

ANNUAL REPORT



2015



ENVIRONMENT
PEOPLE LAW



ENVIRONMENT – People – Law

ANNUAL REPORT

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CHAPTER 1

**STRATEGIC LITIGATION FOR
PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS**

Strategic litigation is the tool of achieving large-scale systematic changes and in 2015 EPL worked to build on the previous achievements in popularizing it.

Strategic litigation has indispensable characteristics and by its court cases EPL tries to meet at least one but often several of them. Such cases as, for instance, challenging unlawful decisions regarding construction of new energy blocks at Khmelnytska nuclear power plant lead to changes in legislation and law enforcement, change the public opinion and reflect interests of many people. The cases of protecting the national park “Buzkyi gard” or the national park “Tuzlivsky lymany” serve as models of problem resolution in subsequent cases, elaborate new methodology of using legislation as a means of achieving certain goals, cause broad long-term impact on the system, show teamwork of lawyers and experts from other fields.

Founded in 2013, the national network of legal NGOs that use strategic litigation in their work was further developed and strengthened. The listserve communication became very active and members of the network exchanged information on newly initiated law suits, strategies of handling cases, court decisions and in this way strengthening capacity of the network members and expanding the practical application of strategic litigation.

In 2015, EPL handled 24 strategic cases, some of which were successfully completed this year.

For example, the Higher Administrative Court of Ukraine put an end to a long judicial process by declining cassation complaint of the State Service of Geology and supporting the decision of Lviv Appellate Administrative Court. Earlier the Appellate Court supported EPL's appellate complaint, and recognized unlawful the refusal of the State Service of Geology and Mineral Resources of Ukraine to provide to EPL a copy of the special permit for subsoil use issued pursuant to the PSA for Yuzivska field and obliged the defender to provide EPL with a copy of the permit. By this process EPL proved that such documents are to be open for the public to enable meaningful public participation in environmental decision-making, which contributes to building relevant jurisprudence through accumulation of such precedents.

Also, this year EPL completed the case on access to conclusions of state environmental expertise through the Internet. This was a revolutionary

case meant to teach the Ministry to actively provide access to environmental information not only through replies to information requests but also by using modern technologies, as requested by law.

Importantly, EPL also helps other NGOs and organizations to handle strategic cases. For example, EPL helped the environmental naturalistic center in Mukachevo to preserve this center and to prove that the decision of Mukachevo city council about liquidation of the center is unlawful. Therefore, the court recognized that environmental direction of out-of-school education plays the leading role in building environmental culture of a person and is an example of integration of various directions of out-of-school education into activities of secondary, vocational and high schools.

COMMUNICATION OF EPL TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE PRODUCT SHARING AGREEMENTS

When domestic judicial tools do not bring the result we want, EPL applies other tools of enforcing certain legal norms. As a vivid example of this is failure of the Ukrainian government to make publicly assessable the information on product sharing agreements for extraction of hydrocarbons. Because EPL was not able to protect its right to information in national courts, we made a submission to the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention challenging the refusal of Ukrainian government to provide the requested information. The submission reports on violation of Art. 3 (general provisions), Art. 4 (access to information), Art. 6 (public participation) and Art. 9 (access to justice) of the Aarhus Convention. Such violations directly affect environmental rights of people and limit their possibilities to control the factors that impact their health and life.

The Secretary found the communication from EPL admissible and you can find more information at the following link: <http://epl.org.ua/en/events/970-epl-s-communication-to-the-aarhus-convention-compliance-committee-with-regard-to-product-sharing-agreements-was-found-admissible>.

In summer 2015, there were two meetings of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention devoted to review of EPL's communication. EPL participated over skype providing additional information and explanations.

Also, in June 2015 at request of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention EPL prepared and submitted a report on Ukraine's progress in implementing decisions of the Convention regarding Ukraine, in particular in the period since the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

CHAPTER 2

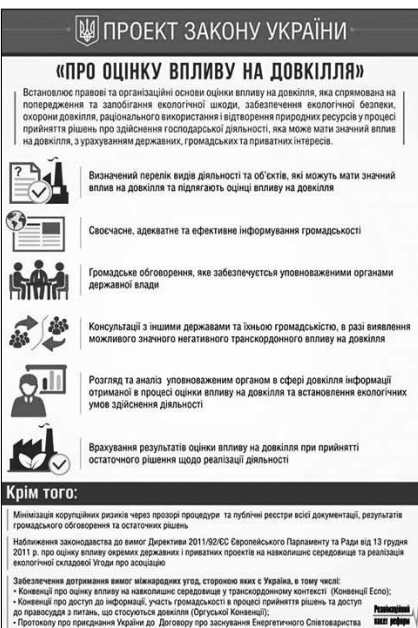
**LEGISLATION AS THE BASIS
FOR BUILDING THE RULE
OF LAW IN UKRAINE**

Among key directions of its activities directly related to the mission of the organization is improvement of environmental legislation and bringing it into compliance with the European standards.

The year of 2015 was under the auspice of development of ***the draft law on environmental impact assessment***. In March 2015, completed its work the Interdepartmental working group on development of the draft law on environmental impact assessment at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources that included representatives of key ministries, agencies, civil society groups, EU experts and experts from Reanimation Package of Reforms-Environment. It is hardly possible to overestimate the importance of adoption of the draft law because it is the basis of ensuring people's safety, environmental protection, rational use of natural resources, public participation in the process of decision-making regarding activities that may have adverse impact on the environment with account taken of state, public and private interests.

Introduction in Ukraine of the European style institute of environmental impact assessment has been on Ukraine's agenda for over a decade. This is first of all due to international obligations of Ukraine within the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention), the Protocol concerning the accession of Ukraine to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community and the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

The draft law complies with the best European traditions of this legal institute and ensures long-awaited proper implementation in Ukraine of the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions as well as the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. It is important to emphasize detailed and clear provisions of the draft law regarding public participation in the process of impact assessment. The document envisages procedures of timely, adequate and effective notifying of the public about impact assessment; ensuring free access of the public to all information on the planned activity; the procedure of public discussion; maintaining the Unified register of environmental impact assessment accessible via the Internet.



EPL is also a co-author of *the draft law on Strategic Environmental Assessment*, which also went through expert discussion.



Importantly, EPL developed and submitted to the Verkhovna Rada the draft law on exempting CSOs from paying court application fee.

As the leader of Reanimation Package of Reforms-Environment and member of various working groups focused on harmonization of Ukrainian and EU legislation in environmental sphere EPL participated in analyzing and commenting legislation on waste management, protection of animals from cruel treatment, amber extraction, regulations in nuclear industry.

CHAPTER 3

**STRENGTHENING CAPACITY
OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENFORCE
THE RULE OF LAW**

Civil society is the driving force of changes that Ukraine needs and EPL puts great efforts to building active, strong and effective civil society.

First of all, EPL works on its institutional development to be able to perform the role of the leader in environmental protection movement. Over the year of 2015, EPL further improved its internal management by introducing new internal rules and completing the organizational reforms started in the previous years. The fully computerized accounting system of the organization that was specially designed for EPL, has been tested and tried in work and all drawbacks have been eliminated. The system enables full separation of projects and donors and thus it ensures transparency of financial functioning of the organization and efficiency of financial management.

Starting from this year all periodical reporting by EPL staff is done through electronic system of internal reporting, which creates possibilities to see the progress in EPL's work on a running basis and to increase effectiveness of managerial decisions.

In 2015, EPL realized its old dream — to have a computerized system of EPL's library stock. Professional librarians systemized all the items in the library, which were included into the library computer system. This substantially eased the process of search for library items and increased effectiveness of control over movement of library items. In future we think about connecting EPL's electronic library to online databases of other libraries in Ukraine and abroad.

The system of internal regulations and rules developed by EPL during the pre-core period and two years of core period allowed the organization to function in the most effective way even when the work regime is very intensive. Thanks to new managerial arrangements EPL was able to perform the whole spectrum of activities and organize important events, such as, for example, an international conference on waste management, on the highest level, which was repeatedly noted by participants of the events.

EPL plans to develop further and in 2016 we would like to involve an expert to assist the organization to develop a new vision and goals of environmental protection movement to reflect the newly arising needs, that will be addressed in EPL's updated strategic plan.

EPL shares its knowledge and skills with partner organizations by giving consultations on institutional development, financial sustainability and increasing their effectiveness by applying result-based management.

Also, EPL works to raise legal competence of NGOs and individuals for protection of the environment and environmental rights of citizens. In 2015, EPL provided 205 consultations on various aspects of environmental protection. Moreover, EPL prepared typical written consultations that were updated on the web-site of EPL and were also disseminated during meetings with communities and NGOs.

A milestone event for development of environmental protection movement and expanding the practice of pro bono legal help for communities was **revival of Guta Association**, the meeting of which was held in early July 2015 after more than a decade long break. The possibility to meet in person again opened new opportunities for cooperation.

Guta Association is the association of public interest environmental lawyers from Central-Eastern Europe and Caucasus that was founded in 1995 to promote regional cooperation in public interest environmental law reform and advocacy, while contributing to the protection of the environment as well as promoting the rule of law and increasing participatory democracy. In the 21st century environmental lawyers face new challenges in the sphere of environmental protection and human rights. Currently it is very important to create a more favorable legal environment for civil society of the countries striving for the EU membership, to raise awareness of civil society institutions and citizens of importance of application of strategic litigation for protection of their rights, to increase effectiveness of legal protection of environmental rights through systematic changes. It is possible to reach these results through experience exchange among environmental lawyers of the EU countries and those countries in the region that are on the way to joining European community, through development of joint strategies for overcoming new challenges and realization of new perspectives. Participants of the conference gathered with the aim to exchange knowledge among attorneys, public interest lawyers, organizations involved to the issues of protection of environmental rights and environmental protection; to promote awareness of the concept of strategic litigation for protection of environmental rights and the environment, discussion of difficulties and challenges in handling strategic litigation processes in the region, hindrances in access to justice in various legal systems and ways of their overcoming, to get familiar with the experience of handling strategic litigation processes in various countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

By reviving the Guta Association meetings where EPL shared its jurisprudence, results of analytical work and institutional growth, EPL

regained its position of the leader of environmental law movement in the Central and Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

■ CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS

EPL as the organization that initiated the hypothesis of direct connection between human rights and climate change is particularly interested to spread this idea further and widen the practice of using human rights tools for protection of the climate and environment.

Chair of Environment-People-Law attended the climate negotiations in Paris. He followed official position of the Ukrainian delegation and tried to persuade them to adopt a more proactive position. Particular attention was paid to including human rights formulation into the final international agreement.

On the “break day” between Week 1 and Week 2 of the Paris climate negotiations the citizen lobbyists (non-governmental organizations) met to discuss strategy. NGO participants see a strong need for the countries to commit to coming together again in five years, in 2020. Without that and without some method of evaluating what countries are doing with regard to the individual commitments, no improvement is possible.

■ ANNUAL MEETING

In mid December 2015, EPL held an annual meeting for EPL and partner organizations. The goal of the meeting was to summarize the work done in 2015 and make plans for the next year. Participants of the annual meeting made plans for joint work on several issues: developing EMERALD network in Ukraine, addressing the problems of Tashlyk hydro power plant, animal farms and their impact on the environment. Also, within the annual meeting EPL staff and partner organizations received training on modern tools of communication.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYTICS FOR DEVELOPING
NEW ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
OF UKRAINE

The year of 2015 was the breaking point for EPL in analyzing effectiveness of the previous work and thinking about ways of moving forward. It became clear that true progress is possible only if the whole system of environmental governance is changed. To this end, profound policy work is needed and it became a focus for EPL.

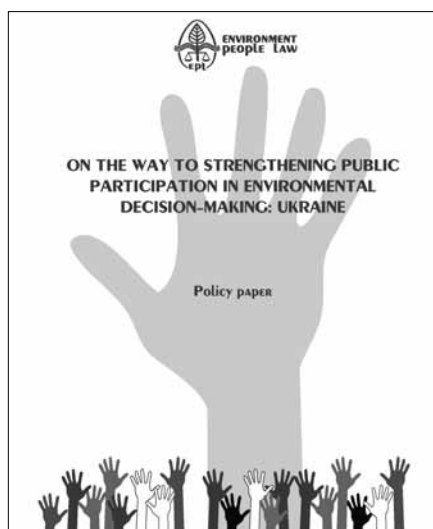
To strengthen its capacity in policy analysis, EPL started a very important phase in its institutional development related to development of the organization as a think tank. The development takes place in three directions: 1) research quality; 2) communication and advocacy; 3) internal governance and management.

EPL staff have been receiving intensive training on policy analysis, during which EPL staff mastered the notion of a full cycle of public policy, methods and ways of public policy building, various types of analytical documents.

Importantly, EPL used gained knowledge for practical purposes: EPL prepared amendments to the concept of reformation of State Environmental Inspectorate that were submitted to the President's Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Parliament of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine and State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine.

Also, EPL published a policy paper "On the Way to Strengthening Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making: Ukraine"

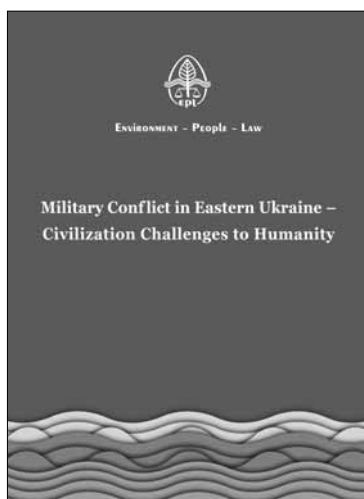
http://epl.org.ua/attachments/article/1706/Policy_Paper_PP.pdf



THE WAR AND THE ENVIRONMENT



EPL, representatives of ministries and scholars discussed environmental consequences of the war



<http://epl.org.ua/en/people-en/our-publications/1718-military-conflict-in-eastern-ukraine-civilization-challenges-to-humanity>

This newly arisen topic on Ukraine's agenda attracts much attention from various stakeholders. At the beginning of the year EPL jointly with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Switzerland) held a round-table discussion "Military actions in Ukraine: risks and consequences for the environment and health" that gathered representatives of the state and experts who study consequences of the war in eastern Ukraine for the environment and human health. Participants of the round-table developed a list of recommended immediate actions to be undertaken by public authorities.

EPL finished the first stage of research in this sphere and results of the studies were published in a bilingual (Ukrainian and English) compendium.

Importantly, the compendium includes also specific recommendations for the following bodies: the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Defense, the State Environmental Inspectorate, the State Emergency Service, the Ministry of Health, the Parliament of Ukraine.

After publication of the compendium EPL held a briefing for media in Kyiv and it attracted a lot of attention of CSOs and media.

Importantly, EPL has established cooperation with Military Prosecutor's Office commissioned by the government to assess damage caused by military actions including damage to the environment. This cooperation opens possibilities for further cooperation with a number of institutions and bodies that can contribute to solution of the detected problems. Moreover, EPL established cooperation with the National Security and Defense Council that needs EPL's expertise in considering issues related to the state of environment in the conflict zone.

EPL developed practical tips for communities that live in the territory of military conflict, in particular concerning quality of drinking water and constructing hand-made filters.

EPL constantly follows the environmental situation in the region of conflict and draws attention of the society to the most outrageous violations of environmental law by regular release of information.



Environmentalists advise not to plant vegetables on yards with holes after shell explosions



How to protect yourself from toxic gases during shelling

DEVELOPMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN UKRAINE

An important direction of EPL's analytical activity is focused on expanding the existing protected areas and creating new protected natural objects. In many cases there is a strong opposition to creation of new natural reserves from local population, and therefore EPL works both with environmental authorities stimulating them to be more active in establishing new protected areas and with local communities explaining them the importance of establishing new natural reserves. Over the year EPL organized and participated in dozens of meetings with central and regional authorities as well as deputies of the Verkhovna Rada, prepared analytical notes to advance creation of new natural reserves. EPL experts made a number of trips to local communities in order to communicate to them the ideas of importance of creation of protected areas.

A very important result attained in the reporting period is creation of *the national natural park “Nyzhniodniprovskyi”*. This was joint work of many activist groups and the Department of protected areas at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine but EPL experts played a key role in this process.

During the reporting period, EPL worked to study regimes of protected areas in other countries including the USA and some European countries. EPL's participation in the Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia of the International Union for Conservation of Nature that took place from 14 till 16 December in Helsinki, Finland was important for sharing work results and experience in the field of nature conservation and getting more profound view of the issue.

EPL lawyers provide regular consultative assistance to administrations of natural reserves in this way strengthening their capacity to manage protected areas and increase their effectiveness.

■ WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management, in particular hazardous waste management, is top priority issue for Ukraine and subsequently it is strategic direction of EPL's work. According to the sociological survey conducted by EPL, the problem with waste was found to be the most critical problem for Ukraine. Ukraine lacks infrastructure for utilization of domestic waste. Also, there are no economic incentives for population to segregate waste and apply environmentally friendly practices. The situation with hazardous waste management is even more serious as chemical, electronic, medical waste causes much more disastrous impact on the environment and requires immediate attention.

In this area EPL worked on various levels starting from analysing effectiveness of previous efforts of authorities towards elimination of adverse environmental impact of waste, doing field studies and laboratory analysis in certain areas, investigating corruption schemes related to waste utilization and participating in various initiatives aimed at improving Ukrainian waste legislation and bringing it into compliance with the EU Directive on waste.

On 10–11 November, EPL organized an International practical conference “Road map for Ukraine in the sphere of waste management and electronic governance” with support from the Embassy of Sweden. The conference gathered concerned authorities, representatives of waste treatment enterprises from Ukraine and other European countries, civil society representatives, experts in the sphere of waste management and electronic governance. Importantly, the conference was also attended by the Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine, vice-minister for environmental protection, experts of Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

The conference was aimed to be a platform for discussion and implementation in Ukraine of leading Swedish and European technologies and experience of waste management. Only 1 % of waste is landfilled in Sweden while the rest is treated, incinerated, composted. This experience could become a good beginning of decreasing the load on the environment through introduction of a good model of waste management in Ukraine. It will help turn waste not only into secondary resources but also into energy resources, which is extremely important now.

Swedish and Polish experience in the sphere of waste management is undoubtedly very important for Ukraine and it puts Ukraine in advantageous position when the country can summarize and use all previous successful experience and save time by using it and avoiding serious mistakes.



As a result of the conference, there was developed ***the Agenda for Ukraine in the sphere of waste management*** and ***the Agenda for Ukraine in the sphere of electronic governance***. Both documents were disseminated among groups of decision-makers. Importantly the Department of environmental safety and waste management of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine considered the recommendations of the Agenda in the sphere of waste management in development of their work plan.

Also, the conference gave several spin-off effects. EPL intensified its cooperation with Lviv Department of Environmental Protection and together applied and got funding for a conference on mercury-containing waste management from TAIEX mechanism. Also, EPL won a project from the European Commission on hazardous waste management envisaging comprehensive comparative analysis of EU and Ukrainian legislation on waste, development of proposals for waste policy and legislation change and introduction of the best European waste management practices in Ukraine.

One of the most notoriously known cases of utilization of hazardous waste is removal of hexachlorobenzene from Kalush area in Ivano-

Frankivsk region. Hexachlorobenzene is an extremely toxic substance banned worldwide by the Stockholm Convention. It is very stable and remains in the environment for decades, causing a number of diseases, affecting liver and other organs.

By making laboratory analysis of water and soil samples EPL detected that declared full clean-up of the territory for which millions of UAH from the state budget were spent is a myth and the concentrations of deadly hazardous chemical exceed the norm by half a million times. EPL held a press-conference and submitted numerous appeals to a number of central, regional and local authorities demanding for immediate actions. EPL also brought the issue on international level by involving experts from Environmental – Law – Alliance Worldwide and giving publicity to the issue in international press.



PROTECTION OF GREEN ZONES IN CITIES

Ukrainian urban areas are engrossed by the wave of uncontrolled destruction of green areas. Parks and gardens are pushed aside by aggressive construction projects that deprive local residents of recreational areas, fresh air and comfortable life. Kyiv municipal administration ignores appeals from the public and there are obvious difficulties with access to information and compliance with environmental legislation. Similar situation is in other Ukrainian cities. This phenomenon reached such



a scale that it becomes hardly possible to address each case individually and EPL conducted a complex analysis identifying common characteristics and tendencies and proposing remedy actions. Results of the studies will be summarized in a policy paper that is being currently prepared.

IMPACT OF SMALL HYDRO POWER PLANTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

EPL studied various aspects of construction of small hydro power plants in the villages of Roztoky, Pidzakharychi, on the river Smotrych, prepared a scientific stipulation for the director of the department for protected areas regarding construction of small hydro power plans in the territories of protected areas to be presented at the meeting of the Environmental Committee of the Verkhovna Rada.

EPL established working relations on the issue with regional authorities, particular in Ivano-Frankivsk region, and local activists.

On 7 September 2015, EPL held a round table discussion to review results of the field trip and develop proposals in order to stop devastation of the Carpathians caused by the wave of construction of small hydro power plants. The round table was attended by the scientist of Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) who shared US experience in the field, representatives of regional authorities from Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia and Lviv regions, CSOs and media. The main message communicated at the round table was that we do not oppose development of hydro energy industry but there should be clear and enforceable environmental standards that must be observed. Ukrainian legislation should be amended to include the standards for selection of objects eligible for “green tariff” and standards that will make it possible to distinguish environmentally friendly projects from those that ruin the environment. While these standards are developed, EPL advocates for moratorium on construction of small hydro power plants.

AMBER EXTRACTION

Uncontrolled amber extraction causes serious harm to particular territories and to whole ecosystems. EPL applied a complex approach to addressing the problem by performing analysis involving also expertise of foreign experts, analyzed the current legislation on amber extraction. Also, EPL analyzed the legislative proposals submitted to the Verkhovna Rada for approval and provided its comments.

Importantly, EPL established the network of local activists in Rivne and Zhytomyr region who actively work on the issue. The network also works with local journalists who give publicity to the issue.

ANALYSIS OF CORRUPTION SCHEMES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Enforcement of the rule of law is also performed through strengthening transparency in the sphere of environmental protection. EPL has been analyzing corruption schemes used by environmental authorities in 2 directions:

1. Tenders for procurement of goods and services.

The experience shows that huge misuse of funds is performed through fictional tenders. EPL investigated two corruption schemes of tenders for procurement of services of repairing premises of administrations of national natural parks. Collected evidence were submitted to the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine, the Anticorruption Bureau, the Prosecutor's Office.

2. Appointment of officials without prescribed by the law competition as "temporarily acting as".

Our analysis shows that this is a widely used scheme that helps to appoint people without the competition procedure and avoid responsibility in future. More than 400 officials in the sphere of environmental governance are currently in the status of "acting as". EPL performed an information

campaign drawing attention to this outrageous practice and is considering legal ways of addressing this problem.

EPL will intensify its anticorruption investigations, especially in view of the fact that the European Union allocated 14 mln Euro to Ukraine for development of national natural parks.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: UKRAINIAN DIMENSION

As environmental law organization that protects the environment and environmental rights of citizens in courts, EPL focuses on analysis of access to justice in Ukraine to pinpoint the problems that should be eliminated and improve access to justice for Ukrainians.

EPL made a profound analysis of jurisprudence in the sphere of environmental protection in Ukraine and published a compendium that outlines key findings. The compendium is helpful for civil activists and citizens in protection of their environmental rights by legal means.

In June 2015, in Geneva EPL participated in the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Justice, where key issues regarding



access to justice were considered. At the meeting EPL emphasized the importance of education for judges on environmental issues and presented its efforts in this field, in particular the training course for judges “Human rights and environmental protection” that EPL developed and tested.

CHAPTER 5

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

In order to get better understanding of the situation with environmental awareness of Ukrainians, EPL commissioned **a national sociological survey** that was held in July 2015. The survey was conducted by Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and sociological service of the Razumkov Center from 22 till 27 July 2015. 2011 respondents aged 18 and older were interviewed in all regions of Ukraine except for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Ukrainian population defined as the most serious environmental problems on regional and national levels pollution with solid domestic waste (59%), pollution of ambient air with emissions (44%) and bad drinking water (42%). Considerably smaller segment of population is concerned about consequences of the Chornobyl disaster (32%), forest destruction and globally noticeable climate change problem (29% and 28% respectively).

Regrettably, majority of Ukrainian population do not see environmental component as an indispensable component of the concept of “sustainable development” and either are not aware of their environmental rights at all or understand them in a very distorted way.



The results of the sociological survey showed us the directions in which we have to work to build environmental awareness and culture of Ukrainians and EPL planned its further awareness-raising activities basing on the survey results. Summary of the survey was presented at the press-conference.

CHAPTER 6

VISUALIZATION

Understanding the importance of information visualization for awareness-raising and promoting our analytical products, EPL paid much attention to raising capacity of EPL staff in communication. All EPL staff received training on writing press-releases, making presentations in PREZI, new possibilities of using Power Point. EPL staff actively used new knowledge and skills in practice.

Over the year, EPL cooperated with **76 media**, and had over **180 coverages** in media and social networks.

EPL created its **site on Youtube** where all major events are documented: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa13L95fSC9gKKGjK1g84bQ>

We have four sites on Facebook, a site on Twitter, four specialized listserves for networks that EPL created (Ecolitigation — for the network focusing on strategic litigation, Ecojustice — for the network of judges who are interested in environmental issues, PIELUKR — the network of organizations providing pro bono legal aid to citizens, Reanima — Reanimation Package of Reforms-Environment).

EPL realizes a pressing need for effective communication means and as a think tank partners with advocacy organizations and journalists. The newly formed partnership for promotion of EPL's analytical products is partnership with "Center UA" NGO.

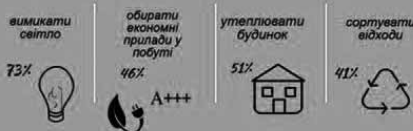
To increase effect of its information releases, EPL actively applied **infographics**.

Демократичні ініціативи" імені Ілька Кучеріва у липні 2015 року на замовлення ЕПЛ

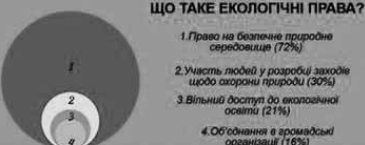
Розподіл екологічних проблем



1% є учасниками екологічного руху **93%** не мають досвіду захисту власних екологічних прав



75% надають перевагу органічним добривам **41%** використовують хімічні препарати в сільському



1. Право на безпечне при-
середовище (72%)

1. Право на безпечне природне середовище (72%)
2. Участь людей у розробці заходів щодо охорони природи (30%)
3. Вільний доступ до екологічної освіти (21%)
4. Об'єднання в громадські організації (16%)

згідно законопроекту станом на 16.03.2015 (національна процедура)

Суб'єкт господарювання інформує уповноважений орган про намір здійснювати плановану діяльність шляхом подання Повідомлення про плановану діяльність, яка піддаєть оцінці впливу на довкілля.

Повідомлення про плановану діяльність оприлюднюється на веб-сторінці уповноваженого органу, у друкованих ЗМІ та у Єдиному реєстрі з ОВД.

Громадянська може подати уповноваженому органу зауваження і пропозиції до планованої діяльності, обслуговування та рівні деталізації інформації, що підлягає вилученню до Звіту з оцінки впливу на довкілля.

У разі отримання зауважень, уповноважений орган повідомляє про них суб'єкта господарювання.

Сторінка 6

Суб'єкт господарювання забезпечує розробку Звіт з ОВД та подак його уповноваженому органу.

Протягом 5 робочих днів
З дня отримання Заїту про оцінку впливу на довкілля уповноважений орган

2) публікує Оголошення про початок громадського обговорення (стаття 8).

Уповноважений орган за кошти суб'єкта господарювання проводить громадське обговорення, яке розпочинається з дня оприлюднення Оголошення про початок громадського обговорення звіту про ОВД та надання громадськості доступу до звіту про ОВД для ознайомлення, та триває не менше

45 робочих днів для першої та 30 робочих днів для другої категорії видів діяльності та об'єктів, які можуть мати значний вплив на довкілля та підлягають оцінці впливу на довкілля.

засвідчення і пропозиції ромадельності та таблицю із зазначенням інформації про врахування або обґрунтування відхилення отриманих засвідчень та пропозицій.

Протягом 45 днів з дня завершення громадського обговорення

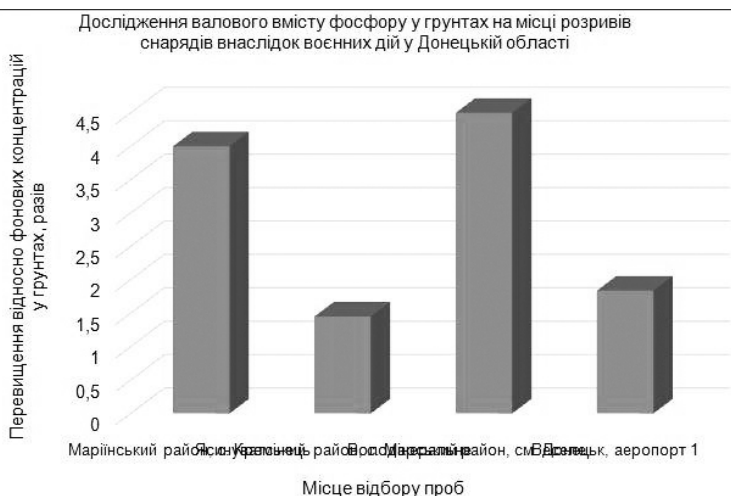
- 2) Результати громадського обговорення згідно Звіту про громадське обговорення;
- 3) Результати процедури трансграничного впливу, якщо така проводилась.

Уповноважений орган співвідносить Рішення про ОВД та вносить його до Єдиного реєстру з ОВД.

Державні органи при прийнятті остаточного рішення зобов'язані забезпечити врахування висновків Рішення про ОВД щодо допустимості здійснення планованої діяльності та включення до рішення екологічних умов її здійснення, а також належним чином врахувати інформацію, зазначену у Заїті

про ОВД та результати громадського обговорення згідно Звіту про громадське обговорення.

Державні органи надають інформацію про нього уповноваженим органам, які приймали Рішення про СВД, які вносять інформацію про остаточні рішення до Єдиного реєстру з СВД.

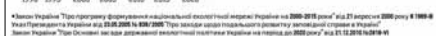


Дослідження валового вмісту фосфору у ґрунтах на місці розривів снарядів внаслідок воєнних дій у Донецькій області

ПЕРЕВИЩЕННЯ ВІДНОСНО ФОНОВИХ КОНЦЕНТРАЦІЙ
У ҐРУНТАХ, РАЗІВ

Маріїнський район, Ясногородський район, Подільський район, см. Виселі, аеропорт 1

Місце відбору проб



■ LEAFLETS AND POSTERS

EPL prepared a series of information materials for dissemination among local communities we visited during the information tour and for communities and partner organizations we work with.

There were published posters about harmfulness of burning dry grass, plastic bottles, tires and other materials encouraging people to apply proper utilization methods.

<http://epl.org.ua/people/nashi-publikatsii/1705-gtho>

Leaflets about plastic waste present adverse consequences of burning plastic waste, in particular dioxide emissions and its impact on human health.

<http://epl.org.ua/people/nashi-publikatsii/1702-polietylenovi-pakety-ta-plastykovi-pliashky-zruchnist-povsiakdennia-chy-nebezpeka-dlia-zdorov-ia-ta-dovkillia>

Another leaflet was about harm caused to the Carpathian rivers and landscapes by massive construction of small hydro power plants.

<http://epl.org.ua/people/nashi-publikatsii/1628-mali-hes-truba-karpatskym-rikam>

The fourth leaflet was devoted to consequences of burning dry vegetation, which is a very widely spread violation of environmental law in Ukraine.

<http://epl.org.ua/people/nashi-publikatsii/1627-u-pryrod-vse-vlashtovano-z-rozumom-tam-nemaye-nichoho-zayvoho-chy-shkidlyvoho>

■ BILLBOARDS

EPL made design and installed billboards country-wide on three topics:

- burning dry vegetation;
- solid domestic waste management;

- protection of homeless animals.

Billboards are very effective means of awareness-raising.



■ RADIO PROGRAMS

EPL experts regularly (on a weekly basis) participate in radio programs of radio “Mariya” and “Promin”, “Lvivska khvyliya”, “Radio luks” and others.

■ SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THE WEB-SITE

The statistics shows that EPL significantly improved its performance in the field of cooperation with media and key stakeholders and reached wide coverage of target audience.

The average number of visits to EPL’s site on Facebook is about 30 000 a week. EPL’s infographics get about 2000 views a day.

■ INFORMATION TOUR

In July EPL organized an information tour to inform local communities of the Carpathian region about a number of environmental threats they face and ways of protecting their environmental rights.

EPL met the communities of villages Turja Polyana, Stuzhanytsia, Turka and Yavora, the towns of Boryslav and Truskavets and talked to them about the problem of functioning of small hydro power plants, management of solid domestic waste, forest logging and burning of dry vegetation.



Such information tours and meetings with communities were very important also as team building tools when all EPL staff worked together in out-of-office setting.

In 2016, EPL plans to hold another sociological survey to see what methods were effective in raising environmental awareness and where the improvement is still possible.



■ TRAINING FOR JUDGES

EPL believes it is vital to improve access to justice in environmental matters via education for judges. Therefore, this year EPL developed and launched a training course for judges “Human rights and environmental protection”.

Thanks to established cooperation with the National School of Judges of Ukraine and in particular with Lviv regional branch of the School of

judges EPL held a training for judges — trainers of the course “Human rights and environmental protection” on the basis of methodological materials developed by EPL.

Materials for the course “Human rights and environmental protection” were presented to judges with the aim to increase effectiveness of the judicial system for protection of the environment and environmental rights of citizens and promotion of better justice, understanding of importance to improve access to justice for citizens and CSOs for protection of their environmental rights, human rights and for advancing sustainable development. Much attention was paid to analysis of provisions of the Aarhus Convention, practical problems of their application in courts, in particular for protection of violated right to environmental information.

As a result of the training, participants not only gained knowledge and practical skills regarding implementation of the course on environmental protection and human rights but also there was formed the team of trainers who are convinced that it is necessary to preserve environment, raise environmental awareness of not only ordinary citizens but also of judges, among others via implementation of the innovative course “Human rights and environmental protection” by the National School of Judges of Ukraine.

An important spin-off effect of the training is the fact that Kharkiv branch of the National School of Judges included components of the course “Human rights and environmental protection” into their curriculum.



To facilitate communication among judges interested to work on environmental issues, EPL launched an electronic listserve “Ecojustice” for judges of various courts interested in environmental issues starting from local courts and up to the Higher Administrative Court.

Also, currently the Higher Administrative Court is performing analysis of jurisprudence on environmental matters that it plans to share with EPL.

CHAPTER 7

**TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS FOR
PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

ELECTRONIC REGISTER OF COURT DECISIONS IN THE SPHERE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In July 2015, EPL launched an electronic register of court decisions in the sphere of environmental protection.

Examples of positive and negative jurisprudence become a valuable source of information for development of strategies and tactics of handling other court processes in similar legal relationships. In order to ease the work of all those who are eager to protect the environment in court, EPL is realizing the idea of creating and maintaining the Register of court decisions on environmental matters. We upload to the register court decisions of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, higher specialized, appellate and local courts — court decisions and resolutions in civil, economic and administrative cases initiated by civil society institutes, individuals and groups of people for the benefit of environment and society. The register is located at the link <http://caselawepl.org.ua>. There are a few characteristics that make our register unique. First of all, it includes only those decisions that are related to environmental protection. Therefore, we collect all jurisprudence in this sphere in one place and there is no need for users to do complicated search in order to find the needed decision. Secondly, besides typical possibilities to search by context and requisites, we introduced the possibility of thematic search for court decisions. In the register you can filter the cases challenging legal acts, actions or omissions, agreements; cases in the sphere of nuclear energy and non-traditional gases; cases on protected areas, flora and fauna, or you can unite these filters and find a decision by several criteria. Moreover, when we upload cases into our register, we create links between cases of various instances so that by choosing one decision you can see all the rest decisions related to the case (decisions on the same case adopted by various instances). EPL plans to maintain the Register on a continuous basis by uploading there all our court decisions as well as other decisions in cases initiated by other civil society institutes or citizens for protection of the environment.

COMPLEX ELECTRONIC SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Access to environmental information and electronic governance are important preconditions for openness and transparency in the sphere of environmental management and create possibilities for public participation in environmental decision-making.

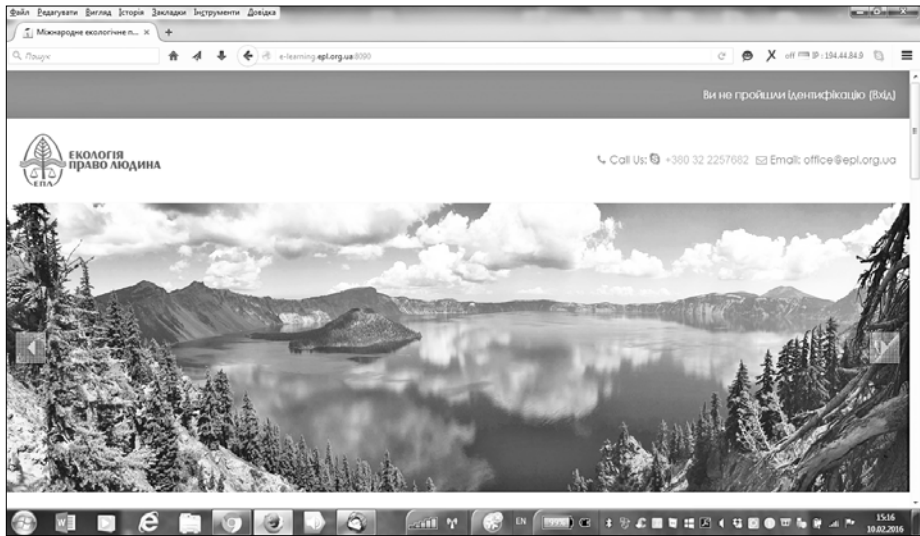
EPL is active in using technology and creating online tools for promoting access to environmental information. EPL has launched in testing regime the system called “PRTR+” for Lviv and Kyiv regions. The information for Zakarpattia region is being collected to be uploaded to the system. It is a system of accumulating and disseminating information on impact on the environment possessed by business structures on the basis of statistical reports and permits that are retrieved from governmental agencies through submission of information requests. EPL continued developing and expanding the system that can be found in English at <http://prtr.org.ua/en/>, in Russian at <http://prtr.org.ua/ru/>, and in Ukrainian at <http://prtr.org.ua/>. We also worked to communicate to central authorities the importance of launching the national system of environmental information with a unified approach to collecting, processing, systematizing and using this information. The system is more progressive than similar systems in European countries and, thus, EPL has an ambition to launch the system on the national scale and will continue advocating this idea in front of national authorities.

ONLINE COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

EPL has started implementation of a very ambitious initiative — launch of an online course on international environmental law. The innovative form of distance teaching enables the authors to cover more people who are interested to get relevant knowledge. Legal competence is very important for civil activists too and by completing the course they will

substantially strengthen their potential and raise motivation to work for protection of environmental rights of individuals and communities. Authors of the course developed 5 training modules with additional training materials (video lectures, interviews). Besides EPL staff, co-authors of the course are real stars in international environmental law from all over the world (the USA, Mexico, Hungary) whom successful graduates of the online course will be able to meet at the summer school on international environmental law. Training from such outstanding environmental lawyers will be a real inspiration for the course participants and thus, the use of legal tools for protection of the environment will substantially increase.

The online course can be viewed here <http://e-learning.epl.org.ua:8090>

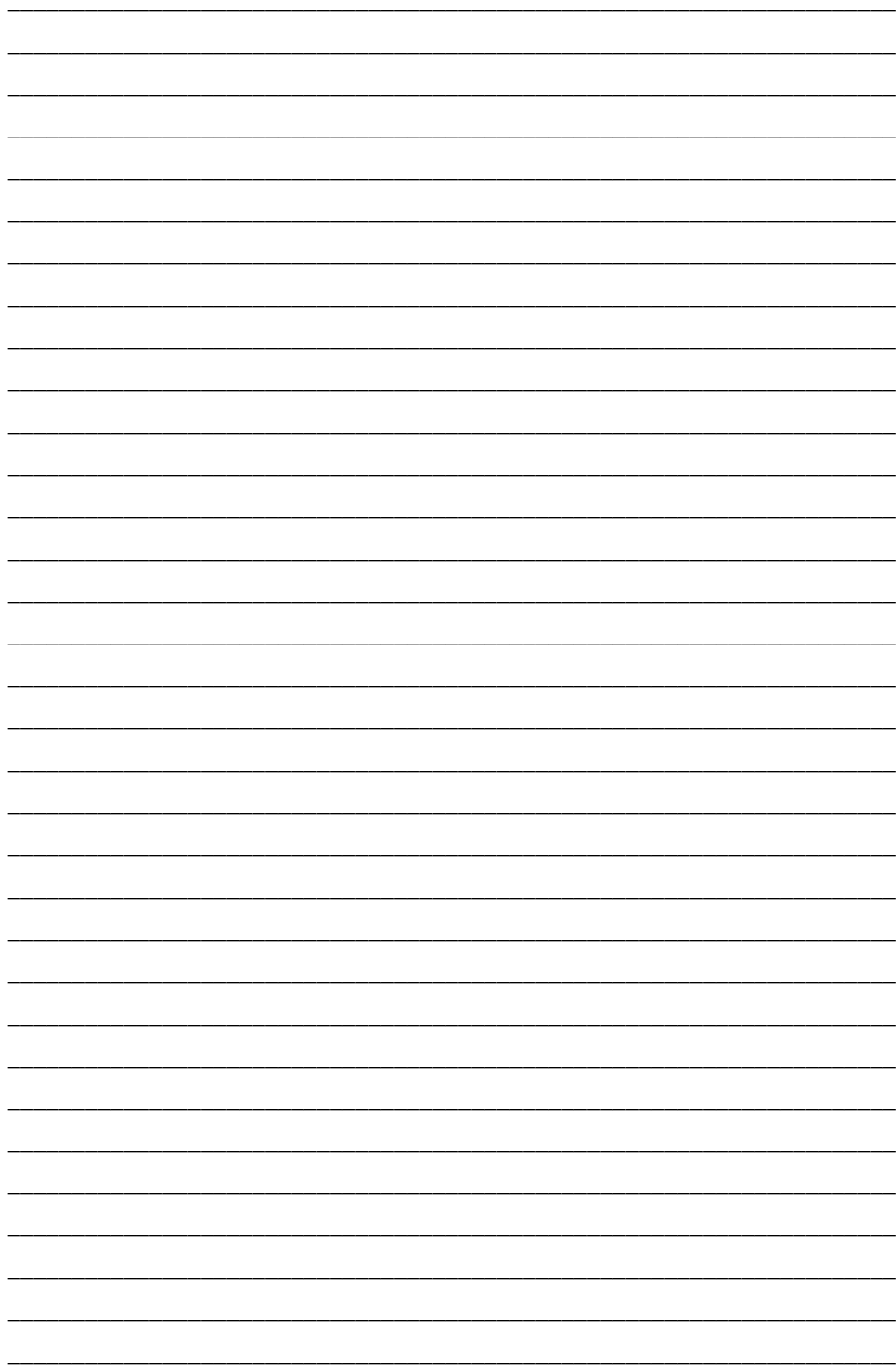


Thanks to institutional development, improvement of internal policy and management, the organization has reached the goal of improving overall management of the organization. Improved management helped EPL to achieve a number of strategic objectives of the organization: development of analytical component, success in strategic court cases on a number of key environmental issues, completion of the research of impact of the war on the environment, improvement of visualization of EPL's activities, improvement of cooperation with media, which made EPL's activities more meaningful and visible for the society.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION “ENVIRONMENT – PEOPLE – LAW” FOR 2015

Income (UAH)	—	9 802 341,93
Expenses (UAH)	—	7 674 955,84

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