

Report by the EURHO Secretary for the period 2012–2013

Ernst Langthaler

This report about the activities of the EURHO covers the period between the MC meetings at the ESSHC 2012 in Glasgow/UK on 11/12 April 2012 and the MC meeting at the conference Rural History 2013 in Bern/Switzerland on 19 August 2013. It comprises the following activities:

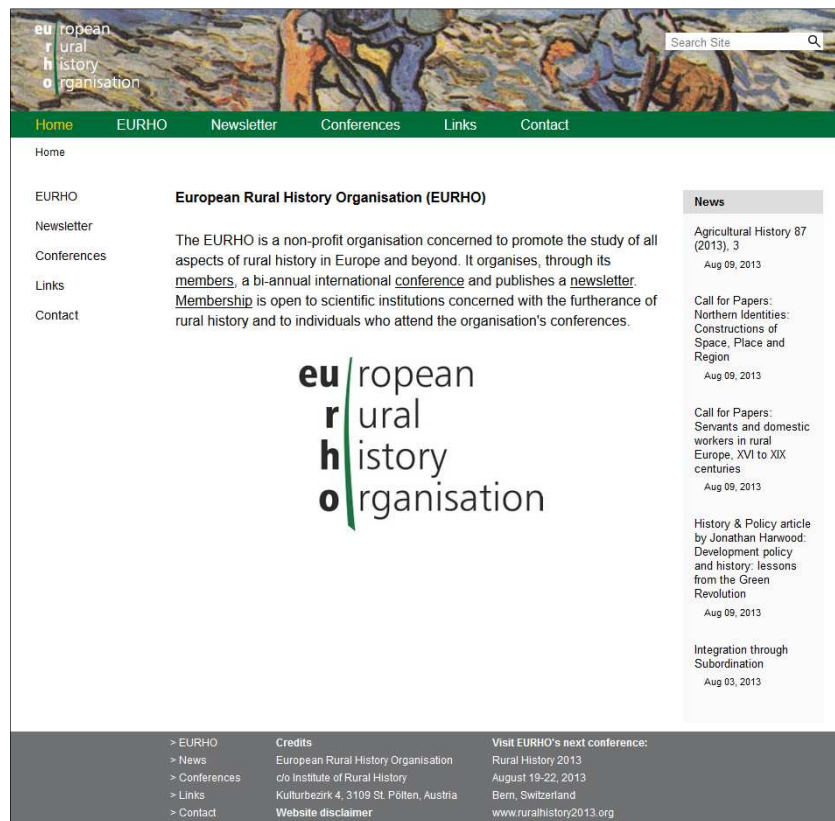
- (1) design of the EURHO logo;
- (2) launching and updating of the EURHO website;
- (3) edition of the Rural History Newsletter (RHN);
- (4) registration of the EURHO constitution;
- (5) design of a roll-up transparent;
- (6) minor administrative activities.

(1) As a pre-condition for the launching of the website and other PR activities, a logo for the EURHO was designed and agreed upon by the MC in November 2012. The Secretary in co-operation with the graphic designer of the Institute of Rural History (IRH) in St. Pölten/Austria proposed diverse design patterns to the MC. After selection of a specific pattern in a first round of evaluation, diverse design variations were evaluated in a second round. In the end, the majority of the MC agreed upon the EURHO logo.



(2) Between November 2012 and January 2013, the Secretary in co-operation with two IT companies took care of the development and launching of the website at www.ruralhistory.eu. Initially, a proposal for the basic structure of the website was distributed among the MC which was accepted with minor changes. It comprises the following main folders: EURHO (MC members, constitution, reports etc.), Newsletter, Conferences, Links and Contact. Then the preliminary version of the website was evaluated by the MC. The final version was launched in January 2013. Due to a package deal, the costs of website design by Büro Sterngasse and website programming by Cloud 19, both in Melk/Austria, were considerably lower than in case of a separate order. The realization of both logo and website were for the most part financed by the British Agricultural History Society which provided a subsidy of € 2.000 from the surplus of the conference Rural History 2010. The working time for filling the final version of the website with textual and visual content and other services was

provided without any cost entirely by the IRH. The working time for ongoing website updating is financed jointly by the EURHO (67%) and the IRH (33%).



(3) As part of the development of the website, the Rural History Newsletter (RHN) was initiated between January and March 2013 by the Secretary in consultation with the MC. The structure of the RHN drew on the IRH's long lasting experience with the edition of a German newsletter for rural history. The purpose of the RHN is to gather, create and distribute information on current activities within the rural history community in Europe and beyond. It comprises the following categories: Calls (papers, panels, nominations etc.), Events (conferences, workshops, exhibitions etc.), Publications (books, journals, web resources etc.), Reviews (books, journals, websites etc.), Opportunities (job offers, grants, funds etc.), Forum (debates, projects, reports etc.) and EURHO. All issues can be easily accessed online via the EURHO website. Additionally, at least twice a month a digest of all new issues is distributed via email among the more than 200 subscribers. Subscription is free of charge, not binding and can be cancelled at any time. The RHN is managed on behalf of the EURHO by Ulrich Schwarz, a PhD student at the Institute of Rural History, who devotes on average four working hours a week to this task. Between March and August 2013 not less than 94 issues were published. The overwhelming majority was compiled through regular investigation by the editor; some issues were provided by external contributors. The working time for the management of the RHN is financed jointly by the EURHO (67%) and the IRH (33%). Occasional feedback received by subscribers reveals the great appreciation of the RHN within the scientific community.



(4) Between April and June 2013, the Secretary took care of the clarification, translation and legal registration of the constitution. The preparation of the constitution for legal registration as an association according to Austrian law involved a series of steps: inclusion of the suggestions to the 2012 draft by the MC members; translation of the revised 2012 draft into German; consultancy of a legal expert who checked the legal accordance of the draft constitution; edition of the German version with regard to the suggestions of the legal expert; re-translation of the edited version into English; decision by the MC about the unclear clause that Officers except for the President can “normally” be re-nominated for only one additional term (with the result that they may be re-nominated without limitation). The comprehensive preparation facilitated the legal registration of the EURHO by the Austrian authorities without any difficulty. Since 20 June 2013, the EURHO is legally registered in Austria as a non-profit association under ZVR 982253725. As such, the EURHO is authorized to open a bank account and, therefore, able to gain income from members and other sources. The English and German versions of the constitution have been published at the website.

(5) For reasons of the EURHO’s visibility at the conference Rural History 2013 and future events, the Officers decided to purchase a transparent. The graphic design was provided without any cost by the IRH; it shows the EURHO logo, three meaningful images and the address of the website. The transparent was produced in July 2013 by Briza Design & Print Solutions in Neulengbach/Austria.

eu/ropean
r/ural
h/istory
o/rganisation



www.ruralhistory.eu

(6) The Secretary also settled a couple of minor administrative activities. These comprise the answering of requests by visitors of the website, the opening of a bank account* in co-operation with the Treasurer, the co-operation with the organisers of the conference Rural History 2013 and the preparation of the MC Meeting and the General Meeting (setting of agendas, nomination of the Officers by the MC, nomination and election of the Regional Representatives by the individual members etc.). Moreover, he communicated with potential institutional members which had been contacted by the Treasurer.

* IBAN: AT63 3258 5000 0803 5578, BIC: RLNWATWWOBG, Bank: Raiffeisenbank Region St. Pölten (Austria)

This report has been approved by the General Meeting of the EURHO in Bern on 22 August 2013.