GIS- based Environmental History initiatives in Europe

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OVERVIEW

- Project descriptions and funders
 Whether or not ESEH GIS projects are in a strategic portfolio of funders;
- 3. Position vis-à-vis national and / or international research infrastructure and data management initiatives
- 4. Project-specific data management, data interpretation and other challenges (incl. software used etc.)
- **5. Visions** for an European Historical GIS initiative or other network of networks structures





1. Survey to ESEH members in 11/2007 (1)

- Several projects on landscape change in Switzerland: Matthias Bürgi, Swiss Federal Research Institute; COST A27, Schweiz. Nationalfonds, master thesis
- "The history of flood risk management in the Rhine-Meuse river basin in the Netherlands": Rob Lenders, University Nijmegen; university funding
- "History Database of the Global Environment": Kees Klein Goldewijk, Netherlands Env. Assessment Agency



2. Survey to ESEH members in 11/2007 (2)

- "Mapping the medieval Urban Landscape"; Keith D. Lilley, Queen's University Belfast; funded by The Arts and Humanities Research Council
- "Spatial and temporal climate variability of the Czech Republic according to visual daily weather observations and early instrumental measurements"; *Rudolf Brazdil*, Masaryk Univ. Brno; Grant Agency of the **Czech Republic**



Projects and their funders

- "Land Use and Land Cover Change in Czechia"; national + IHDP funding
- "HMAP Historical Marine Animal Populations"; Roskilde University, **Denmark**
- "Historical development of the Danube in the Machland, Upper Austria"; Austrian Government
- "Historical Landscape Ecology of Austrian Villages"; Austrian Ministry of Science, 1997-2001



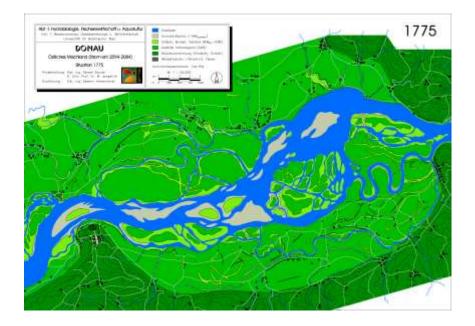
Changes in ecological structure of landscapes

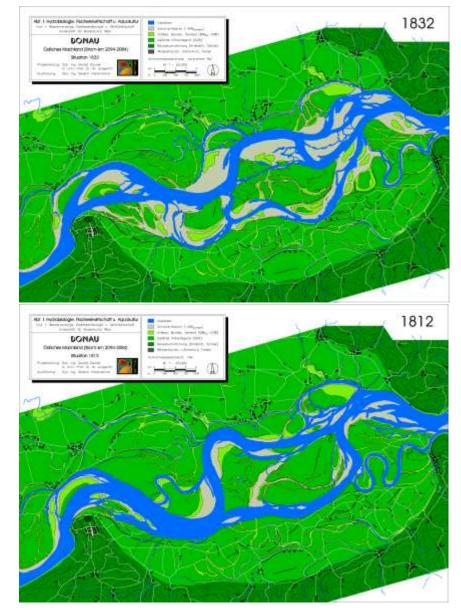






Historical development of the Danube in the Machland, Upper Austria





Hohensinner et al. 2004





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2. Whether or not ESEH- GIS- projects are in a strategic portfolio of funders

 ESEH is a <u>scholarly society</u> without operative research units. Some projects might be in strategic portfolios, most are not. There is at the moment <u>no coordinated action within ESEH</u> about GIS initiatives.



3. Position vis-à-vis national and / or international research infrastructure and data management initiatives

- There is no joint position of ESEH.
- Environmental History in general is <u>badly</u> <u>embedded</u> in international research infrastructures.
- Known embedding: ALTER-NET (EU FP6)



4. Project-specific data management, data interpretation and other challenges

- <u>Fuzziness</u> of source information needs to be adequately presented in maps and images
- <u>Changing boundaries</u> of nation states/entities of interest for investigation
- Structure of community needs open source, <u>open</u> <u>access</u> and <u>web interfaces</u>
- Tools for the depiction of <u>processes</u> need to be developed
- Key research questions can come from <u>natural</u> <u>sciences and/or humanities</u>
- GIS should serve as a tool for <u>interdisciplinarity</u>



Visions for a European Historical GIS initiative or other network of networks structures

- <u>Harmonization</u> of data from different national reporting structures should be funded
- Open access, web interfaces allowing data handling and manipulation
- GIS should be used to raise <u>public awareness</u> as well as for scholarly research
- <u>Empowerment</u> for researchers doing EH to engage in teams using GIS
- <u>Meta-library</u> of all <u>E</u>H- GIS initiatives, MANAGED repository





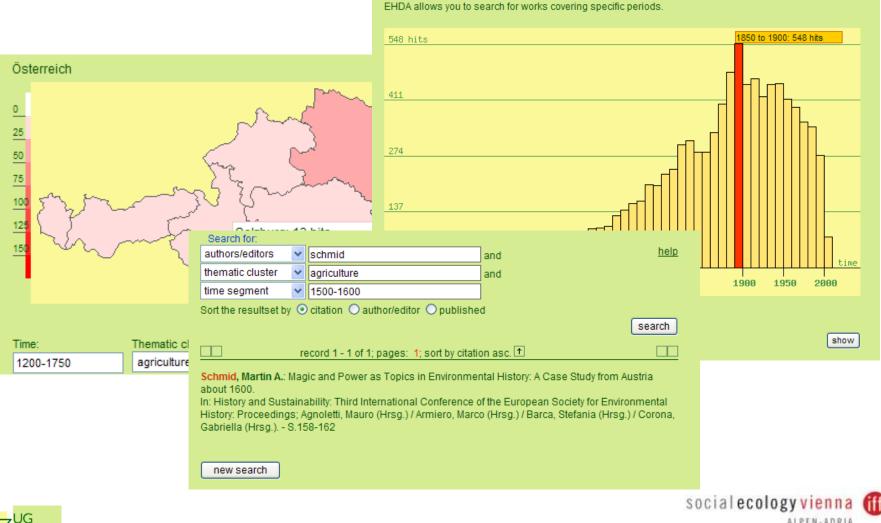
Possible Role of CEH in Vienna for GIS infrastructures

- Research: Environmental History of the Danube: multinational, uses ALTER-NET-sites, integration via GIS is planned; ESF-Exploratory Workshop in Feb. 2008 in Vienna
- Capacity Building: International Summer School on GIS in EH in cooperation of European universities
- Network Infrastructure: A Database, a "Meta-Library" for <u>E</u>H-GIS-initiatives to be developed for the web, cp. EHDA



Possible Role of the CEH in Vienna for GIS infrastructures

Environmental History Database Austria (EHDA)



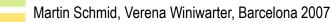
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Thanks for your attention!

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