the circulations of material and non material flows of any kind. The Board has adopted the Carson Center proposal on the basis of a very detailed written proposal. An excellent proposal, really, which suggests that we will have another great meeting there in Bavaria. As for 2015, we have examined a proposal done to the ESEH by the Society for the history of Technology to hold a common conference, but decided that this was probably not the best thing to do. A call for conference organisers will soon be launched.

Our former Board had adopted the principle of a new book Prize, awarded in common with the Rachel Carson Center. Our project plan said that we would have to find a name for it, and organise it. We decided to name it from the city that is welcoming the first awarding of this Prize, Turku. And as you know, this Prize has been awarded yesterday to Stephania Barca for her book *Enclosing Waters*, published by the White Horse Press, along with our traditional article Prize, awarded to Richard Hoetzel. Our hope is that these prizes contribute to enhance the development and the radiance of European environmental History, and to develop the outreach of our Society.

Another achievement is the launching of a new book series *The Environment in History: International Perspectives*, in partnership with the publisher Berghahn and, again, the Rachel Carson Center. Due to the length of the peer-review process, the first books are not ready yet, but they will be soon.

Two projects featured in the project plan have been delayed or abandoned.

1 - The improvement of the website architecture has fallen behind and we are sorry for that. A committee has done an important work already on the new rubrics this new website will

feature. It will be both more attractive and more informative. We hope it will be launched as soon as possible.

2 - The project that had to be abandoned is the bibliography. It raised many problems and calls for means and competences that are beyond those of a non-profit society like ours. But on the other hand, the new website will offer advertise new publications, table of contents etc.

I will conclude this chapter on the activities of the ESEH with something particularly close to my heart, the yearly ESEH European Summer School in Environmental History. Two of them have now been held, one in Versailles, thanks to Gregory Quénet, the other in Venice, thanks to Christof Mauch and the Carson Center (Versailles and Venice, there are not bad places, are they?). These Summer schools have been successful, some flaws of the first one already improved in Venice. The 2012 summer school should ne held in Scandinavia, but we are still waiting for an answer to the application done for funding it. Anyway, we can reasonably hope that this is only the beginning of a long series. With this significant initiative we hope to contribute to both the training of young researchers and the making of international networks of knowledge.

I will complete this overview with initiatives that regards ESEH coverage, regional representation, and partnerships. The number of ESEH representatives has significantly grown over the last two years. You will have to confirm, in a moment, representatives that have been provisionally appointed by the Board for Australasia, Serbia, Greece, Croatia, Poland and South Africa. And you will have to elect new representatives for Baltic countries and Romania (to name just the newly covered areas). This is the result of an important work including the research of possible representatives, the collection of their letters of motivation and CVs, the examination of their applications. Each applicant has provided a CV and a cover letter. All are available on the website. I want to thank most warmly all the members of the committee whose work has permitted this result: Leos Jelecek, Antonio Ortega Santos, Sabine Barles, Laura Hollsten and the chair of the Committee, David Moon. They have done a big and hard job.

Other countries will probably soon join us, even if it was not possible to make it before this conference: Portugal, Ukraine, Turkey, to name just two or three. The cases of the representation of North and South Americas have still to be discussed by the Board as their cases are a bit specific due to the fact that they have their own associations. We have done here a giant step in the covering of Europe and beyond, and are getting progressively a really large outreach, which should, in due course, produce results in terms of membership and of development of environmental history.

We have not been so good in managing the next point of our project plan: finding new partners and acquire new funding. Some would say that, when we report, we should never insist on the negative aspects, but I do not share this view, at least in this specific situation. I have nothing to hide, because we have done our best. However, the only new source of funding we have found is... your own generosity. We have created a fund aiming at helping students and colleagues coming from lower income countries to attend our conferences. We hope to be able to do better in the future, because all the applications could not receive a positive answer, but this is a first step.

We also managed to fund the expenses involved by our own journeys and accommodation for the board meetings, without the support of the Breuninger Foundation which helped us in the past. The fact we can meet once a year was an important decision made by the former Board,

four years ago, as it has definitely changed the way this society is governed. Since Copenhagen, we have met in Salzburg (2009) and Florence (2010). Each of our Board meetings lasted one day and a half. It is a very intensive work time, but it makes the heading of the society much more collective and democratic – which is something I really wanted when I was first elected president.

Still about funding, the Carson Center has also been very generous in funding one of our Summer Schools, sponsoring the Turku Prize and the new book series, but it is not a funding institution and cannot help initiatives in which it is not participating, of course. Which means that we should strive, even harder, in the future, to find new funding sources, and this is not an easy task.

As regards the relationship with environmental history journals, we have made a new step in signing an agreement with *Environment and History* and more generally with the White Horse Press. Our new website will grant a large space to their publications, provide the table of contents of the journal etc. A representative of the ESEH is now a permanent member of Environmental History advisory board, whose new editor, Stephen Mosley, is a member of the Society. Even more directly interesting for our members and very generous from the White Horse Press, all our members can now subscribe to this journal at a student rate. This comes on the top of the free pages the White Horse Press have offered to us since the ESEH was created, in *Environment and History*, for our Notepad, and of the right to consult for free the online version of the current year issues. This will however not prevent good relationships with other existing and forthcoming journals in environmental history, which will also be advertised on our new website.

Finally, our project provided that we would promote ESEH as an expert group. This is slowly progressing. I attended recently in Strasbourg, on behalf of the ESEH, the European Landscape convention. It was the first time that we were invited as an observer. I must admit that the way we can be useful to this institution and help them in designing projects is still rather unclear, but here again, this was a first step.

Then I would like to mention an important initiative that was not featured in the project plan, the Arcadia environmental history of Europe online project. This is a most important new initiative that is just beginning. A full session was devoted to present it and I will not tell more here again, but you will be informed of its developments soon.

I must conclude. I think that the outgoing Board and the whole society can be proud of the work done in two years. Our society is becoming more and more active, it is extending its outreach, better organised and democratic (see for instance the minutes of our meetings available on our website, the transparency of the applications, the reports done by all regional representatives etc). ESEH is becoming a mature society, and I am absolutely confident that this trend will not change with the new Board and new president we are going to elect.

As outgoing president, I would just like to add a more personal note. It has been a true pleasure to work with such efficient, devoted and nice colleagues. We have worked like a team, sharing the common goal to develop environmental history in Europe. I want to thank most warmly all the members of the Board, all the RRs, all the members of our various committees and of course those who organised conferences and summer schools. ESEH presidency has been for me a highly valuable experience. I leave the Board, after twelve years in all (two terms as a RR, and two as a President) with emotion, but more importantly

with the satisfaction to know that the society is in good hands and will carry on its growth and develop its activities.

Genevieve Massard-Guthand

ESEH President

2009-2011

Appendix 3: Reports from Regional Representatives

Britain and Ireland

Since I took over as RR in 2006 I have sought to represent the ESEH and promote environmental history in Britain and Ireland in the following ways:

- I have expanded the emailing list to include all people active and interested in EH in Britain and Ireland that I have been able to locate;
- I have compiled and circulated a periodic e-newsletter with information of interest, including news of ESEH activities, such as the conference, summer schools and invitations for nominations to the Board; conferences and seminars; opportunities for funding; new books in the field; and other items contributed by list members;
- I have worked with the pre-existing European Association for Environmental History (UK Branch) and have actively supported and promoted their annual conference and reached agreement on joint sponsorship of the conference by the EAEH and ESEH;
- I have sought to promote the ESEH by participating in conferences and seminars in Britain and Ireland, including two EAEH conferences, the Environments conference at the IHR in July 2010, and I visited Trinity College Dublin on the invitation of Poul Holm in March 2010;
- While serving on the ESEH Board, I was involved in the preparation of the new ESEH Constitution, and prepared the final English language version;
- I am a founding series editor (with Petra Van Dam, Christof Mauch and Helmut Trischler) of the monograph series 'The Environment in History: International Perspectives', with Berghahn Books, through which we are promoting work by environmental historians from across Europe;
- I have been invited to serve on the Editorial Collective of the journal *Environment and History*.
- I was part of a successful bid to the AHRC with Peter Coates (PI) and Paul Warde (CI) for a Network in the Researching Environmental Change theme entitled 'Local Places, Global Processes: Histories of Environmental Change' in collaboration with the National Trust, Quantock Hills AONB, Northumbrian Water and the Forestry Commission. We were able to involve a couple of dozen specialists in environmental history and related fields in Britain, from doctoral students to distinguished senior scholars in our network workshops;
- I have also been very active internationally, holding fellowships and visiting research posts in USA and Russia, speaking regularly at international conferences (including the ESEH) and in the process indirectly promoting environmental history by scholars based in Britain and Ireland.

Report by David Moon, RR, 2006-11

Benelux Countries

In Belgium and in the Netherlands there is no university that holds a chair in environmental history. Generally research of environmental history is only a fraction of a variety of research disciplines at various universities and research institutes. In order to have an overview of this fragmented study of environmental history two initiatives have been taken. One initiative is to send researchers of the disciplines mentioned a newsletter. This is the *Nieuwsbrief Milieugeschiedenis Lage Landen*, which is sent twice a year. Newsletter no. 8 was sent in early spring 2011 to over a hundred addresses. The newsletter contains information about meetings, recently published books and articles, PhD projects and other news items.

The second initiative is becoming a member of the editing board of two journals that strongly focus on aspects of ecological history. *Tijdschrift voor Waterstaatsgeschiedenis* is a six months journal on the history of water management, coastal management and water governance. *Jaarboek voor Ecologische Geschiedenis* is a yearly journal dedicated to ecological history. In 2009 a special issue was dedicated to climate related aspects of which I was guest editor together with Henny vander Windt. The forthcoming issues will be focusing on forest history and the history of water. Although both journals are in Dutch, they cover most of the Low Countries (The Netherlands and Flanders). Meanwhile a number of PhD projects is going on. Some focus on the impact of flooding in the former Zuiderzee area, the flooding in SW-Netherlands and aspects of the history of water governance (VU-University, Amsterdam, University of Antwerp). Others focus on aspects of forest history in Flanders (Free University of Brussels). Finally, the number of members of the ESEH in the Low Countries still remains relatively low (about 20), certainly compared to Germany, but the Low Countries have a population of about 26.5 million inhabitants

Adriaan de Kraker

Italy

The promotion of ESEH and environmental history (EH) in Italy and Italian participation in ESEH were my main tasks as ESEH Italian RR. Efforts to enlarge Italian research in the field of EH was mainly based on to encourage (sometime as member of the scientific committee) panels and session concerning EH in some general Italian conferences in urban and contemporary history, and on to solicit participation of Italian scholars to international conferences. Moreover, I was involved as organizer in some national conferences properly devoted to EH and in editorial activities: books of collected essays, journals as the international “Global environment”, or “Frutti di Demetra” – both promoted by the Istituto per la Storia delle Società Mediterranee of the National Council for Research, the only one Italian research center largely engaged in EH studies –, and the “World Environmental History Encyclopaedia” by Unesco-Eolss. Personally, I also served as tutor of a couple of PhD thesis in the field.

In sum, I probably contributed to consolidate EH in Italy and to enforce connections with related fields as urban and economic history or industrial archaeology. However, I failed to increase significantly the number of Italian members of ESEH (still about 22-23) and to consolidate a research centre or group at my university, in Sienna. Both these difficulties probably results, besides my personal incapacity or inefficiency, also from the dramatic funds cutting in recent years and the longstanding fragmentation of Italian historical scholarship.

Italian participation in scientific activities of ESEH (and in ASEH) is appreciable, comparatively to the general marginality of Italian scholars in international conferences and associations. However, a larger effort should be done to stabilise and to increase the Italian presence in international events and activities and their role in the ESEH. My effort to let circulate information about Eseh and international and national EH meetings, call for papers, publications, etc., had been based on a newsletter I edited for more than ten issues and I addressed to more than 120 people. It probably helped to disseminate information and knowledge about EH and ESEH, but it should be accomplished by a more effective instrument in order to enforce interactions among researchers and scholars interested in the field.

Personally, I participated to the joint meeting among RRs and the Board in 2007-2009, and I specially contributed to the reform of constitution. In 2009-2011, in my capacity as member

of the Board elected by the CRRs I participated in and contributed to the activities and meetings of the Board (also by hosting in Florence the meeting of November 2010) and I also served as member of the Scientific Committee of the Turku Conference.

Simone Neri Serneri

German speaking countries

Since I took over as RR in 2007 I have sought to represent the ESEH and promote environmental history in the German speaking countries in the following ways:

- I have compiled and circulated a e-newsletter with information of interest, including news of ESEH activities, such as the conference, summer schools and invitations for nominations to the Board; conferences and seminars; job announcements; new books and projects in the field; and other items contributed by list members;
- I continuously updated the mailing list of the German speaking members, which is far the largest group within the ESEH
- While serving on the ESEH Board, I participated in the Board meetings in Dusseldorf, Lyon and Florence, and hosted a Board meeting in Salzburg (January 2010)
- I was acting within the Communication and Fund Raising Committee and in the Sites Committee to find future ESEH conference sites

Christian Rohr

Poland

As a newly appointed RR I have so far distributed the information on ESEH conference in Turku, inviting all my Polish colleagues working in fields similar to mine to participate in the event. I was also asked for more information about studies in environmental history and ESEH itself by one Polish and one Belarussian PhD student, and of course I passed all the information, warmly inviting them to join the ESEH.

Tomasz Samojlik

Hungary

- Hungarian ESEH membership patterns: number of ESEH members raised from 3 to 15.
- Dissemination:
Presentations about the activities and role of the ESEH at Hungarian conferences (in Landscape history, Environmental history)
Paper about the ESEH in the book entitled 'Environmental history' in Hungarian
Report on the activities of the Hungarian ESEH in the Notepad (in Environment and History).
- Website has been established for the Hungarian ESEH in Hungarian, with English descriptions about the content.
- A one-day first mini-conference (with eight presentations) and roundtable discussions of the Hungarian ESEH members took place in Szeged in 2010 (reported in Notepad). Second mini-conference has been already decided and announced for 24 October, 2011; will take place in Szeged (Hungary).

Andrea Kiss

Spain

Activities during the last two years:

- Proposing the creation of Workshop about Environmental History in Spain that was held by Fundación Fernando El Catolico, Zaragoza, and December 2010 during two days. In this meeting it was decided that Environmental History Section will be created and will held biannual meetings, the next one at University of Granada, Spring 2012 under my coordination at the Fundacion Eurorarabe de Altos Estudios (Euro Arab Foundation of Higher Studies hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain).
- We propose the creation of a continuous network that will link European Society for Environmental History and Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History (SOLCHA). In this last meeting –La Paz, Mexico, June 2010- was proposed to develop this workshop in the forthcoming years, until next conference that will be held at Colombia, June 2012.
- We are creating website that will be reference about the links between Spanish, European and Latin-American Researchers, with documents, papers, activities, and will be available August 2011.

Antonio Ortega Santos

Nordic Countries

The Nordic Countries region – organized as the Nordic Environmental History Network (NEHN) – has been quite active since 2009. Based on a network grant from Nordforsk, we have arranged three meetings, and one more is forthcoming. In addition we have organized a half-day session on environmental history at the Congress of Nordic Historians in Trondheim in August 2011. We have had close working relationships with other regional networks, in particular the Baltic countries and with the Canadian NiCHE network. Our final workshop will – among other topics – discuss the role regional networks can and should play, with a strong focus on how to fund these activities. Our Stockholm workshop will result in a book published by University of British Columbia Press, edited by Dolly Jørgensen and Sverker Sörlin. We have a mailing list with 227 members, averaging to 4-5 messages per month. These are mostly announcements about conferences, books, and other events.

Finn Arne Jørgensen

France

When I became RR for France in 2007, I decided to start a quarterly newsletter, the *Bulletin d'histoire environnementale*, relaying various news from ESEH and from Francophone colleagues. Thanks to the network of Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, my predecessor, the readership came up to more than 120 in 2010.

In autumn 2009 was founded the RUCHE, Réseau d'histoire environnementale (Academic Network of Researchers in Environmental History), under the regime of the French 1901 law on associations (which allows associations to receive public subventions/fundings). It gathers approximately 50 people, all francophone, coming from several countries (Belgium, Switzerland and even Spain). The RUCHE is close to the ESEH : ESEH members get a lower fee to enter the association. But the membership does not « *recoupe* » : some RUCHE members do not belong to ESEH, while some French colleagues who once became members of the ESEH have not entered the RUCHE.

These last two years, the RUCHE organised a monthly seminar in Paris, at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), in cooperation with the GRHEN (Group of Researchers in Environmental History, chaired by Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud). Most sessions were devoted to historiography, that is thematic reviews of works already existing and of recent directions in various sub-fields of environmental history (wetlands, catastrophes, cities, industry, animals...). Some famous foreign scholars have been invited: John McNeill (university of Georgetown), Harriet Ritvo (President of the ASEH), François Walter (université de Genève). Several one-day or two-days workshops have also been organised: in Paris (may 2010) about the theme of «resources», in Lyon (december 2010) about the environmental history of the twentieth century and in Valenciennes (may 2011) about «health and environment».

Since the end of 2010, the RUCHE has got a blog, <http://leruche.hypotheses.org> . It succeeded to the quarterly newsletter and it provides a more flexible and reactive tool of communication. 10000 visits and near 40 000 hits have already been recorded. About one hundred news have been posted: book and periodical announcements, programmes of seminars, workshops and conferences – including, of course, information on Turku conference – call for papers, prizes and grants.

The activities of another association can be highlighted : the AHPNE (Association for the History of Nature and Environmental Preservation) exists since 2008. It gathers scholars and people from the worlds of administration and of the environmentalist associations. An international conference has been organised in Paris (september 2010) on the subject “two centuries of nature and environmental protection”. An on-line biographical dictionary of actors of Nature Preservation is under progress. <http://www.ahpne.fr/>

Lastly, the CNRS, the National Center of Scientific Research, created a Thematic Pluridisciplinary Network on Environmental History (http://www.cnrs.fr/inee/recherche/actionsincitatives-RTP-histoire_environnement.htm). It gathers colleagues from many fields in history, and from several other disciplines, both in social sciences and in environmental sciences is organising several workshops. The network is chaired by Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud.

To conclude, Environmental History is now much more “visible” to the French academic community than in 2007. Several academic journals have released (or are going to) special issues dealing with environment : the *Annales* (2011/1), the *Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine* (2009/4), and *Vingtième siècle* (2012). Transnational links (France&Belgium, Switzerland&France) have been established. The number of young scholars (phD students and young doctors obtaining full-time and permanent academic positions) is increasing, which is promising for the development of the RUCHE and of the French participation in the ESEH.

Stéphane Frioux

Czechia and Slovakia

Unlike the countries of Western Europe and North America the environmental history has been developed in Czechia and Slovakia (to a lesser extent at least,) notably in disciplines such as historical geography, climatology, landscape ecology, historical land-use, archaeology (particularly the medieval and of new age one), and environmentalism. Recently there has been a significant and welcomed change in the both countries historiographies, i.e.

increase of research of topics related more or less to EH themes. In that progress has been playing an important role Section for Historical Geography and Environmental History of the Czech Geographical Society (founded in 2004, member of ICEHO) and its cooperation with the Commission for Historical Geography at the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (common projects, seminars etc.). As for Slovakia meanwhile rather on the level of cooperation with individual researchers than with scientific bodies. The Internet journal for historical geography and environmental history *Klaudyan* (www.klaudyan.cz) has been facing with deficiency of manuscripts. It was caused by situation in which authors prefer publishing either in impacted journals mainly in abroad, or in Czech or Slovak scientific journals involved by special governmental board created directory, which guarantees them obtaining of special assessment points, which have the same purpose as proper impacts. Many Czech historical geographers and environmental historians have been also involved in the processing of voluminous national “Landscape Atlas of the Czech Republic”, Prague 2009. Since mid-2010 year considerable effort we devote to prepare the 15th International Conference of Historical Geographers to be held in 6–10 August 2012 in Prague at the same building like 2nd ESEH IC in 2003. This conference will be the first one taking place in the post-communist state (for more info see www.ichg2012.cz). The conference LOC chairman is Pavel Chromy, whom we are nominating to the duty of the ESEH regional representative for Czechia and Slovakia for the ongoing Leos Jelecek.

Leoš Jeleček

Russia

Current state of environmental history in Russia

In Russia there are several institutions where environmental history is developing:

- Center for Environmental and Technological History at the European University at St. Petersburg (director Julia Lajus, staff - 4 half-time researchers with PhD). Main directions of research: marine and polar environmental history, history of transport.
- Petrozavodsk State University (Dr. Irina Chernyakova). Main directions of research: regional environmental history of Karelia;
- Tver State University, Historical department (Dr. Tatyana Liubina). Main directions of research: urban history;
- Tambov State University, Historical department (Prof. Valerii Kanischev). Main directions of research: agrarian history and demography;
- Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Science, St. Petersburg Branch;
- Communication between these institutions is growing as well as growing Russian membership in the Society. However, we still need better promote the environmental history in Russia, making it more visible and attractive for students and young researchers.

Most important publications

During the period under report we did publish the following publications which are showing the importance of environmental history:

- Special issue of the journal “Istoriko-biologicheskie issledovaniia”, 2010 Vol. 2, N 4 /ed. Julia Lajus. This issue is devoted to the history of studies of natural resources in Russia. Russian and British environmental historians contributed to this issue.
- Monograph resulted from the Russian part of the international project “History of Marine Animal Populations was published by the European University Press: «The Sea is Our Land». Quantitative studies of fisheries in the White and Barents Seas in 17th – beginning

of the 20th C. / eds. Julia Lajus & Dmitry Lajus. St. Petersburg: European University Press, 2010. 219 pp. (Materials for Environmental History of the Russian North. Issue 1).

- The Russian translation of the ESEH article prize winner paper by David Moon was published with the introduction by Julia Lajus: journal “Voprosy istorii estestvoznannia i tekhniki”, 2009, N 3.
- Alexei Kraikovski & Julia Lajus. The Neva as a Metropolitan River of Russia: Environment, Economy and Culture // A History of Water. Series 2, Volume 2: Rivers and Society: From Early Civilizations to Modern Times / Terje Tvedt & Richard Coopey, ed. London: I.B. Tauris, 2010: 339 – 364.

Teaching: courses and seminars

- The course “Introduction to Environmental and Technological history” by Alexandra Bekasova and Julia Lajus is included into curricula at the Department of History, European University at St. Petersburg. It attracted a strong group of PhD students.
- The grant agreement was signed in June 2011 between the European University and Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm): Swedish partner will finance 2 PhD students at the European University who will write their Thesis on history of science and environment in the polar regions.
- Center for Environmental and Technological History, European University at St. Petersburg, is running evening seminars (1-2 per month) in both disciplines of environmental and technological history and their intersections. During the period under report the following international scholars presented their research at these seminars:
 - Prof. David Moon, University of Durham, UK
 - Prof. Dorothy Zeisler-Wrasted, United Emirates
 - Dr. Jennifer Smith, GeorgiaTech, USA
 - Jan Arend, PhD student, University of Munich, Germany
 - Rachel Coroloff, PhD student, University of Illinois, USA
- 13 April 2011 the Center together with Faculty of Sociology of St. Petersburg Branch of Higher School of Economics organized international evening roundtable in environmental history to promote the discipline to Russian scholars. Prominent environmental historians Christof Mauch, Timo Myllyntaus, Sverker Sorlin and Verena Winiwarter told there about history, current status and perspectives of environmental history in Europe. Vice-director of St. Petersburg Branch of Higher School of Economics Daniel Alexandrov expressed his vision of the future of environmental history in Russia.

Cooperation with environmental historians from other countries

- International Advisory Board was formed to assist promoting environmental history in Russia and enhance international cooperation, especially in teaching. It includes Cristof Mauch, Sverker Sorlin, Verena Winiwarter, Poul Holm, David Moon, Arne Kaijser and Daniel Alexandrov.
- Center for Environmental and Technological History participates in the ESEH project Arcadia -- Environmental History online. 14 May it organized the workshop for the participants of this project.
- Center cooperates with Center for Environmental History and Institute of Hydrobiology in Vienna: we fulfill together a research project “Long-term dynamics in fish populations and ecosystems of European rivers: data, methodology and management applications” funded by Austrian Academy of Sciences and Russian Foundation for Basic Research for

2010 – 2012. Center organized two workshops in St. Petersburg in December 2010 and June 2011.

- Russian environmental historians participate in the activities of Nordic Network in Environmental History (NEHN): Julia Lajus attended two workshops organized by NEHN and submitted paper to the edited volume, Julia Lajus and Alexei Kraikovski will give papers at the session organized by NEHN at the Nordic Historical Conference in Tromso, Norway in August 2011.
- Productive cooperation exists with British environmental historians who study Russia: Denis Shaw, David Moon and John Oldfield are often coming to St. Petersburg, participated in seminars, there are plans to organize a joint workshops and apply for network funding.

Attendance of large international meetings

Russian environmental historians became more visible at the international conferences: 10 Russian participants gave papers/posters at WCEH in Copenhagen 2009, 13 participate in the 6th ESEH conference in Turku.

Julia Lajus

Appendix 4: ESEH Project Plan 2009-2011, accepted by the Board in January 2010

1. Society's activities, services and tools

1.1 Conferences

ESEH will organise the Sixth European conference in Environmental History to be held in Turku in July 2011. The Board will prepare the Ordinary General Meeting and the Council of Regional representatives which will be held at this occasion. It will also send a call for the organisation of the 2013 and 2015 conferences and make a decision on future venues.

1.2 Prizes

The board will continue to sponsor the ESEH article Prize. The Board will help to find a name for the new Book Prize sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center, it will announce the prize and it will be involved in the selection of the prize winner.

1.3 Website

The Board and the Website Committee will improve the general architecture of the ESEH website. This new website will provide more service features for ESEH members and will be more interactive. We hope to launch it in the spring of 2010.

1.4 Bibliography

ESEH bibliography in environmental history has been dormant for around five years. The Board and the Bibliography committee will explore the continuation of the project as well as alternatives to a traditional bibliography.

1.5 Book series

The publication committee will launch a book series titled International Environmental History, in cooperation with the Rachel Carson Center and Berghahn Books New York/Oxford.

1.6 Summer School

The Board and the Summer School Committee will make sure that the decision to create a Summer School, featured in the new constitution adopted in Copenhagen, will be implemented. Versailles (2010) and Budapest (2011) are going to be the sites in the next two years. The 2012 Summer School will be co-sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center and should be held in Southern Europe.

2. ESEH coverage, communication and partnerships

2.1 Regional Representatives

The ESEH needs to develop and improve its visibility. In order to reach this goal, the Board will foster the appointment of new Regional Representatives in areas that are still not represented in the Council of Regional Representatives.

2.2 Communication and Fundraising

The Board the Communication Committee will strive to find new partners and acquire new funding for its various projects. Finding institutional members is seen as one of the solutions to this challenge.

2.3 Relationships with Journals

New valuable online or paper journals interested in environmental history have appeared on the "scholarly market". The Executive will support a friendly collaboration with them and

inform ESEH members of their content on the appropriate webpage. At the same time, it will maintain and tighten its historical bonds with *Environment and History*, the British journal which publishes the ESEH “Notepad” and offers ESEH members a free access online to its current year issues. For the sake of clarity, and following a requirement from this journal, ESEH will set up a written agreement with this journal, defining the nature of their links. This agreement will include the nomination of an ESEH representative in the journal editorial committee.

2.4. Service to the teaching community

In order to improve the quality of teaching, and in order to further the exchange between lecturers in environmental history across Europe, the ESEH will develop a plan for the exchange of syllabi among ESEH members.

2.5 ESEH expertise

In order to make the expertise of ESEH members available to decision-makers and a broader public, the Board will continue to promote ESEH as an expert group within international institutions and political bodies such as the EU Ministerial Conference, the European Landscape Convention, and any other agency that would be deemed appropriate.