



ECOVAST REPORT 62

November 2016

Editor: Phil Turner
46 Hatherley Road, Winchester, Hampshire UK
SO22 6RR E mail : p.turner@semantise.com

website <http://www.ECOVAST.org>

Discussion sites :
<http://ECOVAST.webs.com/>

<http://www.dorfwiki.org/wiki.cgi?SmallTowns>



Dragon Cottage Askeröd, Skåne, southern Sweden

Contents

Editorial

Report of the President

Royston Edge

Malmi Airport, Helsinki

Planning in Hungary

Visit to a mill in Germany

Thoughts on rural Sweden

News from the Sections

Partner organisations

Events notified to the Editor

EDITORIAL

This is my last newsletter as Editor. Valerie Carter will produce the Report in 2017 and will receive contributions of news from Sections and members. <valeriecarter@ecovast.org>

The winter scene on this page is featured in 'Thoughts on rural Sweden.' There are also articles on Finland, Hungary and Germany.

At Marburg in October the International Committee considered the future of ECOVAST and the General Assembly agreed that ECOVAST should continue into 2017 and beyond.

Valerie Carter's message and the reports from Croatia and Germany demonstrate that there is much positive action by ECOVAST members and an appetite for future action.

A PDF of this newsletter can be accessed at:
<http://www.dorfwiki.org/upload/PhilTurner/ECOVASTNewsletter62.Nov2016.pdf>

Phil Turner

Message from the President

Greetings to you all.

I have been busy on behalf of ECOVAST these last few months – representing ECOVAST in Cork, Ireland and in Albania as well as our meeting in Marburg, Germany where we talked about the future of ECOVAST and then on to Tellow. My general comment is that I consider that the promotion of our ECOVAST ideas is the most important work I can do as President. I have been lucky to have been invited to speak at many international events all over Europe and I have promoted ECOVAST thinking at every event I have attended and copies of our publications given out. However there are a few specific topics I would like to comment on in this Newsletter.

(a) ASSET follow up

Although the ASSET project came to an end in 2105 at the Frantiskove Lazne meeting it did not mark the end of my ECOVAST work on the project. I still have to complete my final piece of research for ECOVAST United Kingdom National Section which sets out to list all the towns in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales - which will of course identify all the small towns. It will eventually be distributed to all 4 National Assemblies; the 4 National Rural Networks and the voluntary associations in these countries. The Welsh Assembly has already asked to have a copy of the Welsh towns and they now have it even though it is technically still in draft form.

(b) PREPARE and DG Agri

I represent ECOVAST on the PREPARE Network and I attended the latest PREPARE gathering which was held in Albania near the village of Voskopoje in north eastern area of the country. I also still have connections with the new Civil Dialogue Group of DG Agri as I have been representing PREPARE on that group since it began in 2014. The current rural programme has been delayed for a year and we are only just getting examples of how things are working in the member states; most is about DG Agri explaining what the programme means. It will get more interesting later on. I have full records of the meetings which are available to anyone who would like a copy.

(c) European Rural Parliament

As you know from an earlier Newsletter, I attended the 2nd Parliament held in Scharding, Austria in November 2015 and ran a workshop on small towns; and the approved manifesto highlighted small towns as a key issue. Several countries are keen to develop a project on small towns and I hope will be able to be involved on behalf of ECOVAST which could also involve ECOVAST National Sections but the exact nature of the work is not yet decided. A 3rd European Parliament is now agreed and will be held in the Netherlands in October 2017 with most of the funding in place.

(d) Europe's New Rural Policy post 2020

The most important event of the year of 2016 was the Cork Conference 2.0 – a 20 year review of the original rural policy Cork Conference 1.0 in 1996. Places were restricted but I was lucky and got a seat representing ECOVAST. The formal Cork 2.0 Declaration under a title 'A Better Life in Rural Areas' set out 10 Policy Orientations and a copy will be forwarded to all ECOVAST members soon. [see news from partner organisation arc2020]

(e) New involvement with the EU Social Committee

This next piece of news is a real asset to the future for ECOVAST. In Scharding I met Tom Jones who chairs one of the groups of the European Commission Economic and Social Committee - they had supported and initiated the first European Rural Parliament in Brussels in 2013. This was the first time we had had any meaningful contact with this EC group (we are reasonably well known to DG Agri and DG Regio). Tom's committee is aiming to set up a formal 'study group' on rural communities (both villages and small towns) and invited me to become his 'expert'. This has now been confirmed by Brussels and 2017 will involve quite a bit of work for ECOVAST. There will be a first conference/workshop in February 2017 to discuss the problems and good practice solutions. I have already prepared a short paper for him and a draft questionnaire. The event will hopefully be badged as both the EESC and ECOVAST. I am already seeking out speakers from ECOVAST and have tentative acceptances from ECOVAST Croatia and ECOVAST Hungary and thank those who have

responded. I feel the acceptance of our work particularly on small towns by the EU Social Committee marks a significant milestone for us.

(f) ECOVAST Archives

I have also undertaken the task to write the history of ECOVAST. I had prepared a draft in 2015 and got some information from both Michael Dower and Angus Fowler but it still had significant gaps. I have now restarted. I did some research into Angus' records in Marburg and went to Tellow (near Rostock) to examine the 8 boxes from Michael Dower that had been deposited there at the Tellow Museum.

I already have good records from 2003 and Pam Moore and Phil Turner have filled in my gaps with paper and electronic records of committee meeting minutes.

(g) Marburg and beyond



Members at Marburg



When we met in Marburg for our general assembly it marked 32 years since our founding – which was just outside Marburg in 1984 and we visited the village on our tour. We spent useful time debating the possible future of ECOVAST.

We have all expressed our disappointment over the last few years on the lack of people able to come to meetings – although the reasons are perfectly understandable during this great European recession that goes back to 2008. However we also do not get good responses either from many of our National Sections who are representing ECOVAST in their own countries. Any study of our history will reveal just how remarkable our organisation has been and the variety of issues we have been involved in. Despite our worries there was enthusiasm at Marburg for us to continue and try to revive our efforts. The International Committee has set itself the task to re-examine how we and the National Sections work and are developing a plan of campaign.

One thought I would like to leave with you is how to improve our relationship with other rural partnerships both pan-European and those in our own countries. I do not think we are as good as we could be. All of us have been to events where one set of rural partners never seems to be aware of other networks in their country! One task I am set to do is the note down those that we need to keep in touch with at pan-European level and also list the various rural partnerships in the four countries of the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). All of them have a formal Assembly with ministries and also have formal National Rural Networks for the European Rural Programme and have national voluntary networks too. Whilst we cannot promote ourselves as a large organisation we are known to the Council of Europe, OECD, the European Commission divisions of DG Agri and DG Region (and have worked on their committees) and now are working with the European Economic and Social Committee. We are still consulted and invited to speak at international events. I will make sure our ECOVAST leaflet is up to date and can be used to re-introduce ourselves to our rural partner organisations.

(h) Thanks

Finally I would like to finish my report with thanks to all those I have worked with over the last few months since the last Newsletter. I particularly want to thank Phil Turner (Past President 2004-08 and Vice President 2009-2015) and Pam Moore (Secretary General 2004-2012 and UK National Section Secretary and UK representative on the International Committee). They have been very much a leading light to ECOVAST International over many years and leaders of the major ASSET project. They will no longer be active in ECOVAST but will not lose touch as they are now Honorary Life members. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing them well.

Best wishes to you and your families for Christmas 2016 and for the New Year of 2017.

Valerie Carter

Royston Edge



Royston passed away September 3rd, aged 91. He was a member of ECOVAST UK, attended the Europa Nostra Cambridge Conference in 2015, and has contributed to earlier newsletters

About a month before I spoke to him for quite a long time by telephone, replying directly to many letters he had sent me on the past few months, so I am very glad that I had this opportunity to speak with him before his sudden death. We talked especially about this year's ECOVAST events in Marburg and he wanted to send me a paper on French rural buildings - redundancy and reuse as that is our theme this year. I suppose this will unfortunately no longer be possible.

Angus Fowler

Malmi Airport HELSINKI CITY PLAN

ECOVAST has expressed concern about the future of Malmi Airport, Helsinki, Finland.

We learn from Europa Nostra that "Built in the mid-1930s in the functionalist architectural style, Helsinki-Malmi Airport is one of the best-preserved still operational pre-World War II international airports in the world. (The other two airports being Lido Airport in Italy and Shoreham in the United Kingdom)."

"With about 40,000 landings per year, Malmi is by far the busiest airport in Finland after Helsinki-Vantaa International. Complete with the original hangar, terminal and runways, the Malmi site, as a whole, has been declared a cultural environment of national significance by Finland's National Board of Antiquities."

“However, the City of Helsinki's General Plan proposes to fill the airport with apartment blocks to be constructed in the early 2020s, while the State of Finland is to withdraw its operations from the airport by the end of 2016.”

“The Modernist buildings of Malmi are of outstanding international value, providing not only an excellent example of preserved Modernist aviation architecture, but also exemplifying the extraordinarily progressive period between the two World Wars. In line with the heritage legislation of other European countries, the buildings should be protected in their full context together with the landscape (runways), which means as an operational airport in use”

It is also understood that the World Monuments Fund supports the conservation of heritage at



Malmi, and UNESCO have been approached on the possibility of World Heritage status.

As the airport is on the eastern outskirts of the City, it is a suburban area, not strictly “rural” and that the adjacent communities are neighbourhoods, rather than villages or small towns. Nevertheless, ECOVAST has an interest in the planning and environment of urban/rural fringe of cities in Europe.

ECOVAST points to the heritage significance of the main airport buildings, which are an architectural delight, the related runways and the (seeming) tranquility of the surroundings including the adjoining small neighbourhoods. The citizen involvement in the airport appears to be very high, with large numbers attending open days and supporting the retention of the buildings, runways and flying activities.

The Helsinki City Planning Committee has approved the Local Plan which was to be considered by the City Board on 19 September 2016 for adoption by the City Council later in the Autumn. However, in October the Finnish Parliamentary Ombudsman was asked to consider the process.

ECOVAST considers that there are material planning considerations that should be taken into consideration in the decision making:

The Malmi site was chosen for airport use because, at that time, another favoured site was considered more suitable for housing, whilst the marshland and clay subsoil at Malmi would have been unsuitable for construction of homes.

Another consideration is the loss of employment and voluntary activity associated with the flying.

The most important consideration is that Helsinki-Malmi Airport as a functioning whole is unique heritage of worldwide significance.

It has twice been selected to World Monuments Fund's List of 100 Most Endangered Sites, and is now one of the Europa Nostra 7 Most Endangered Cultural Heritage Sites in Europe. In both of these distinguished international recognitions, the fully operational status of the airport has been emphasised.

It is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union and uses largely the same criteria as UNESCO in assessing the significance of the proposed heritage sites.

<http://7mostendangered.eu/2015/12/10/helsinki-malmi-airport-finland/>

On behalf of ECOVAST, Phil Turner urged the City Board and City Council to ensure that a thorough assessment of Malmi Airport's potential as a cultural heritage site is made before its status as a Built Cultural Environment of National Significance is violated.

Europa Nostra reported on 19 October 2016:

In less than two months, 50,000 people from across Finland have endorsed a legislative initiative to preserve Helsinki-Malmi Airport, listed among the 7 Most Endangered heritage sites in Europe in 2016 by Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute. The Lex Malmi initiative, which aims to ensure the continued use of the airport, as well as safeguard its cultural heritage values while developing auxiliary activities, was submitted to the Finnish Parliament at the beginning of October 2016. Given the widespread public support for this initiative and the current political will in Parliament, it is quite possible that the bill will pass.

http://www.europanostra.org/news/842?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ENewsletter+Autumn+2016&utm_source=YMLP&utm_term=Helsinki%3A+50.000+people.../

Planning in Hungary

“Planning and the days of future past - Planning Horizons and Hungarian planning” Author: Roland Láposi



“Imagine a country where growing population is not a problem, where planners don’t struggle to find 5 years suitable land supply for delivering new homes by tens of thousands a year. There are no fierce arguments about fracking, wind farms or high speed railway lines. There is no devolution of city-regions or emergence of neighbourhood planning so the governance system doesn’t have to be restructured. There is no pressure on establishing new levels of power sharing and promoting collaboration to map out future developments and provision of services.

Welcome to future Hungary in between 2050-2100 – according to the most comprehensive research done for decades. Many challenges British planning systems will be facing within the 21 century simply won’t exist here. It sounds almost too easy, but there is a darker side to the story.

Changing urbanisation and demographic trends will have serious consequences for smaller towns and villages. These places won’t be able to safeguard their communities. Finances available to keep running basic infrastructure (e.g. energy, transportation) and provide services (social care, education, health) will be getting less and less, till cost of provision becomes too high to continue. Due to decreasing population there will be less demand for homes, property prices will be falling and there will be a huge increase in the number of abandoned, derelict homes.

The economy will also see significant restructuring, now substantial tourism and agriculture are expected to lose importance. Forecasts on retail consumption and GDP show either stagnation or decline at its best and the country’s economy will be even more polarised spatially.

Consequences of deprivation and living on low income will hit the most vulnerable people, who have got the least capacity to adapt living in those areas already under pressure.

Exposure to the impacts of climate change and vulnerability to them will be different through regions. The country will see 30-40 more sunny days when heat hits 40 Celsius and less frequent but far more intense rainfalls. Precipitation changes in the watershed areas of the main rivers in the Carpathian basin, combined with new rain patterns will influence the water security. Extreme flooding will be more frequent, while long periods of drought will endure in other places. Natural ecosystems and agriculture will try to adapt, therefore major shifts will be happening in land uses, crops and vegetation cover.”

Source: Royal Town Planning Institute
<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/rtpi-blog/planning-and-the-days-of-future-past-planning-horizons-and-hungarian-planning/>

ECOVAST visit to Brücker Mühle, Amöneburg, Germany

In October a group from ECOVAST visited this working grain mill in Hesse.

Once one of many, it is now the only remaining working former watermill in the area. There has been a mill on the site since at least 1248. Of the several mills on the site, uses have varied – at one time it was an oil mill (c.1930).

Today, electric power is used to run the machinery. However, the beautiful timber-framed building retains its traditional features and much historic machinery also survives. There is a cafe an impressive shop selling local produce.



Amöneburg was a Medieval settlement with a stone bridge over the River Ohm as early as the 13th century and became an important road junction. The village itself is full of fine medieval timber-framed houses set around a green.

Today, electric power is used to run the machinery but originally there was a waterwheel. Then there was a turbine. Once there was stone grinding, but this was replaced by milling machines like the one illustrated, now discarded outside.



Currently more state of the art machinery produces the flour

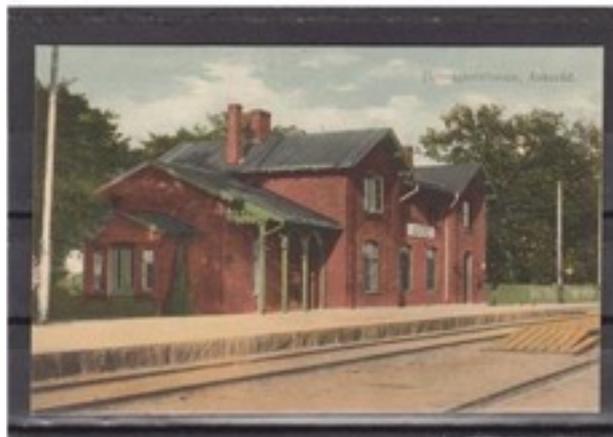


Reminders of when the mill used stones to grind.

Historic land reform and now counter-urbanisation in rural Sweden

A Swedish Friend reports on a recent visit to a cottage, dated 1909, in Askeröd, Skåne, in the south of Sweden:

“Dragontorpet” [Dragon Cottage] is red with white corners and built in wood of course. Situated in a lovely village (153 inhabitants). The railway came in 1866 and that was probably the new birth of the village. In Sweden there was a huge land reform regarding the farmland in 1830. Most villages had clusters of farmhouses and the land surrounded them. Most of the time the farms had small patches of land in different places. That was often due to the splitting of land when the sons of the farmer had inherited their fathers etc. [partible inheritance] So it became very difficult to manage when you had a small area here and there. Perhaps just a strip of land in 4 or 5 different places. The government then decided to re-draw the borders of the farms. The farmers got the same amount of area but all in one piece. Then on the new farmland people built their new houses, which in fact split up the old villages.



Askeröd railway station

Then the railway, built in 1866, brought other people to the new village. Carpenters, tailors, shops and other people etc. The railway closed down, in the 1970s and the village has been declining. But many villages that have seen better times are now coming back to glory. Askeröd is fairly close to Malmö and Lund. Now with better roads and crowded cities and towns where it is expensive to buy a house, people look further away from the crowded areas and find these little sleepy villages. Some years ago it was very difficult to sell a house in the small villages. People moved into towns where the work was of course. [urbanisation]. Now it is the reverse.

Pam Moore

Ingela Liwång, Täby, Stockholm.

News from ECOVAST National Sections

Austria

The Austrian section until now searched in vain for more official or public interest for the Green Belt and Small Historic Towns in Austria. But there might be some light at the horizon ("Silberstreif"). In 2017 the annual "Day of the Cities (held since 1828!) will be hosted by the small historic town "Zell am See" in the province of Salzburg. There we are hoping to play an official role and we have been invited to write an article about the "Future of Small Historic Towns".

We also are thinking about possible and significant contents for the event and exhibition of "100 Years Burgenland" (the eastern most province of Austria) to be held 2019. The Burgenland fulfills the function of a historic, cultural and landscape bridge between Central Europe and the more eastern bound countries of Europe.

The "National Park Cultural Landscape Neusiedler Lake" offers the western most step lake of Europe and also is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. ECOVAST Austria keeps very good contact with this organisation.

Arthur Spiegler, Brigitte Macaria

Croatia

About the section

The Croatian section has approximately 10 active members, and additionally there are some 20-30 people that form a circle made of former active members or close followers who would probably give their best to participate in any ECOVAST activity. Our wider base has 340 subscribers who are voluntarily subscribed to our newsletter and therefore interested to follow our activities.

In 2015 we amended our Statutes and they are now in line with the new regulations regarding Civil Society associations (this was a serious work that lasted several months). We are registered as non-profit association and in line with all regulatory requirements.

Sadly, we were not very active in the past two years. We can attribute this to our most active members becoming retired or more family-oriented, some got job promotions (which means less time available for voluntary work) and some simply became less active and less interested. Health problems were also an issue for some of us.

The main problem arises from the fact that today any serious work in the NGO field is project-oriented and finding funding opportunities is a serious work. We are not a professional NGO, have no employees and no serious funded projects. Our activities we carried back in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 were ad-hoc activities, with ad-hoc financing and lots of free work. We did try to apply to some calls for project proposals lately but those applications were unsuccessful - one of the main reasons is organisational and financial under-capacity.

The regulations and funding possibilities today demand professional organisations with employees that are able to carry the tasks of project applications and ever-growing day-to-day paperwork. Without such support, it is simply too much effort for everyone.

Thinking about the future of European ECOVAST, we feel that the only way to survive seems to be a fundamental change towards more serious project-oriented work that would re-connect our national sections.



Croatian Network for Rural Development celebrating its 10 years anniversary

Ten years ago ECOVAST Croatia was one of the founding members of the Croatian Network for Rural Development (HMRR). Today this network is becoming very strong on a national level, consisting of 46 NGOs from the field of rural development.

Members of ECOVAST Croatia are very active in HMRR projects. Nikša Božić is a member of HMRR's Management Board. Four ECOVAST members represent HMRR in a board founded by Croatian Ministry of Agriculture for the peer review of local LEADER/CLLD (Community Led Local Development) projects (Local Action Groups Development Strategies). Nikša Božić was a member of the Organising Committee of the First Croatian Rural Parliament and is a member of the Organizing Committee of the second one that will take place in April 2017.

HMRR celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 22 in Kravarsko village in Zagreb region. Valerija Kelemen Pepeonik and Nikša Božić were present, and being from one of the founding members of the network they were invited to give a small speech about the reasons to establish a network and its early history.

Save the date: Second Croatian Rural Parliament, April 20-22, 2017

The Second Croatian Rural Parliament will take place on April 20-22, 2017 in a small village Sveti Martin na Muri located in region of Međimurje in north Croatia. The main theme of the Second Croatian Rural Parliament will be "Integral Development through Cooperation".

The region of Međimurje was chosen because its inhabitants, entrepreneurs and leaders show the awareness of the importance of cooperation and this is shown in many successful projects. The rural parliament will take place in local spa center in Sveti Martin (that offers locally produced food on its menu), and field trips will include visits to some local places that were developed through international projects, including the birth place of Rudolf Štajner, the founder of biodynamic agriculture – an ecological and sustainable approach to agriculture dating back to 1920s that increases soil fertility without the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.



Sveti Martin na Muri



Rudolf Steiner centre

More info about the 2nd Croatian Rural Parliament will soon be available at www.ruralniparlament.com

Member activities

The journal Sociology and Space (vol. 54 No.204) published an article about the LEADER program and the impact of LAGs on rural development. One of the authors is our member Aleksandar Lukic, PhD.

Position of the Croatian Section regarding the situation in ECOVAST International

The meeting of the Management Board of the Croatian Section of ECOVAST was held on October 17, 2016, five days prior to Marburg event. We received the materials prepared for the Assembly of ECOVAST International, discussed the situation in the European ECOVAST and brought the following conclusion:

We have received with regret the information that one of the options under consideration is the dissolution of the European ECOVAST. We are aware that the state of the national sections is not the best, as it is characterised by a small number of members, weak activity and the lack of projects and regular sources of funding which is a prerequisite for any serious work.

Croatian section of ECOVAST supports the extension of the operation at least until 2021 (whilst the German section project continues). We believe that this additional time should be used as a sort of extra period in which we all should ask ourselves how we could contribute to ECOVAST surviving and continuing its work after Marburg 2016. We suggest setting a number of goals or "Action plan for survival". For these goals, we suggest the following:

1. Set minimum standards for national sections that must be met in order to be able to use the name of ECOVAST. Formal registration under the terms of national legislation, the minimum number of 10 or so active members and the existence of regular communication with the European headquarters is the minimum criteria that national sections should meet.
2. National sections should have a period of three years to be formally consolidated. No later than 2020, a review should be made of the national sections and the list should be updated in accordance with meeting the set criteria.
3. It is essential to work on the project networking of national sections, using the possibilities of EU programs and other sources of funding. When planning activities specific European programs should be taken into consideration resulting in funded projects in the context of available programs. At the latest by 2020, we should have at least one serious pan-European project that includes the majority of the national section of ECOVAST.

4. Work on strengthening the European position of ECOVAST using the experience and contacts that we have in networks such as PREPARE, Europa Nostra, CIVILSCAPE and the like. By participating in the pan-European events such as the European Rural Parliament boost the visibility and presence of ECOVAST.

5. Work to strengthen mutual communication of members and national sections using modern communication channels and social networks.

Nikša Božić

At the Croatian section Committee meeting I brought two young landscape architecture students along, interested to do expert practice with one of the European organisations (through ERASMUS), so we promised contacts through ECOVAST (and they are willing to join us as well). This is good news - young people wanting to cooperate, and also we had some others willing to get involved in formal work for ECOVAST.

There is a mission for ECOVAST still left - much has been done in all these years and should not stop now.

The name of ECOVAST is well known in many parts of Europe.

Tihana Stepinac Fabijanić



Germany

A year ago Irmelin Küttner resigned as Chairman of the German ECOVAST Section mainly for health reasons, she remains however active in the Committee of the German Section. Angus Fowler agreed to step in and was elected Chairman at the meeting of the Section in Neuhaus/Elbe. Andrea Weigert has resigned from the Committee of the German Section to concentrate her activity in the international association ECOVAST, however she has continued to help the German Section in various ways. Ivar Henckel and Olaf Linke remain members of the Committee. The Committee met once at the beginning of 2016, its members are in close contact with another.

The main activities have been preparation of the ECOVAST events in Marburg 21 – 24 October including two excursions. The Deputy Mayor of Marburg, Dr. Franz Kahle, greeted participants at the conference dinner, the Landrätin/Chief Executive of Kreis (district) Marburg-Biedenkopf met us at a presentation of a project of the Kreis. Representatives of Marburg and of the Kreis greeted us and participated at the foundation of ECOVAST in 1984.



On the excursions from Marburg, we visited Bellnhausen, where ECOVAST was founded in 1984.

ECOVAST was at the Monument Fair in Leipzig 10 – 12 November. ECOVAST took part at the Fair for the first time twenty years ago in 1996 on the initiative of the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen and has participated at the biannual Fair ever since with a common stand with the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen (FAK) (Marburg), sometimes with other associations related to the FAK. Our cooperation with the Monument Fair in Leipzig has been very close and we thank Ingrid Heineck of the Monument Team in Leipzig for the great cooperation and help.

Members of the German Section participated in various events at the “Green Week” in Berlin in January 2016, always helpful for latest “state of the art” in our field and for useful contacts, meeting colleagues etc. We continue our close association with the Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland/ Deutscher Heimatbund, particularly at the German Forum Cultural Landscape and have at very short notice attended the General Assembly of Civilscape 10 October and the Conference of European Conventions of Cultural Landscape and Cultural Heritage 11/12 October also in Berlin, where the European Cultural Heritage Year 2018 will be a theme in which ECOVAST should be interested and concerned.

Our last meeting in Neuhaus/Elbe was concerned in particular with activities in the “Green Belt” in the Neuhaus area and Lower Saxony. Arthur Spiegler was present so that we discuss with him possibilities for an even closer cooperation, for instance on the “Green Belt”, with the Austrian Section.

After Neuhaus, Angus Fowler put together much material digitally on small towns on both sides of the German section of the “Green Belt” (former “Iron Curtain”) including the frontier with the present Czech Republic. This material can be used for a possible future project.

Irmelin Küttner has been particularly active, attending many events and working on projects, particularly in Brandenburg, and with the Bund Heimat und Umwelt, publishing several articles. Olaf Linke will report on the progress of the project in continuation of earlier work in which he and his father are involved. Ivar Henckel is much involved in various organisations in Lower Saxony and has done much with Angus Fowler to prepare our participation with stand at the Leipzig Monument Fair. Andrea Weigert has been very busy.

Angus Fowler has had to spend much time in Newcastle giving up and selling his house there to create a financial basis for his further existence and work. Besides his work for the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen in Marburg (founder member of ECOVAST) he has concentrated in particular on two fields:

Reviving the Marburg Group/Ortskuratorium of the Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz DSD/ German Foundation for the Preservation of Monuments and the further development of preventive maintenance

in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Members of the Marburger Kuratorium of the DSD y attended our Marburg events. Continuing work has begun at a workshop in Wernigerode (Sachsen-Anhalt) in autumn 2015 together with the Association of Societies for Church Buildings in Saxony-Anhalt, the Förderkreise Alte Kirchen Marburg and Berlin-Brandenburg, Village Churches in Need in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, DenkmalWacht Brandenburg-Berlin/BAUDID, the DSD, the Protestant Church in Central Germany and conservation authorities.

At the suggestion of A. Fowler the DSD organised a major German conference in Bonn on 27 October 2016 on preventive maintenance in Germany, including a contribution by Monumentenwacht Gelderland.

In mid September 2016 A. Fowler attended a very inspiring and excellent Workshop and Conference in Kinerma and Petrozavodsk in the Karelian Republic/Russia, organized by the Kizhi Museum – the wonderful large baroque wooden church (ca. 1697) on the island of Kizhi in Lake Onega is a World Heritage site, further churches and wooden houses and agricultural buildings have been transferred to the Open Air Museum on Kizhi island. At the workshop in the village of Kinerma we could see how much the rural population with good leaders and examples is working to preserve their rich heritage of wooden buildings, developing rural tourism with guests from Germany and Scandinavia in particular. In recent years infrastructure has been improved by major road-building projects. There are persons and institutions there who are interested in ECOVAST. The Kizhi Museum which has a mobile team of three inspectors, has a training centre and gives advice and help to the local population in looking after their wooden buildings, has signed an agreement with ICROMM for accepting foreign students and is setting up a UNESCO Chair for the preventive maintenance of wooden buildings in association with the Technical University and Academy of Sciences at Petrozavodsk (like the already existing Chair for preventive maintenance generally at Löwen/Louvain in Belgium) and is already attracting students for instance from Asia (China, Japan etc.) but also western Europe. The events in Karelia were attended by experts from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Moravia/Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden and the Åland Islands/Finland and Estonia.

Most of the active members of the German Section see good reasons for the survival of both the German Section of ECOVAST (an association in its own right under German law) as well as of the international organisation ECOVAST.

Angus Fowler

Russia

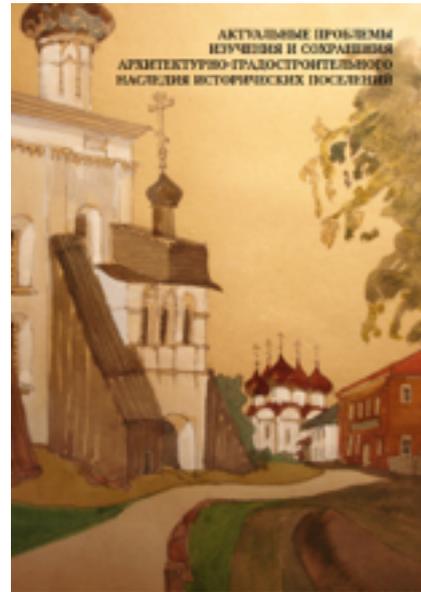
From September 2016 Dr Olga Sevan is Professor at the Institute of Art Restoration.

5. WOODEN ARCHITECTURE IN RUSSIA: RESEARCH, DIVERSITY AND MODERN SITUATION



Figure 9. Village Kimzha on the Mezen River and Odigitrievskay church (it is called pinega - mezen type). 1700 year (photos 1981)

Figure 10. Chapel in the village Glazovo XVIII c. Kenozero National Park, Archangelsk region (photos 2005)



ГЛАВА I.

ИЗУЧЕНИЕ И ПРОЕКТИРОВАНИЕ
ИСТОРИЧЕСКИХ ГОРОДОВ И ПОСЕЛЕНИЙ РОССИИ
И ПРОБЛЕМЫ ИХ ГРАДОСТРОИТЕЛЬНОЙ ОХРАНЫ

Olga's work on Wooden Architecture was published in the ICOMOS Quarterly Publication Sept 2015. Pages 14-21 . Year 9 Number 34.

<http://ciav.icomos.org/images/newsletters/newsletter-2015-y9-n34.pdf>

The ICOMOS Quarterly of March 2016 included a review of a collection of articles on "Actual problems of study and preservation of urban architectural heritage of historic settlements," edited by Olga, which has now been published as a high quality book. It brings together a number of experts of Russian ECOVAST and has a large number of projects, photos, drawings by O. Sevan.

<http://ciav.icomos.org/images/newsletters/newsletter-2016-y9-n35.pdf>

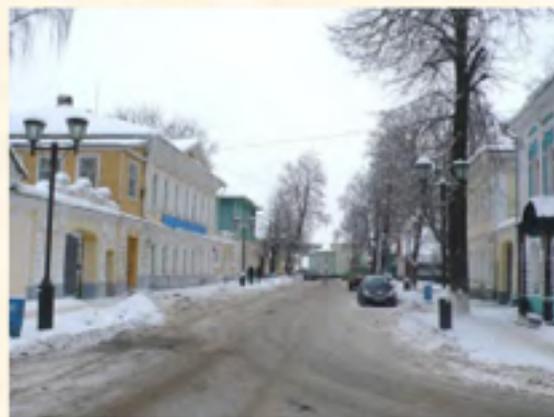
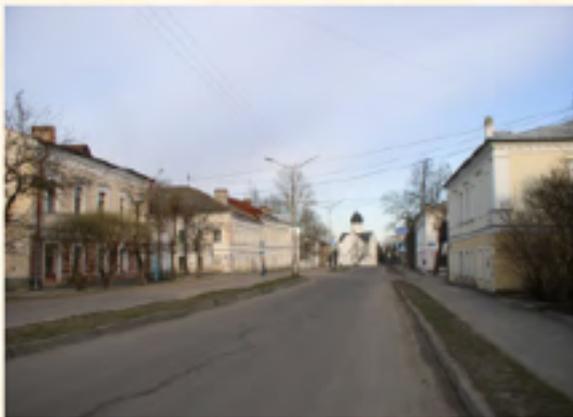


Fig. 1. Russia. City Novgorod. The buildings XIX - early XX centuries. Ilyina Street, overlooking the Church of the Transfiguration. Photo by V. Popov, 2002

Fig. 2. Russia. Small town Gorodets, Nizhny Novgorod region. Detail of the project of historical and cultural reserve "Museum Quarter". Photo by A. Davvdov. 2009

Partner organisations



EUROPA NOSTRA UK

AWARD FOR KNOCKANDO WOOLMILL

In August, the Knockando woollen mill near Elgin, Morayshire, held a ceremony to mark the winning by the mill of a Europa Nostra Award.

Knockando, a Grade A Listed site in the Spey Valley, has been continuously in production since 1784, when Parish records refer to it as the “Wauk Mill”, with much of its machinery dating from that time. Set in beautiful countryside, it produces fine cloth, much of which is exported, including to the Far East.

Although the historic machinery can be seen, quite a lot of production is now done on more modern

looms in a converted building adjacent to the historic mill. Visitors can see the restored overshot waterwheel, the spinning mules and traditional looms and other processes such as carding taking place.

By the Millennium, Knockando was facing hard times and many similar mills had closed. Knockando Woolmill Trust, formed in 2000, raised the £3.5 million needed to restore the buildings and machinery. This work was completed in 2014, The Trust now owns the mill building, leasing the rest of the site from Knockando Estate and has opened it to the public.

Europa Nostra was impressed by both the mill itself and also the Craft Training workshop formed to enable the passing on of traditional skills to young people. The citation commented that “The Knockando Woolmill is special due to its continuous unbroken production of textiles over the last 200 years. This is exceptional in Europe and the survival of this type of local production is rare”.

See www.knockandowoolmill.org.uk for more information.

Pam Moore



Waterwheel



Spinning mule



Traditional loom



Europa Nostra International European Heritage Alliance 3.3

EUROPEAN HERITAGE MOVEMENT REPRESENTED AT DENKMAL FAIR IN LEIPZIG ON 9-11 NOVEMBER

Europa Nostra held its autumn Board and Council meetings on 9-11 November 2016 in Leipzig, Germany, on the occasion of the **denkmal fair**, Europe's leading Trade Fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation.

Europa Nostra also organised two key events that will bring together members of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3. as well as reach out to the wider public attending the denkmal fair.

On 9 November, members of the **European Heritage Alliance 3.3**, the informal platform of 37 European and international heritage networks, gathered to discuss their contributions to the **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018** and how to combine forces and resources to make the best of this important Year. **Michel Magnier**, Director of Creativity and Culture of the DG Education and Culture of the European Commission, presented the state of play of the preparations for the European Year, and exchange views with Alliance members. Acting as coordinator of the Alliance, Europa Nostra is committed to strengthening existing synergies and collaboration among Alliance members in the run-up to the Year.
Source <http://www.europanostra.org/news/851/>

Angus Fowler attended the meeting of EHA 3.3.

Phil Turner

arc2020



On 6 September 2016, 250 delegates gathered to examine the challenges rural Europe faces. A declaration has been produced.

This is important because 20 years ago, the first edition of this event **produced a Declaration** which became the foundation document of the entire Rural Development Pillar in the Common Agriculture Policy.

Specifically the 1996 Declaration said "The application of rural development programmes must be based on coherent and transparent procedures, and integrated into one single programme for rural development for each region, and a single mechanism for sustainable and rural development". That single mechanism became Pillar 2 of the CAP.

The Declaration, called A Better Life in Rural Areas, is available to download from:
http://www.arc2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/cork-declaration-2-0_en.pdf

The ten points of the Cork 2 Declaration are:

- 1 Promoting Rural Prosperity;
- 2 Strengthening Rural Value Chains;
- 3 Investing in Rural Viability and Vitality;
- 4 Preserving the Rural Environment;
- 5 Managing Natural Resources;
- 6 Encouraging Climate Action;
- 7 Boosting Knowledge and Innovation;
- 8 Enhancing Rural Governance;
- 9 Advancing Policy Delivery and Simplification;
- 10 Improving Performance and Accountability.

PREPARE



In the beginning of September PREPARE partnership organised its traditional PREPARE Gathering in Albania. After introductory one-day travelling workshops around all country, participants gathered in Voskopoje, historical village near Korce. More than 80 participants from 20 countries took part in different workshops and plenary conference, discussing the issues of partnership building and networking. PREPARE Gathering 2016 was supported by Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and by the European Commission through the project ALTER.

From the PREPARE website

A Travelling Workshop in Georgia and Armenia took place from 24th to 28 October. Representatives from civil society and governments met and discussed the best practices in both countries and attended two Conferences in Tbilisi/Georgia and Yerevan/Armenia.

The next phase for the European Rural Parliament campaign has been launched after securing the funding from the European 14 Commission grant through the Europe for Citizens programme. This provides the base funding for a series of projects to be launched this autumn, building upon the European Rural Manifesto of 2015 and for the third European Rural Parliament, to be held in October 2017.

PREPARE Newsletter September 2016

Scottish Rural Parliament

Thursday 6th – Saturday 8th October 2016

Brechin Community Campus, Angus

The Scottish Rural Parliament in 2016 brought together 350 people from across rural Scotland to discuss the issues of greatest importance to rural communities.

We agreed a Manifesto for rural Scotland and decided what actions need to be taken and by who, to ensure our rural communities are empowered, connected and sustainable. The final Manifesto and Action Plan will be published here shortly.

The four subjects prioritised by participants were: Land, Local democracy & governance, Business and Broadband and mobile phone signal.

<http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/rural-parliament-2016/>



Gathering in Albania

Events notified to the Editor

CIVILSCAPE



Saturday 3 December 2016

The first meeting of the Task Force on Health and Landscape (TF on He&La) is to be held in Berlin. CIVILSCAPE calls for partnerships – experts, ideas, and cooperation – in sharing relevant expertise which could contribute to the development of the knowledge on relationship between health and landscape.



Europa Nostra

EUROPEAN HERITAGE CONGRESS in

Turku, Finland

10-14 May 2017

11 May | Forum on 'Civic Participation in Heritage Protection' organised by EN Finland

12 May | Council and General Assembly meetings

13 May | Excellence Fair: Presentations by Award winners

13 May | European Heritage Awards Ceremony

European Rural Parliament



The Third European Rural Parliament will be held 18 to 21 October 2017 in the village of Venhorst in the Netherlands.

Venhorst, with a population of 1,700, may seem an unlikely setting for a gathering of 300 people from 40 European countries. But it is a lively and outward-looking community. Its Parish Hall will host the Rural Parliament. The school and the church will provide extra meeting places. Overnight accommodation will be with village residents, and in local farms and guesthouses.

Host for the event is the National Association of Small Towns, working with its provincial partner in North Brabant. Funding has been promised by the Netherlands Ministry of Internal Affairs, the province of North Brabant and the municipality of Boekel, alongside funds from the European Commission's Europe for Citizens programme.

We are delighted that we can hold this great event in a rural setting. We look forward to enjoying Dutch hospitality, in a truly rural region which is also remarkable for its high-tech agro-food and other industries.

<http://europeanruralparliament.com>