

From: Dr. Aleksandar Shopov (Ph.D, Harvard University 2016), Postdoctoral Fellow, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society

To: Dr. Péter Szabó, ESEH President

Subject: Proposal for Republic of Northern Macedonia as a New ESEH Region

Dear Dr. Péter Szabó,

I write to you to nominate the Republic of Northern Macedonia as a new ESEH Region. From the Shar planina mountain range, part of the Dinaric range stretching south from the Alps, to the Vardar river valley through which Mediterranean climate extends deeper into the Balkan peninsula, to Lake Ohrid—the deepest lake in Europe—the region of Macedonia has been a site of rich historical interactions between people and the environment. The hydroelectric dams built in the past few decades, the recent illegal deforestation and longer history of mining from the ancient past till the present, the introduction of new plants like rice and tobacco in the Ottoman period, the construction of major roads like Via Egnatia in the Roman period, are just a few examples of this history. Despite this, however, in Macedonia the field of Environmental History has not yet been firmly established.

I therefore propose to nominate the Republic of North Macedonia as new ESEH Region and propose the following activities:

- Establish an electronic mailing list for researchers interested in environmental history of the region
- Prepare a monthly digest in Macedonian of news related to environmental history
- Organize a yearly workshop that will support the study of environmental history among scholars in the region
- Establish an online journal in Macedonian that will publish articles and other materials related to the environmental history of the region

- Collaborate with the History Department at the Ss.Cyril and Methodius and the Institute for National History in Skopje in the activities mentioned above.

This is an opportunity for ESEH to support an important regional formation of the field of environmental history. Other scholars currently supporting the activities include:

Dr. Darko Stojanov, Institute for National History, Skopje.

Dr. Petar Todorov, Institute for National History, Skopje.

Sincerely yours,

Aleksandar Shopov