



Alleentagung 2012 „Alleen – unser Naturkulturerbe“
26. und 27. November 2012, Stadthalle Boppard

Martin Skalsky, Arnika Association
„Save the Trees Campaign“ in Tschechien

In winter 2006 and 2007, a **mass felling of the trees along roads** of 2nd and 3rd class, shocked the citizens. Thousands of old trees were in good health state, but the road maintenance companies decided to “clear” the roads’ surroundings to increase traffic safety. Another reason was a mild weather and saving of the budgets set for snow removal that had to be spent till the end of the year.

Arnika started “Save the Trees!” campaign. The main objective was a change of Nature Protection Act that gave an exception to the road maintenance companies to fell the trees without applying for permission. Essential part of the campaign became a petition and public awareness activities.

At the beginning, we asked all districts for information and developed first statistics of the tree avenues felling. It revealed that tree avenues are fast disappearing from the Czech and Moravian landscape. From 2003 till 2010, **106.670 trees were felled**, but only 63.196 were planted – whereas often in different places then along the roads.

Because road safety was frequently discussed, we decided to promote alternative solutions. In two districts, we chose few avenues and **painted tree trunks by reflex white paint.** Cheap and easy action increased visibility of trees in the dark and helped the drives to follow direction of the road. Many volunteers participated in the events and painting became well-known.

Parliament of the Czech Republic **changed the Nature Protection Act** in 2009, and the exception for road maintenance companies to fell the trees without permission was cancelled.

In 2010, Vysočina (Highlands) District (one of self-governance regions of Czech Republic), decided to adopt the activity, and paint all the trees within its area. Leaders of the district stated they will not fell healthy trees anymore. Moreover, district got financial support from EU funds to **provide about 1.000 trees quality maintenance.**

Based on our experience, we published a **“Conception of Tree Avenues Development in Czech Republic”** – brochure dedicated to the districts, road maintenance companies and municipalities focused on technical, environmental, financial and safety aspects of the tree avenues. In Olomouc District, we developed the first **tree avenues inventory** in Czech Republic, resulting in database for state bodies and touristic map. In 2011, we started a public competition **“Tree Avenue of the Year”** that became very popular. In the first year, more then 5.000 people voted for their avenue.

However, **tree avenues are still endangered** by lack of budgets and experts. Technical norms don’t enable to plant new trees closer than 5 m from the road. Also the land ownership causes the troubles. Legislation doesn’t protect trees smaller than 80 cm in perimeter – especially fruit trees.

*More information: Arnika Association, The Czech Republic, <http://english.arnika.org>
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Winter 2006

- Mild winter
- Glut of money for road maintenance
- Road safety issue
 - mass tree avenues felling
 - hundreds of old, but healthy trees felled
 - public opinion strongly against



W W W . S T R O M Y . A R N I K A . O R G

Krajina budoucnosti?

Městí roku 2003 a 2008 bylo podíl českých silnic vykláčen 53 000 stromů. Řada z nich udělá kvůli bezpečnosti řidičů. Počet vážných dopravních nehod se tím však nemění.

ZACHRAŇME STROMY

Tak jako samoplety pomáhají granty Lichtentanuska, Nerška a Jihlava a také Finanční ministerstvo ČR a Norského finančního institutu pro investiční PRDS

Problems

- No inventory of the tree avenues
- No publicly available statistics
- No need to apply for permission
- No maintenance of the trees for > 20 years

Campaign objectives

- Permit for road maintenance companies
- Change Nature Protection Act
- Increase road safety without felling
- Tree avenues maintenance
- Planting of new trees

Tree avenues: 2003 – 2010

- 106 670 trees felled
- 63 196 trees planted

district	felled	planted	district	felled	planted
South Bohemia	17 850	6 738	Olomouc	5 882	2 085
South Moravia	10 160	9 153	Pardubice	11 080	6 584
Carlebad	3 586	910	Pilsen	14 981	2 223
Hradec Kralove	4 189	108	Central Bohemia	19 025	21 098
Liberec	1 051	0	Usti	4 314	2 429
Moravia - Silesia	3 833	4 327	Highlands	3 928	3 883
Zlin	4 658	4 659			
SUM	106 670	63 196			





Highlands District

- Road company started to paint trees
- EU money for maintenance of 1.000 trees
- Less felling, more planting



Success

- 38.000 signatures under petition
- Nature Protection Act was changed
- All trees > than 80 cm in perimeter protected
- Exception for road maintenance cancelled
- New planting is obligatory



Obstacles

- Some regions: still felling trees
- Lack of experts for tree maintenance
- Technical norms: trees only 5 m from road
- Land ownership
- No budgets for planting
- EU money for extensive reconstructions



We still continue

- 5.000 voters for Tree Avenue of Year 2011
- Tree avenue inventory for Olomouc District
- Conception of tree avenues development
- Campaign to protect trees < 80 cm



Alfons Mucha: Kniha o lesích a stromech



Save the trees"

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Thank you for your attention