

## Annual Report 2009 Centre for Sustainable Alternatives (CEPTA)

In 2009 the civil association CEPTA was active in these topic areas:

- Pesticides and food
- Agriculture and countryside development
- "Agro-Eko Forum" platform coordination
- Local Food Community in Zvolen (LPK ZV)
- Waste
- Biofuels
- Back end of nuclear power

The active members of the association are: Andrej Devečka, Daniel Lešínský, Peter Mihók, Milan Rusko, Miloš Veverka and Darina Veverková. Together with many volunteers, they worked actively at the activities presented in this report.

In 2009 CEPTA was an active member of two European networks: PAN – Europe (Pesticides Action Network) and IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network). In 2009 the association gained financial subvention from the European Union for the project Feeding and Fuelling Europe (in cooperation with Friends of the Earth Europe). CEPTA was also supported by subvention from the PAN – Europe (for the food samples analyses), as well as by private donors via the system of 2% tax.

### Pesticides and food



In January 2009 the European Parliament approved so-called “pesticides package” of legal provisions that adjusted or introduced rules in use and authorization of pesticides. Non-governmental organizations, grouped in the European network PAN-Europe, managed to enforce a lot of good principles of the consumer and environment protection that are going to become effective from the year 2011.

In July 2009 the results of analysis of food residues official monitoring in the EU member countries were presented. According to this survey the Slovak Republic broke European record – the MRL was exceeded in 50% of monitored and analysed strawberry samples. For further information see a press release: "[50% jahôd v SR obsahovalo rezíduá pesticídov nad povolené limity](#)" (“In Slovakia 50% of strawberries contained pesticides residues exceeding allowed limits”).

In December 2009 the consumers were successfully addressed by a press release: "[Kokteil pesticídov na vianočnom stole?](#)" (“Pesticides cocktail on Christmas table?”) via all important mass media in Slovakia. In this press release monitoring results from 4 PAN-Europe organizations (including CEPTA) were reported, as well as the analysis of 12 different food samples. It followed that e. g. 96% of tangerines contained pesticides residues and no more than 7 kinds of pesticides were found in Slovak lettuce, too. For more information see the press release and power point presentation [Kokteil pesticídov](#) (Pesticides cocktail).

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### Agriculture and countryside development



The principles of sustainable agriculture were presented in a live broadcasting of radio station Lumen in „Zaostrené“ (on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, from 1.00 to 2.00 p. m.), where we focused on direct selling at farms. We consider it as one of the essential elements of the countryside sustainable development in Slovakia. During the Days of Organic Agriculture 2009 in Zvolen ([„Dni ekologického poľnohospodárstva 2009 vo Zvolene](#)), naše potraviny zdravo a zodpovedne“), held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October, organized in cooperation with

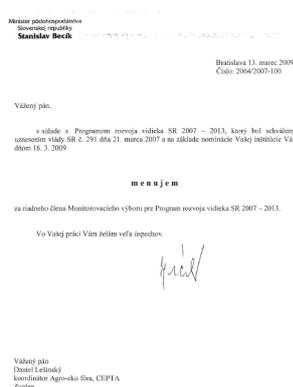


Zuzana Gallayová from the Technical University in Zvolen, we prepared organic food tasting, public discussion on the topic „Healthy and Responsible Food“, as well as a series of three lectures for the students of the Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences of the Technical University in Zvolen: Pesticides and Food (Daniel Lešínský), Local Food Systems (Miloš Veverka) and Biofuels (Andrej Devečka). For more information see: [Dni ekologického poľnohospodárstva 2009 vo Zvolene](#) (The Days of Organic Agriculture 2009 in Zvolen).

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## Agro-Eko Forum

CEPTA is a coordinator of the national platform of non-governmental organizations for sustainable agriculture, forestry and rural development called Agro-Eko Forum (AEF). It took part in monitoring of the EU financial programmes for the agriculture: Sectoral Operational Programme – Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as Rural Development Programme 2004-2006 and in creation and monitoring of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013.



In 2007 the Ministry of Agriculture did not accept the AEF as a regular member of the Monitoring Committee for the Rural Development Programme, but following several efforts from the Government of the Slovak Republic and European Commission the AEF became a regular member of the Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009. This allows representatives of the third sector to enter actively the implementation procedure, as well as the monitoring of agriculture policy and countryside development policy in Slovakia.

One of the real outcomes, which we managed to implement in July 2009, was to make the position of organic farmers more favourable in 10 points in projects evaluation that was often crucial for the project selection.

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## Local Food Community in Zvolen (LFC ZV)

In March 2009 the representatives of the organization Urgenci from France ([www.urgenci.net](http://www.urgenci.net)) presented their ideas and practical experience with CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in Zvolen. This happened as a part of their mission in Slovakia - in Bratislava, Zvolen and Košice. There exist approximately 1, 500 local food communities in France that join the producers and consumers at the local level. In September 2009 CEPTA and Urgenci organized together a visit of eight Slovak representatives in France (Alsace) where they could see the running of local food communities in practice.

The acquired experience was the inspiration for the creation of Local Food Community in Zvolen (LFC ZV). LFC ZV associates the consumers from Zvolen, Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica and environs with local producers of fruit, vegetables, meat, etc. We presented knowledge from the visit in France to LFC ZV members through the presentation “Local systems of production and consumption“. Sale of 350 kg of local products was arranged through LFC ZV in the year 2009.



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## Waste

In February 2009 the press release [Kríza a odpadové hospodárstvo v SR a v EÚ](#) (Crisis and Waste Management in Slovakia and in the European Union) was the first reaction of the CEPTA to the problem of separate collection economy stagnancy.

In the second half of the year the research in the sphere of waste management was done. The result was a study in which separate collection economy was compared to mixed municipal waste economy in 12 Slovak middle-sized towns in 2008 and in the first half of the year 2009. It follows from the study that separate collection is 4.5 times more expensive than collecting and landfilling of mixed municipal waste. We consider the separate collection situation to be



critical and economically intolerable. The results of the study were presented at the conference of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic „Separovaný zber odpadov a ich zhodnocovanie SR“ (“Separate Collection and Recovery of Waste in the Slovak Republic”) that took place on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Banská Bystrica. The aim of the conference was to point out an unfavourable situation of separate collection and to search for the solutions. In our presentation we propose measures that improve separate collection economy without burdening state budget. For more information visit our webpage and see the presentation „[Porovnanie ekonomiky separovaného zberu vo vybraných mestách SR 2008/2009 a návrhy riešení krízy v odpadovom hospodárstve](#)“ (“Comparison of separate collection economy in chosen towns of the Slovak Republic in 2008/2009 and proposals for crisis solutions in waste management”).

The efforts of pointing out the critical separate collection situation in Slovakia resulted in organization of the press conference in Bratislava in December 2009. The Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia, the Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, as well as non-governmental organizations were addressed. Dealing with the problem of separate collection economy is going to continue in the year 2010, we are planning the discussions with Friends of the Earth Slovakia and with other specialists and we want to look for collective solutions. For more details see the press release „[Kritický stav separácie na Slovensku](#)“ (“Critical separation situation/state in Slovakia”).

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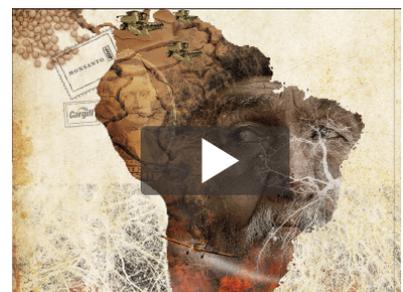
## Biofuels

We dealt with the problems of biofuels and production of soy as feed for European farmers within the project of Friends of the Earth Europe: “Feeding and Fuelling Europe”, in which we tried to raise awareness of general public, as well as of political deputies about the impacts of biofuels intensive cultivation in our country and in the countries of South America and Asia, too.



In May 2009 we took part in the strategic meeting “Food and Biodiversity Meeting” in Hungary, aimed at strategic planning, communication and common procedures. The topic of soy as feed, imported mainly from South America for farm animals, was presented in a press release and in an information leaflet “[Soja v súvislostiach – alebo čo sa v obchode pri kúpe mäsa a vajec nedozviete](#)” (“Soy in the wider context – or what you do not learn when buying meat and eggs in a shop”) intended for general public, which informs about negative connections. We also published a press release and a paper about the certification of [sociálne a environmentálne zodpovednej produkcie sój](#) (socially and environmentally responsible soy production).

Within the project we translated a documentary film “Killing Fields – the battle to feed factory farms” into Slovak language. This film reveals the real prize for soy cultivation in South America that is grown to feed poultry, cattle and pigs in Europe. The film premiere took place at the biggest documentary film festival [Jeden Svet v Bratislave](#) in November. The film is available (to watch or download) at our webpage: [SMRTIACE POLIA: boj o „nasýtenie priemyselných veľkochovov](#)” (Killing Fields – the battle to feed factory farms).



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## Back end of nuclear power

As we have already presented in the annual report from the year 2007 our comments to the economic part of the back end of nuclear power strategy were considered as legitimate and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic proposed to the National Nuclear Fund (NNF) to “realize meeting with Dipl. Ing. Mihók (a member of civil association CEPTA) and to discuss the implementation of his comments and proposals or the way of their use for conceptual activities of the Board of Administrators of the NNF” ([Záverečné stanovisko MŽP č. 5131/2007-3.4/hp vydané dňa 15. mája 2008](#), s. 42 – Final record of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 5131/2007-3.4/hp published on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008, p. 42). Initiative activities of the CEPTA from the years 2006 and 2007 became one of the reasons due to which the preparation of up-dating of the back end of nuclear power strategy was decided to be done much sooner than it is imposed by law. Therefore, in 2009,





the Board of Administrators of the NNF approved the intention to “profit from knowledge of Dipl. Ing. Peter Mihók (CEPTA – see comments to current Back end of nuclear power strategy) mainly in the sphere of long-term economic reflections and estimates” ([Zápisnica č. 02/09 zo zasadnutia Rady správcov Národného jadrového fondu](#), bod 6.1 – Report No. 02/09 from the Board of Administrators ). Consequently the cooperation, based on a contract, for creation of income and expenditures spreadsheets of the NNF was realized, through which the methodology used in the NNF was fully accorded with the draft we proposed in our comments in 2007. We can conclude that conditions created for the NNF during the period of contractual cooperation ensured independence, objectivity and professional financial evaluation. Thanks to it the results of our research from the years 2006-2008 were fully imported into outcomes of the NNF in 2009. We believe that these outcomes can help to make the discussion, concerning amount of a payment of nuclear power stations operators, between state representatives and Slovenské elektrárne, more objective.

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