



**Minutes of the
ESSC General Assembly
Moscow (Russian Federation), 22 May 2015**

The ESSC General Assembly of all the people attending the 7th ESSC International Congress was held on May 22nd 2015 in Moscow.

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. Election of new ESSC President (C. Dazzi)
6. Council elections for the period 2016-2020
7. New ESSC secretariat
8. ESSC Awards (Gerold Richter and Young Person)
9. Reflection on ESSC future (C. Dazzi; I. Pla Sentis)
10. Future activities: next ESSC Conference and Congress
11. 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. Prof. 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. The President informs about the ESSC Soil Petition initiative and results obtained. The President informs that two ESSC grants for young researchers were assigned for this congress to Sarah Buckingham (UK) and Simone Priori (Italy).

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

3. The Secretary of ESSC (Edoardo Costantini) sends his apologies for his absence from the ESSC Assembly meeting. The President reads the Secretary's report (**attached 2**). The Assembly approves the Secretary's report.

4. The Editor-in-Chief of ESSC newsletter (Mike Fullen) sends his apologies for his absence from the ESSC Assembly. The Presidents reads the report (attached 3). The Assembly approves the Editor-in-Chief report.

5-6-7. 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, the Assembly approves the Pla Sentis' proposal and the following composition of the Executive Committee and of the Council for the period 2016- 2020:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President

Carmelo Dazzi, Palermo, ITALY

Past-President

José Luis Rubio, Valencia, SPAIN

Vice-Presidents

Michael A. Fullen, Wolverhampton, GB

Ádám Kertész, Budapest, HUNGARY

Peter Strauss, Petzenkirchen, AUSTRIA

Secretary

Edoardo Costantini, Firenze, ITALY

Treasurer

Wim Cornelis, Ghent, BELGIUM

Co-Treasurer

Donald Gabriels, Ghent, BELGIUM

Editor in Chief

Michael A. Fullen, Wolverhampton, GB

Co-Editor for Spanish

Antonio Rodriguez, La Laguna, SPAIN

Members

Lilian Øygarden, Aas, NORWAY

Ivan Vasenev, Moscow, RUSSIA

Idefonso Pla Sentis, Lleida, SPAIN

Mihail Dumitru, Bucharest, ROMANIA

Thomas Scholten, Tübingen, GERMANY

Endla Reintam, Tartu, ESTONIA

COUNCIL:

AUSTRIA	Peter Strauss
BELGIUM	Donald Gabriels Wim Cornelis
BULGARIA	Emilia Velizarova
CROATIA	Ivica Kisic
CZECH REPUBLIC	Jana Podhrázká
DENMARK	Goswin Heckrath
ESTONIA	Endla Reintam
GERMANY	Thomas Scholten Frank Glante
GREECE	Sideris Theocharopoulos
HUNGARY	Ádám Kertész
ICELAND	Anna Maria Agustsdottir
ITALY	Edoardo A. C. Costantini Giuseppe Lo Papa
LITHUANIA	Saulius Marcinkonis
NORWAY	Lillian Øygarden
POLAND	Antoni Szafranek
PORTUGAL	Miguel Azevedo Coutinho
ROMANIA	Mihail Dumitru Gerard Jitareanu Valentina Cotet
RUSSIA	Ivan I. Vasenev
SLOVAKIA	Jaroslava Sobocka
SPAIN	Ildefonso Pla Sentis Albert Solé-Benet
The NETHERLANDS	Leo Stroosnijder
UNITED KINGDOM	Michael A. Fullen Jane Rickson

the General Assembly approves unanimously.

8. The President informs that Mike Fullen (UK) and Idelfonso Pla Sentis (Spain) are the winners of the Gerold Richter Award 2015 edition and that Maria Fantappiè (Italy) is the winner of the ESSC Young Person Award 2015. The assembly welcomes the winners with a burst of applause.

9. 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.

10. The ESSC international conference 2016 will be in Romania. 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.

11. No other item to be discussed.

Moscow, 22nd of May 2015.

Carmelo Dazzi

ESSC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dazzi', enclosed within a large, stylized oval flourish.

attached 1

Treasurer report

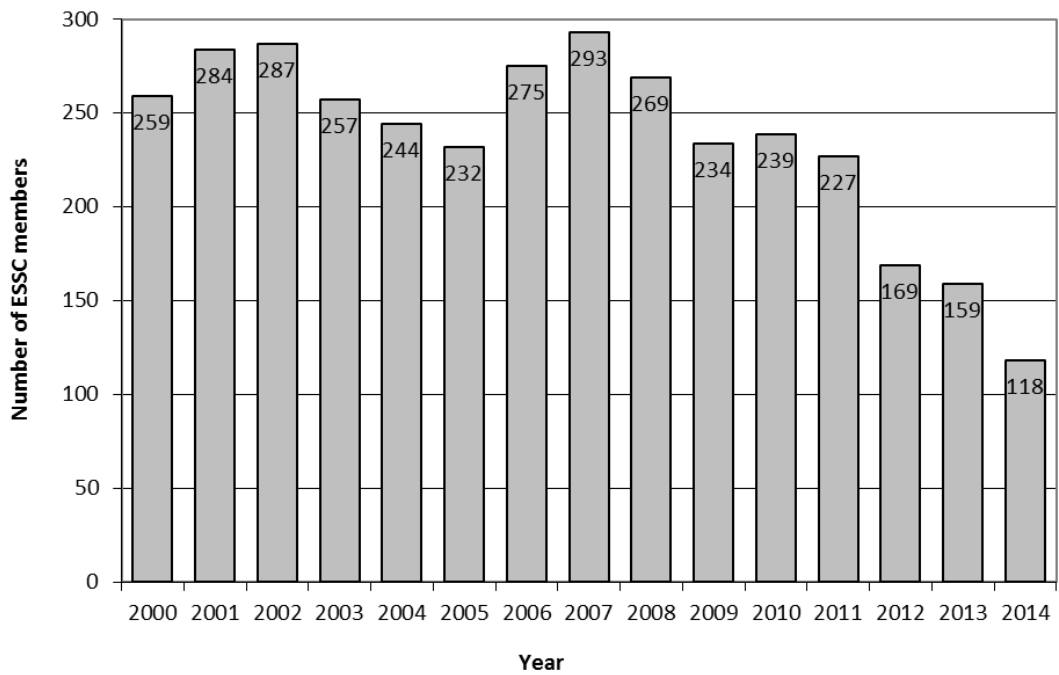


Treasurer Report 2014

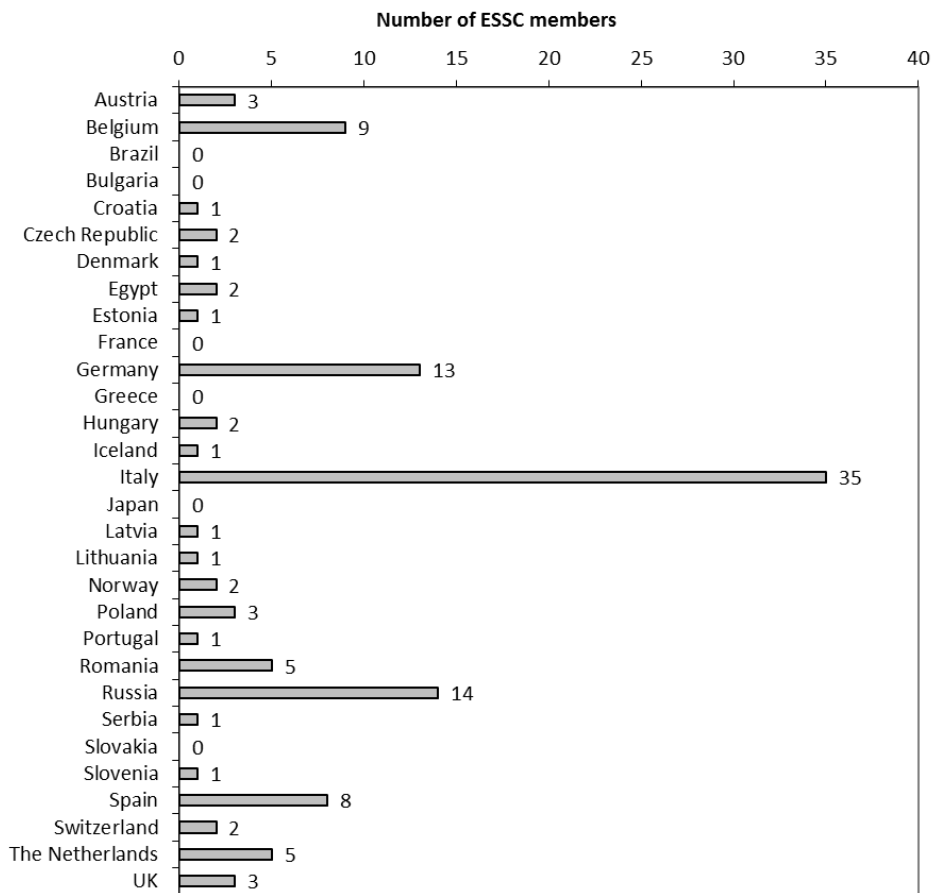
ESSC Council Meeting 2015

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).

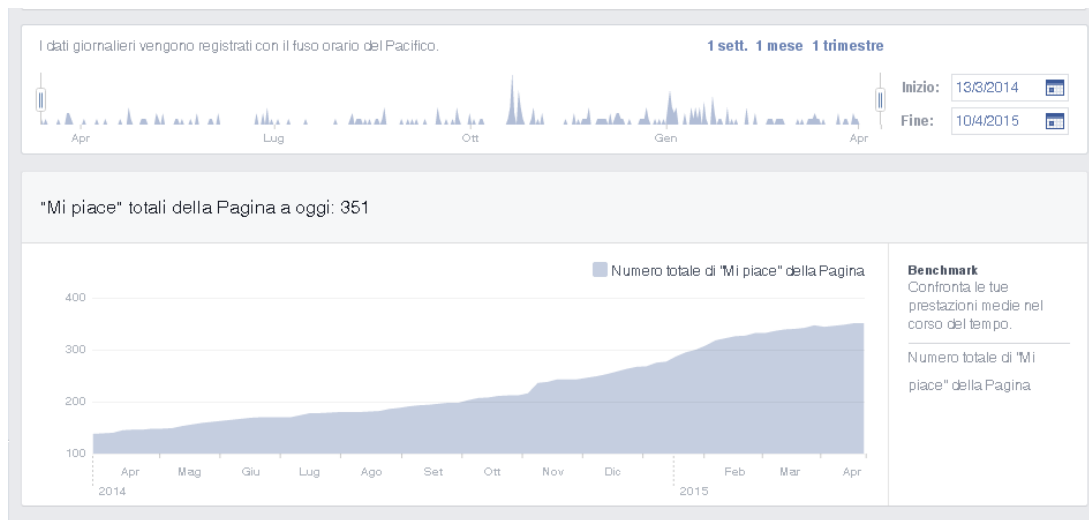


Figure 1 - "I like" trend during the last year



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

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

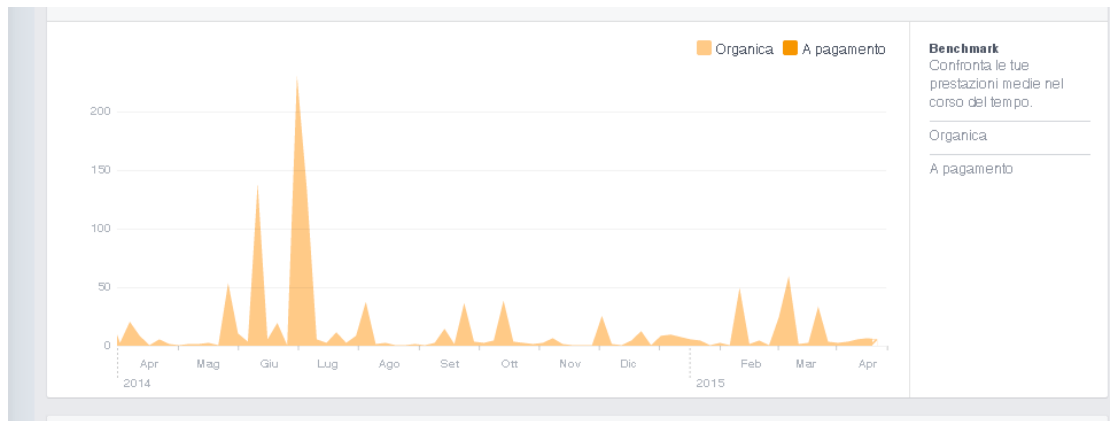


Figure 3

Which is significantly higher than last year

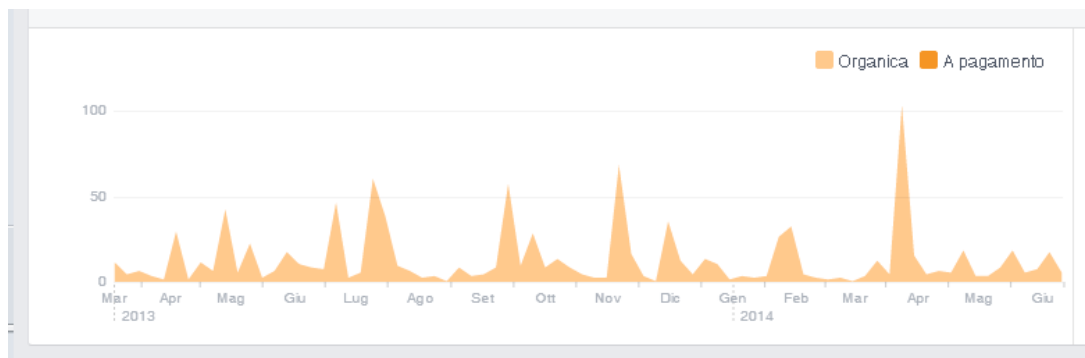


Figure 4

About 4 people/d are visiting the ESSC page

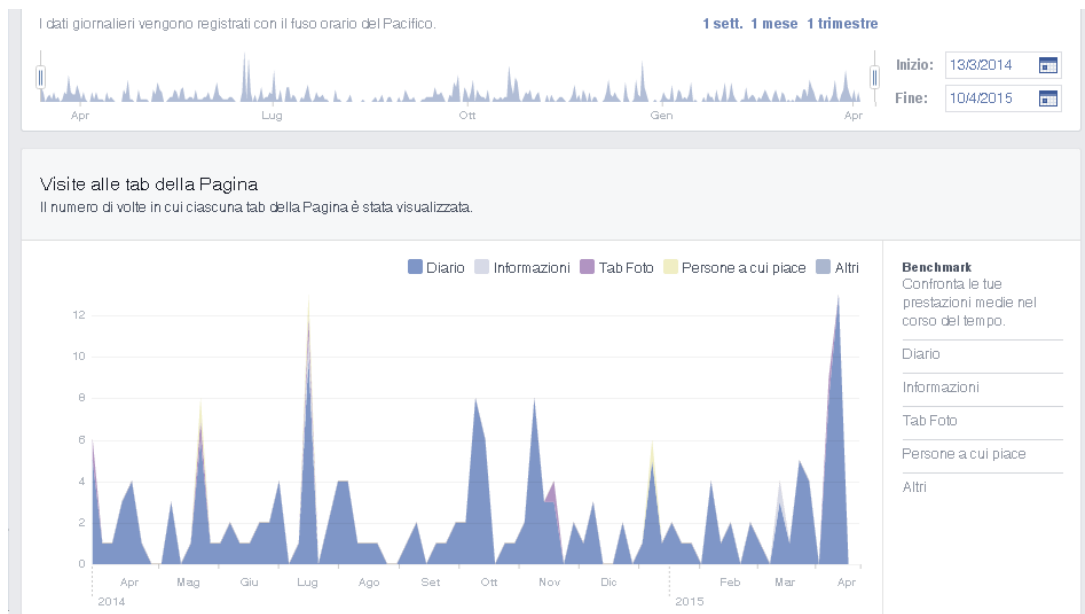


Figure 5

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.

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...					

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, Gullbringusysl...	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

Report to ESSC Council, Moscow (Russian Federation), 21 May 2015

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