



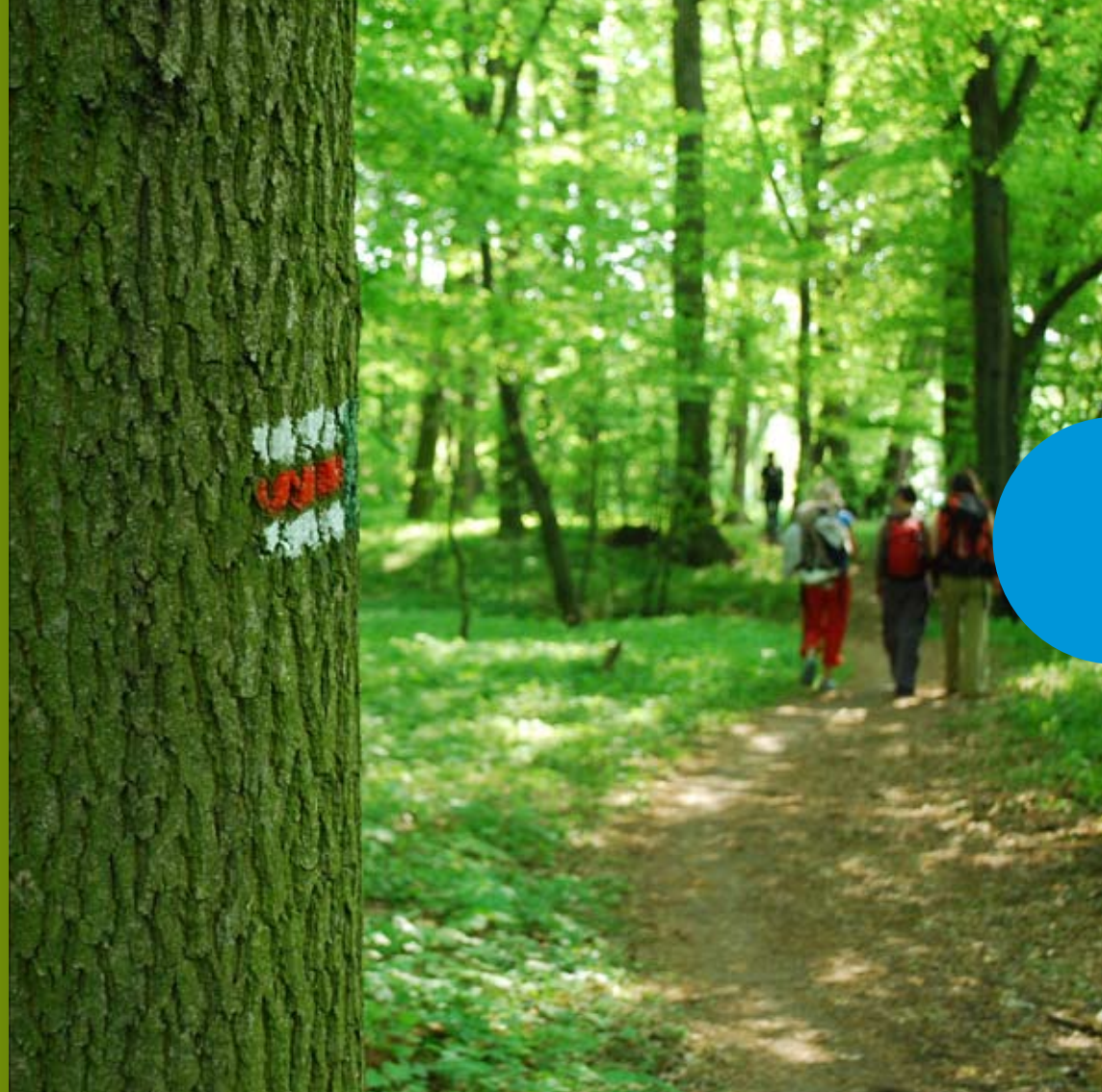
Institute
for Environmental
Policy

Keep the blue



green

Keep the blue
green





Institute for Environmental Policy

What is the IEP?

The Institute for Environmental Policy is one of the leading environmental non-governmental non-profit organisations, active in the Czech Republic as well as internationally since 1992.

What is the IEP vision?

The mission of the IEP is to promote sustainable development, which arises from realising the connections between human needs and natural resources. We understand sustainable development as a solution that brings long-term benefits to people, the economy and the environment.

What does the IEP do to achieve that?

- We run projects promoting sustainable development and healthy environment, with an ambition to change existing negative trends.
- We co-operate with public administration and influence its decisions towards desirable changes and environmentally friendly policies and measures.
- We deal with cross-sectoral issues concerning sustainable development and environmental protection, including research projects.
- We deal with legal regulation on environmental protection in the EU and the Czech Republic and implementation of international treaties.
- We present new ideas and solutions from abroad in the Czech Republic.
- We are active at the European and international levels (member of EEB and ANPED), fulfilling our mission at the European level.

Institute for Environmental Policy

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Sustainable land and landscape use

Are Czech cities doomed to collapse?

Unregulated urban growth and transportation system crisis

The project focused on the most important phenomenon affecting Czech landscape and ecosystems largely since the latter half of the 20th century: the relative as well as absolute expansion of cities, chiefly owing to activity shifting from central areas outside compact development or outside cities altogether. The unregulated growth is a consequence of

the absence of good strategic and land-use planning with direct public participation, non-existent or inconsistently applied legal and economic regulatory instruments, and assertion of the interests of private investors. The project examined and proposed recommendations for Prague, Brno, Olomouc, and Kladno.

Suburbanisation is characterised by:

- unbearably high requirements on land and costs of transportation and technical infrastructures
- high consumption of energies and water and loss thereof in distribution networks
- multifold increase in traffic

Brownfield revitalisation

What legal and economic instruments exist and how are they applied in the Czech reality in revitalising so-called brownfields – disused, devastated areas and buildings? The IEP worked on a series of projects focusing on the issues of abandoned and devastated areas, examining the numbers and types of brownfields in selected Czech regions and municipalities as well as instruments for preparing plots and adequately prompt

revitalisation of these areas. The IEP developed a “Methodology for Monitoring Brownfields in Czech Municipalities”.

The IEP success was the presentation of conceptual proposals for brownfield revitalisation. They were submitted to public administration and institutions influencing the decision-making in the sphere.



Public participation

Involving the public in implementing the Carpathian Convention

The international Carpathian Convention protects one of Europe's largest mountain ranges, valued for being little damaged naturally and culturally, and supports its inhabitants in naturally developing their traditional values in modern society. The IEP works on involving local communities and the professional public in protecting the Carpathian natural and cultural heritage and sustainable development, striving for a

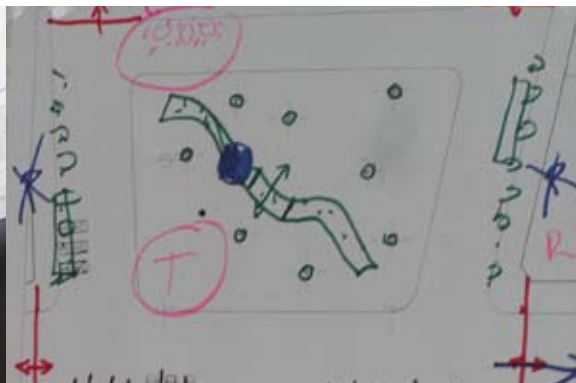
practical implementation of the Convention goals. We organise meetings and seminars, an information campaign, run a database of affected institutions and individuals, and work on compiling the Carpathian Heritage List, which should become a tool for protecting the heritage in future.



Local Agenda 21

Strategic and land-use planning with direct public participation, local referenda, and local Agenda/Action 21 are effective tools of good governance at the local and regional levels. The IEP has been systemically and individually promoting LA21 programmes, implementing sustainable principles locally with direct public participation, in the Czech

Republic since 1998. The IEP has initiated and assisted such programmes in Kladno, Prague 7 and elsewhere; we were the co-founder of TIMUR, an initiative for monitoring European Common Indicators and local sustainable development indicators in Bohemian and Moravian towns and cities.



“If municipal politicians show will and willingness to take a certain political risk and start deciding on municipal development not on their own, but in co-operation with citizens, non-governmental non-profit organisations, and major groups influencing local development, they may significantly contribute to promoting sustainable development in the entire society,”

Josef Novák, founder of TIMUR

Ústí Region – A Living Region

The project actively involved part of the public in five towns in the Ústí nad Labem Region in resolving certain acute local problems, and facilitated training for public administration and NGO representatives in sustainable development issues. So-called Local Action Teams (MAT) were established in Bílina, Krásná Lípa, Litoměřice, Roudnice nad Labem, and Rumburk, richly populated with interested local citizens, which worked on resolving problems chosen in preceding enquiries. The IEP also monitored selected European sustainable development indicators in the towns.

In Rumburk, some 8% of the citizens participated in the enquiry; they most minded unemployment and untidiness in town – mainly dog excrements. The project resulted in a draft new municipal ordinance, leaflets informing about requirements on dog owners, a photographic exhibition, as well as installation of bins and bags around the town.



A close-up photograph of a cluster of vibrant purple flowers with green leaves. A blue circular graphic is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing the text 'Research and development' in white, underlined font.

Research and development

Reclaiming landscape around Kladno disturbed by mining

In connection to the end of coal mining around Kladno, it was necessary to assess the degree of landscape devastation and define the scope of measures required to restore its functions. The project confirmed that positive opinions on the spoil heap biotopes significantly outbalance the negative ones, and that the spoil heaps are both man's work and full-blooded nature, deserving care and protection. It has established that the conventional technical and forestry or farming reclamation,

overlaying the old scars with a new artificial landscape, are dysfunctional, too expensive, and environmentally literally harmful. The project outcomes now affect the design of the reclamation projects undertaken.

The accompanying exhibition HALDY/ ARIZONA at the Kladno Chateau Gallery presented the very rich diversity of animals and plants, frequently threatened and protected, found during the on-site surveys on the spoil heaps around Kladno.



Reclamation and management of non-natural biotopes in the Czech Republic

How do ecosystems change in areas significantly affected by man's activity, chiefly by mining, construction, waste deposits and deposits of power industry by-products? The multiple-year research project headed by IEP has shown that former mining and industrial areas are far from a "moon landscape" without life, but rather a new wilderness and haven for interesting, threatened and protected fungal, plant and animal species.

Instead of conventional technical methods, the project proposes and promotes new, semi-natural methods of reclaiming and managing non-natural biotopes, which are more environmentally efficient and substantially cheaper.



Rural benchmarking – improving microregional management

Microregions are associations of municipalities in rural areas, aiming at joint regional development. The development is increasingly dependent on growing professionalism of their management from the organisational structure to project fundraising, to evaluation of activities and impacts on actual regional development. The project aims to help

these rural associations by proposing a set of benchmarks – common indicators showing the impacts of the management and development. The indicator set is being prepared in co-operation with 18 Czech microregions, which are testing its practical applicability.

Visit the project website www.ehomer.cz to compare the performance of the microregions in North and Central Bohemia and Central Moravia in financial, promotion, and certain environmental issues.

Land-use plan concepts and territorial disparities

How far do changes made to an approved land-use plan shift the document from its original concept, and how far may they go in inappropriate and unbalanced development in the area? The IEP co-operates on a research project headed by CTU Faculty of Architecture, aiming at developing a method and a software application for evaluating the impacts of such changes by means of clear indicators.

At present, the research results are of extreme importance also because under the New Building Act, each municipality has to adopt its own land-use plan by 2015 and review it periodically at least every 4 years.



IEP and ...

Sustainable transport: car sharing, walking and traffic calming

IEP projects deal with supporting sustainable modes of transport, such as walking. They transfer information from abroad concerning new urban transport solutions, such as **traffic calming**, **30-kph zones**, and **car sharing**.

The IEP has organised two summer schools focusing on monitoring environmental and economic impacts of transport and published a book titled **Základy dopravní ekologie**.

Our achievements:

- Introducing the issue of car sharing in the Czech Republic, along with a successful information campaign;
- Initiating a Walking Working Group at Prague City Council, developing pedestrian transport principles for Prague, and asserting pedestrian transport into the new draft land-use plan for Prague.



Sustainable water management in the landscape

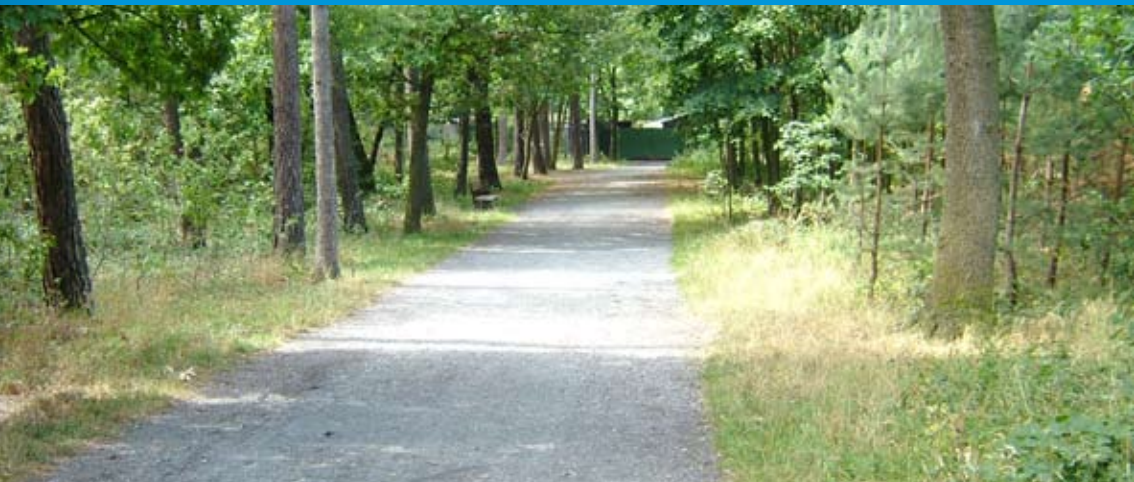
For several years, the IEP has co-operated with Bavarian and Czech institutions on holding seminars and excursions focused on semi-natural revitalisation of watercourse and done awareness raising work. The IEP information campaign included publications on comprehensive rainwater management: **Ochrana před povodněmi v urbanizovaných územích**, **Přírodě blízké odvodňování dopravních ploch v sídlech**, and **Jak hospodařit s dešťovou vodou na soukromém pozemku** – a practical handbook for restoring permeability of surfaces and infiltration.




Sustainable tourism – Tourism monitoring of Prague suburban forests

The IEP does long-term monitoring of the recreational demand in certain forests in Prague, such as the Kunratic Wood, Hvězda Game Park, Šárka, Prokopské Valley, Ďáblice Grove, and provides recommendations for improving management and reducing damage to these sites valuable both for biology and recreation. Major threats to them include littering, erosion due to movement outside marked paths, vandalism, and investors' pressure to develop adjacent sites.

Visitor counts have shown that the largest of the monitored forests of Prague receive 600-800 thousand visitors a year. On a per-hectare-per-year basis, the Hvězda (7,000), the Hostivař Park Forest (5,300) and the Kamýk (5,200) are in the highest demand.






Environmental
education,
training
and awareness
raising (EE)

Ecological footprint exhibition

This unconventionally designed exhibition introduces schoolchildren and secondary school students to the concept of the ecological footprint, an “accounting tool” for lifestyle. It determines the size of the ecologically productive land required by individuals, institutions, municipalities, or the entire planet in order to secure resources for their activities and dispose of all generated waste. Hundreds of students in the Ústí and Liberec Regions and Prague have seen the exhibition to date.

The exhibition shows that the Czech Republic is an unsustainable manager in terms of natural balance. With the current standards and technologies, it can only satisfy the requirements of 50% of its population. Like other industrialised nations, it “imports” the required production capacity from less developed countries.

The Ecological Footprint is one of the most successful awareness raising campaigns of the IEP, since it has first introduced and popularised it in the Czech Republic.



“EE helps form positive attitudes towards the environment and its protection, respect for life in all its forms, extends the knowledge of the environment, and contributes to understanding connections even among seemingly unrelated areas,”

Tomáš Gremlica, Director of IEP.

Prague Advisor

This series of leaflets for Praguers deals with the issues of noise, waste management, pets, air protection, urban greenery, and public spaces. They are designed to not only advise the citizens on everyday situations, but also increase their legal awareness of these issues. Five types of leaflets have been distributed to all district authorities in Prague; Praguers can also download them from the IEP website.



I like to be "in"

Awareness raising on sustainable consumption, focusing on ordinary shoppers, was the topic of the joint project of the IEP and Ahold, the company operating Albert supermarkets. Four versions of leaflets were distributed in the supermarkets, focusing on organic food, environmentally friendly products, energy savings, and recycling. The campaign included a competition for the funniest work of art or photography on "Myths Concerning Organic Food".



The project is quoted as a good practice example in Ahold Royal's international annual report.

Comenius – Pro Natura

The IEP co-operates with its expert partners and four European primary schools in the international project Pro Natura, dealing with investigation into the nature in the immediate vicinity of the schools. Worksheets and project outputs are available for download at www.5ekopartner.eu.





The social
pillar of
sustainable
development

Between family and work: seeking the path for everyone

In 2009, the IEP founded the FAZOLE Community Centre in Domažlice. It helps women disadvantaged on the labour market regain employment or start their own business. It does so primarily by means of training activities and provision of other supplementary services. The aim of Fazole is, among others, for the clients to adopt

attitudes in line with sustainable regional development. Fazole has thus integrated the social component of sustainable development in the IEP activities.




Krásná Lípa – Our safe home

Crime prevention was the main topic of the project in Krásná Lípa. The Local Action Team (MAT), composed of representatives of the municipal authority, citizens, local businesses and NGOs, managed to identify unsafe places in the town and causes of crime with precision, and jointly proposed measures to solve these problems, during a planning afternoon.

The IEP considers it an achievement that the project encouraged the representatives of the municipal authority and the NGOs into further activities: a project to install a CCTV system, and a renovation of the T-club with the inclusion of new leisure activities for children and youth.

KRÁSNÁ LÍPA
NÁŠ BEZPEČNÝ DOMOV



IEP
analyses
and studies

Development of expert environmental policy studies and analyses is a long-term activity at the IEP. We are a member of a consortium of European institutions with a framework contract with the European Commission (DG Environment) and the European Parliament (Environmental Committee). As part of this co-operation, for instance, the IEP has participated in studies on green initiatives of retail chains, the effect of reduced VAT rate on promotion of technological innovation, and implementation of the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive.

The IEP also develops background information for the Environmental Policy Review, published annually by the European Commission for each Member State. A current overview and previous reports are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policyreview.htm>.



Lidé v ÚEP



Tomáš Gremlica

I have worked at the IEP since 1994 and been its Director since 2006. I deal with strategic and land-use planning with direct public participation. In the recent years, I have co-ordinated multidisciplinary research projects focusing on quasi-natural reclamation of areas disturbed by human activity. I studied Systematic Biology and Ecology at the Faculty of Science of Palacký University in Olomouc, followed by Theoretical and Pre-clinical Medicine at the Second Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague.



Barbora Šafářová

I have worked at the IEP since 2000, chiefly on projects concerning public involvement, promoting sustainable development in municipalities, and the Carpathian Convention. As a PR co-ordinator, I also do communication and presentation of our organisation. I studied Public and Social Policy at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague.



Alena Dodoková

The founders of the IEP were my professors at the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague; they brought me to their team in 2001. I develop analyses assessing the implementation of European law in the Czech Republic and the Czech environmental policy. My projects focus on monitoring sustainable regional development and public participation chiefly in land-use planning processes.



Lubomír Bartoš

I studied Environmental Protection at the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague. I have worked at the IEP since 2009, on a project dealing with the practical implementation of the Carpathian Convention; I also deal with recreational uses of Prague suburban forests.



Leona Kupčíková

I studied Public Administration and Social Policy at the Silesian University and then Charles University. After the 2002 flooding in Prague, I came to the IEP, where I mostly deal with projects focusing on the social pillar of sustainable development and sustainable consumption.



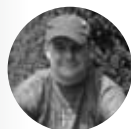
Martina Příbylová

I have worked at the IEP since 2000 as a fundraising co-ordinator and information specialist. In the recent years, I have also dealt with the social aspects of sustainable development, managing the FAZOLE Community Centre in Domažlice. I studied Information Studies and Library Science at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University.



Michaela Valentová

Originally a professional journalist, I spent many years working on documentaries, mostly on environmental topics. I have worked at the IEP since 2003, managing projects dealing with sustainable transport, urbanism, and environmentally friendly water management in landscape. Since 1988, I have co-operated with Prague Mothers citizens' association.



Josef Novák

I studied at the Institute for Environmental Studies of Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science. At present, I deal with evaluating sustainable development in Czech towns and cities for the IEP and TIMUR. My other work activities include nature protection, sustainable tourism and Corcontology. I like to do sports in my free time and have beer with friends afterwards.



Renáta Štípková

I started at the IEP as an assistant in 1997; I have also been the IEP accountant since I took a retraining programme in 2007. I am in charge of the financial accounting of projects and office operation.



Marie Koutná

I studied at the Commercial Academy in Domažlice. I worked in public administration for ten years, dreaming of working for the non-profit sector. I am strongly empathic and urged to help women. I set up the Nové obzory citizens' association with friends in 2006, aiming to build the Kráčmerka family and maternal centre. I have worked for the IEP since 2009 as a project assistant at the FAZOLE Community Centre in Domažlice, which actively co-operates with Kráčmerka and shares its spaces.



Photo: IEP employees and Vojtěch Kotecký

Layout: Martin Šojdr

Institute for Environmental Policy 2010