

Chris Church

Specialist in Environment, Social and Community Development

Biographical note

Chris Church is an experienced advisor on sustainable development, with a unique range of experience linking local level training, development, evaluation, research and facilitation with work on policy issues at national and international level.

He was trained as an environmental biologist and as a teacher. From 1984 – 1990 he worked for Friends of the Earth UK, with managerial responsibility for local and regional development and projects. Since 1990 Chris Church has worked independently, focusing on sustainable development. Much of this work has been with the voluntary / NGO sector, both in the UK and in other parts of Europe, and linking work on environment with health, regeneration and social issues. He also manages a small consultancy, CEA..

Community and Sustainable Development

Chris Church's work has increasingly focused on work on the social – environmental interface. **Since 1995 he has worked as an advisor to the Community Development Foundation** and is retained as their Consultant on Environment and Sustainability issues. Two recent pieces of work include a major piece of research on **'Thinking Locally, Acting Nationally: Lessons for national policy from local action on sustainable development'** (funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, May 2002) and **'A Better place to Live'**, a guide to sustainable development for community organisations endorsed by the Plain English Commission (June 2003).

Other work has included:

- Launching CDF's work on the links between sustainable and community development (in 1995) and in 1998 writing and developing **"An Environment for Everyone – Poverty, Exclusion and Environmental Action"**, the start of CDF's work on poverty and environment.
- Managing a full evaluation of the **National Lottery New Opportunities Fund SEED programme**; this involved leading a team of CDF Associates.
- Writing a Manual and Tool Kit on Community Involvement for **Groundwork UK** (a major environmental organisation working in urban areas) on behalf of CDF, and running a series of training workshops around this work.
- Training some 130 'Community Enablers' to help deliver the UK Government's **'Living Spaces'** funding programme/
- Production of **'One Small Step - A guide to action on sustainable development in the UK'** (published December 1999), the first such comprehensive guide covering health, poverty and crime, as well as environmental issues.
- Work for the **UK EPSRC** (scientific research body) on 'sustainable cities'.
- Production of **'The Quiet Revolution'** – an assessment of the development of local work on all aspects of sustainability in the UK over the last decade (2002).
- A range of other training and evaluation projects.

International Work

Chris Church co-chairs the Board of **ANPED**, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, a network of NGOs in all parts of the Northern hemisphere with a strong focus on Eastern Europe and the former soviet region (EECCA region). He leads ANPED's work on local sustainable development and on environmental inequality.

He has worked extensively in CEE and EECCA nations for a range of clients including the European Union. He co-wrote terms of reference for the first **TACIS Environmental Awareness Project (TEAP)** and worked on the second phase of that programme (from 1998 – 2000) as expert advisor on NGO development. He has run many training sessions on sustainable development in West and East Europe.

Chris is currently working on a major evaluation of work funded by the Dutch development agency HIVOS in Kazakhstan, Albania, Macedonia and Moldova.

Other recent international projects include:

- Work in 2001/2002 in **Ukraine** with Mama 86, a major Ukraine NGO, on developing Local Environment and Health Action Plans with national government.
- Work in **Romania** for the UK Government scoping a project on local sustainable development, and later running workshops as an advisor to WS Atkins;
- Work with seven villages in East **Slovakia** on the development of community action plans with a local NGO, SOSNA, and with the UK Living Earth Foundation;
- Managing the development of an innovative project in Istria, **Croatia** on developing community-focused action plans: this work was done in co-operation with Natura Istrica, the regional environmental agency and two local NGOs;

Chris is also on the Board of the European ECO Forum, a coalition of NGOs from all parts of Europe that supports NGO involvement in the UNECE 'Environment for Europe' process; this included work on the development of the UNECE 'Arhus Convention' on public participation in environmental decision-making, and the recent Kiev 2003 ministerial conference.

Sustainable Development and Health

Chris Church has worked extensively on sustainable development and health:

- Writing '*Healthy people, Healthy Planet*', a report for the UK Chartered Institute of Environmental Health reviewing work on Environment and Health in the UK from 1992 – 2003.
- From 1998 – 1999 Chris Church managed the UNED UK 'Environment and Health' programme with support from the EU in the run-up to the WHO Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health; this included managing the three day international 'Healthy Planet Forum'.
- Co-authoring a manual on '*Development of local environment and health projects*' for World Health Organisation (Europe) in 1999.
- Work on behalf of the Community Development Foundation with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on an innovative 'community epidemiology' programme with eight communities in London.
- From 1996-2000 Chris was the UK part-time national co-ordinator of 'Don't Choke Britain' an innovative nationwide programme on Transport and Health, that linked local authorities, health bodies, NGOs and local communities in joint work to encourage healthy transport choices.
- He has made a range of presentations on this subject in the UK, Europe and Australia.

Other work on sustainability and environmental issues in the UK

This has included:

- A review, for the **Government Office for London**, of the Community Strategy documents produced by local authorities across London from a sustainable development perspective (published Feb. 2004).
- Designing and running a conference for the **UK Government** (2001) on the outcomes of the UN Habitat conference on 'sustainable cities' and human settlements.
- Acting as consultant to the **National Trust** on their developing work on community involvement.
- Directing the national **Sustainable Tower Blocks Initiative**.
- Managing the launch of the **UK Environmental Law Foundation**, and serving on its' Board for three years (1992-1996).
- Developing a Local Action manual for the **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers**
- Managing the initial development of **Global Action Plan** in the UK.
- The '**SusCom**' **international research programme** at Oslo University (EU funded) on the evaluation of Local Agenda 21. Chris Church co-wrote the UK Chapter (published 2001).

Publications

Chris Church has written and co-authored a wide range of books, research papers and pamphlets. Among these are:

- '**A Better place to Live - a guide to sustainable development for community organisations**' CDF, London 2003
- '**Thinking Locally, Acting Nationally: Lessons for national policy from local action on sustainable development**' (with Jake Elster) CDF / JRF, London 2002
- '**Healthy People, Healthy Planet**' CIEH, London 2002
- '**Media Coverage of Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21**' (with Heather Voisey) Earthscan, London 2000
- '**The Quiet Revolution – ten years of local action on Sustainable Development**' SBBC, Birmingham 2002
- '**An Environment for Everyone – Poverty, Exclusion and Environmental Action**' (with Adam Cade and Adrienne Grant), CDF, London 1999
- '**A Source Book on implementing local environment and health projects**' (with Nick Wilson) WHO / CIEH, London 2000

Other work

Chris Church is also author of '**A Travellers' Guide to Ullapool and the North-west of Scotland**', which he published and has marketed over three successful editions.

He lives in Hackney, East London and is a Board member of London 21.

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