



2016

GREEN NETWORK BELARUS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



778

environmental issues resolved by activists in cities
and towns

> 800

media hits

> 300

volunteers

> 80 000

visitors to the Green Portal monthly

54

members of Green
Network

.....

13

environmental start-ups

.....

38

cases devoted to
defending people's rights
to a healthy environment
and interests in that area

2016



GREEN
NETWORK
BELARUS
2016
ANNUAL
REPORT

Contents

04	Introduction
06	Meet Green Network: for those, who haven't met us yet
09	Public campaigns:
10	• «Urban Forester»
14	• «Belarus Wildlife Protection»
18	Public events
25	Green Watch
30	School of Young Environmental Leaders
33	Environmental Start-Ups
36	Legal Service
40	Green Phone: keeping in touch to deal with environmental issues
42	Volunteer Service
44	Green Portal
46	Looking ahead
48	Acknowledgements
54	Annex: List of Members




Dear friends!


The document you are now holding in your hands is an overview of accomplishments of Green Network (GN) in 2016, or, to put it another way, our annual report. It provides full coverage of our existence, dreams and aspirations, as well as what finally became of them.



INTRODUCTION

This year we were joined by new friends, colleagues and partners. We are grateful to all those who spent this year with us. And those, who have read only this welcome address, are cordially invited to set foot on the very important, though thorny path of the Belarus' "green movement"!

A black and white photograph of a large, leafless tree standing in a snowy field under a cloudy sky. The tree is the central focus, with its intricate branches reaching out against the light background. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and the sky is filled with soft, diffused light.



We are a big team of very different people. We are of different age and gender, come from varied backgrounds and set diverse goals to ourselves. But we all share a common ground: the world we live in matters so very much to each of us. It is just because we all live on this planet. This is because ecologists and environmentalists are the most egoistic people on Earth: no matter what, they want to live the way they like - in a living green world.

This report will tell you how we spent this year, and it features texts accompanied with figures and photographs from the events' arena. We laid out our activity in a way that should provide you with an insight into the areas thereof, what we managed to achieve, and what you personally can join right now.

However, this time the report you are holding is not an ordinary report covering the activity of a non-governmental organization. It cannot be called ordinary for two reasons: Firstly, it covers the activity of a unique structure - a network of organizations, and the document highlights the outcomes of specialized activities aimed at accomplishing tasks that are not quite common for individual organizations. While "nature protection" is one of the traditional tasks of environmental NGOs, and "promotion of public participation in environmental decision-making" is a common part of the human rights activists, "promotion of the green movement" is something different and less understandable (actually, even to ourselves). In this report we will try to tell you what we do, why and how we do it through combined environmental protection and human rights promotion goals, and by setting up a real-time experiment, in the course of which we engineer and promote the civil society movement at the same time.

And, secondly, this report also serves an invitation. We invite you to not only be curious about "what those guys are up to", but also ask questions, offer more efficient ways of achieving our goals, and, finally, join us in the role and way you consider appropriate. We welcome critics and volunteers, thinkers and doers, creators, spokespersons, organizers, researchers, and those, who will come to learn or teach. To put it in a nutshell, everyone is welcome.

MEET GREEN NETWORK: FOR THOSE, WHO HAVEN'T MET US YET

Green Network is a community of environmental organizations, activists, initiatives, and experts that united into a network to address environmental issues that cannot be resolved by effort of a single actor.

The history of the Belarusian public green movement remembers us as a simple partnership from November 6, 2007. At the moment the partnership comprises 15 public associations and 39 individual participants (see the Annex). GN organizations and activists work in Minsk, Grodno, Gomel, Baranovichy, Brest, and other towns and cities of Belarus.

The issues we address cannot be resolved by a single organization or person. Only jointly, we can expect our voice to be heard and our opinion to be counted. This is the main reason behind our drive for consolidation of the Belarusian green movement.

Green Network's mission is to achieve harmony between human and nature through sustainable development and a strong green movement.

GN's strategic areas of activity are:

1. Nature protection and recovery of ecosystems;
2. Promotion of public participation in environmental decision-making;
3. Development of public green movement in Belarus and EECCA region (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia).

We want people in Belarus and the region to understand the value of nature and treat it with care and respect. We want them to have knowledge, skills and efficient mechanisms for participation in environmental decision-making. This should improve state environmental management; economic development should not damage the environment; the right to a healthy environment should be guaranteed, and nature should be preserved for us and future generations of people.

Activity of the partnership is based on sustainable development **principles** and the Earth Charter, as well as fairness, transparency, democratic participation, human rights and gender equality.

We actively cooperate with public administration bodies, the academic community that share our concern about conservation of Belarusian nature, as well as a number of other civil society organizations and business entities.

54

members of Green Network

778

environmental issues
resolved by activists
in cities and towns

13

environmental start-ups

38

cases devoted to defending
people's rights to
a healthy environment
and interests in that area

15

organizations

> 80 000

visitors to the
Green Portal monthly

> 800

media hits

Our principles:

sustainable development <

justice <

transparency <

democratic participation <

respect for human rights <

gender equality <

323

volunteers,

who had worked for 2 600 hours

2 600



GREEN NETWORK BOARD



Anrdey Yegorov,
Director of the Center for European Transformation



Viktor Yermolenkov,
sustainable development expert, Ph.D, Biology



Vladimir Zuyev,
chairman of the Environmental and Heritage
Public Association "Nerush"



Gregory Terentyev,
Chairman of the Brest Youth Public Association
"Vremya Zemli" (Earth Time)



Gregory Fedorov,
environmental lawyer, member of the Public
Association "Ecohome"



Elena Tonkacheva,
Chairperson of the Board of the Legal
Transformations Center "Lawtrend"



Sergey Magonov,
environmental lawyer, member of the Public
Association "Ecohome"

PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS



URBAN FORESTER

>100

media hits

-
- initiated a campaign for mapping the city's trees
 - held expert roundtable discussions devoted to sustainable development of the city
 - created an audio guide "Century-Old Memorial Trees of the City"

Urban Forester in facts and figures:

Urban Forester is a campaign of the Green Network aimed at preserving green areas in cities by efforts of citizens.

the 3rd "City Walking Marathon" was held

43

43 people overcame the distance of the marathon

Green-and-Black Map of Minsk developed

270

Kg of pure oxygen a year consumes 1 person. The same amount allocates 1 tree in height more than 30 m

> 60

species of plants have entered the guide-determinant of urban trees and shrubs

Started to work with the assessment of ecosystem services in urban green areas

> 3 500

Planted trees during the "Tree Week" action

> 120 000

dollars per year cost of ecosystem services of an urban greened block of 12 hectares

> 10 6

implemented more than 10 actions

collected 6 tons of waste paper during the World Paper Free Day

1 408

collected 1,408 signatures under the petition against non-professional tree cuts in cities and towns (an unprecedented result for the Petitions.by platform)

“Urban Forester helped a great lot to Osmolovka. We mapped the area’s trees, held an action against “black” parking, the campaign’s activists helped us at an important stage of advocating the historical and cultural value of the district, not to mention the continued consultations with Igor and Kiryl. Our cooperation is a good example of interaction between different public initiatives”.

Andrey Ezerin, a resident of Osmolovka

The cost of a green city, or the Green-and-Black Map of Minsk

The campaign’s activists embarked on a unique project for Belarus - creation of a Green-and-Black Map of Minsk - that will help to count all green and industrial zones that exist in Minsk and find out how smart we are in using the urban territory.

The Green-and-Black Map of Minsk is an interactive map that will feature the green zones, e.g. parks and public gardens, and the black zones, e.g. industrial enterprises and abandoned territories.

This map attempts to collect information about the economic gains produced by green and industrial zones. Ecologists believe that this information can form solid ground for the dialogue with city authorities and investors, who think that unoccupied green zones are perfect for construction.

To put it another way, conservation of natural areas is an investment in the future that can be measured in monetary terms.

Old folks are welcome, or conservation of a 25-year old oak in Minsk

Trees suffer in the course of any construction. However, it turned out that in Minsk there is a machine that allows to excavate trees from soil with the whole root system and move them to new places, where they will live on. For the first time in Minsk, developers of the “Novaya Borovaya” residential district together with the Urban Forester’s activists used such a machine to move a 25-year old oak closer to the residential buildings thereby demonstrating opportunities that might help save trees avoid being cut. The campaign’s activists kept a close eye on the whole process to ensure that the tree is moved correctly and in a timely manner, before the vegetation period. Following its extraction, the tree was moved to the center of a new residential district to please the eyes of the city dwellers.

Contacts:

Urbanforester.by

info@urbanforester.by

Urban Forester in Facebook

"As a whole, the tree's structure is a book written by nature. If we cut a tree when we actually do not need to, it is like burning a book".

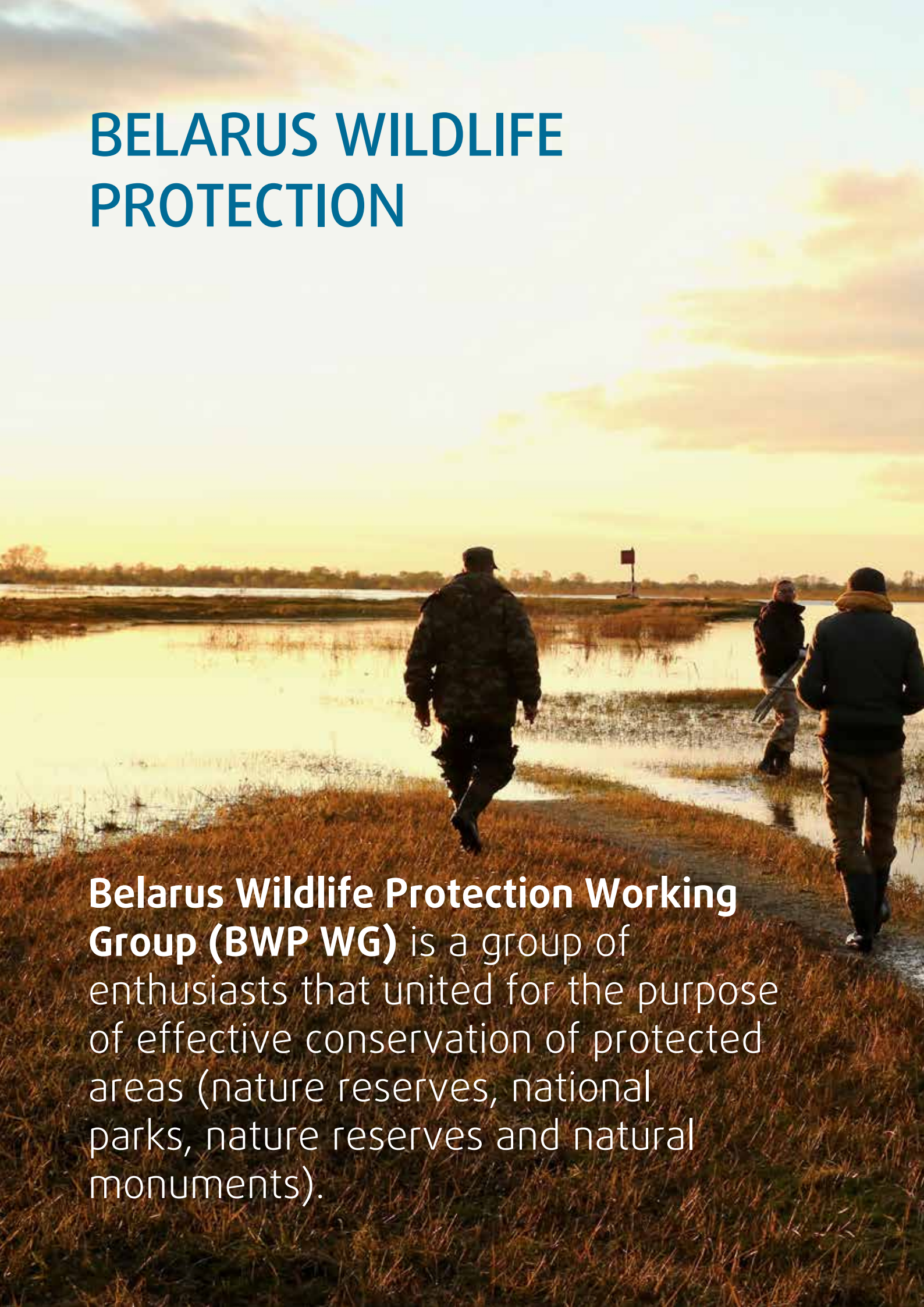
Igor Korzun, coordinator of the Urban Forester Campaign

СОХРАНЯЯ ДЕРЕВЬЯ,
СОХРАНЯЕМ ГОРОД!

urbanforester.by
vk.com/urbanforester
facebook.com/urbanforester.by

Городской Лесничий

BELARUS WILDLIFE PROTECTION

A photograph showing three people walking away from the camera through a wetland area at sunset. The person in the foreground is wearing a camouflage jacket and dark pants. The person in the middle is wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants. The person in the background is wearing a dark jacket and dark pants. They are walking on a path that is partially submerged in water. The sky is filled with warm, golden light from the setting sun, and the water reflects the light. The background shows a line of trees and a small structure in the distance.

Belarus Wildlife Protection Working Group (BWP WG) is a group of enthusiasts that united for the purpose of effective conservation of protected areas (nature reserves, national parks, nature reserves and natural monuments).

Belarus Wildlife Protection in facts and figures:



participated in an FSC (Forest Stewardship council) audit in all 5 specially protected natural areas



held review of implementation of management plans for natural parks and a biosphere reserve to identify priorities in their activity and assess adherence to principles of environmental friendliness



developed a set of recommendations to the management plan for the territory of the "Lebizhyi" reserve



provided comments and suggestions to the draft changes and amendments to the Management Plan for the "Berezinsky" biosphere reserve



formulated a position regarding protection of the populations of bison and wolves



initiated establishment and became members of the scientific and public consultative board on ecosystem services and biodiversity under the Research and Development Center for Biological Resources of the Belarus NAS (a platform to discuss practical scientific issues to develop joint solutions and formulate positions with regard to nature protection issues)



joined the Interagency Board on Biological Diversity under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Quad bikes in the swamps

The WG's activists learned about test-drives of quad bikes in the swamps of the Miory region (in the territory of a hydrological reserve of national importance "Boloto Mokh"). When someone rides quads in the swamps, it destroys the soil of the natural ecosystem: it usually takes about 10 years to replenish it.

«It is necessary to understand that indigenous natural territories, including those without a road network, should not be used for sports and entertainment competitions or mere "bushing". For such trips there are official roads or landfills that could be used by extreme driving fans. Also, during the competitions, it is important to coordinate the route with local and national government bodies in order to avoid consequences of influence on valuable natural complexes».

Konstantin Chikalov, Deputy Chairperson of PA "Bahna"

The story with the squad test-drive in the swamps inspired adjustments to the document, providing for changes in environmental legislation. In cooperation with activists, specialists of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection supplemented the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Environmental Protection" with Article 54-1. It says that it is not allowed to hold any mass events and tourist trips, "if as a result of their conduct natural complexes and objects will be damaged or there is a threat of such impact." The normative document also clarifies that this restriction applies to activities during which vehicles are used in places that have not been specially designated for such purposes and that are located in natural ecosystems.

Wildlife School

In 2016 we were very keen to create a space that would host meetings and promote cooperation between those willing to learn more about wildlife, its secrets and challenges, and the role and place of humans in it; a floor to discuss the existing challenges of simple and complex ecosystems that surround us and find those who think the way you do. This is what made us launch the Wildlife School.

In the framework of a 6-month training course the trainees learned about wildlife in general and specially protected natural areas (SPNAs), studied the main approaches to understanding and managing wildlife, met experienced specialists and, of course, learned about the WG's activity

Contacts:

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Wildlife School in facts and figures:

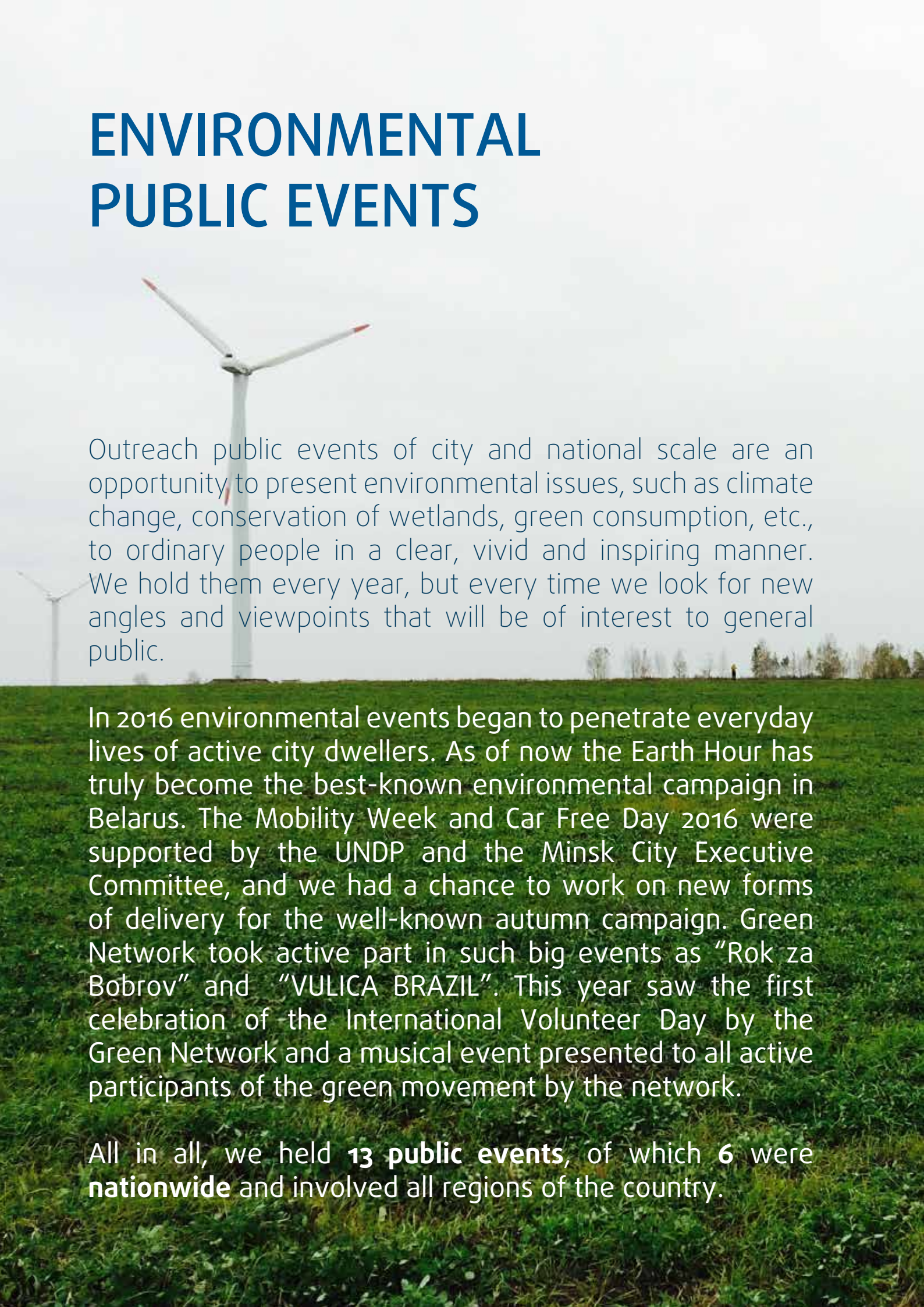
9
lectures

200 participants

● **distance learning
opportunities available**

18 speakers:
from Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia and Russia

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC EVENTS



Outreach public events of city and national scale are an opportunity to present environmental issues, such as climate change, conservation of wetlands, green consumption, etc., to ordinary people in a clear, vivid and inspiring manner. We hold them every year, but every time we look for new angles and viewpoints that will be of interest to general public.

In 2016 environmental events began to penetrate everyday lives of active city dwellers. As of now the Earth Hour has truly become the best-known environmental campaign in Belarus. The Mobility Week and Car Free Day 2016 were supported by the UNDP and the Minsk City Executive Committee, and we had a chance to work on new forms of delivery for the well-known autumn campaign. Green Network took active part in such big events as “Rok za Bobrov” and “VULICA BRAZIL”. This year saw the first celebration of the International Volunteer Day by the Green Network and a musical event presented to all active participants of the green movement by the network.

All in all, we held **13 public events**, of which **6** were **nationwide** and involved all regions of the country.

Earth Hour 2016:

10

participating towns and cities
around Belarus

the Green Portal featured a successfully
completed experiment aimed at acquiring
energy saving habits within 21 day with
participation of Belarusian journalists and
bloggers

21

- **support from public authorities**
 - **reference to the campaign in The Guardian (UK)**
-

>150

media hits

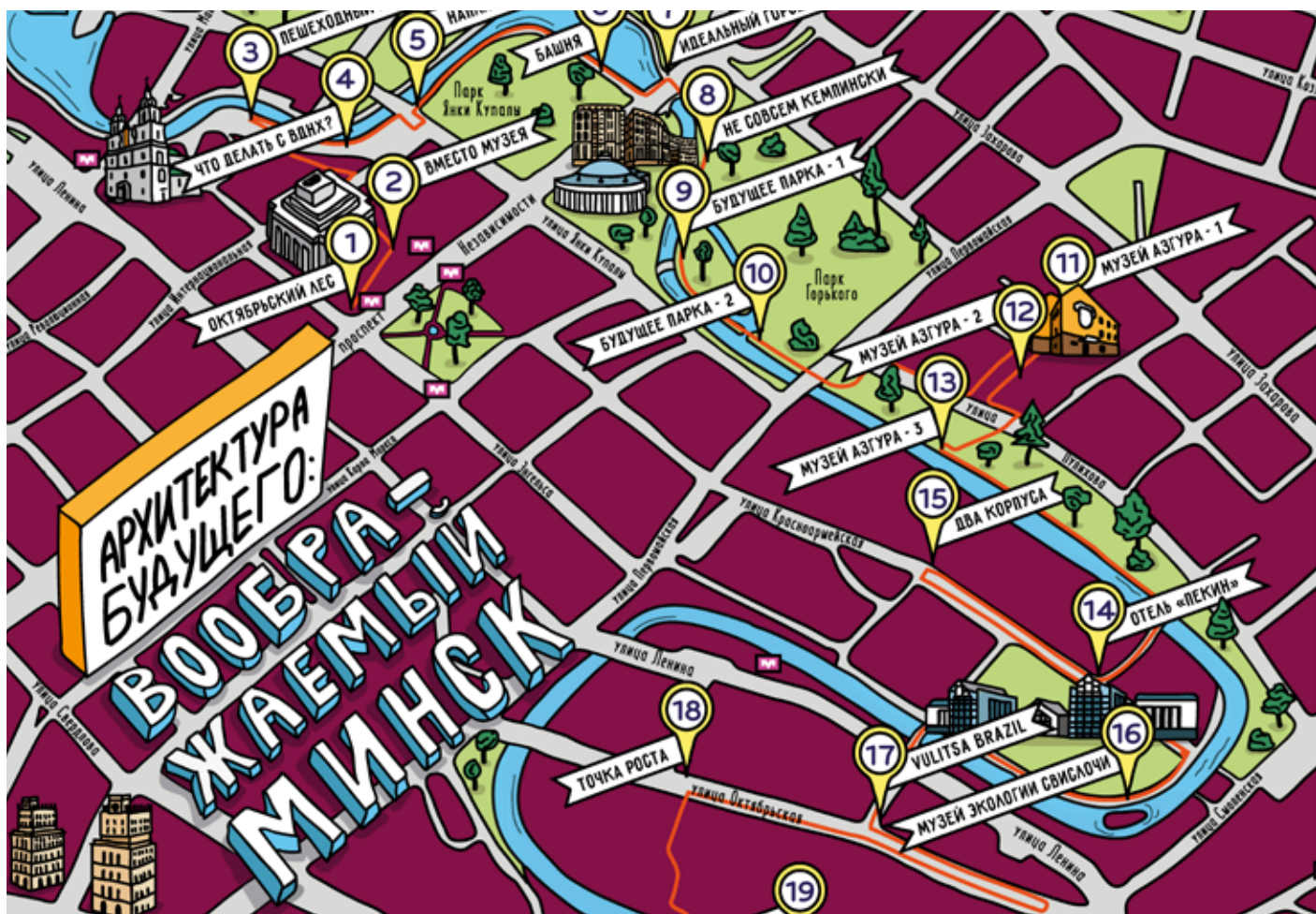


«I believe that learning to see the city from other people's, other community's or other discipline's prospective is vital for both personal development and development of the city and civil society as a whole. These guides can open a very broad outlook to open-minded city dwellers».

Georgiy Zaborsky, architect, researcher,
project participant

Walks with History

In the framework of the European Mobility Week in 2016, a new product was developed and released as a gift to all walkers - audio guides. The idea is simple: there is a map with a route marked on it. An audio file with a story about the remarkable features of this place is attached to each point of the path. The map itself and audio files are downloaded to the phone or player through a link, and ... you are fully set for a walk, at any convenient time, in a company or on your own! You can discover the route in parts or make a full journey at once, following the recommended order or choosing your own, skipping points or returning to the places you loved best.



Every route was developed by an expert in the respective field. As of now two audio guides are ready, they are "Architecture of the Future: Imaginary Minsk" by Gregory Zaborsky, an architect, and "Century-Old and Memorial Trees of the City" by the Urban Forester campaign. Audioguides can be downloaded at Greenbelarus.info.

Another important experiment that took place in the framework of the Mobility Week is the unification of the theme of mobility and accessibility. Together with the "Office for the Rights of People with Disabilities", volunteers from the Green Network investigated Zybityskaya Street (Minsk) for accessibility for people with different forms of disabilities. The results were sad - all public places along the street turned out to be inaccessible to people wheelchair users. Within the framework of the campaign, activists shot a video about the course of the experiment and its results. The themes of the right to a favorable environment and the right to access met and opened up a new field for us.

"Zrobim 2016" Clean-Up Campaign:

- **steering Committee: "Center for Environmental Solutions", Green Network, Public Association "Minsk Cycling Community" and the "Interaction" Foundation work together to ensure global coverage of the campaign**
 - **joined by business entities: REMONDIS, UBER, Kufar**
-

43 | **2** campaigns

approximately 43 big and small localities from all regions of Belarus took part in the campaign

- **the first Belarusian conference was held**
-

690 m3 of waste collected throughout the year

Chernobyl Week 2016

On the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, we decided that it was time to commemorate not only one day in April, but to have a whole week of various causes, where every day we would offer new events of different format, which anyone could join.

- an international conference “Chernobyl +30”, where we discussed alternative options for development of the denuclearized Belarusian energy sector with participation of Rebecca Harms (Member of the European Parliament, president of The Greens–European Free Alliance group in the European parliament), the late Alexei Yablokov (fellow of the Russian Academy of Sciences) and other Belarusian and International experts



- art exhibition “Radioactive Art”



- 2 theatrical performances: “Chernobyl” (Krylya Kholopa) and “Chernobyl Prayer” (The Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama)



"As practice has shown, in order to eliminate violations of environmental legislation, it is not necessary to have a special education or specific skills. You need very little: personal initiative and knowledge of how to act in a specific situation. And the action algorithms for a number of cases are registered in our Green Watch Handbook".
(rina Belaya, Green Watch coordinator)

THE GREEN WATCH

The Green Watch is a public environmental inspection, created in order to help the people of Belarus to solve everyday environmental problems through prevention, detection and correction of non-compliance with environmental legislation.

The “green watchmen” are up-an-doing people keen to implement their right to a healthy environment. The headcount keeps going up, and in 2016, 134 activists joined the Green Watch.

Thanks to them, the environmental agenda has reached the ears of oblast and regional administrations, local residents learned more about their rights and made a stand for them. Summing up this year’s results, the watchers report that in the territory controlled by them, there are fewer violations of environmental legislation, and more people are ready to stand up for their rights. For example, when local activists carried out regular monitoring of the state of recreation and tourism zones on the Blue Lakes, for the first time violations were not detected. And during the salmon spawning in the streams of the Ostrovets district there were no attempts of poaching.



The inspection is a convenient instrument for informing and teaching citizens to jointly deal with arising environmental challenges. A person, who receives a warning at the moment of committing a violation, does their best to avoid repetition. For example, regular monitoring of unauthorized landfill sites and notifying the violators leads to reduction in the number of such sites.

The Green Watch Activists work in:

- **Minsk and Minsk Oblast:**
Soligorsk and Soligorsk Region, Nesvizh and Nesvizh Region;

**Почему я поддержала
Справочник Зеленого дозора?**



” Я поддерживаю проект Зеленого дозора, потому что считаю: крайне важно думать о мире. Пусть каждый начнет с себя: чуть меньше мусора и выхлопных газов. Каждый из нас в силах влиять на ситуацию. ”

Елена

кампания по сбору средств



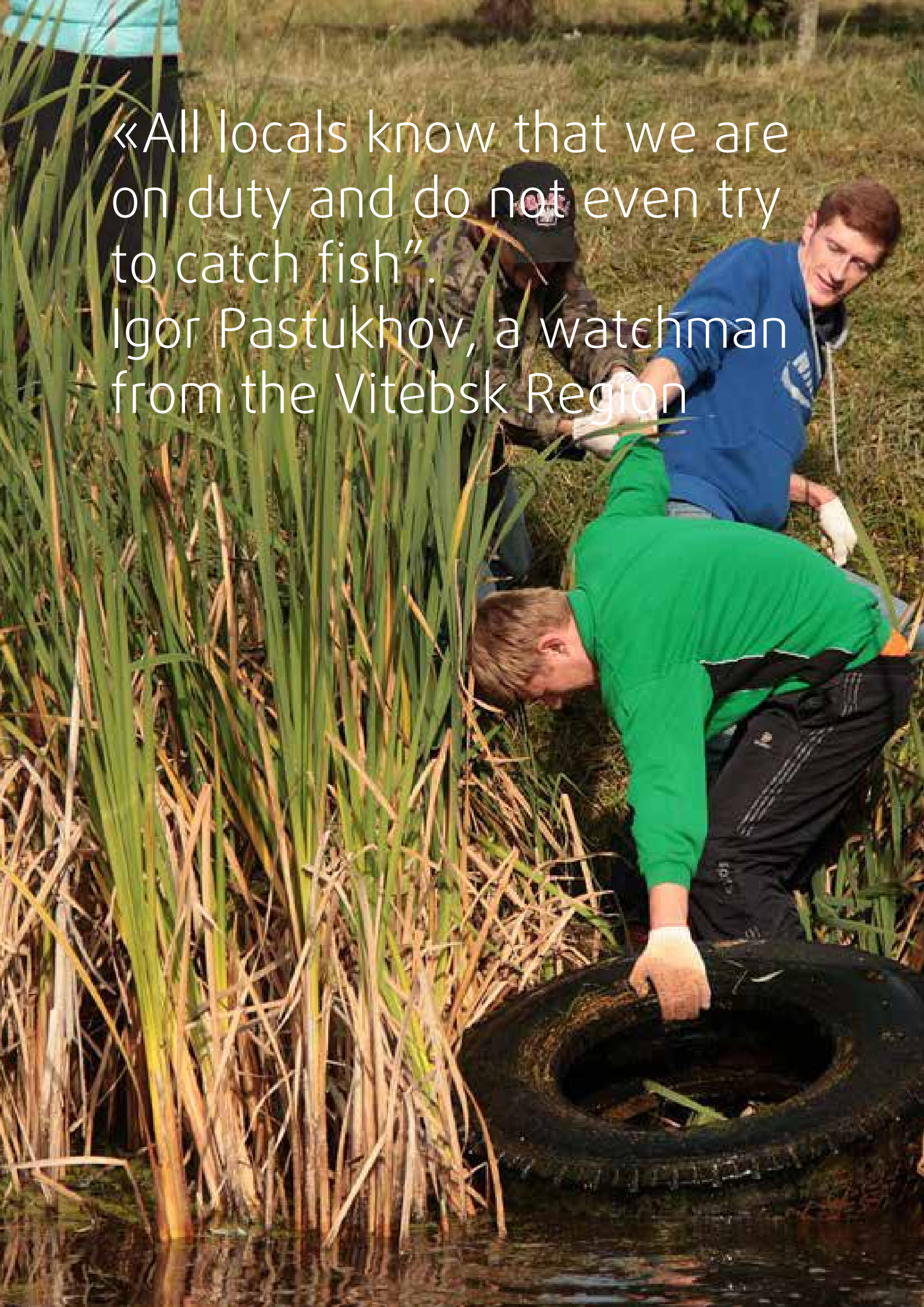
- **Brest and Brest Oblast:**
Bereza and Bereza Region, Pinsk and Pinsk Region, Baranovichy and Baranovichy Region, Lyakhovichy Region;

- **Gomel Oblast:**
Mozyr and Mozyr Region;

- **Vitebsk Oblast:**
Shumilino and Shumilinsky Region, Polotsk and Polotsk Region, Postavy Region;

- **Grodno Oblast:**
Shchuchin and Shchuchin Region.

«All locals know that we are on duty and do not even try to catch fish”.
Igor Pastukhov, a watchman from the Vitebsk Region



Watchmen's victories in 2016:

- Stopped illegal harmful production of polystyrene plates in Mozyr. In addition, the construction company, according to our recommendations, has developed more modern emission regulations
- Stopped discharge of farm waste into a creek flowing into the Western Dvina, perpetrators of the violation were punished in the Polotsk district; waste discharged into the forest from the Ostromechevo farming complex was stopped, as well as the discharge of waste of the pig farm in the Yelnya river in the Shchuchin region
- Prevented approval of the blueprint of a commercial milk farm near the Naroch village
- Restored the dam in the Tomishki tract (Postavy region), the water level in the lake was restored. The regional group of the Green Watch is working to ensure that this place is recognized as a natural monument and included in tourist routes
- In Polotsk the fact of negligent use of grant funds from the Government of Sweden during the planting of tree and shrub seedlings was revealed: out of the 5,750 planned trees, more than half were dried up. Following an appeal from the watchmen, on the site dried up seedlings were replaced, and watchmen control the observance of standards of care for young seedlings
- Construction of the shopping center suspended, a green zone in Brest was not cut down. Violations of the procedure for public participation in decision-making regarding the complex were revealed. Thanks to the numerous appeals of the watchmen, the executive authorities in Brest decided to adjust the master plan of the city. Currently, the watchmen initiated the "Genplan dlya Brestchan" (General Plan for Brest Citizens) campaign to ensure effective - at early stages - participation of citizens in decision-making in urban planning
- 86 unauthorized landfill sites eliminated in the territory of Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel and Grodno oblasts

- 6 mini-landfill sites brought in compliance with the legislation in the Brest region, identified violations remedied
- The areas of invasive species growth have been cleared - cow-bearing and the Canadian goldenrod cleared in the territory of Grodno and Polotsk, and also Shumilino, Shchuchin and Grodno regions
- Breaches in the organization of a riverside recreation zone in the territory of the "Zapadnoye Polesia" biosphere reserve were remedied
- Documents prepared for giving a number of trees the status of natural monuments - in Postavy, Ostrovets, Myadel, Braslav regions, in Vitebsk and Vitebsk region, Mozyr, Glubokoye and Soligorsk
- Initiated planting trees: a forest in Postavsky region; compensation plantings in the place of unauthorized cuts (the bank of Balduk lake, Myadel region) done in 2014. In Berezovsky region trees were planted on the sites of two unauthorized cuts
- Regular parking on grassplots stopped in many towns and cities around Belarus
- Containers for separate waste collection placed in 3 localities in the Bereza region and in 7 localities in the Nesvizh region
- Cancellation of regeneration pruning in Mozyr has been advocated, as it resulted in death of the trees. A resolution regulating pruning in the town was adopted by the Mozyr Executive Committee

If you think that time has come for you to join the Green Watch, please contact us at greendozor@gmail.com!

Contacts:
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<http://dozor.greenbelarus.info/>

THE SCHOOL OF YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

18

new young trainers joined the school

25

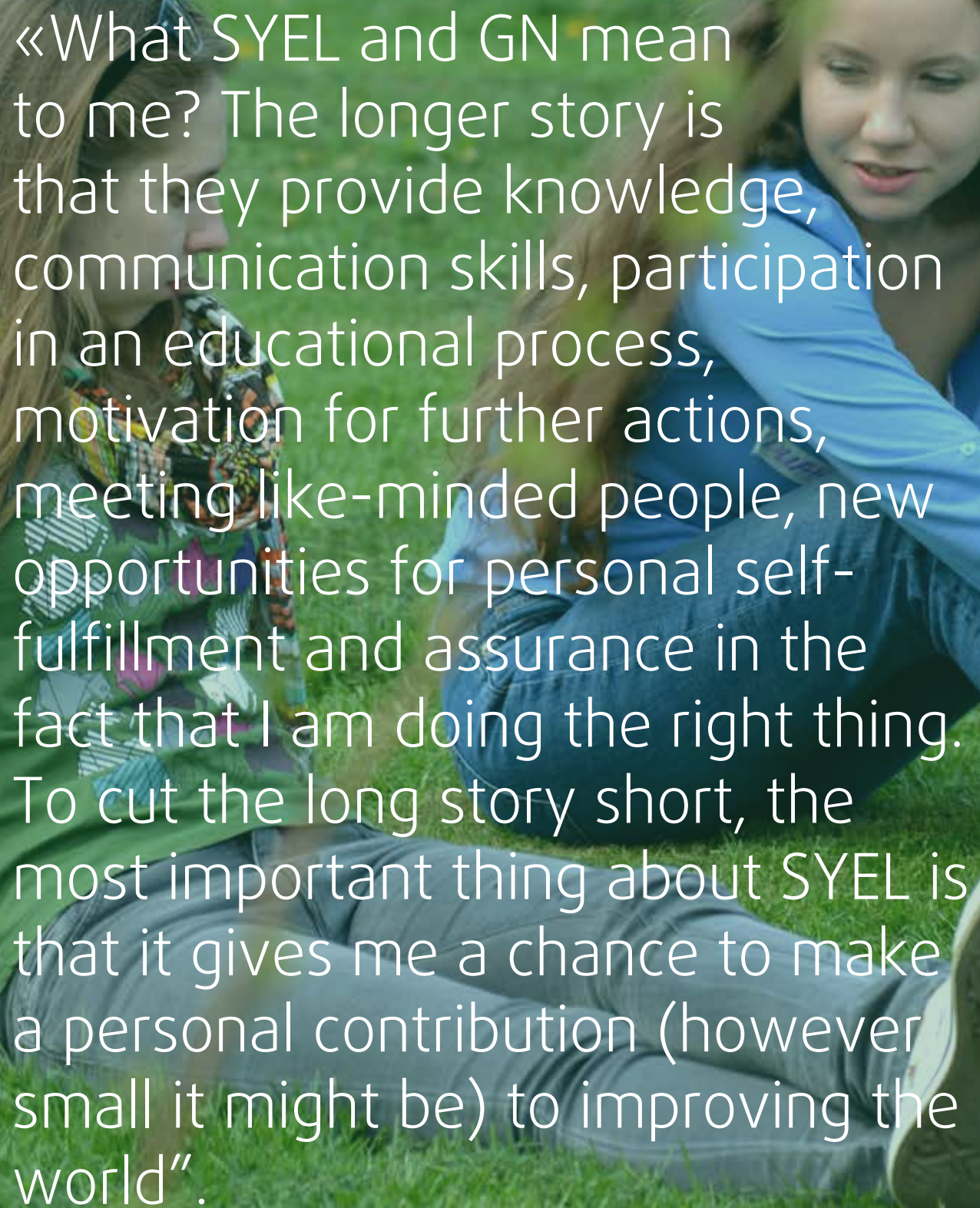
educational events joined and partially facilitated by SYEL trainers



118

SYEL trainings held in Minsk, Grodno, Baranovichy and Brest with 118 participants

Contacts:
ecoschool.by@gmail.com
Ecoschool.by

A photograph of two young women sitting on a lush green lawn dotted with small yellow wildflowers. The woman on the left is seen in profile, wearing a green t-shirt and a vibrant, multi-colored patterned scarf. The woman on the right is looking down, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. The background is a soft-focus field of green grass and yellow flowers under natural light.

«What SYEL and GN mean to me? The longer story is that they provide knowledge, communication skills, participation in an educational process, motivation for further actions, meeting like-minded people, new opportunities for personal self-fulfillment and assurance in the fact that I am doing the right thing. To cut the long story short, the most important thing about SYEL is that it gives me a chance to make a personal contribution (however small it might be) to improving the world”.

Pavel, SYEL 2016 trainer



ecoschool.by ШКОЛА ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОГО АКТИВИСТА



ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫЙ КУРС 1-ГО УРОВНЯ

Двухдневный семинар, цель которого познакомиться с основными принципами экологии и существующими актуальными проблемами

КОНКУРС ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ПРОЕКТОВ "ЗЕЛЕНКА" С TALAKA.BY

Тренинг для тех, у кого уже есть конкретная идея для своего проекта. Особое внимание здесь уделяется проектному менеджменту, навыкам коммуникации, пиара, работы в группе

ШКОЛА ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОГО ЮРИСТА

Программа для тех, кто хочет стать компетентным специалистом в сфере защиты прав граждан на благоприятную окружающую среду, научиться помогать людям отстаивать свои права самостоятельно и участвовать в сохранении живой природы



SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL START-UPS #ZELENKA

A man with a beard and a grey hoodie is the central figure, looking directly at the camera. He is holding a small, green evergreen branch in his hands. The background is a dense forest with many thin, bare trees, suggesting a winter or early spring setting. In the distance, other people can be seen, some wearing colorful winter gear, engaged in what appears to be a group activity or planting.

In partnership with the Talaka.by crowd funding platform, GN launched a competition for environmental projects "Zelenka". It was our first attempt at organizing a competition among start-ups, where the authors of ideas themselves try to raise funds to support implementation of their ideas. For us the key aspiration was teaching young activists to use resources inside the country in a sound manner to implement the projects they contemplate and involving other people in joint implementation.

The competition was devised for activists in the whole country who have ideas for environmental start-ups. Within the framework of the competition the participants could form a team to work on the project together, find out whether their ideas are relevant to the society and receive training from leading experts.

Meet the Zelenka's projects!

- **"CarbonFreeTravel"** (Minsk) — creation and pilot launch of an application that helps to compensate CO₂ emissions from airplanes. The application is meant to enable each person travelling by air to easily make a contribution to a bank account that will be used to finance implementation of environmental projects later

«We do not claim having invented a bicycle, but we do aim to launch a mass use product that will allow to minimize the impact of CO₂ emissions with several clicks. Surely, making someone actually pay is beyond our control, and this is an application for motivated people".
Andrey, project manager

- **"Batteries are not waste"** (Baranovichy) — raising awareness of schoolchildren in Baranovichy of hazardous waste, organizing collection of used batteries
- **"Pavlinovo: refurbishment of an eco-path"** (Baranovichy) — creation of an eco-path in the Pavlinovo forest
- **"Clean city, responsible people"** (Brest) — improving the quality of sorting public waste by Brest citizens
- **"Ecoconsumerism"** (Baranovichy) — improving literacy of customers and companies in the area of food safety
- **"Baranovichy Going Cycling"** (Baranovichy) — the project is aimed at developing the cycling movement in Baranovichy
- **"Follow the path of an expired tablet"** (Pinsk) — organizing collection of expired medicine from the citizens for further disposal
- **"Urban Environment"** (Grodno) — development and launch of an educational resource for schoolchildren
- **"Green-and-Black Map of Minsk "** (Minsk) — development of a map to locate urban green zones and abandoned territories, including inefficient industrial enterprises with the help of citizens to create an open monitoring mechanism for the urban environment
- **"That very taste!"** (Minsk) — creation of a platform to enable cooperation between producers and consumers of eco-friendly food produced by farmers
- **"Ecotheater"** (Minsk) — staging performances devoted to global environmental issues using recoverable resources as stage decorations
- **"Let us rescue the Somninskoye lake!"** (Baranovichy) — tidying territories around a lake, turning huge dumps into recreation areas without damaging the environment



“Whisper. Pure Energy” (Minsk) — recording of a music album by the Port Mone trio using only renewable energy sources. To make its music famous, the Belarusian band goes away from recording the album in a studio. Nature is the source of their inspiration. For the new music album they first take a mobile record studio to wind turbines, and then to the solar park, where the music itself will be played and recorded. During the record project implementation will be documented in a movie

«For us implementation of the project with the help of “green energy” is a way of provoking people to think not only of energy saving, but also of how eco-friendly their everyday life is, how pure their communication and motives are, about awareness and culture, that is a part of our common home, as important, as nature itself”. Musicians, Port Mone trio

The Zelenka competition has come to an end, but we invite all of you who have ideas for environmental projects to not put them aside, but to come and visit us. Together we can improve our projects, find the strengths and weaknesses thereof and gain the necessary knowledge.

Contacts:
ecoschool.by@gmail.com
Ecoschool.by

A photograph of a tree trunk in a snowy environment. The tree has a large patch of blue paint and a smaller patch of white paint. Red and white caution tape is wrapped around the trunk. In the background, a yellow truck is visible.

LEGAL SERVICE

«Preservation of the Kotovka park as it is is a joint victory of all concerned citizens. We are very happy that we were heard and our opinion was taken into account. For us Kotovka is a place where neighbors and children meet, we communicate with each other and spend time together”.

Tatyana, a resident of Selkhozposelok

Legal Service in facts and figures:

Lawyers of the legal service are working to help citizens protect their environmental rights and to promote appropriate participation in environmental decision-making

38
7
55

cases dealing with problem issues received long-term legal support

court trials:

- 2 trials on construction in the Kotovka park in Minsk;
- a trial on construction of the Sofiisky Cathedral in Vitebsk;
- a trial on public discussions for the Minsk Master Plan;
- a trial regarding placement of a deactivation station for mercury waste in Uzda region;
- 2 trials regarding construction in the Postavy region.

consultations provided



11
313

experts of the service became speakers in 11 workshops for the staff of government authorities, local executive committees, committees on natural resources, prosecutors' offices and public organizations

appeals to government bodies regarding implementation of legislation in the sphere of environmental protection

Outcomes of our activity in 2016:

- 6 draft normative and legal acts amended to improve and change the law enforcement practice
- Participated in the development of legislation in the field of state environmental review and discussion of reports on environmental impact assessment
- Together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection participated in the development of a new procedure for conducting public discussions on environmental issues
- Prepared public environmental reviews for such sites, as:
 - pig farms in Molodechno district;
 - adjustment of the Belarusian-Chinese industrial park;
 - plan for detailed planning of the Selhozposelok in Minsk.
- Prepared a report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee in the nuclear power plant case by Belarus
- Joined the Aarhus Convention working groups on public participation, access to justice and information, as well as in meetings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, to discuss pressing issues related to implementation of the Aarhus Convention and best practices
- In order to investigate cases of persecution of eco-activists in the EECCA region, legal experts participated in the preparation of statements by representatives of associations of environmental organizations on the situation with prosecution of eco-activists and the restriction of the activities of environmental NGOs in the EECCA region
- Participated in the preparation of the National Report on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Belarus. The purpose of this report was to assess the extent to which Belarusian citizens have access to environmental information and how they can participate in environmental decision-making

¹ Draft Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Environmental Review, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment"; - Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "On Introducing Changes and Amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of June 1, 2011 No. 687", as well as the Regulation on the procedure for conducting public discussions in the field of architectural, urban planning and construction activities, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers Of the Republic of Belarus as of 01.06.2011 No. 687 (as amended on 04/01/2014); - Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus on the introduction of changes and amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of October 25, 2011 No. 1426, as well as the Draft Regulation on the Procedure for Issuing Permits for the Removal of Flora and Permit to Transplant Flora, ; - Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "On Approval of the Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Public Discussions for Draft Environmentally Relevant Decisions, Environmental Reports on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Accounting for Environmentally Relevant Decisions and Amendments to Some Resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus".

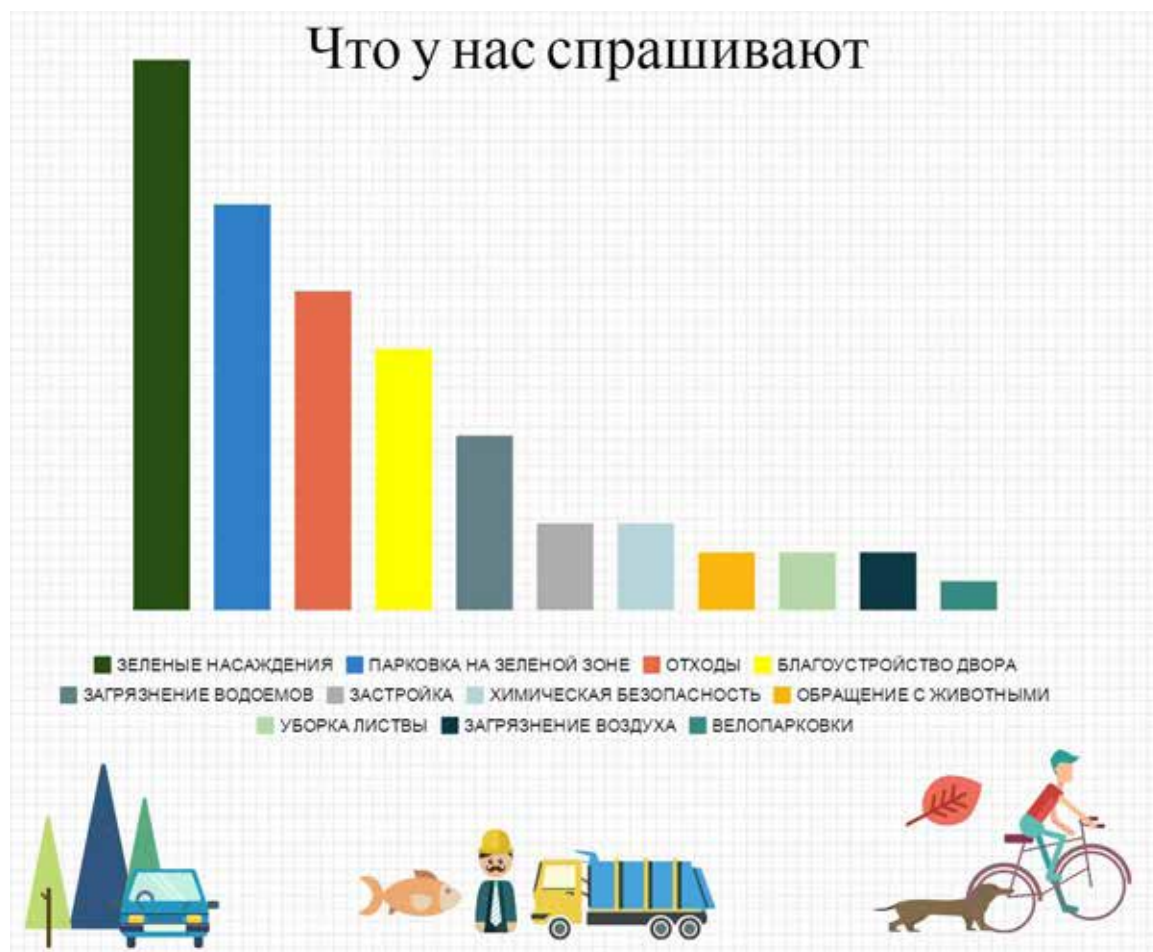
Assistance to Belarusians in defending their right to a healthy environment:



- Jointly with active local residents and activists of the Green Watch, prevented the construction of a dairy farm near the village of Naroch
- Helped local activists to suspend construction of the cathedral and cutting of the Shmyryov Park in the center of Vitebsk
- Together with local residents and activists, Kotovka park was preserved in Selkhozposelok in Minsk
- Together with local residents, advocated adoption of measures to reduce the noise impact from the Kronospan plant in Smorgon (reinforced concrete wall is installed)
- Managed to cancel the decision to cut down nearly 300 trees in Vileika
- Changed the project for disinfection of waste in the village of Osovok, Pukhovichi region
- The reports on the EIA for the construction of two pig complexes in the area of the village of Polochany, Sovlovo, Molodechno district, have been amended

Contacts:
greenbelarus@gmail.com

GREEN PHONE - KEEPING IN TOUCH TO RESOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Infographics: "What issues are addressed most frequently: greenery; parking in the green zone; waste; yard improvement; pollution of water reserves; construction; chemical safety; animal treatment; removal of leaves; air pollution; bicycle parking.

In October 2016 we launched a new project for those willing to deal with environmental challenges - the Green Phone.

Green Phone provides an opportunity to get advice regarding an existing environmental problem and learn to resolve it with one's own forces.

By addressing the Green Phone by telephone or mail every Belarusian citizen can receive the necessary consultation regarding an acute environmental issue or challenge.

Green Phone operators register each address they receive, collect contact details needed to provide feedback, and provide consultations regarding actions that need to be taken to resolve this or that environmental issue. An algorithm is drawn up for every issue, and such an algorithm can be used for similar situations in the future.

Contacts:
[http://phone.greenbelarus.info/
greenphonehelp@gmail.com](http://phone.greenbelarus.info/greenphonehelp@gmail.com)

The Green Phone in facts and figures:

.....

98 inquiries during 3 months in operation

35 letters

14 issues under consideration (in-depth analysis of serious problems when citizens are ready to take active steps towards resolving them)



63 calls

The most popular issues are:

- greenery
- parking in the green zone
- waste
- improvement of yards

VOLUNTEER SERVICE



«I help if I believe that this brings benefits. While I'm not a qualified volunteer, I will participate wherever my hands are needed. Volunteering gives hope for the future, including the fact that I myself will change for the better».

Roman, volunteer

For the successful operation of the Green Network and the development of the green movement in Belarus, we need the help and support of volunteers.

Volunteer service of the Green Network been working as a separate area of activity of the partnership has since 2015. Anyone can join it and become an eco-activist. Volunteering in the Green Network can cover different areas: from tree planting and assistance in the dissemination of information to development of new eco-projects with employees. Volunteers themselves choose the sphere in which they are ready to help, and they can regulate the mode of their work.

Contacts:

<http://greenbelarus.info/green/how-to-join>
KseniaMalyukova@gmail.com

Volunteer Service in facts and figures:

.....

2 600

hours this year have been given to us by

323

- volunteers (not to mention the
- participants of our actions and the
- Green Watch activists)



Most of all our volunteers are engaged in:

- translation
- participation in direct action campaigns
- assistance to organizers of events
- design

In the future, we plan to continue to attract volunteers who would like to become even more involved in our work and help in matters that we cannot solve alone.

If you are reading these lines and are absolutely sure that this is just about you and for you - feel free to write to us and express your interest!



THE GREEN PORTAL

“Now, instead of just googling this or that environmental topic, I go straight to the greenbelarus.info website. This year I especially liked the series of materials "The Faces of Chernobyl": amazing stories of such different people, but all about our common tragedy!”.
Ilya, a reader of the Green Portal

The Green Portal is the main information resource featuring original materials and up to date environmental news from Belarus and all around the world, a platform for communication and information exchange, a meeting place for ambitious ideas and expert opinions.

We cover everything that Belarusians need to know to make their lifestyle more eco-friendly, defend their right to a healthy environment thereby promoting environmental values and fostering an attitude of care towards people and nature.

On the eve of World Environment Day, the Green Network opened a new regional environmental information resource in Vitebsk - the Vitebsk Green Portal. Now Vitebsk has its own environmental media, a space open to ideas, initiatives, for other people who see the issue and want to solve it, and those looking for like-minded people in the field of environmental protection.

Contacts:

greenbelarus.editor@gmail.com
Greenbelarus.info

The Green Portal in facts and figures

1100 original materials
85000 readers monthly



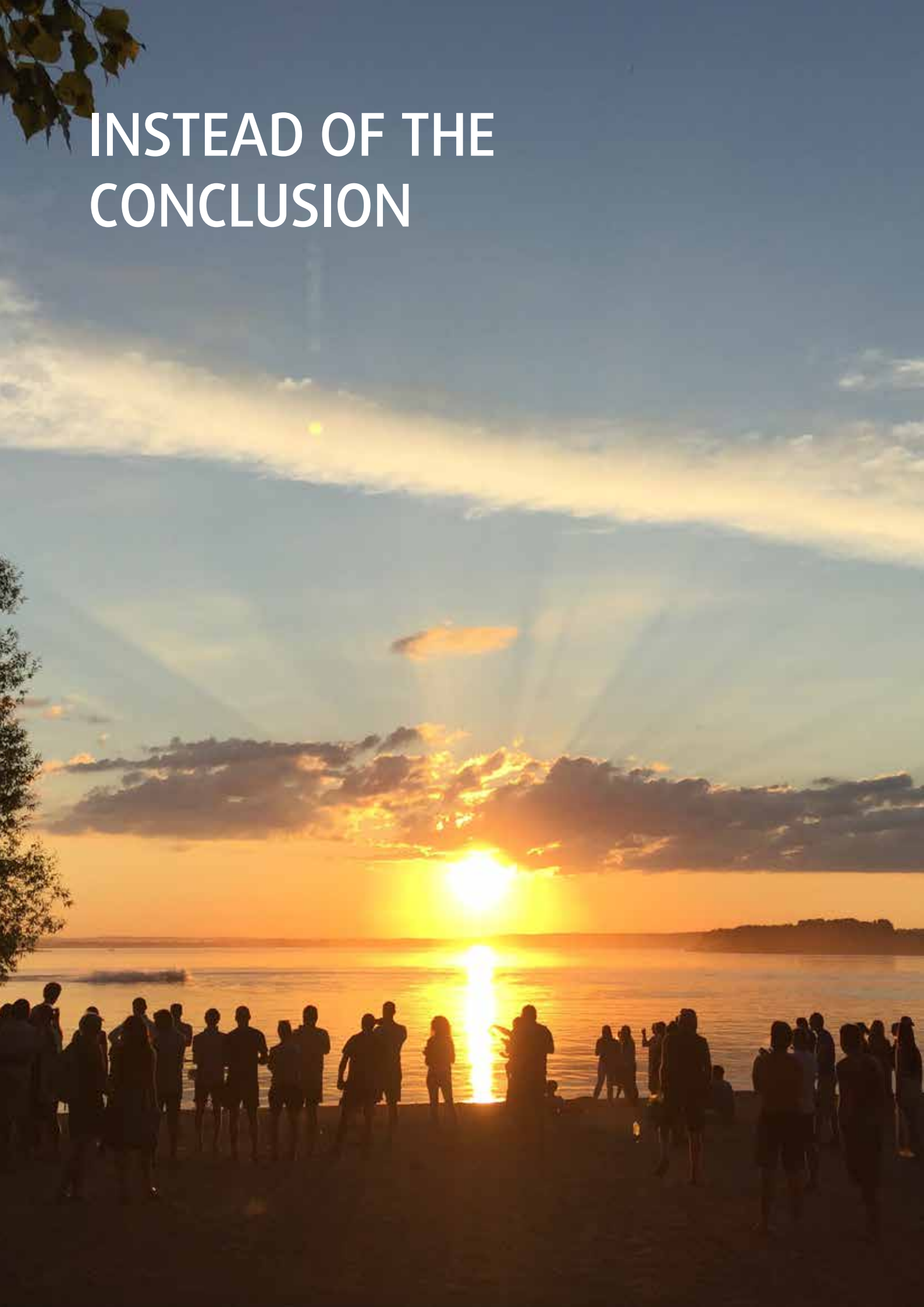
14833 subscribers in all social networks

5 branches

New specialized project:

- Environment and Literature
- The Faces of Chernobyl
- A Day With...
- Environment and Art
- a photo competition "Belarusians on the Landscape: Contrasts"
- Shaggy Fates

INSTEAD OF THE CONCLUSION



This time we tried to cover only the core and most important things in the annual report, although the pages were spent and not a few. Generally, we wanted you to understand better why protecting the environment and defending the right to a healthy environment are so vital for all our activists, and what helps us to push our work forward every morning.

We want to remain a real instrument of mutual assistance, expert support and interaction for Belarusians, passionate about the issues of environmental protection, improving the quality of life, and caring about the future of their children and grandchildren.



Thousands of people stand behind our work and results! We would not have achieved everything that has been described in this report without fruitful cooperation with civil society organizations, specialized state bodies, and progressive and socially responsible business companies. Many thanks to all for your trust and participation!

We cast a net in search for people who care for the Earth and for each other, for the environment and environmental challenges. Thus, we want to find allies in all spheres of modern society. If you realized that you want to cooperate with the Green Network partnership, write to us at pressgreenbel@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A pair of white gardening gloves with blue polka dots is holding a small pine sapling with its roots exposed. The background is a blurred natural setting.

Green Network thanks all those who were by our side, helped us, and supported us in the challenging 2016: our colleagues, partners, volunteers and friends. We hope you will stay with us in 2017 on the way to a sustainable green Belarus!

We thank our partners and colleagues: public administration and non-governmental organizations, business companies, initiatives, and international experts:

Arnika Association

Climate Action Network

Danish Outdoor Council

Forum Syd

Deutsch-Russischer Austausch e.V.

Heineken, Беларусь

The Assembly of NGOs

Brest Oblast Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Vegan Fast Food "MonkeyFood"

"Center for Regional Development under GDF" Institution

State Nature Protection Institution "Narochansky National Park"

State Nature Protection Institution "Belovezhskaya Pushcha" National Park"

State Nature Protection Institution "Braslav Lakes" National Park"

State Nature Protection Institution "Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve"

Energy Efficiency Department of the State Standardization Committee of the Republic of Belarus

The PORT MONE instrumental trio

Kufar, a platform for free of charge advertising

Remondis

Uber

The Flying University

International Public Association "Ecoproject"

International Public Association "Ecopartnership"

International Consortium "EuroBelarus"

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

Minsk City Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

Minsk Urbanistic Platform

The Institute of Experimental Botany under the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Belarus

Ukrainian National Environmental Center

Non-Governmental Agency "Center of Environmental Solutions"

Non-Government Organization "APB BirdLife Belarus"

The Embassy of France in the Republic of Belarus

The Embassy of Brazil in Belarus

The Ukrainian Branch of the Heinrich Boll Foundation

The "Novaya Borovaya" Project

National Landscape Reserve "Yelnia"

"Society and Environment" Analytics and Resource Center

Pontis Foundation

Interaction Fund

Center for Legal Transformation "Lawtrend"

Czech Non-Governmental Organization "Civic Belarus"

Environmental Establishment "Agro-Eco-Culture"

Environmental Information Center "Eco-Info", Belarus NAS

Talaka.by Platform

Petitions.by Platform

"New Eurasia" Institution

Flying University

Personal thanks to:

Rebecca Harms (Member of the European Parliament, president of The Greens-European Free Alliance group in the European parliament)

Andrey Abramchuk (APB BirdLife Belarus)

Maryna Abramchuk (APB BirdLife Belarus)

Alexei Yablokov (fellow of the Russian Academy of Sciences, professor, D.Sc. in Biology)

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Natalya Blyshik (Public Information Center for Waste and Chemical Safety in Belarus, Center for Environmental Solutions)

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Angelina Davydova ("Kommersant")

Danila Dubar (Central Botanical Garden, National Academy of Science of Belarus)

Tatyana Yevdasiova (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus)

Andrey Yegorov (Center for European Transformation)

Maksim Yermokhin (Institute of Experimental Botany, National Academy of Science of Belarus)

Georgiy Zaborsky (urbanist)

Marina Zagorskaya ("Zautra Tvaei Krainy" Internet Resource (Tomorrow of Your Country))

Alexander Zubkevich (NEPKon" Auditing Company)

Alexey Kokorin (WWF Russia)

Vladimir Korzh (Organization Consultant)

Alexander Korolevich (NGO "Education Center POST")

Yasia Korolevich-Kartel (Citydog.by City Magazine)

Svetlana Koroleva (Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum)

Alexander Lyampert (trainer, consultant)

Mikhail Maximenkov (National Academy of Science of Belarus)

Vladimir Matskevich (International Consortium "EuroBelarus")

Sergey Minkevich (NEPKon" Auditing Company)

Natalya Minchenko (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus)

Victor Mikhalevich (NEPKon" Auditing Company)

Dmitry Morozik (State Nature Protection Institution "Ozery Landscape Reserve")

Anton Motolko (blogger)

Andrey Ozharovsky (nuclear physicist, international nuclear physics expert)

Olga Zakharova (the Grodno Aarhus Center)

Andrey Pilipchuk (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus)

Mikhail Rudevich (Central Botanical Garden, National Academy of Science of Belarus)

Ntalya Rabova (trainer, consultant)

Liliya Semochkina (LLC Belgips-Eco)

Olga Smolyanko (Center for Legal Transformation «Lawtrend»)

Oleg Sozinov (Head of the Chair of Botany, Grodno State University)

The Belarusian Green Party

Juliya Stratovich ("Moss Garden" wall gardening studio)

Ivan Sukhy (LLS "Odisseya-2012", Russia)

Tatyana Trofimovich (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus)

Yury Chausov (Assembly of NGOs)

Igor Chishchenko

Nadezhda Shymbaliova (FIALTA Youth Education Center)

... and all volunteers, who extended a helpful hand to us this year, SYEL trainers and Green Watch activists!

We thank cultural and educational platforms and cafes for supporting our events:

Art-cafe "Beetlejuice"

"Hooligan" Bar

"Imaguru" Business Club

Contemporary Art Gallery «Ź»

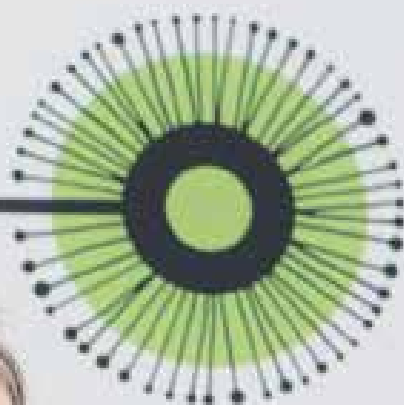
Creative Space "CEH"

Youth Education Center "Fialta"

Central Scientific Library named after Yakub Kolas under the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Belarus

PUNKT Educational Platform

ЗЕЛЕНАЯ
СЕТЬ



ANNEX: LIST OF GREEN NETWORK'S MEMBERS



Member organizations:

1. **Public Association “Ecohome”**

“Ecohome” is a national public organization that aims to promote environmentally sound lifestyle and ideas of sustainable development. Areas of activity of the organization include promotion of environmentally sound lifestyle; environmentally friendly architecture and construction; permaculture; environmental education and art; deep ecology.

E-mail: ecohome.by@gmail.com
ecohome-ngo.by

2. **Minsk City Department of the International Union of Ecologists**

Key areas of organization’s activity include monitoring of environmental situation in Belarus, implementation of environmental protection projects; and scientific work.

E-mail: foleg@tut.by

3. **Regional Public Association “Gomel Association of Children and Youth” (ASDEMO)**

A non-profit non-governmental civil society organization with regional branches in other towns of Gomel oblast (Rechitsa, Turov, Zhlobin, Mozyr, Rogachev, Buda-Koshelevo). Priority areas of activity include nature protection and social issues.

E-mail: asdemo@gmail.com
asdemo.org

4. **Postavy Rayon Association “Ecoagrotur”**

Areas of activity of the organization: environmental protection; promotion and development of environmental, heritage, and rural tourism; education and publishing; maintenance of memorials and graves. “Ecoagrotour” unites farmers, rural inhabitants, entrepreneurs, and city dwellers.

E-mail: ecoagroturpostavy@gmail.com

5. **Environmental and Heritage Public Association “Nerush”**

Environmental and Heritage Public Association “Nerush” is an association with voluntary participation with an environmental and historical profile established for organizing educational activities, support and development of civil society initiatives in the area of environmental protection and regional studies.

E-mail: office@nerush.org
nerush.org

6. **Public Association “Minsk Cycling Community”**

The Minsk Cycling Community was founded in 2011 by a group of activists concerned with the future of cycling movement in their own towns and in Belarus as a whole. The organization’s goal is promotion of cycling into everyday life: development of urban cycling transport, “cycling culture”, and bicycle touring, available to everyone.

E-mail: info@bike.org.by
bike.org.by

7. **Public Association of Cyclists “VeloGrodno”**

The main aim of “VeloGrodno” is promotion of the bicycle as a sustainable means of transport and active leisure, support of formation of healthy lifestyle, development of bicycle infrastructure and cyclists’ movement.

E-mail: julia.koleda@gmail.com
velogrodno.by

8. **Public Association “Bagna”**

The goal of “Clean Water” Public Association is promotion of sustainable development ideas, environmental protection, and ensuring the citizens’ right to a healthy environment.

E-mail: bahna.land@gmail.com
bahna.land

9. **Bereza Rayon Environmental Public Association “EcoRegion “Yaselda”**

The goal of “EcoRegion “Yaselda” Public Association is support of sustainable social and economic development of Bereza Rayon based on comprehensive use of natural resources, increasing investments, preserving conditions for reproduction of natural and resource potential, and creation of favorable living conditions for the rayon’s population.

E-mail: eko.yaselda@mail.ru

10. **Public Association “Belarusian Committee “Chernobyl Children”**

The main goal of the organization is to ensure safe environmental conditions in the interests of health and lives of Belarusian children through making the environmental situation healthier, formation of a healthy lifestyle, and assistance in prevention and treatment of diseases.

E-mail: nadya@melesta.ru

11. **Republican Social and Economic Public Association “Living Partnership”**

The organization’s activity is focused around environmental protection, sustainable use of energy resources, development of non-traditional and renewable energy sources, and maintenance and improvement of people’s health.

The organization strongly promotes introduction of environmental management systems in social, educational, and clerical organizations.

E-mail: office@partnership.by
partnership.by

12. **International Public Association “Ecosfera”**

The organization’s goals include attracting public attention to environmental problems, implementation of environmental and eco-social programs and campaigns, education in the environmental sphere, and protection of the right of its members to healthy environment.

E-mail: ella_i@mail.ru

13. Cultural and Environmental Organization “Eka-Maisterni”

The organization aims to promote sustainable development through informal environmental education and awareness raising. “Eka-Maisterni” work with members of local communities (children aged 3+, teenagers, adults and pensioners) and educational establishments (kindergartens, schools, higher educational establishments).

E-mail: ekamajsterni@gmail.com
ekamajsterni.by

14. . Brest Youth Public Association “Vremya Zemli”

BYPA “Vremya Zemli” brings together active citizens of the Brest Region united with one common idea: protection and improvement of the environment and conservation of the Belarus’ natural potential. The organization’s activity focuses on promotion of the “green movement”, conservation and development of the green zones in urban and rural areas and resolving concrete environmental issues in the Brest and Pinsk regions.

E-mail: ryhorterentev@gmail.com

15. Environmental Foundation “For Clean Pripyats”

The foundation’s main aim is contributing to improvement of the environmental status of the Pripyats river, as well as establishing and organizing a public movement for a healthy and favorable environmental situation.

E-mail: pripyat_fond@mail.ru
pripyatfond.by



Individual members:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 16. | Iness Bolotina | 36. | Tatyana Strizhenkova |
| 17. | Anastasiya Bekish | 37. | Alla Sushko |
| 18. | Yaroslav Bekish | 38. | Aleksandr Shepetiuk |
| 19. | Dmitriy Burenkin | 39. | Igor Korzun |
| 20. | Yevgeniy Vilskiy | 40. | Anatoly Lovkis |
| 21. | Victor Yermolenkov | 41. | Nadezhda Kuleshova |
| 22. | Alesya Yefimova | 42. | Alexander Vinchevsky |
| 23. | Georgiy Kozulko | 43. | Sophia Savelova |
| 24. | Yuliya Koleda | 44. | Irina Usova |
| 25. | Olga Kremleva | 45. | Svetlana Semenas |
| 26. | Igor Kutolovsky | 46. | Artem Bystrik |
| 27. | Svetlana Koroleva | 47. | Yuriy Belskiy |
| 28. | Yevgeniy Lobanov | 48. | Sergey Magonov |
| 29. | Kiryll Kudravets | 49. | Evika Otto |
| 30. | Inna Panchkovskaya | 50. | Veranika Chigir |
| 31. | Igor Pastukhov | 51. | Aloexai Kupryakov |
| 32. | Andrey Pakhomenko | 52. | Yelena Maisiuk |
| 33. | Nataliya Porechina | 53. | Falaleeva Maria |
| 34. | Nina Polutskaya | 54. | Sidorenko Yanina |
| 35. | Vladimir Stashkevich | | |

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<https://twitter.com/greenbelarus>



<https://vk.com/greenbelarus>



<https://www.instagram.com/greenbelarus>



Greenbelarus.info

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16

20



MINSK 2016