



## The International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in Preparations for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

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### Global Week of Action / Czech Republic

In relation to international coordination of IPEN activities, Arnika Association joined the Global Week of Action and organized several events to draw public and authorities attention to upcoming First Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Within this period, we supported the international effort to eliminate persistent organic pollutants in the most effective manner, on national level.

On April 22, we organized an informational stand in City of Decin, north Bohemia, to present the POPs issue to the general public. People could get the leaflets and basic information at the stand, or join the Petition for Toxic Free Future focused on Czech parliament and demanding stricter measures for POPs elimination.

On April 23, we participated in public hearing, that was a part of Integrated Pollution and Prevention Permit Procedure related to the cement kiln in Mokra town. This case study was another opportunity for media activities focused on Stockholm Convention. Since the owner of Mokra cement kiln plans to start burning waste in his facility, such practice could become a big source of POPs pollution.

The fundamental activity was a press release, published on April 26, and commenting on The Egg Report – IPEN's study of POPs contamination of free-range chicken eggs from 18 countries of the world. Since the results of Czech samples revealed one of the highest levels of contamination by hexachlorobenzene in the world, the information met wide interest of the mass media.

We also distributed the results of The Egg Report by newly established e-mail list serve, covering national authorities and selected members of scientific community.

Till the end of April, all the activities scheduled in Project Activity Memorandum, were finished and met their objectives. Three more visible events together with continuous work with mass media brought the effect of wider interest of national media in POPs issues and turned their attention to the Conference of the Parties to Stockholm Convention, organized just ten days later in Uruguay.