

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Thirty years of the scientific journal "Social Ecology"

Dear readers,

this year, the scientific journal "Social Ecology", co-published by the Croatian Sociological Society and the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, marks 30 years since the first issue of the journal was published in 1992, when it was established by its founder and longtime editor Prof. dr. Ivan Cifrić.

We are grateful for this significant anniversary, and especially thankful to all the authors who contributed to the content of the journal with their valuable manuscripts and other contributions, to all the reviewers who have indebted us deeply by selflessly devoting their time to carefully read through the manuscripts and give their constructive comments, and above all to the readers whose kind words of support have always been our main motivation for continuing with this noble and very interesting, but at the same time extremely responsible, challenging and sometimes difficult job of editing a scientific journal. We are especially proud to say that a real community of social ecologists in Croatia has organically formed around the journal through collaborations and publications, and this will certainly remain the journal's most important legacy.

After devoting 15 years to working with the journal, first as its secretary, then as the Executive Editor, and for the last 7 years as the Editor-in-Chief, this year I am retiring from these more active roles to a somewhat less demanding though not less responsible role as the member of the Editorial Board. As the founder of the journal and its longtime editor Prof. dr. Cifrić wrote in the Editor's Note in 2012, when he was leaving the editorial position on the 20th anniversary of the journal, this is a logical act of handing over this important role to new forces that will continue developing it further.

We have made a great effort to continue the tradition of publishing valuable and quality manuscripts in the field of social ecology, as well as to further improve the journal in terms of its content and technical aspects. The journal is an A1 category journal for the social sciences and humanities; planned 3 volumes a year are regularly published in "online first" and printed versions; the journal continues to be indexed in significant databases, including Scopus, and it has joined some new ones; it continues to publish theoretical and empirical scientific and professional papers, as well as reviews and other relevant texts in social ecology, with the emphasis on the field of social sciences, but

also including all those fields (natural, technical, biomedical, humanistic) that also analyze and research human (society) relationship to nature (environment) from different perspectives; special thematic issues have been intensified with the aim of gathering in one place the authors of various important and insufficiently examined socio-ecological topics in domestic science; the journal has been fully digitized and the entire archive of full papers is available free of charge through the Portal of Croatian scientific journals "Hrčak"; the rigor of the editorial process has increased, for example by introducing triple instead of double anonymous reviews whenever possible; ethical guidelines have been improved; an online system for receiving papers through OJS has been established, and it will be fully implemented under the new Editorship; the journal has opened up to the international scientific and general public by introducing publications in English, while Croatian remains the main language of the journal, and abstracts in German are also retained. Among the larger plans that we had but failed to yet realize is indexation with the Web of Science database and the introduction of some additional technical features such as formatting articles in XML format, etc.

How successful we have been in all of this you will best judge for yourself, and we have certainly made some unintentional mistakes, for which we can only ask you to forgive us, while taking into consideration that they are inevitable in editorial work which, as only other editors may know, is extremely demanding and complex. Our goal has always been the same with every manuscript we received – to publish original and quality papers as intermediaries between authors and their ideas and the general public, but at the same time retaining a high level of responsibility to authors, reviewers and readers, and above all to the highest principles of our profession and science. We are now handing over this task to the new Editorship who we are convinced will continue to work on further improving the journal with the highest level of professionalism and dedication. Personally, I wish them every success and I am available for any kind of support if the need arises, as previous editors did for me.

During these 15 years, I had the exceptional honor to work closely with Prof. Dr. Cifrić and his successor in the position of the Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Krešimir Kufrin, both of whom unfortunately left us too soon. The invaluable support for which I am especially grateful has always been provided by the Editorial Board, whose members have not changed much since the first composition, which also shows a continuity not only in working together, which is crucial for this type of work, but also in the shared commitment to this topic and the journal. However, the daily technical "legwork" still has to be done by someone, and here lies my greatest and deepest gratitude to the Executive Editor as well as the secretaries of the journal, Ivana Čavar, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ksenija Klasnić and Vladimir Ivanović who, with the highest level of meticulousness, armed with great patience, motivated by the desire to help their colleagues in publishing their papers, and often in their spare time, worked on receiving and processing papers, preparing them for publication and communicating with authors, readers, reviewers, publishers, various institutions, the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education, etc. Last but not least, there are many associates of the journal who work on translations, proofreading, layout

design, UDK and DOI, website maintenance, accounting, etc. We are especially grateful to the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education, which recognizes the value and quality of the journal by providing it with continuous financial support, without which the journal could not be published. We are also grateful to co-publishers, the Croatian Sociological Society and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, and especially to the members of the Department of Sociology, from whom we have also received continued support for this work.

The 30th anniversary of the journal will be marked by a panel in the second half of 2022, to which you all are cordially invited. We will present the bibliography of the journal and thematic analysis of the topics covered during these 30 years, but also use this opportunity as members of the Editorial Board, associates, readers and authors to share our experiences in a less formal environment.

Thank you once again and I look forward to our continued collaboration on our common socio-ecological topics in some new forms!

Tijana Trako Poljak
Editor-in-Chief