

Yvonna Gaillyová

She was born in Brno in the Czech Republic, where she still lives with her family. She studied physics at the Faculty of Science at the Masaryk University (RNDr., Ph.D.). In 1991 she began professional co-operation with the organization Veronica – part of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation. She founded the first environmental advising (eco-counselling) centre in Czechoslovakia and was the founding member of the European Association of EcoCounselling in Vienna in 1991. Since 1997, she is the Chairwoman of the Czech EcoCounselling Network STEP. The most important topics she dealt with in the 90's were the ban of phosphates in detergents and project of do-it-yourself installations of solar systems in the White Carpathians. Then she focused on sustainable consumption – green procurement, both in households and in the public administration.

Since the middle of the 90's, Yvonna is one of the founders, movers and promoters of the Centre for Sustainable rural development (Centre Veronica) in Hostetin, White Carpathians. The Centre's site is the first public building in Czechia made in passive-house standard (2006). Her main concern are renewable energy sources, energy efficiency in buildings and climate protection. Currently, she pays great attention to transfer of experience from Hostetin to other places in the Czech Republic and also abroad. She travelled by train or bus to rural areas of Ukraine, where she organized seminars and study visits for mayors and NGOs. She prepared seminars and study visits for participants from Romania, Bulgaria, she presented the model Hostetin in Brussels.

Since 1997, Yvonna is the director of the Ecological Institute Veronica. She manages the organization with 20 employees and a turnover of about 300 thousand EUR a year exclusively from grants, donations, own services and subsidies. Under her leadership, Veronica received many important prizes and awards: Prize of Minister of the Environment, Environmental award of the Foundation Ford Motor Company, Energy Globe for the Czech Republic and others.

Yvonna Gaillyová is a teacher at the Department of Environmental Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies of the Masaryk University in the subject "environmental aspects of energy use, climate change". Together with her colleagues she prepares student interdisciplinary conferences and interdisciplinary debates. She is also elected member of the city council in one big district of Brno. Yvonna Gaillyová devotes much attention to the networking of NGOs as well as to the development NGO sector itself. She was instrumental in establishing the Czech Climate Coalition of NGOs in 2007, in organizing a series of climate change seminars for regional administrations, and, in 2013, in putting together the Scientific Climate Forum aimed at promoting IPCC AR5 results and countering disinformation by deniers of global warming and delayers of its mitigation, which have been rather dominant in Czechia.

In 2006, she was awarded the Josef Vavrousek Sustainability Prize and in 2010 she was the guide of Prince of Wales during his visit to Hostetin.