



**Minutes of the
ESSC Executive Committee and Council meeting
Moscow (Russian Federation), 21 May 2015**

The ESSC Executive Committee and Council meeting was held on May 21st 2015 in Moscow on the occasion of the 7th ESSC International Congress.

Present: C. Dazzi (President), J.L. Rubio, A. Kertesz, G. Lo Papa (taking minutes and representing E. Costantini), I. Pla Sentis, C. Krammer (representing F. Glante), I. Vasenev, V. Cotet (representing M. Dumitru), M. Coutinho.

Apologies: E. Costantini; T. Kariotis; I. Kisic; W. Cornelis; D. Gabriels; T. Scholten; M. Fullen; P. Strauss; P. Schjønning; A. Solé Benet; E. Velizarova; S. Marcinkonis; L. Øygarden; F. Glante;

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductory remarks (C. Dazzi; N. Nechaev; I. Vasenev)
2. Report by the Treasurers (W. Cornelis & D. Gabriels)
3. Report by the Secretary (E. Costantini)
4. Report by the Editor in Chief (M. Fullen)
5. Information on the 7th ESSC Congress (I. Vasenev)
6. Request for sponsorships
7. Election of new ESSC President (C. Dazzi)
8. Council elections for the period 2015-2019 and General Assembly
9. New ESSC secretariat
10. ESSC Awards (Gerold Richter and Young Person)
11. Reflection on ESSC future (C. Dazzi; I. Pla Sentis)
12. Future activities: next ESSC Conference and Congress
13. Any other item

Report

1. The President welcomes the participants and expresses appreciations for the good quality of the 7th Congress in Moscow and thanks prof. Ivan Vasenev and his group for the excellent organisation. I. Vasenev expresses his satisfaction for the congress and highlights that this experience was very important for Russia as it contributed for more sensibility of the government in soil conservation and organic farming. Russia is now open for future meetings and symposia about those topics. Soviet Union was closed in past, but since 10 years Russians are trying to open culture and research. Thus, comparing and sharing research and publications would

be very important. In Russia there are 57 Agricultural Universities that have own journals or bulletins that could be supported, improved and internationalised.

The President suggests to Vasenev for publishing news in the ESSC newsletter about these journals. Rubio wishes the beginning of future collaborations and cooperation between the Europe and Russia on similar and common issues of soil conservation, therefore symposia could be good occasions.

The President informs the Council about the ESSC Soil Petition initiative and results obtained.

The President informs about the new ESSC website and change of dominion. Besides a Facebook page is available with almost 500 followers. He stresses that staying updated with social networks nowadays is very important to have visibility and to capture young people attentions.

The President informs that two ESSC grants for young researchers were assigned for this congress to Sarah Buckingham (UK) and Simone Priori (Italy). Both of them will be invited in writing something about this experience in the ESSC newsletter.

2. Both Treasurers apologise for their absence. They've sent a report (attached 1) and a presentation that President showed to the Council. The Council approves the report jointly.

The President informs on the letter to national Soil Science Societies for stimulating subscriptions by means of incentives for cumulative applications: 15 € per year and 40 € per three years per person. The President invites national representatives to inform the Council about their national situation. V. Cotet informs that Romanian members are now 46 and she brought associative fees (€ 1,070) of the last years and the situation in paper and digital version on CD support. All has been delivered to the President. A. Kertesz has no news from Hungary. No information for Greece. In Spain there are now only 8 ESSC members. Rubio highlight that the situation of Spanish research is affected by difficult times. Hopefully the occasion of the ESSC conference in Lleida in 2017 could be a good opportunity for increasing the Spanish associates. M. Coutinho informs that wrote a letter to the President on how to pay accumulative subscriptions but maybe there were some misunderstandings, however actually in Portugal there are 7 ESSC members who paid annual fees.

The President informs that during the Moscow congress the ESSC acquired 6 new members.

The President highlights that ESSC budget is now around 13,000 € (considering also the Romanian fee) and invites council members to make proposals how to invest part of this budget for ESSC activities. Considering that the next ESSC international conference 2016 will be in Romania, the President propose to provide 2 grants of 500.00 Euro each to 2 young researchers (less than 35 years old) members of the ESSC. The grants will support their participation to this ESSC International Conference.

I. Vasenev asks about providing a credit card payment service for associate's fees. The President answers that an eventual service will have a remarkable cost even if not used by any members.

The President s informs the Council that D. Gabriels has sent a proposal by email to fix in 500 € each as maximum cost as reimbursement for the ESSC commitments of President , Secretary, Newsletter Editor, etc.

The President proposes to fix a certain amount of the budget for anyone representing the ESSC in some events. A. Kertesz proposes to be very flexible on that, but having limits and a budget for any commitments. J. Rubio proposes that budget commitments should be decided occasionally. I. Pla Sentis proposes that the President should be free in using money of commitments without submission to the Executive Committee, just informing it. The President agrees with all these proposals and suggests to fix commitment cost limits and budget. He proposes a limit of 1,000 € per year. I. Pla Sentis proposes that the President has to decide on both eventual commitments and who will attend, just informing the committee. M. Coutinho proposes that reimbursement has to cover only travel and accommodation costs. The President and the Council approve jointly these proposals, highlighting that commitments will be decided if strictly necessary and for important events. People involved in some commitments however is invited first to verify money availability to cover costs from own budgets and, if there is not availability, using then eventually ESSC budget (after the approval from the President).

3. The Secretary of ESSC (Edoardo Costantini) sends his apologies for his absence from the ESSC Council meeting. The President reads the Secretary's report (**attached 2**). J. Rubio asks how members of the Executive Committee could be involved in using and improving the ESSC Facebook page. The President minds that members will receive credentials (under request) to have access to Facebook pages. Council approves jointly the Secretary's report.

4. The Editor-in-Chief of ESSC newsletter (Mike Fullen) sends his apologies for his absence from the ESSC Council meeting. The President s reads the report (**attached 3**) and proposes: to J. Rubio writing a short paper on the 25th anniversary of the ESSC; to I. Vasenev writing a paper on soil conservation in Russian federation; to All collecting photos of soils and landscapes to launch a new photo gallery on soil conservation in the ESSC website. The Council approves all proposals jointly.

5. The President asks to I. Vasenev about statistics of the 7th Congress in Moscow. Vasenev inform All that 120 participants attended the congress with 50 oral presentations and 28 posters. The President informs that he will invite Dr V. Vasenev to write a report on the 7th ESSC Congress for the IUSS newsletter.

6. Several requests of sponsorship have been received in the last year from many events in different countries (Italy, Portugal, India, Egypt, USA, etc.). The President reads all the Institutions that received the sponsorship highlighting the importance of the sponsorship for the visibility of the ESSC.

7-8-9. The President wishes that young members could promote own candidature for the ESSC presidency and secretariat. I. Pla Sentis proposes for the next four years the same President and secretary. J. Rubio minds that elections are made by ESSC General Assembly. After verified the availability of the actual President and that no youngers or vice-President s are available for candidature, the Council approves the Pla Sentis' proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly tomorrow. The

confirmation and/or the election of new council members and executive committee will be approved tomorrow in the General Assembly.

10. The President informs that Mike Fullen and Idelfonso Pla Sentis are the two winners of the Gerold Richter Award 2015 edition and tomorrow, in occasion of the closing ceremony of the congress, they will be awarded. Besides, he announces that the winner of the ESSC Young Person Award 2015 was Maria Fantappiè from Florence (Italy), to be awarded tomorrow too.

11. The President and I. Pla Sentis highlight the importance both to involve young generations of scientists for the future of the ESSC and to expand collaboration among ESSC members and between ESSC and other scientific societies relative to soil conservation topics.

12. The ESSC international conference 2016 will be in Cluj, Romania. It was approved that I. Pla Sentis is in charge to organize in Lleida an international event in 2017, which will include besides the Congress of ESSC, the Congresses and Conferences of ISCO, WASWC and probably other international organizations in the field of Soil and Water Conservation. He reads some statements that will be presented officially in El Paso (Texas) during the next 18th ISCO Conference, to ask for the official approval of ISCO and WASWC.

I. Pla Sentis proposes to organize in Lleida the international conference 2017. He reads the statement and proposes a joint international conference together with other organizations (ISCO and WASWAC). This statement will be presented officially in occasion of some joint meetings between ESSC and other associations. The President informs that he received availability from Latvia members to organize the ESSC international conference 2018 and from Albania to organize the 8th congress in 2019.

13. I. Vasenev suggests some people that will receive tomorrow presents on behalf of the ESSC for contributions and logistic supports given in the organization of the 7th ESSC international Congress.

Moscow, 21st of May 2015.

Carmelo Dazzi

ESSC President



attached 1

Treasurer report

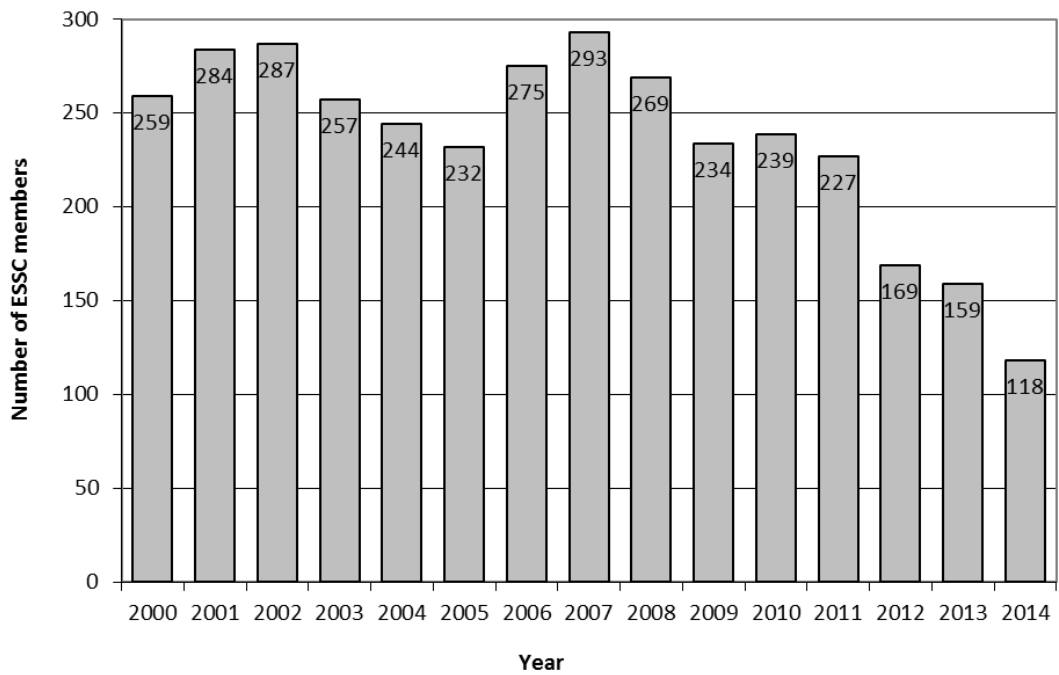


Treasurer Report 2014

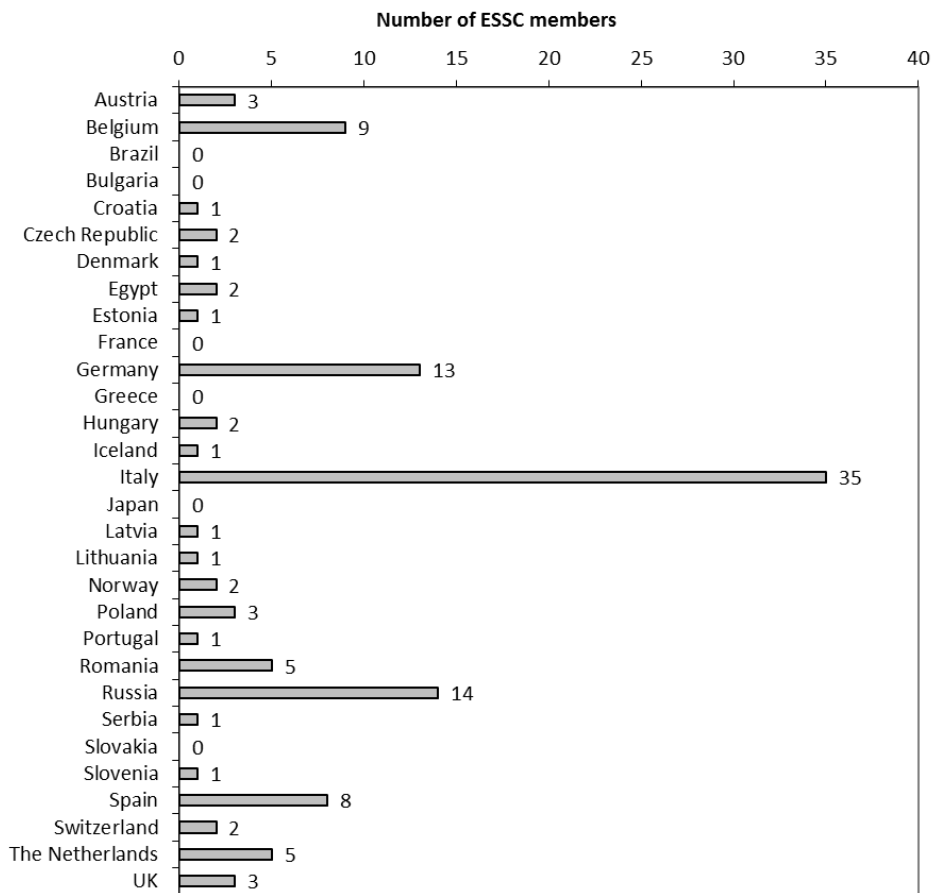
ESSC Council Meeting 2015

Moscow, Russia, 21 May 2015

Evolution ESSC membership 2000-2014



ESSC membership per country in 2014



Comment : The Romanian representative was not able to pay the 2014 fees yet (in cash). Romania had in 2013 44 members. Also the list with Russian members needs to be updated and fees will be paid at the ESSC Moscow conference.

Financial Report

2010-2014

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Budget January 1 (EUR)	13313.31	11858.64	14064.77	14335.92	12535.34
Income (EUR)					
Membership Contribution	2135.15	4670.12	1824.62	2366.01	463.00*
Interest (bank account)	22.43	20.31	22.83	17.96	8.43
Books sold	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Conferences	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Total (EUR)	2157.58	4690.43	1847.45	2383.97	471.43
Expenses (EUR)					
Newsletters	3291.50	2367.20	1533.00*	2817.30*	0.00**
Bank Account	31.20	31.20	31.20	31.20	0.00
Conferences	283.50	0.00		1330.00**	1100.00***
Other Expenses	6.05	85.90	12.10**	6.05***	0.00****
Total (EUR)	3612.25	2484.30	1576.30	4184.55	1132.60
Balance (EUR)	-1454.67	2206.13	271.15	-1800.58	-661.17
Budget December 31 (EUR)	11858.64	14064.77	14335.92	12535.34	11874.17

* Since newsletter 01/2014 (with then membership invoice enclosed) was only send in November 2014, many members paid their contribution only from January 2015 onwards.

** Invoice for newsletter 01/2014 is paid in 2015

*** Grants for the Imola (Italy) conference (2 x 500 EUR) + four ESSC plaques for honorary members (100 EUR)

**** Transfer costs

Ghent, 11 April 2015



Wim Cornelis
ESSC Treasurer



Donald Gabriels
ESSC Co-treasurer

attached 2

Secretary report

The secretary's activity has continued supporting the Presidency in all his societal actions, as well as the Newsletter editor, the treasure, and the web master. In addition the secretary has been taking care of the Facebook page. To that regard, it is worthy to summarize the state of health of the Soil Conservation discipline as well as the ESSC, as it outcomes from the Facebook statistics.

Currently, 389 people like ESSC and read the Facebook page. The trend is on increase, but this last year less than the year before (figs, 1 and 2).

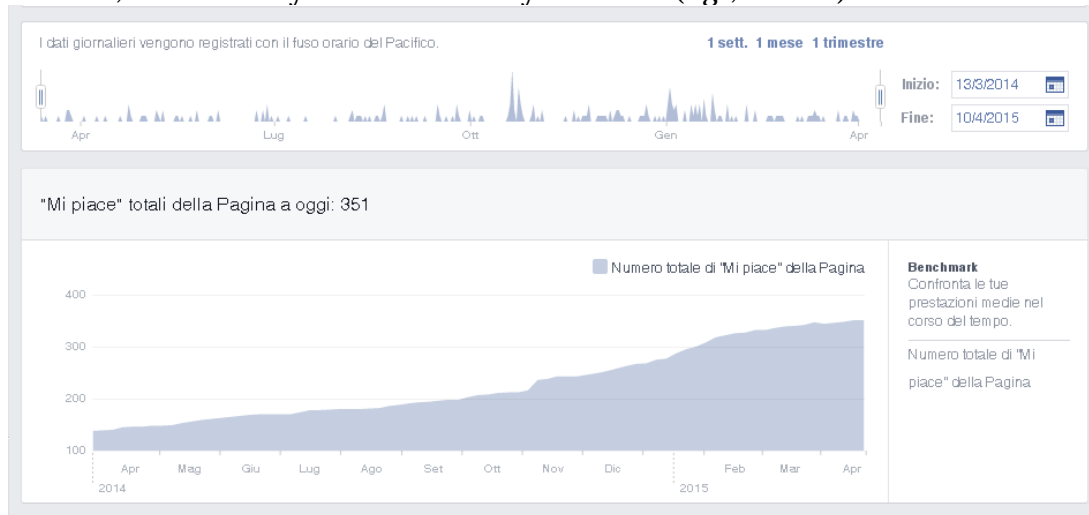


Figure 1 - "I like" trend during the last year



Figure 2 - "I like" trend during the year before

The number of posts read in the last year is on average about 50

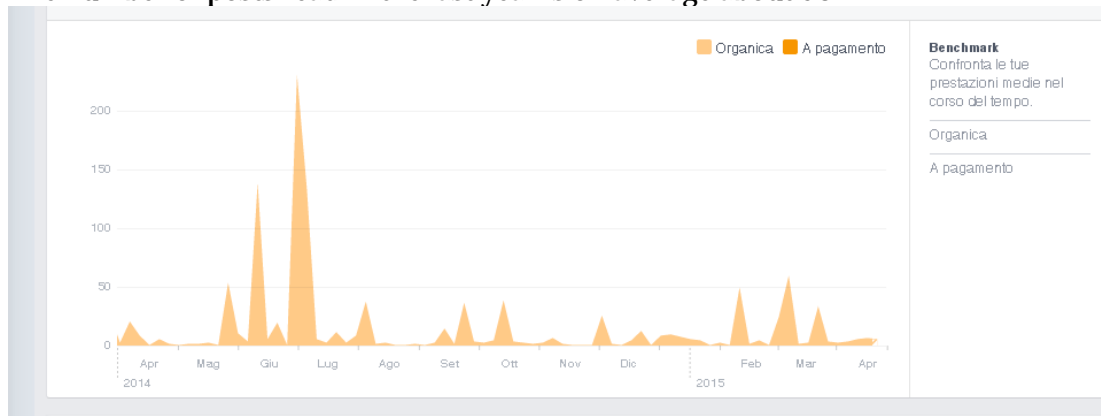


Figure 3

Which is significantly higher than last year



Figure 4
About 4 people/d are visiting the ESSC page



Figure 5

The visiting people are mainly from Italy, Brasil, Spain, Egypt, United States, Germany, and India. It is worthy to stress that, apart from Italy, there are apparently more people from non-European countries interested in our web page, than from Europe. Palermo and Florence, the cities of the President and Secretary, are the most important, thus Italian is the most common visualization language, followed by English.

Panoramica "Mi piace" Copertura Visite Post Persone					
Paese	I tuoi fan	Città	I tuoi fan	Lingua	I tuoi fan
Italia	110	Palermo	21	Italiano	106
Brasile	71	Firenze, Toscana	8	Inglese (USA)	79
Spagna	21	Il Cairo, Governatorato de...	7	Portoghese (Brasile)	66
Egitto	17	San Paolo (Brasile), San ...	6	Inglese (Regno Unito)	28
Stati Uniti d'America	10	Lubiana, Slovenia	6	Spagnolo	21
Germania	10	Recife, Pernambuco, Bra...	5	Spagnolo (Spagna)	11
India	10	Napoli, Campania	5	Francese (Francia)	7
Romania	8	Iasi, Distretto di Iasi, Rom...	5	Tedesco	6
Slovenia	6	Bologna, Emilia-Romagna	5	Arabo	6
Costa Rica	6	Curitiba, Brasile	5	Sloveno	4
Altro... Sloveno					

Figure 6

The year before was very similar.

Paese	I tuoi fan	Città	I tuoi fan	Lingua	I tuoi fan
Italia	72	Palermo, Sicilia, Italy	21	Italiano	71
Brasile	21	Florence, Toscana, Italy	5	Inglese (USA)	38
Spagna	11	Reykjavik, Gullbringusyl...	3	Portoghese (Brasile)	20
Stati Uniti d'America	8	Iasi, Romania	3	Inglese (Regno Unito)	13
Germania	6	San José, San Jose, Cost...	3	Spagnolo	11
Costa Rica	6	Rome, Lazio, Italy	3	Spagnolo (Spagna)	5

Figure 7

In conclusion,

1. it seems that there is a noticeable interest toward the information provided by ESSC through the Facebook page, much larger than the society's members.
2. That information is also appreciated outside the European boundaries of the society.
3. ESSC members, apart from Italians, Spanish, and some Germans, are not particularly active in following the Facebook web page

The secretary
Edoardo A.C. Costantini

attached 3

Editor-in-chief report

1. The Editor-in-Chief (Mike Fullen) sends his apologies for absence from the ESSC Council meeting.

2. The ESSC Newsletter is progressing well. Since the appointment of the new editorial team in May 2004, 30 Newsletters have been published. The Editor-in-Chief (MAF) thanks the commitment and support of the Assistant Editor (Dr Colin Booth, CAB), the Editorial team in Bratislava, Professor Carmelo Dazzi, Professor José Rubio and the ESSC Executive Committee. The 'Guest Editorials' are proving popular and, to date, 23 have been published. Issue 2014/2 is now at the printers in Bratislava and issue 2015/1 is in preparation. Several logistical problems, both in Wolverhampton and Bratislava, have slowed the delivery of Newsletters. However, we are confident these problems are resolved and we will proceed with timely publications.
3. Catena Verlag has kindly agreed to publish a book based on Guest Editorials. This will be entitled 'Global Perspectives on Soil Conservation.' This will form part of the Catena 'Advances in GeoEcology' series. In principle, it is agreed that there will be future volumes, associated with the four year cycle of Congresses of the ESSC. Work on Volume 1 is progressing well. To date, most of the 19 Chapters have been received and are going through the refereeing and editing process. There is some delay, as MAF is also the Chief Editor of 'Advances in GeoEcology 44' (a book based on papers presented at the ESSC Congress in Thessaloniki in May 2011; please see Note 4). However, the book will be completed as soon as possible in the near future. On completion of the Thessaloniki book, work on the Guest Editorials book will recommence in earnest.
4. The book based on the papers presented at the ESSC Congress in Thessaloniki in May 2011 is making good progress. The book will be 'Advances in GeoEcology 44, OUR SOILS: Strategies and Policies for Soil Conservation.' The Editorial team consists of Mike Fullen, Joseph Famodimu, Theodore Karyotis, José Rubio, Christos Noulas, Andreas Panagopoulos and Donald Gabriels. A total of 25 papers have been received and have gone through the refereeing and editing process. So far, 19 papers have progressed to the proof stage. There are several minor issues with the remaining six papers. These are nearing completion and the complete book should be in press in June 2015. The list of papers is presented below.
5. The 'ESSC members citation list (2000-to date)' and the 'PhD theses completed by ESSC Members (2004-to date)' are proving popular in both the printed and web-versions of the Newsletter. The citation details of Ph.D. theses by ESSC members since and including 2004 have been added as an additional page to the ESSC web site. To date, the citation details and abstracts of 51 Ph.D. theses are quoted. Currently, the number of quoted publications cited on the web page is 721. These information sources are proving useful for both teaching and research. It is suggested that the Council discuss whether the database should be revised into an interactive format on the ESSC web site. This would improve searches on the web site.
6. Council members who have not already done so, are requested to provide MAF or CAB with the citation details of papers in international refereed journals and book chapters published since (and including) the year 2000.

7. We are not getting as many articles as anticipated relating to the Ph.D. process.
8. The web site is developing well, and the team in Bratislava continue their splendid work in supporting web site development and maintenance. Karol Végh (KV) is leading ESSC publications (Newsletter and ESSC web site) at Bratislava. Our sincere thanks go to Karol. The publication activities of the ESSC based at Bratislava is receiving the full support of Professor Dr Jaroslava Sobocká (the Director of the National Agriculture and Food Centre, Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute at Bratislava).
9. KV has developed and launched a new version of the ESSC web site. There is also a new ESSC Facebook page, which is proving popular. For administrative purposes, Karol has arranged for the web site to be hosted on an external server.
10. As agreed at the ESSC Council Meeting in May 2011, all Presidents of European Soil Science Societies have been offered a paper copy of the ESSC Newsletter. Four Presidents have accepted the invitation. Most stated they were happy to view the Newsletter on-line.
11. At the ESSC Council meeting in Průhonice (Czech Republic) on 23/06/2009, it was agreed that ESSC Newsletters should carry reports on soil erosion and conservation in specific countries. To date, there have been four reports:
 - Czech Republic by Jana Podhrázká (Issue 2010/3, p. 25-31).
 - Greece by Theodore Karyotis and Constantine Kosmas (Issue 2011/1, pages 11-25).
 - Iceland by Andres Arnalds and Johann Thorsson (Issue 2012/2, pages 10-21).
 - Italy by Edoardo Costantini (Issue 2013/2, p. 7-18).

A request was made to the National Representative for Russia for a report in advance of the 2015 Congress in Moscow. However, to date, there has been no paper. It is suggested the Committee discuss if they would like to see a post-Congress paper on soil erosion and conservation in the Russian Federation in the Newsletter.
12. It is suggested the Council discuss a publication reviewing the first 25 years of the ESSC since its launch in 1989. Thus, the review should report progress to 2014.
13. MAF has received suggestions for a soil photo archive to be made available on the ESSC web site. It is suggested the Committee discuss this possibility.

The Editor-in-Chief

Mike Fullen