koje ga podržavaju, svjedočanstvo su i jamstvo da se prije deset godina krenulo u pravom smjeru.

Nadamo se da će i ovaj tematski broj biti jak dijaloški poticaj da se u toj orijentaciji bude još uspješniji.

Urednici Drago Roksandić i Hrvoje Petrić

FOREWORD

This Volume 6 of *Economic (history) and Ecohistory* is dedicated to research of mountains and hills. This is our fifth thematic set. The second volume was an issue, dedicated to diseases, economy; the third to people and rivers; fourth to history of forest environment; fifth - to people and hunting from ecohistorical perspective. Environmental and economic history of mountains and hills environment is, so far, our greatest challenge, especially in light of the fact that mountains and hills are often overshadowed by interest for Adriatic Sea or Pannonian valley issues, notwithstanding the great possibility that mountains and hills can give to numerous, new researches.

This thematic issue is dedicated to creating necessary preconditions for a more complex approach to Croatian ecosystem and its European/Mediterranean horizons. After all, *Economic (history) and Ecohistory* magazine has evolved - in a great, important part - from such tradition of research.

This is why the issue is dedicated to a small, but important anniversary for us. Exactly ten years ago, in year 2000, Croatian historiography formally recognized and added ecohistoryin a working manner, so to speak, as it happened during the International research project "Triplex Confinium" at Zadar university (3/7 May, 2000), with an international conference titled "Triplex Confinium (1500-1800): Ecohistory", the very first of its kind in Croatia and southeastern Europe (Proceedings of all scientific papers under the same title; published in Split and Zagreb in 2003; editorial board members were Drago Roksandić, Ivan Mimica, Nataša Štefanec and Vinka Glunčić-Bužančić). In 2003, the same project was, in collaboration with Koprivnica Historical Society, organized for the second time in the period 13/15 November, 2003 (Koprivnica) dedicated to ecohistory of Podravina multiple border region (part of these scientific papers will be published in the seventh issue of this magazine). Other initiatives followed, degree theses (masters and doctoral theses and dissertations), numerous studies, but new projects as well! In the meantime, Zagreb University and its Liberal Arts have formed and running on regular basis, the new study program "Environmenal history", that had been previously established by Drago Roksandić and assn't. Hrvoje Petrić. Ecohistory study is a mandatory course, lectured by Hrvoje Petrić at History department of Zagreb University (program full title "European regions and Croatian history in early Modern Age, period approx. 1450-1800: Imperial heritage from the Hapsburgs, Venetians and Ottomans- a comparative perspective". We hope this guarantees preconditions for a stable, professional growth of this scientific discipline, unsustainable without interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, as well as fundamental and applied.

Without all these experiences and aspirations, it would be impossible to start this magazine and keep it running. However, with due respect we should point out that the roots and origins of ecohistory in Croatian historiography are much, much deeper, as many researchers of different ages and professional experiences have participated all along. Their involvement is clearly widespread and visible, as witnessed by this, and previous issues of the magazine *Economic (history) and Ecohistory*.

Collaboration and mutual help and understanding shared between the magazine editors (Mira Kolar, Drago Roksandić, Hrvoje Petrić); an indispensable support by Dragutin Feletar; "Meridijani" publishing house from Samobor; other members of editorial staff; panels and institutions and their support......all this is a witnessing guarantee that our course 10 years ago was right.

We hope that this thematical volume will provide a strong encouragement for dialogue and a support for the right orientation course.

Drago Roksandić and Hrvoje Petrić, editors

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