

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

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www.icohtec.org



Editor: Saara Matala, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

If you have something to announce, please mail to newsletter@icohtec.org.



UNESCO World Heritage-listed Tartu Observatory during the Icohtec conference in Tallinn-Tartu 2023. Photo credit to Jakob Tschandl

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1 Icohtec News

1.1 Icohtec 52th Annual Meeting in the ICHST, New Zealand, 2025



Deadline for submissions of Icohtec symposia proposals passed on **1 March 2024**. The Icohtec program committee received 50 paper submissions from five different continents. After the reviewing process, we have submitted the proposal for the Icohtec symposium to the program committee of [International Congress of History of Science and Technology ICHST](#) which will make its decision in June, 2024. The Icohtec program committee will inform the applicants about the acceptance/rejection after that. The registration to the conference will be open from 11 July 2024 until 1 May 2025.

If you missed the Icohtec call for papers, **the ICHST will open an opportunity to submit a stand-alone paper** directly to the ICHST organisers on **1 April 2024**.

Stand-alone paper submissions will normally be assembled thematically into groups of 4 presentations per 90-minute session. Participants should prepare a presentation of around 15 to 17 minutes duration, to be followed by 5 minutes of audience questions.

Each stand-alone session will be chaired by a Congress participant chosen by the organizing committee. The stand-alone sessions will not normally feature commentaries or group question time.

Please note that each prospective **presenter at the Congress may submit only one abstract** – either a stand-alone abstract or an abstract within a symposium. Therefore, if you have already submitted a paper to the Icohtec Symposium, you are not allowed to submit a stand-alone paper, too.

For more information and the submission system, [visit the conference website](#).

Key Dates:

Call for stand-alone papers opens: **1 April 2024**.

Decision on accepted symposia announced: **1 June 2024**

Registration opens: **11 July 2024**

Programme published online: **1 May 2025**

ICHST Congress opens: **29 June 2025**

Icohtec Programme Committee

Saara Matala (Sweden), Elena Kochetkova (Norway), Frank Edward (Tanzania)
Hugo Pereira (Portugal), Jethron Akallah (Kenya), Jan Hadlaw (Canada), Leticia Galuzzi (Brazil), Min Fanxiang (China), Sławomir Łotysz (Poland)

Please direct any queries regarding **Icohtec submission process** to the Chair of the ICOHTEC programme committee, Dr. Saara Matala, via email (matala@chalmers.se).

For inquiries regarding the submission of **stand-alone papers** to the ICHST, contact directly the organisers: <https://www.ichst2025.org/contact-us>

1.2 Icohtec-SHOT 2024 in Chile update: preliminary program and SHOT travel grants



The preliminary program for the joint ICOHTEC-SHOT Conference in Viña del Mar (Chile) is now available at the [conference website](#).

The Program Committee created an exiting, broad and diverse program. The members of the program committee include: Diana Montaña (Chair), Magdalena Zdrodowska (Associate Chair), Bess Williamson, Itty Abraham, Leticia Galluzzi, José Ragas, and Verónica Ramírez Errázuriz.

Check the conference website also for useful information regarding travelling to Chile and [SHOT travelling grants](#).

1.3 Reminder: Turriano ICOHTEC Prize 2024 - Call for Submissions

DL for submissions: 31 April 2024

The Turriano ICOHTEC Prize is an Early Career Prize for Books on the history of technology, sponsored by the [Juanelo Turriano Foundation](#) and consists of 2,500 Euro. The prize-winning book will be presented and discussed at a special session of the next ICOHTEC symposium.

ICOHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology, is interested in the history of technology, focusing on technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture, and the environment. The history of technology covers all periods of human history and all populated areas. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

Eligible for the prize are **original book-length works** in any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish) in the history of technology: published or unpublished Ph.D. dissertations or other monographs written by scholars in the early stages of their career. Articles and

edited anthologies are not eligible. If the work is a Ph.D. thesis, it should have been accepted by your university in 2022 or 2023; if it is a published work, the year of publication should be 2022 or 2023.

For the ICOHTEC Prize 2024, please send an electronic copy (PDF or Word) of the work you wish to be considered for the prize to each of the four Prize Committee members. (Note: Hard copies are only accepted for published works not available electronically.) Your submission must be emailed no later than 31 April 2024. Please also include an abstract of no more than a half-page in length. If your book is in Spanish or Russian, please also supply a summary in English, French or German of about 4,500 words. In that case, the prize committee will find additional members, who are familiar with the language in which your book is written.

The submission should be accompanied by a CV (indicating also the date of birth) and, if applicable, a list of publications. Applicants are free to add references or reviews of the work submitted.

Any materials sent to the prize committee will not be returned.

Send a complete application by email to each of the following Prize

Committee members:

- Dr. Darina Martykánová (Chairperson), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid: darina.martykanova@uam.es
- Dr. Irina Gouzévitch, Centre Maurice Halbwachs: irina.gouzevitch@ens.fr
- Dr. Klaus Staubermann, German Port Museum: k.b.staubermann@gmail.com
- Dr. Matti La Mela, Uppsala University: Matti.lamela@abm.uu.se
- Dr. Jacopo Pessina, University of Pisa: japessina@tiscali.it

1.4 Icohtec membership fee: Paypal and the old way

We are happy to announce, that it is now possible to pay the Icohtec membership fee also using the Paypal service. The receiver is @icohtectreasury or the email icohtectreasury@gmail.com.

Annual membership fee is 40 Euro or US Dollars for individuals, 20 Euro or US Dollars for students (billed biannually), 75 Euro or US Dollars for institutions. The membership benefits include:

- a vote at ICOHTEC elections, either online or in person at the meetings
- a paper copy of our journal ICON appearing once a year (plus any special issues)
- access to the online repository of the back issues of ICON
- a monthly Newsletter delivered to member's e-mail address

It is also possible to pay the annual fees to our account at: Commerzbank Bochum, "ICOHTEC" at Commerzbank Bochum (Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany): IBAN: DE44 4304 0036 0390 2590 00; BIC: COBADEFFXXX.

Please send in the form on the last page of the Newsletter about your payment and renewed membership to the Treasurer Viktor Pál, [viktor.paal\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:viktor.paal@gmail.com) and Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC, [stefan.poser\(at\)kit.edu](mailto:stefan.poser@kit.edu), in order to update our list of members.

Thank you for your support!

2 Conferences and Seminars

2.1 CFP: Sustainability in Practice. DIY Repair, Reuse and Innovation in Estonia, Nov 2024

Date and place: 30 October – 2 November 2024 at Estonian National Museum, Tartu, Estonia

DL for submissions: 31 March 2024

This conference addresses ecological sustainability through do it yourself (DIY) practices, and through consumer behaviour. The focus on DIY repair, reuse and vernacular innovation seeks to examine sustainability in the context of everyday life and domestic and community settings. By bringing together ethnological, anthropological, sociological and craft studies perspectives, the conference aims to show and discuss contemporary, traditional and vernacular sustainable practices.

Repair, reuse and repurpose of diverse commodities and materials, and vernacular innovation, are today increasingly perceived as part of sustainable consumption culture. However, the role and meaning of these practices have changed over time, depending on social, economic and political environments. Facing the global climate crisis, we are looking for lessons from the past and present for more sustainable and resilient ways of life.

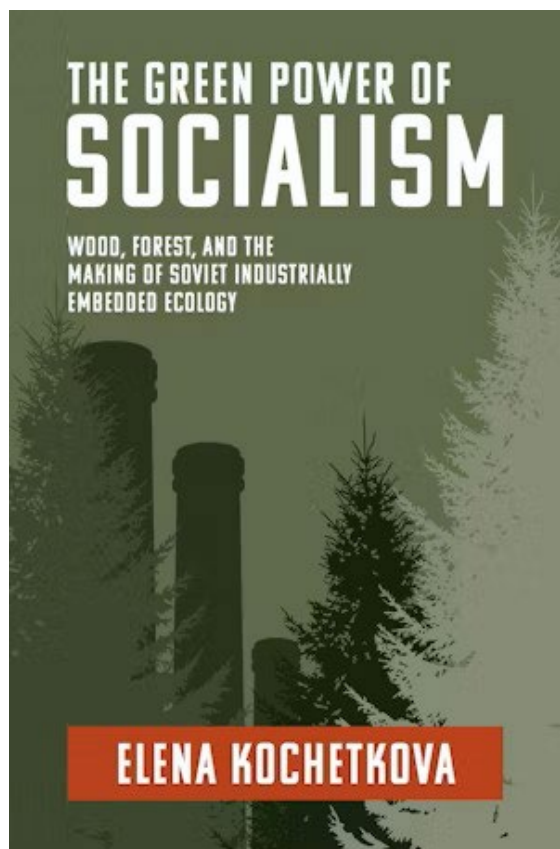
We invite presentations, workshops and documentaries that explore various forms of DIY practice, solution, innovation and material culture related to sustainability in a variety of settings and regions. Apart from academics, experts from memory institutions and craft scholars, this conference also invites activists, craftsmen and designers to share their experience and knowledge.

The conference is being organised by the Estonian National Museum in collaboration with the Washing Machine Made of Beetroot joint exhibition project, curated by the Estonian Road Museum, the Estonian Agricultural Museum, and the Tartu City Museum. The conference and the exhibition are part of and supported by the European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024 programme.

For [more information and the Call for Papers](http://enmconferences.ee/sustainability-2024), visit conference webpage: <http://enmconferences.ee/sustainability-2024>

3 Recent publications

3.1 Open access book on Soviet forestry by Elena Kochetkova



Kochetkova, Elena. *The Green Power of Socialism: Wood, Forest, and the Making of Soviet Industrially Embedded Ecology*. MIT Press, 2024.

How the Soviet forestry industry developed a unique form of industrial ecology—a commonsense approach toward natural resources for the economy and society.

In *The Green Power of Socialism*, [Elena Kochetkova](#) examines the relationship between nature and humans under state socialism by looking at the industrial role of Soviet forests. The book explores evolving Soviet policies of wood consumption, discussing how professionals working in the forestry industry of the Soviet state viewed the present and future of forests by

considering them both a natural resource and a trove of industrial material. When faced with the prospect of wood shortages, these specialists came to develop new industry-ecology paradigms. Kochetkova looks at the materiality of Soviet industry through forests and wood to show how, paradoxically, industrial ecology emerged and developed as a by-product of the Soviet industrialization project.

The *Green Power of Socialism* also discusses how post-Soviet industry has abandoned these socialist practices and the idea of nature as a complicated ecosystem that provides a crucial service to society. Emphasizing the technological and environmental impacts of the Cold War, Kochetkova critically reconsiders two explanatory models that have become dominant in the historiography of Soviet approaches to nature over the last decades—ecocide and environmentalism. Within the context of the current environmental crisis, the book invites readers to reevaluate state socialism as a complex phenomenon with sophisticated interactions between nature and industry. In so doing, it contributes a fresh perspective on the activities of socialist experts and their view of nature, shedding light on Soviet state industrial and environmental policy and its continuing legacy in the present day.

For more information and open access download, visit [the MIT press website](#).

3.2 History of Romanian Technology and Industry in two volumes

Dorel Banabic (Ed.): *History of Romanian Technology and Industry*. Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2024. Two volumes, 300 p.

The first volume is titled *The History of Mechanics, Processing Techniques and Construction*; the second volume is titled as *Electrical Engineering, Energetics, Transport and Technology Education*. They were published in the series of *History of Mechanism and Machine Science* edited by Marco Ceccarelli (vol. 44 & 45).



The current publication is a translation of an abridged version of the same book in Romanian language. The first volume, written by 26 contributors, is organized in 12 chapters named: History of Folk Technology; History of Mining; History of Metallurgy; History of Oil Industry; History of Natural Gas Industry; The Shaping of the Industrial System; History of Machine Building Industry, History of Agricultural Machinery Industry, History of Military Industry & Operative Technology, History of Textile, Clothing, Leather & Footwear Industry; History of Mechanics; History of the Construction Works. The second, written by 23 contributors, is organized in 11 chapters named: A Chronicle of Important Events in the Field of Electrical Engineering; History of Energetics; History of Biomedical Engineering; History of Naval Transports; History of Rail Transport; History of Motor Vehicles; History of Aviation, Rocket Technology and Aerospace Engineering; History of Engineering Societies; History of Technology

Education; History of Industrial Property and Inventions; Romanian Personalities in the Field of Engineering.

The chapters are authored, emphasized Prof. **Dorel Banabic**, member of the Romanian Academy “by the best specialists in the field, some of them having acted as decision-makers in elaborating the development strategies of Romania... The purpose of publishing an abridged English version is that of disseminating internationally the Romanian achievements in the field of technology.”

Form for annual membership renewals / registration of new members



Annual membership includes subscription to ICOHTEC's refereed annual journal ICON, access to all back issues of ICON in electronic form via the ICOHTEC website, a monthly Newsletter, and special registration rates at the annual ICOHTEC symposium.

I wish to ☐ renew my membership/☐ to become a new member in ICOHTEC. (Tick below the appropriate description/rate):

- ☐ *An individual. Rate: (40€ or 40 \$ or equivalent) per year*
- ☐ *A student. Rate: (40 € or 40 \$ or equivalent for two years)*
- ☐ *An institution. Rate: (75 € or 100 \$ or equivalent) per year*
- ☐ *A library. Rate: (Europe: 36 €,Oversees 39 € or 52 \$) per year*

*Tick the years of membership to be paid: ☐ **2023** ☐ **2024** ☐ **2025***

I submit the total amount: _____
Your first name and surname: _____
Email: _____
Postal address: _____
Country: _____

Tick the method of your payment:

☐ Through international money transfer: Make international money transfer to:
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IBAN:DE44 4304003603902590 00; BIC: COBADEFFXXX

☐ Through a cheque. Send the check with the appropriate sum made out to "ICOHTEC" and send to:
Stefan Poser, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), Department für Geschichte, Neuer Zirkel 3, D-76131 Karlsruhe,
GERMANY

After filling the form, please send by email to Viktor Pál, ICOHTEC Treasurer at [viktor.paal\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:viktor.paal(at)gmail.com) and to Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC at [stefan.poser\(at\)kit.edu](mailto:stefan.poser(at)kit.edu)