

Report by the EURHO Secretary for the period 2013–2015

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This report about the activities of the EURHO covers the period between the General Meetings on 22 August 2013 in Bern/Switzerland and on 8 September 2015 in Girona/Spain. It comprises the following activities: (1) the EURHO website, (2) the Rural History Newsletter (RHN) and (3) other administrative activities.

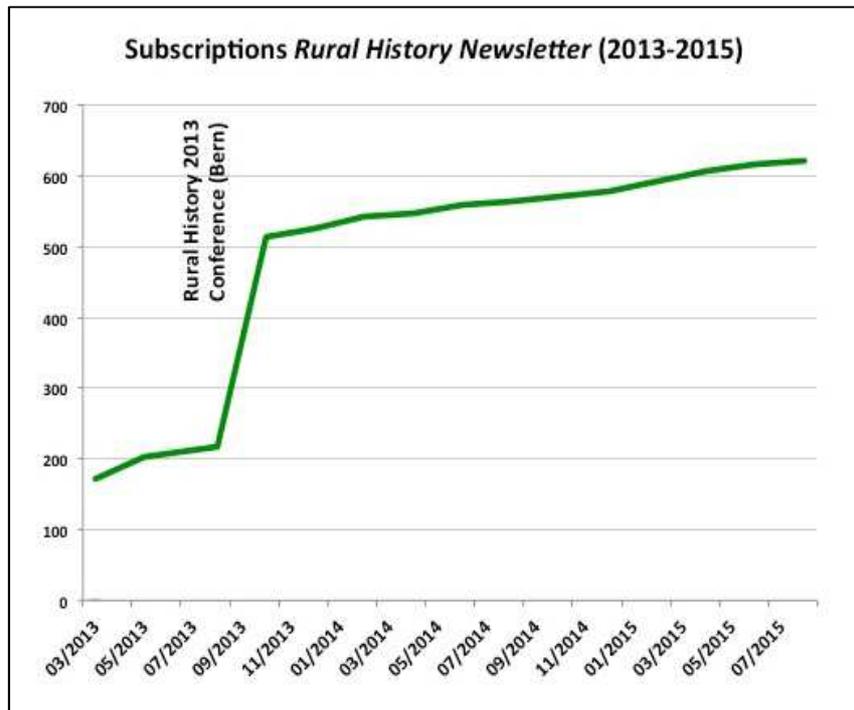
1. EURHO website

The website of the EURHO (www.ruralhistory.eu) which was launched in January 2013 was regularly updated at the Institute of Rural History (IRH) in St. Pölten/Austria. The contents to be updated comprised, among others, the new members of the Management Committee, the new institutional members, the conference Rural History 2015, the links collection and – last but not least – the newsletter.

The screenshot shows the EURHO website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: Home, EURHO, Newsletter, Conferences, Links, and Contact. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with links to Home, EURHO, Newsletter, Conferences, Links, and Contact. The main content area features the EURHO logo, which consists of the words 'eu/ropean rural history organisation' stacked vertically. To the right of the logo, there is a 'News' section with several articles, including 'Call for Papers: Life & Law in Rural America. Cows, Cars, and Criminals' (Sep 01, 2015), 'Call for Papers: Are all commoners equal?' (Aug 29, 2015), 'Call for Paper Abstracts: Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions' (Aug 26, 2015), 'Review: British Economic Growth, 1270-1670' (Aug 26, 2015), and 'Le «rural» en question. Regards croisés sur une catégorisation' (Aug 26, 2015). Below the logo, there is a call for expressions of interest for the Rural History 2019 conference. The footer contains contact information for the EURHO, including the address of the Institute of Rural History in St. Pölten, Austria, and details for the next conference, Rural History 2015, held in Girona, Spain, from September 7-10, 2015.

2. Rural History Newsletter (RHN)

Since the conference Rural History 2013 in Bern, the number of subscribers of the RHN has more than tripled and an increasing number of academic websites and scholarly blogs regularly mention the RHN as a source. Currently, 622 subscribers from 39 countries on six continents received a digest of new issues of the RHN every other week.



The scope of the RHN has not changed much in the past two years. The mailings primarily contain calls for panels, papers or articles, information on conferences, workshops, seminars, exhibitions and other events. The RHN also regularly includes the TOCs of new issues of the most important journals and books series within the field as well as links to online-reviews of recent publications. Lately announcements of job opportunities, vacancies, grants, fellowships and other funding opportunities have increased significantly. Due to the fact that only a few contributions were made under the category *Forum*, this part continues to be fairly inactive. The majority of the contents still is the result of search activities by the editor Ulrich Schwarz (ulrich.schwarz@ruralhistory.at), but more and more the RHN is actively used by EURHO members to disseminate information about events, new publications and vacancies in the field of rural history.

While the continuously growing number of subscribers and occasional feedback reveal great appreciation of the RHN within the scientific community, this project constantly needs further fine-tuning and development in order to stay useful and practical within the swiftly changing environment of the World Wide Web. Therefore, the editor explicitly asks for comments and suggestions in order to adjust and improve the RHN.

3. Other administrative activities

The Secretary also settled a couple of minor administrative activities. These comprise the answering of requests by visitors of the website, the communication with the organisers of the conference Rural History 2015 and the preparation of the MC Meeting 2014 in Vienna and the MC and General Meetings 2015 in Girona (setting of agendas, nomination of the Officers by the MC, nomination of the Regional Representatives by the individual members etc.). The following persons were nominated as Regional Representatives for the period 2015-17 by at least two individual members of the respective region:

- Gérard Béaur (France) for South-West Europe
- Gesine Gerhard (USA) for the rest of the world
- Anne-Lise Head-König (Switzerland) for Central Europe
- Socrates Petmezas (Greece) for Southern Europe
- Erik Thoen (Belgium) for North-West Europe

For Scandinavia and Eastern Europe no nominations were made.

This report has been approved by the General Meeting of the EURHO in Girona on 8 September 2015.