

### From the President's Desk

In coming months and years, research in European environmental history is likely to enjoy increased funding from the European Union. The Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7) cleared its final hurdle on 18 December when it was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The FP7 includes for the first time support for the humanities, while it also includes good opportunities for environmental historians working with natural scientists under such headings as Environment and Food, agriculture and fisheries. Specific calls for the services of environmental historians are included under Activity 8.2: 'Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective: paths towards sustainable development'.

In the past, many of us have been critical of EU funding mechanisms for good reasons. The language of the FP7 is very helpful to environmental historians, and I hope that a host of proposals will reach Brussels before the first close of call by 10 May. However, while some of the language in past calls for proposals may have sounded well-intentioned, I have heard many complain that their proposals were failed by peer-reviewers who paid little or no regard to historical investigations. It is therefore very important that we not only apply for funding but that the more senior of us also volunteer as experts to Brussels to work as peer-reviewers of proposals.

Poul Holm  
President ESEH

### New Regional Representative for Russia and additional Eastern European Countries

Since 1 January 2007 Julia A. Lajus has become the Regional Representative (RR) for Russia and additional Eastern European Countries. She replaces Daniel Alexandrov and she will serve as a provisional RR until the next elections.

Julia joined the ESEH in 2001. She graduated with M.S. in Biology from the St Petersburg State University in 1985 and a PhD in History from the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow (theme: 'Development of fisheries studies in the Barents Sea: relations between science and fisheries, 1898–1934'). Since 1995 she has held a research post at the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy

of Sciences. In 2006 she became Director of the Centre for Environmental and Technological History at the European University at St Petersburg.

Her original research is focused on history of marine sciences, history of fisheries and environmental history of the Arctic. She has presented papers at two ESEH conferences in Prague and Florence and at other conferences in several European countries. Her last publications include: 'Influence of weather and climate on fisheries: overview of the early history of the problem, 1850s–1950s', in Stefan Emeis and Cornelia Lüdecke (eds) *From Beaufort to Bjerkes and Beyond* (Augsburg, 2005) pp. 103–115; 'The use of historical catch data to trace the influence of climate on fish populations: examples from the White and Barents Sea fisheries in 17th–18th centuries', *ICES Journal of Marine Sciences* V, 62(7) (2005), pp. 1426–35 (with D.L. Lajus, Z.V. Dmitrieva, A.V. Kraikovski, A.Y. Yurchenko, D.A. Alexandrov); *Early Years of Biological Oceanography in the Russian North. Murman Scientific-Fishery Expedition. 1898–1908* (IOC of UNESCO/China Ocean Press, 2004), pp. 127–31; *From Fishing to Mining: The Change of Priorities in the Development of the North and Russian Expedition to Spitsbergen in the early 20th Century* (Stockholm, 2004), pp. 93–106.

### **Preparation for the Amsterdam ESEH Conference 2007**

We continue to work very hard on our conference in Amsterdam. We are happy to announce that Jane Carruthers from the University of South Africa in Pretoria has accepted our invitation to give the keynote presentation at the opening session.

Now all the basic features are close to realisation, we have started to work on some new features in order to further develop the outreach of ESEH. We have instituted a Panel Prize: the winning panel has the opportunity to give a plenary session. The Panel Prize has been awarded by the Scientific Committee to the panel proposed by Peter Boomgaard, 'New environments and strange specimens: Botanical encounters and exchanges between Europe and the Asian tropics, ca. 1620–1890s'. Congratulations! Also, we will have a Publishing Workshop where invited journal editors will present their policies. In particular young scholars will find this useful and they are very welcome to ask questions and set up discussions.

On 1 February we close the first period of subscription and we shall start making the programme. After that you can still register but for a somewhat higher fee.

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee IC ESEH 2007, I wish you a very inspired and fruitful New Year!

Petra van Dam  
Head LOC

### Report on Environmental History Research in Hungary

In the year 2006 we tried to develop three directions of the Hungarian environmental history research: (1) Organization of conferences and consultations between Hungarian researchers.; (2) Consultation and collaboration with environmental researchers of neighbouring countries; (3) Publication of environmental history articles and books.

1. This year we organized three conferences for basically different groups of environmental experts and researchers:

- The first conference was at Eötvös Lóránd University of Budapest on 8 and 9 February. The title of conference was 'Environmental events of last 500 years in the mirror of documentary and natural sources'. Participants presented 36 lectures and 8 posters. This conference was a forum for research work in universities and research institutes. The chief organizer was Miklós Kázmér (associate professor of ELTE University, kazmer@ludens.elte.hu).
- The second conference was organized in the frame of academic collaboration between Romanian and Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The title of conference was 'Human and natural environment in the historical epoch'. The conference venue was the main building of the Hungarian Academy in Budapest on 13 and 14 November. Conference lecturers were leading researchers of Romanian and Hungarian scientific life, who presented 15 lectures. I asked the Romanian researchers to form a national team for environmental history research, and called their attention to the ESEH website. Chief organizer of this conference was Zoltán Szász (vice-director of Historical Institute of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, www.tti.hu)
- The third conference, on 'Environmental policy of the Carpathian Basin', was organized by civil organizations from different regions of the Carpathian Basin. The venue was Kiskunfélegyháza, a small town near the southern borderland of Hungary. In this conference 10 lectures were presented; researchers and experts came from Ukraine, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia and Hungary. The chief organizer of conference was József Kelemen (secretary general of Central-European Club, jkelemen@enternet.hu)

2. One of our goals (as for the European Union) is extension of the boundaries of ESEH and institutionalized environmental history research. I mentioned our consultation with Romanian colleagues, but maybe a more important extension will be southward in the direction of the Balkan Peninsula. At Zagreb University I met a promising young researcher, Hervoje Petric. His language skills and his personal scientific network could help to develop the web of environmental historian in the Balkan countries (Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro etc.).

3. With the help of Ferenc Glatz, director of the Historical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, we plan to launch an environmental history book

series in 2007. Hopefully we shall publish three or four books per year (partly translated) on the research results of Hungarian experts.

Lajos Racz  
RR for Hungary

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ESEH aims to promote environmental history in Europe, by encouraging and supporting research, teaching and publications in the field. The ESEH maintains its web site at <[www.eseh.org](http://www.eseh.org)>.

**Notepad Editor:** Lenka Uhlířová

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 April, 2007 to the address shown below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:  
 C/O Lenka Uhlířová  
 CENIA, Czech Environmental Information Agency  
 Kodaňská 10, 100 10 Praha 10  
 Czechia  
 Email: [lenka.uhlirova@cenia.cz](mailto:lenka.uhlirova@cenia.cz)