

# GIS- based Environmental History initiatives in Europe

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# OVERVIEW

1. **Project descriptions** and funders
2. 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

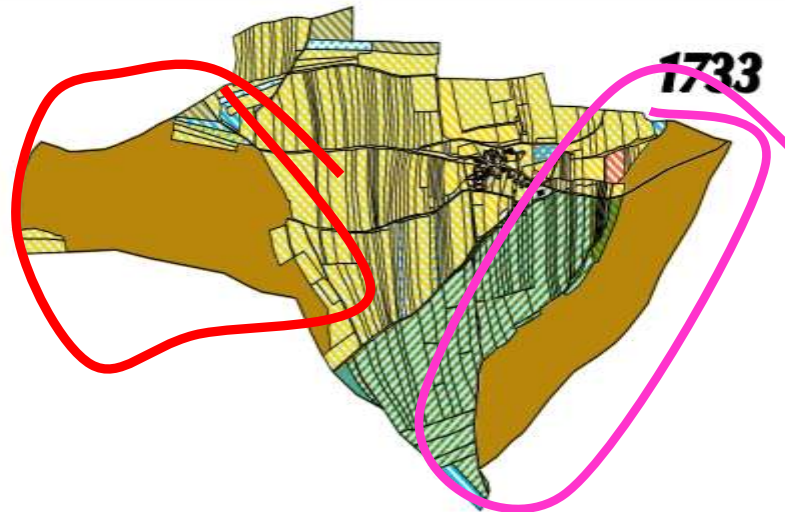
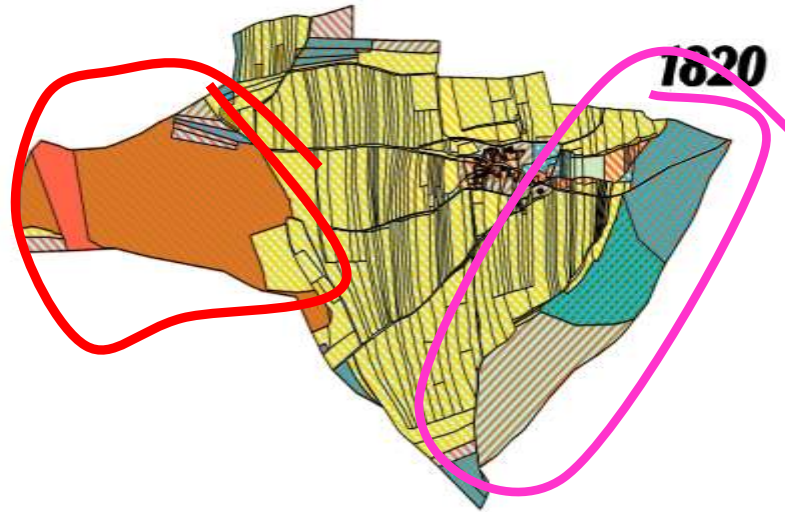
# 1. Survey to ESEH members in 11/2007 (1)

- 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**

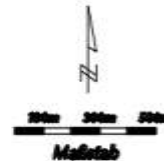




# Landscape Structure of Theyern

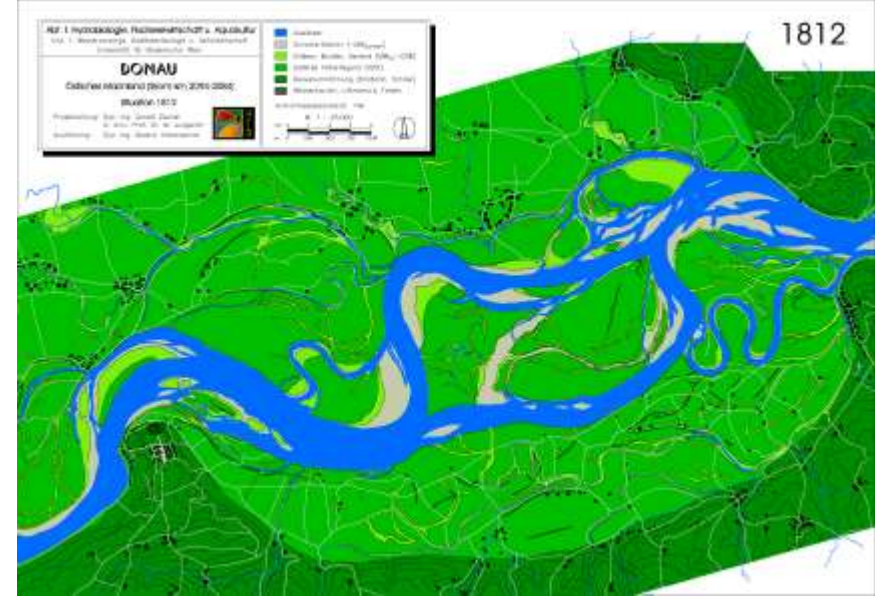
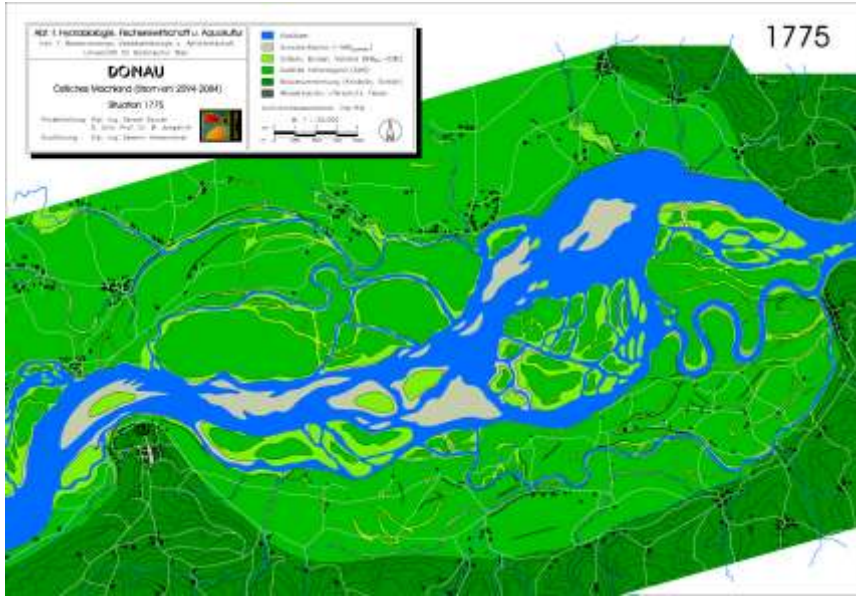
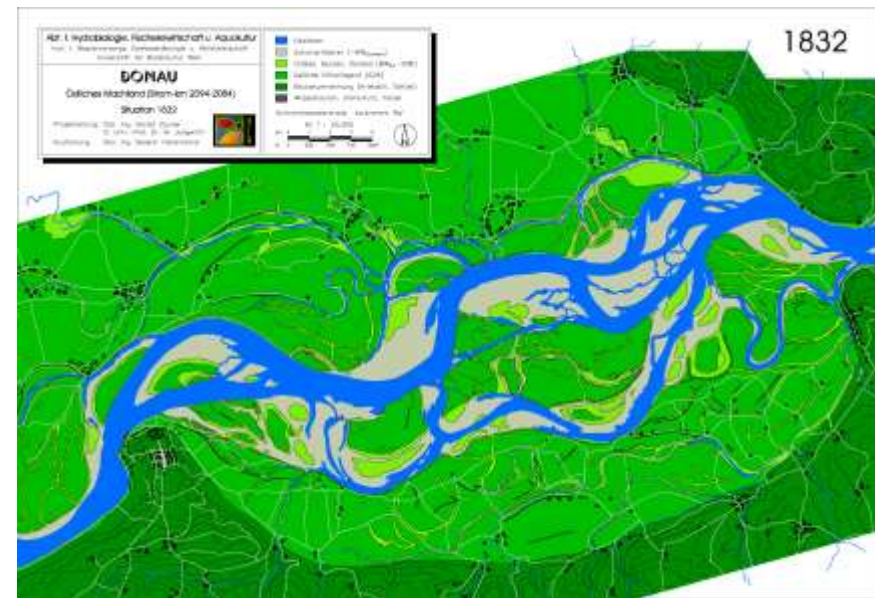


<b>Disturbance</b>	DIP1	<b>Introduced</b>	INP1	<b>Resource</b>	RSP1	<b>Regeneration</b>	RGP1
	DIP2		INP2		RSP2		RGP2
	DIP3		INP3		RSP3		RGP3
	DIP4		INP4		RSP4		RGP4



Changes in ecological structure of landscapes

# Historical development of the Danube in the Machland, Upper Austria



Hohensinner et al. 2004

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

- ESEH is a scholarly society without operative research units. Some projects might be in strategic portfolios, most are not. There is at the moment no co-ordinated action within ESEH 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 badly embedded in international research infrastructures.
- Known embedding: ALTER-NET (EU FP6)

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

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



# 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 **EH-GIS**-initiatives to be developed for the web, cp. EHDA



# Thanks for your attention!

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