



**ENVIRONMENT
PEOPLE LAW**

The rule of law for the protection of the environment

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

The only limit to the height of your achievements is the reach of your dreams and your willingness to work for them

Michelle Obama

Lviv - Kyiv

epl.org.ua

1. Institutional growth

Having a tremendous background of previous achievements and great experience and expertise in various areas of environmental protection, being among the leading environmental law organizations in Ukraine and in Europe, EPL still strive for more and believe there is always room to grow.

In 2017, EPL continued working on strengthening its institutional capacity and put emphasis on development of the organization **as a think tank** and **a nation-wide network of environmental volunteers**.



Being a hybrid organization combining practical work for protection of environmental rights of citizens with analytical work, EPL has a great advantage of basing its analytical work on requests from the society and authorities and develop policy products that are most relevant. EPL is the first in Ukraine think tank that conducted full cycles of policy analysis in the key areas of environmental governance. Focusing on issues that are core stones of systematic changes, EPL worked to foster reformation of the system of environmental governance by producing and advocating analytical documents that are in great demand by authorities and the public.

In 2017, EPL finalized the Green Paper on Environmental Control, the Green Paper on Responsibility for Environmental Crimes, The Green and White Papers on Forest Management and partially implemented solutions offered by the documents. In this way, EPL pioneered true development of environmental policy in Ukraine and built the ground for deep rather than cosmetic reforms of the system of environmental protection.

Being flooded by enormous number of requests for help in solving environmental problems, EPL decided to develop the network of environmental volunteers who can contribute to our work in any possible way and in this way considerably contribute to implementation our common goal of environmental protection. 2017

was the year when EPL institutionalized the volunteer network and effectively launched its functioning. We have two groups of volunteers:

1) staff of natural reserves, teachers, university professors, scholars who by sharing their expertise help EPL in research and analytical work;

2) volunteers on site who participate in EPL's raids, expeditions and advocacy campaigns and provide assistance for practical initiatives. EPL conducted lectures and trainings for the second group of volunteers to increase their effectiveness in implementation of practical initiatives.



60 people joined EPL's volunteer network

Importantly, in 2017 EPL **updated the strategic plan of the organization for 2017-2020.**

EPL will build on the previous achievements and work to strengthen organizational capacity in order to increase effectiveness of EPL's current work, widen and strengthen impact of EPL's activities through expanding its constituency and building nation-wide volunteer support for EPL's initiatives, strengthening technical and expert capacity of the organization to ensure rapid response to environmental emergencies and violations of environmental rights of citizens, developing analytical capacity of EPL and contributing to building sound environmental policy of Ukraine, activating cooperation with key stakeholder groups to promote approximation of Ukrainian environmental legislation to European legislation and thus bring Ukraine closer to European standards of environmental safety, principles of sustainable development and foundations of protecting human rights through protection of the environment, building environmental awareness and culture of Ukrainians.

It is evident that efforts must be broadened and strengthened radically to address the emerging challenges and use new opportunities.

This strategic plan of EPL aims to provide a framework to guide the overall direction of the organizational development in the coming three years, identify priority issues and mechanisms and tools to work on them.

Key directions of work

- **Strategic litigation to protect the environment and environmental rights of people**
- **Pro bono legal aid to communities and individuals**
- **Research of a wide range of environmental issues**
- **Policy analysis**
- **Advocacy**
- **Law drafting and commenting**
- **Networking and outreach**
- **Media and communications**
- **Education and awareness raising**

2. Achievements and victories

Having accepted the result-based management as a dominant philosophy of the organization's functioning, EPL focused on achieving tangible results in each direction of its work.

Strategic litigation

EPL handled 25 litigation suits, 9 cases won

Victories

EPL protected in court the unique ***Tarutynskiy steppe*** that was illegally ploughed. The Court found that the territory of local landscape reserve has protective status and any economic activity is prohibited here.

EPL's suit against the **State Architecture and Construction Inspectorate** was partially satisfied. EPL challenged omission of the Inspectorate regarding control of compliance with legislation in the course of construction of recreational facilities on the Black Sea and in this way urged this body to fulfill its duties in opposing illegal construction projects affecting the environment.

EPL won the case to protect 153 ha of particularly valuable lands **of the regional landscape park "Znesinnia"** in Lviv that were illegally captured by the private company "Faktoria".

Litigation on behalf of a resident of Ivano-Frankivsk region challenging unlawful allocation of a land lot to ***Danosh Ltd*** for construction of a pig farm. In November Lviv Appellate Administrative Court supported the decision of Ivano-Frankivsk Circuit Administrative Court and found unlawful allocation of 5,5ha of lands for construction of a pig farm.

Another victory was in a **SLAPP** (strategic litigation against public participation) **suit** initiated by Acris Agro company against our client who is fighting against poisoning of local communities by pesticide spraying. Mr. Bohdan Lymar was speaking at EPL's press briefing about facts of pesticide spraying in Rivne region

and deadly impact of pesticides on local communities. Acris Agro company filed a lawsuit against him for assumed defamation trying to silence him and other activists who are fighting against the company for their right to healthy life but the court supported people's right to speak up in protection of their rights.

EPL won the case against **Lviv Regional State Administration** for failure to provide information in reply to EPL's request. The decision was executed and the head of the department of environmental expertise paid the fine prescribed by court.

Litigation process against state enterprise "**Derzharkhbudexpertyza**" for failure to release a copy of expert conclusion № 00-0861-13/13 of the project of reclamation of Hrybovychi landfill. The court emphasized the fact that economic entities are also owners of environmental information and are obliged to release it.

Litigation on behalf of a resident of Ternopil region who was supporting the State Environmental Inspectorate in the dispute against the communal enterprise "**Ternopilmiskteplokomunenergo**" for its failure to get necessary permissions for conducting reconstruction of the heating facilities. This litigation process made the enterprise hold state environmental expertise for 7 heating facilities.

Protection of the Bychok tract in **Holosiyivskiy National Nature Park**. EPL is the third party in the litigation against Avesta-Bud Ltd that started illegal construction in the territory of the protected area. On 7 December 2017, the court declared that the challenged land lot belongs to the nature park according to the Presidential Decree and thus is under protective status.



Pro bono legal aid to local communities

Providing pro bono legal aid to those who need legal assistance for protection of their environmental rights remains EPL's primary task as this is an important tool of raising legal competence of citizens, strengthening Ukrainian civil society and building environmental democracy in Ukraine.

Practical results of consultative assistance are as follows.

- The community of Nazyvyziv village in Ivano-Frankivsk village opposed construction of a landfill in their village. Thanks to EPL's complaints to the prosecutor's office, the Ombudsman and other authorities the village council canceled its decision about construction of the landfill that could have caused serious environmental consequences for the region.

- Working together with communities, EPL managed to stop functioning of the pig farm of “Silski traditsiyi” Ltd in Poltava region and initiated the process of cancelling the agreement for land lot leasing.
- In Ivano-Frankivsk region, our clients used their right to participate in public hearings regarding issuing of the permit for emissions to a new farm of “Danosha” Ltd. Ivano-Frankivsk regional state administration took into consideration their position and refused to issue the permit.
- Suspended construction of a pig farm in Hrushka village in Ivano-Frankivsk region.
- Residents of Duliby village in Lviv region blocked functioning of a pig farm operated by Lemberg-Agro Ltd.

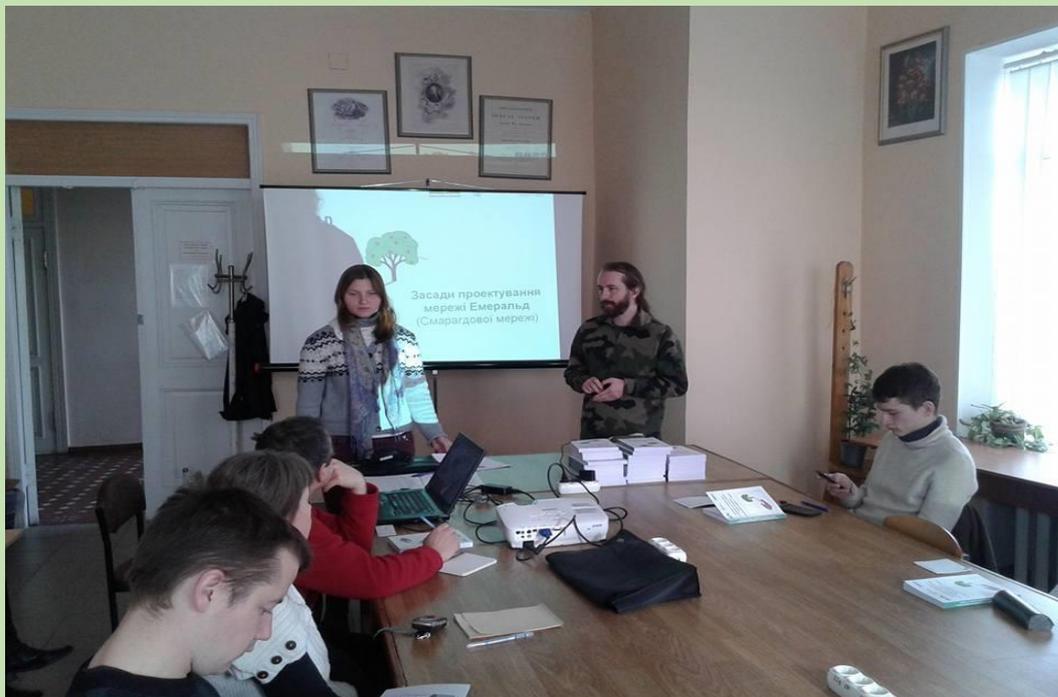


- Importantly, due to information and advocacy campaign performed by EPL together with local communities, AcrisAgro Ltd stopped pesticide spraying in sanitary zones of 4 villages in Rivne region (Velyka Omeliana, Nova Ukrainka, Zhytyn, Mylostiv). Also, village councils of Diatkivtsi and VelykaOmeliana villages adopted decisions to ban aviation spraying of pesticides in territories of the village councils.

3. Research of a wide range of environmental issue

EPL’s research and policy work has highly practical implementation.

- EPL prepared scientific stipulation of creation of the landscape reserve “Lower cascade of Sovski lakes” that was submitted to the department of environmental protection in Kyiv and is being enforced by a group of environmental NGOs.
- EPL contributed greatly to formation of Emerald Network (equivalent of European Natura 2000) in Ukraine by preparing and submitting to the Ministry of Environment and the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention scientific stipulations for 70 new territories of Emerald network in Ukraine and 40 scientific stipulations for including Ukrainian rivers into the Emerald network. EPL experts participated in the series of seminars for environmental experts on formation of the Emerald network in Ukraine that were held in 9 cities and totally involved about 300 environmental experts.



- As a result of analysis of documents and technical capacity of enterprises having licenses for hazardous waste management, EPL revealed systematic problems in the procedure of licenses issuance and managed to persuade the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine **to initiate official inspection of enterprises** having licenses for hazardous waste management and their technical capacity. The inspection results showed that out of 102 enterprises having licenses for hazardous waste management more than 50% of enterprises in fact do not have technical capacity indicated in licenses. One third of enterprises could not even be found at addresses indicated in licenses. Consequently, the Ministry **cancelled licenses of 56 enterprises**.
- EPL investigated and revealed schemes of misusing budget funds meant for environmental protection. This will add transparency and openness to distribution of budget funds and therefore will contribute to better environmental protection. **Totally 5 corruption schemes were investigated and made public.**
- EPL experts are members of 8 scientific technical councils at protected areas and in this way we influence the decision-making process.

4. Policy analysis

- key proposals from EPL policy papers on environmental control were included into the concept of reformation of state environmental control approved by the Resolution #616-p of 31 May 2017 by the Cabinet of Ministers, which will increase effectiveness of the reform of control system;
- Finalized Green Paper on environmental control with alternatives of solutions. Reached agreement with the Ministry of Environment on one of the alternatives that will work best to build an effective system of environmental control;

- Finalized Green Paper on responsibility for environmental violations that is the first analytical document on responsibility for environmental crimes and proposes alternatives to be reflected in White Paper.
- Accepted EPL's proposals to the Strategy of waste management in Lviv region until 2030;
- The policy paper on dolphin protection created the basis for stipulation of creation of a rehabilitation center for dolphins and now EPL is actively working with the Ministry of Environment on creation of the center. EPL prepared the draft Provision of the rehabilitation center for dolphins on the basis of the National Nature Park "Tuzlovski lymany".
- EPL's comments were accepted in the Plan of implementation of the Concept of state policy in the area of climate change until 2030 adopted on 06.12.2017.
- EPL experts developed the methodology of analyzing oblast programs of waste management with the aim to analyze 22 oblast programs and develop proposals for bringing them in compliance with European standards. So far, 5 programs were analyzed and proposals submitted to regional administrations of whom 3 regional state administrations (Odesa, Zakarpattia, Mykolayiv) agreed to take into account EPL's proposals to the programs.
- Problems and solutions for improvement of forest management outlined in Green and White papers on forest management became the basis for intensive dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and the State Agency of Forest Resources regarding introduction of new rules of forest management. The Ministry is quite responsive to EPL's proposals and currently new rules of forest management are being developed.
- Developed the regional target program "Protected areas of Kyiv region" that was approved in 2017 and envisaged creation of 88 protected territories and allocation of 20 mln UAH for protected areas in Kyiv region. This is the first case after beginning of decentralization process that local funding was ensured for development of protected areas.

5. Advocacy

- Having organized information and advocacy campaign together with other environmental activists, EPL managed to stop destruction of Bychok tract and save 2 ha of particularly valuable oak forest in the Holosiyivskyi National Nature Park.
- Following EPL's proposal to amend the register of licensee for hazardous waste management by depriving enterprises without relevant technical capacity of their licenses, the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine amended the register on 29 May 2017.

- Joint advocacy campaign of EPL and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) against “green tariff” for waste incineration in Ukraine resulted in suspension of the draft law review in the Parliament of Ukraine.
- Closely watching the situation with waste management in Lviv and getting involved into review of proposed solutions, EPL managed to stop implementation of several environmentally hazardous projects, such as, for example, aimed to incinerate waste without proper technologies and without any purification systems. EPL became the source of expert opinion for local communities and media and the tool of control of actions made by authorities. EPL developed the expert review of the situation with waste in Lviv region where outlined clear solutions.
- EPL successfully advocated some solutions proposed in analytical documents on forest management, in particular the change of the procedure of approving the size of felling area. Calculation of the felling area means calculation of maximum amount of wood that can be cut in some territory. When a forestry is created in the territory of a protected area, the norm for tree felling should be decreased. But this was not controlled. As a result of EPL’s campaign, the Department of protected areas at the Ministry of Environment got the authority to control the tree felling in protected areas, which will result in the decrease of the amounts of tree felling. Also, EPL initiated review of the current norms of tree felling for specific groups of forest users.
- Forest maps became open for the public. A year ago, forest management units refused to provide them stating that this is classified information. After EPL’s campaign, the State Agency of Forest Management opened the maps and now they are accessible online.
- After EPL’s publications the procedure of approving forest felling was changed. Now the materials on unreasonable felling are not approved. Due to this a number of problems were solved all over Ukraine, e. g. the National Nature Park “Slobozhanskyi” received land ownership certificate, substantially decreased amounts of forest felling in Ivano-Frankivsk region, no fellings are conducted in the planned National Nature Park “Siversko-Donetskyi”.
- EPL worked to receive approvals form relevant Ministries for creation of the National Nature Park “Nobelskyi”. Almost all approvals have been received and the park will be established in 2018.
- Creation of the local nature reserve “Solonytsia” in Lviv region. EPL lawyer consulted local activists who initiated creation of a nature reserve in order to protect unique sources of mineral water. The village council approved creation of the reserve and Lviv Regional Council adopted the relevant decision.
- EPL contributed to creation of 12 protected territories in Donetsk region totally covering 1041,1525 ha.
- Military trainings were stopped in the national nature park “Meotyda”.

- Under EPL's pressure Lviv municipality gave up the project of constructing waste incineration plan on the basis of the thermal station (TEC2) and planned construction of waste processing complex.
- EPL stopped illegal extraction of toxic acid tars at Hrybovychi landfill. A criminal proceeding against the enterprise that extracted acid tars was started.
- EPL stopped massive quadrocycling rally in the National Nature Park "Dzarylhatskyi".

13 protected territories created.

6. Law drafting and commenting

The most significant achievement in 2017 was the enactment of the new law on environmental impact assessment (EIA) on 13 June 2017 when the President of Ukraine signed the law. This was a revolutionary step towards ensuring environmental safety in Ukraine concluding many years of hard work of the Ukrainian civil society.

The enactment of EIA law is also a great victory from the point of view of restoring Ukraine's image on the international area because in this way Ukraine managed to escape the most rigid sanctions within the Aarhus Convention and Espoo Convention – deprivation of rights and privileges.



Enactment of EIA law opens a new era in environmental protection and means a lot of work ahead of civil society in enforcing its implementation.

EPL was among initiators and co-authors of EIA law and actively advocated its adoption, and plunged into further work on implementation of the law.

EPL contributed to development and adoption of EIA by-laws, in particular

- 1) Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the procedure of holding public hearings;
- 2) Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the procedure of submitting documents for obtaining an EIA conclusion;
- 3) Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the procedure of maintaining the online register of EIA documents.

Importantly, EPL experts attended the Meeting of Parties to the Aarhus Convention where defended Ukraine's image and insisted that Ukraine should be found to be back in compliance with the Aarhus Convention.

Finally, after more than 12 years of being in the state of non-compliance Ukraine restored its international image and was found to be in compliance with the Aarhus Convention thanks to enactment of EIA law.

A very important framework environmental law on **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** is still waiting for enactment and EPL conducted an advocacy campaign aimed to promote its adoption by the Parliament of Ukraine.

- EPL worked to promote adoption of **the National Strategy of Waste Management** and foster inclusion of our comments and proposals.
- EPL commented a series of legislation on waste, blocked lobbyist draft laws (e. g. the draft law "On Electricity Market of Ukraine") and fostered development and adoption of those that comply with the European standards of waste management (on WEEE, waste batteries and accumulators).
- EPL contributed to the analysis of draft laws on protection of wild and domestic animals, conservation of natural habitats and flora and fauna species, on state control in business etc.

Totally, EPL analyzed and commented 17 draft laws and planning documents.

7. Networking and outreach

National cooperation

- Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR) – joint advocacy campaigns to promote adoption of EIA and SEA laws, campaigns against "green tariff" for waste incineration and pesticide spraying.

- Regional and local NGOs – initiatives on waste management, illegal forest logging, adverse impact on the environment of animal-raising farms, preservation of particularly valuable natural areas.
- Scientific and research institutions, e.g. EPL experts participated in field studies of dolphins in the Dzarylhach Bay together with the Ukrainian Center of Marine Environment.
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Work in the anticorruption committee on anticorruption initiatives, first of all launching the online database of environmental information that ensures openness of environmental information and transparency of environmental decision-making. The pilot version of the online database was expanded to include the modules on permits for emissions into the air, permits on special water use and declarations of waste production.
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine. Participation in 8 working groups at the Ministry.
- The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. Created joint Working group coordinating military activities in protected areas. EPL's work in this working group resulted in successful cases of advocating protection of particularly valuable areas affected by military exercising.

International cooperation

- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW). Joint desk and field research of the problems of forest management and impact of pesticides on the environment, knowledge sharing on scientific equipment and training to monitor environmental conditions, scientific assessment of environmental data to identify toxins and their source, expert scientific testimony to support cases against polluters, critiques of environmental impact assessments and development proposals, information about cleaner, more sustainable technologies.



- Participation in the 15th Colloquium of IUCN Academy of environmental law in Cebu, Philippines dedicated to the protection of the nature in conflicts and building peace. Participants shared their stories from the conflict zones such as Congo, Rwanda on peace building and nature protection in protected areas where EPL representative shared results of our research of impact of military hostilities in Ukraine on protected areas.

- Cooperation with IPBES expert group on analyzing biodiversity in central and eastern Europe and Central Asia resulted in the fact that central focus of IPBES report is on environmental threats caused by military conflict in Ukraine.
- Working on issues of animal protection, EPL established good working contacts with Animal Politics Foundation and Party for Animals from Holland. EPL experts participated in the events organized by Dutch colleagues in Kyiv, discussed common problems in animal protection such as treatment of homeless animals, protection of dolphins and considered the possibility of creating the network of animal protection.

- Experts from Turkey, the USA, Australia, Israel, Russia, Chile, Mexico, Germany and Holland who also shared their expertise and methodologies of studying dolphins.

- Study visit of EPL experts to Berlin think tanks (Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU), the Institute of Economic Research, the Center for Natural Resource Governance and Child Fund).to exchange experience in management issues in general as well as in research and policy analysis methodologies, advocacy and communication.

- Study visit of EPL experts to Poznan' to study the model of waste management in the city and technologies of hazardous waste processing.

- Study visit to Sweden to analyze the system of waste management (AvfallSwerige company).



8. Media and communications

- Information campaign on the harm caused to people's health and the environment by pesticide spraying and request to establish control over the use of pesticides in Ukraine. On 6 June 2017, EPL held a national press-briefing aimed to give the publicity to the problem of pesticide spraying and propose solutions. The list of urgent steps was prepared and delivered to the Administration of the President of Ukraine. EPL's positional document on pesticide spraying in Ukraine was also presented at the 1st Ukraine-EU TSD Sub-Committee meeting of the European Commission in Brussels as well as at the Meeting of Basel Convention group on Kyiv. Involvement of the Ministry of Environment to the national campaign against pesticide spraying.

- Information campaign for protection of Holosiyivskyi National Nature Park
- National flash-mob “Free dolphins” that gave impetus for wide discussion of fates of dolphins in captivity, was an additional tool of influencing public opinion with regard of litigation processes against dolphinariums and stimulated the dialogue with the Ministry of Environment regarding establishing of a rehabilitation center for dolphins.

40 000 people are covered by EPL’s information materials monthly.

9. Education and awareness raising

EPL continued to do education and awareness-raising for various target groups: students, young professionals, public officials, judges, volunteers, communities.

- 30 May -1 June 2017 **joint training with the National School of Judges of Ukraine** “Environmental protection and human rights”. Discussion of practical aspects of protection of environmental rights and environmental protection, prevention of environmental harm was combined with visits to environmentally hazardous facilities to visualize environmental problems and motivate judges to be more environmentally sensitive.



- **Summer school on international environmental law.** This year's summer school focused on protecting the climate. The students came from all over Ukraine and had a unique possibility to meet outstanding trainers from the USA, Chile, Hungary, Germany who are very experienced in climate change policy building and climate change litigation. The trainers applied interactive methods of training encouraging the students to be creative and help Ukraine in developing effective policy on climate change.
- In the framework of cooperation with academic circles, EPL cooperates with European Law Student Association (ELSA). EPL experts delivered lectures to law

students on environmental law, academic writing, participated in ELSA event on energy law, was a co-organizer of the student contest of essays and published the collection of students essays on environmental issues.



- Clinical programs on environmental law and environmental studies. EPL continued practical training for students who are willing to gain new knowledge and practical skills and volunteer their work under supervision of EPL experts. Also, in 2017 EPL concluded the cooperation agreement with the Faculty of Law of Lviv National Polytechnic University and thus will further expand its clinical programs.

10. Projects

Institutional support from Swedish International Development Agency

Financial support for implementation of all directions of EPL's work according to EPL's strategic plan. Capacity building for EPL staff to increase overall effectiveness of the organization's functioning.

Organizational development grant (Think Tank Fund)

The project is aimed to strengthen analytical capacity of EPL by raising competence of EPL staff in methodology of research and policy analysis, implementation of full cycles of policy analysis, analytical writing, advocacy and communication.

Ukrainian civil society for European waste management (European Commission)

In the project, EPL team strives to strengthen the role and capacity of civil society to influence decision-making processes, strengthen the capacity of environmental authorities to perform effective control over waste management, increase competence of self-governance authorities regarding their obligations in the field of waste management, increase transparency and effectiveness of the system of

waste management in Ukraine through adoption of the best European practices, promote Ukraine's ratification and implementation of Minamata Convention, improve legislative regulation of waste management in Ukraine in compliance with European standards, raise awareness of Ukrainian citizens of efficient and environmentally friendly practices of waste management and make social pressure to promote forms in the field of waste management.

Strengthening legal capacity of communities for protection of environmental rights of citizens (International Renaissance Foundation)

The project aims to strengthen legal capacity of communities for protection of their environmental rights through raising their legal competence and expanding pro bono legal aid for communities through capacity building for centers of pro bono legal aid. Public advice center on environmental issues was established in Zhovkva.



Strengthening the capacity of “Holosiyivskiy” National Nature Park (Goldman Fund)

EPL team provides complex legal assistance to the administration of the National Nature Park “Holosiyivskiy” and activists to address the whole range of legal problems faced by the park and seeks systematic solutions including strategic litigation, advocating obligatory consideration of the status of the park in the course of development planning, awareness raising.

Effective justice for protection of the environment and environmental rights of citizens (USAID)

The project is a continuation of EPL's systematic work with judges and envisages creation of the online course “Human rights and the environment” to be used by the National School of Judges as a training course as well as a series of outdoor training for judges on protection of environmental rights of citizens.

11. Events

Round table discussion “**The Association Agreement: control and supervision in environmental protection**” was held on 9 March 2017 and was aimed to discuss the proposed by the Ministry of Environment the Concept of reformation of the system of state environmental control and show that the task of the State Environmental Inspectorate should not be to fight with business but to protect environmental rights and save the environment.

27-29 March 2017 – EPL organized the sector on protection of the environment and environmental rights of people at **Docudays Festival** and conducted lectures, discussions, workshops on legal tools of protection of environmental rights.



19 April 2017 – EPL held the press-briefing “**The Ministry of Energy and Fuel opposes environmental assessment of the Program of Hydro Energy Development**”

6 May 2017 – the national press-conference “**Pesticide apocalypses: how to save Ukraine**”

On 8 September 2017, EPL held the **training** for pro bono legal aid centers on legal aspects of consultative assistance to local communities for protection of their environmental rights. The training included three blocks: Legal mechanisms of protection of environmental rights of citizens, Human rights and environmental protection, Litigation for protection of the environment and the human right for safe and healthy life. The training was attended by 37 lawyers from pro bono legal aid centers.

On 26-27 September 2017, the EU-funded seminar “**How can the public influence behavioral change in waste management in Ukraine?**” was held in Lviv. The seminar was devoted to discussion of European practices of waste management and the role of civil society in changing the whole system of waste management in Ukraine. The discussions touched upon legislative initiatives in the field of waste management and ways of fostering the most progressive and environmentally safe practices.

The roundtable discussion “**How to introduce the European hierarchy of domestic waste management in Ukraine?**” Held on 29 September 2017, it became the platform for developing a joint vision of the government, business and

the public regarding Ukraine's switch to European standards of waste management.



On 4 December 2017, EPL held the EU-funded roundtable discussion “**Moving towards European style waste management. Does Ukraine need “green tariffs” for waste incineration?**” aimed to activate expert and public discussion of the legislative initiative about granting “green tariff” for installations that transform waste into energy and to discuss potential social and economic consequences and risks for the environment. At the round table, there were presented results of EPL-commissioned sociological studies of Ukrainians’ attitudes to waste issue conducted by Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation.

The roundtable discussion “Are pesticides found toxic in Europe safe for Ukraine?” The discussion was aimed to draw public attention to the use in Ukraine of such pesticides as glyphosate, acetochlor, imidacloprid that are banned in some countries as highly toxic and dangerous for human health. The roundtable gathered victims of pesticide spraying, deputies of the Ukrainian parliament, authorities, environmental experts who expresses their views regarding the situation with the use of hazardous pesticides, the lack of any state control over their use and called on central authorities to undertake certain actions to remedy the situation. .

Civil Society Forum. On 12-14 December, EPL held the Civil Society Forum devoted to explaining to representatives of civil society the requirements, mechanisms and procedures of newly adopted EIA law and by-laws for its implementation. Also, EPL experts gave the overview of SEA procedures to prepare Ukrainian civil society for application of SEA mechanisms as soon as the SEA law is adopted. This was the first in Ukraine training on EIA procedures for civil society and there was tremendous interests towards it. The conclusion of the

round table was the statement that the transition to circular economy requires systemic transformations at all levels and progress is possible only thanks to joint efforts of the authorities, civil society and business.

12. Our publications



During the year EPL published

Compendium “Legal Regime of Protected Areas of Ukraine: History of Formation, Legal Aspects and International Experience”;

Compendium “Protected Areas: Land Issues”;

Compendium “Public Participation in the Process of Adopting Environmental State Planning Documents.”

Collection of students’ essays

Here you can see our graphics and download these publications:

<http://epl.org.ua/human-tax/nashi-publikatsiyi/>