

2024

Arnika Annual Report



Arnika in 2024 – We're not letting up but continue our fight for a better planet!

In recent years, it seems that the fulfillment of the vision of a sustainable, peaceful, and democratic future is under increasing threat. Perhaps that is why it is even more important to notice the positive changes and initiatives in our surroundings, to be inspired by them, and not to be afraid to speak out against injustice and environmental devastation.



In its almost a quarter-century of existence, Arnika has never been afraid to speak up when needed. Although we sometimes feel like we are fighting windmills, the conviction that our work has meaning has not left us. And when we look back at what we have managed to achieve, we are pleased that the impacts of our work are visible. This is often thanks to the energy of the communities we work with at home and abroad, who show us that even though the world is shaken to its foundations in many ways, joint activity and mutual solidarity are still a huge force that can stand up to oligarchs, industrial corporations, and others who threaten our common sustainable future.

In 2024, our work focused a bit more on monitoring domestic and global legislation and related advocacy work. We closely followed the developments around the European Nature Restoration Law and its promotion at the national level. Through participation in working groups and important meetings, we remained close to the changes in Czech construction law and spatial planning, or the amendment to the Act on the Protection of Nature and Landscape. As the only Czech non-governmental organization, we also participated in the negotiations of the global UN treaty on plastics in Busan, South Korea. Both at home and abroad, we also focused on the Aarhus Convention, which is intended to ensure public participation in environmental decision-making, especially in the context of reporting on its (non-)fulfillment at national levels.

In Prague, we once again dealt with a number of different urban development cases – our campaign against the expansion of the Prague airport with additional runway had significant impact among the media and the public, for example, and we also managed to definitively stop the planned construction of an air-conditioned indoor ski slope on the outskirts of Prague. Like every year, we organized our three-day festival For a Sustainable and Neighborly Prague at Kasárna Karlín. But we also began to focus on the development of biodiversity in the metropolis and sowed a mixture of native plants in five community gardens with the support of locals.

We continue with our successful campaigns on toxic substances – we have drawn attention to the presence of toxic substances in everyday products, and our "Tox-free Products Now" petition has been signed by more than 8,000 people. In cooperation with local residents, we commented on several plans for the construction of new incinerators, and we also worked intensively on the issue of deposit refund system

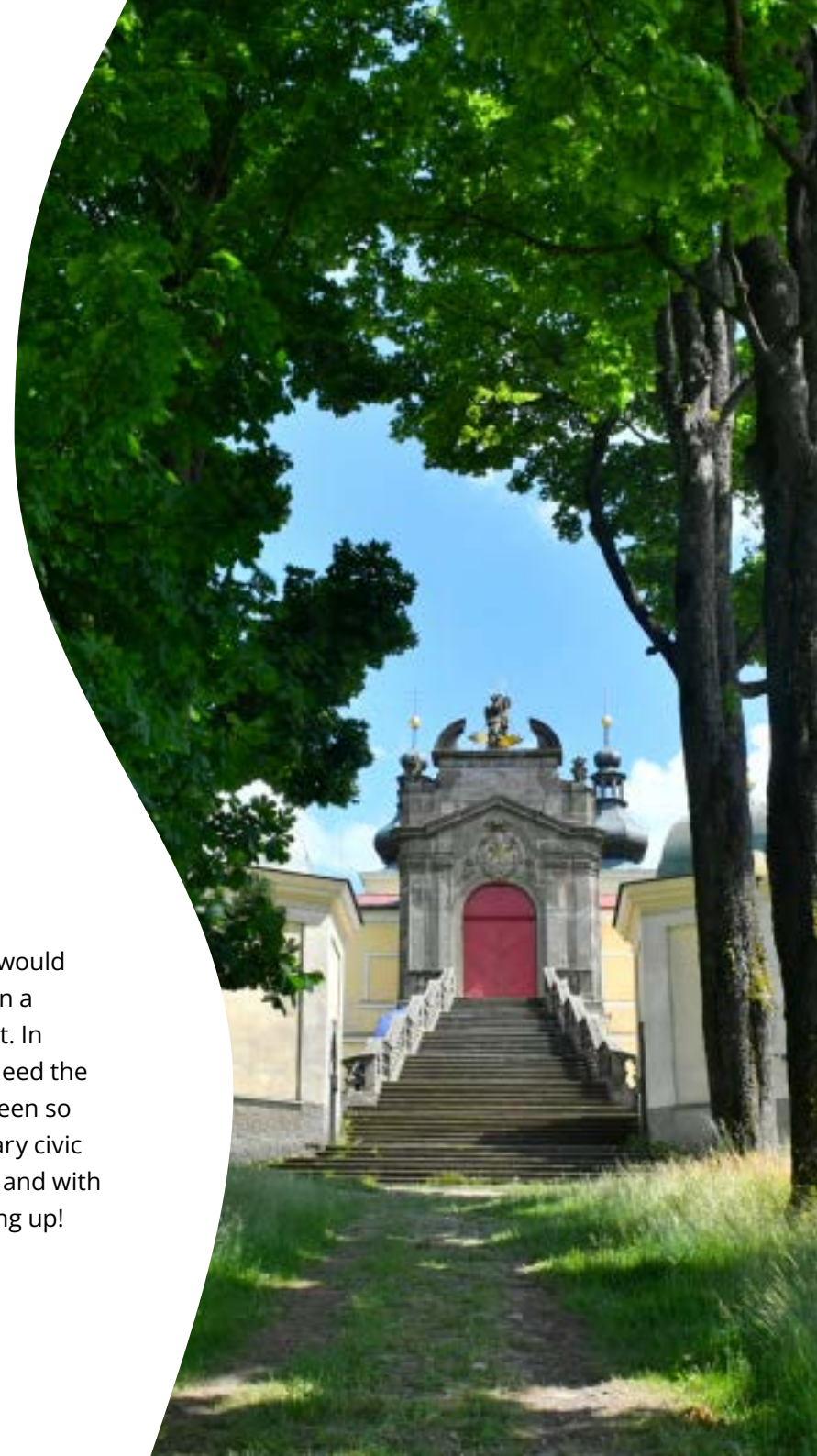
for PET bottles and aluminum cans. For the tenth time, we awarded our prize for exemplary municipalities excelling at waste minimization and recycling, the Waste Oscar, and we also organized several clothing swaps.

We continue protecting trees – we again announced the Alley of the Year, planted 70 new trees and treated others, and as every year, we also published statistics on felling and planting along roads. Our renewed river team got into full swing in 2024 – also in the context of the agenda associated with the Nature Restoration Law, we began to focus on the removal of unnecessary transverse barriers on watercourses and the revitalization of rivers.

We also published influential studies and publications – our analysis of the unavailability of housing in Prague, summarized current data, and brought a robust set of recommendations on how to deal with the housing crisis, which has become sought-after and widely cited. In cooperation with the organization Architekti bez hranic (Architects without Borders), we also published a brochure on ecological building certifications. We also published a detailed guide on how to detoxify your home, or several manuals on waste management and how to prevent it. We also continue with eco-consulting – in 2024 we answered several hundred queries.

Our activity abroad also continued – in 2024 we implemented projects in seven countries (Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine). We promoted the right of local communities to a healthy environment, conducted pollution and biodiversity surveys, provided advice, organized educational events, promoted better laws or commented on them, provided assistance to activists facing repression, and much more. This huge piece of work would not have been possible without our donors – whether institutions or foundations, or the more than a thousand individual donors who support our work, and whom we sincerely thank for their support. In the future, it can be expected that the position of the ecological non-governmental sector (and indeed the civic sector in general) will be under a somewhat greater threat in the Czech Republic than it has been so far. On behalf of Arnika, I can promise that we will strive to ensure that not only we, but all necessary civic associations, organizations, initiatives and others, can continue to do our work as best as possible and with the greatest possible impact, with sufficient resources and corresponding energy. We are not letting up!

Václav Orcígr, member of the Arnika Executive Board



Arnika 2024 in numbers_____

An analysis of **32** children's jackets and rainsuits from Europe revealed that more than half contained so-called "forever chemicals" PFAS, with **9 items (approximately 28%) exceeding EU limits for banned substances. Unfortunately, the highest concentrations were found in products purchased in the Czech Republic.**

Arnika trained a total of **85** "Chemical Ambassadors." As part of the campaign against the new runway at Václav Havel Airport, we motivated Prague citizens to **300** downloads of the notice of proceedings, 160 downloads of objection templates for individuals, and **90** downloads for associations to comment critically on this plan.

70 new trees were planted in Jistebník and Opava, and in cooperation with the company Groown, trees in the Alley along the Nežárka River were professionally treated.

8 educational events "Trees in the City" were attended by **152** people and the eco-counseling service answered **78** specialized "tree" questions.

As part of Arnika's cooperation with local organizations, scientific research in Bosnia and Herzegovina identified **140** species of spiders, of which **53** were discovered in the country for the first time, as well as **99** species of beetles and **96** species of butterflies.

In Ukraine, we organized nine events, trained **1,316** participants, and installed another **40** EcoCity stations for air quality monitoring.

In the area of climate measures in Kazakhstan, it was possible to enforce the inclusion of measures in the Action Plan for the Environment with a budget of **1,289,883** EUR.

The network of citizen air pollution monitoring in Georgia was expanded by **62** new stations installed in **10** cities, and **62** new volunteers were trained.

A concentration of phthalates exceeding the permitted limit by **500** times was found in a children's raincoat in Serbia.

The result of a successful campaign to resolve the brownfield of the Žižkov Freight Railway Station in Prague is the conditions for at least **360** new apartments.

At the international level, Arnika criticized the influence of almost **200** lobbyists from the chemical and fossil fuel industries at the negotiations on the global plastics treaty.

HOW OUR YEAR 2024 WAS

A year of analyses and awareness for safer homes

In 2024, Arnika's toxic team worked intensively to protect consumers from hazardous chemicals in everyday products. Our efforts focused on thorough product analyses, advocacy for stricter regulations, and public education. The year 2024 was therefore marked by extensive testing and successful campaigns that brought concrete results and raised awareness about toxic substances in our surroundings.

An analysis of 32 children's jackets and rainsuits from Europe found that more than half of the samples contained so-called "forever chemicals" PFAS, and in nine pieces (i.e., approx. 28 %), the EU limits for the banned PFOA or PFCA were exceeded. The highest concentrations of these toxic substances were measured in children's softshell jackets purchased in the Czech Republic at the beginning of 2022. The [study points out](#) that PFAS do not break down, accumulate in the environment and the human body, and can have negative impacts on children's health, which strongly supports the need for a universal PFAS ban on the entire group of these substances as currently proposed and debated within the EU chemicals leg-



islation REACH. Another of Arnika's projects was the [analysis of toxic substances in underwear](#), which primarily pointed to the alarming presence of bisphenols in synthetic textile materials. The results, which showed an increased risk for wom-

en, were described in detail in the policy briefing paper "[Ban Bisphenols in All Products](#)" and in a press release. Another important topic was reusable plastic baby bottles. In June, Arnika published the results of analyses that revealed the release of



harmful or unknown substances, especially after washing the bottles repeatedly in a dishwasher. These results drew attention to the hidden danger to which children are exposed. This is complex data that provides a strong argument for Arnika's efforts to change legislation and better inform and protect consumers.



Based on these findings, Arnika also launched the „[Toxfree Product Now!](#)“ appeal petition, which calls for a ban on toxic substances in consumer goods.

As part of the “[Chemical Ambassadors](#)” program, Arnika also organized two online courses and



two in-person one-day courses. Thanks to these extensive courses, 85 ambassadors were trained to detoxify their homes and share their know-how about a healthy and non-toxic lifestyle in their communities.

International negotiations that could change the future

In 2024, Arnika also actively participated in several key international meetings and conferences that focused on global pollution and waste management. In April, this was the fourth international meeting on a new plastics treaty, which took place in Ottawa, Canada. This [revealed the massive influence](#) of the chemical and fossil fuel industries. Almost two hundred lobbyists from these sectors outnumbered sci-

entists threefold and representatives of indigenous communities sevenfold. Arnika was represented at the negotiations by RNDr. Jindřich Petrlík, who consistently pointed out the asymmetry of the voice of experts and the most affected groups. Arnika also actively supported the proposals of the “High Ambition Coalition” and the states of the Global South, advocating for limiting plastic production, better recyclability, and a ban on toxic substances throughout the entire life cycle of plastic products and materials.

In June, Arnika participated in an [international conference in Jakarta](#), Indonesia. The conference aimed to support the introduction of a national register of industrial pollutants, the so-called Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), which in the Czech Republic operates under the name Integrated Pollution Register (IRZ). This conference was one of the key activities of a joint project between Arnika and the Indonesian organization Nexus3, which also presented a [web application](#) at the conference that records particularly polluted sites throughout Indonesia.





Arnika, in turn, published an [extensive analysis](#) of how pollution registers across the world contribute to reducing emissions, to the transparency of industrial operations, and, last but not least, to fulfilling the public's right to access information about environmental pollution.

In cooperation with the organization Nexus3 and the international network IPEN, Arnika also published the second part of a [study on toxic pollution in Java](#). It revealed, for example, extreme dioxin contamination of free-range chicken eggs and other findings confirming the importance of

consistent monitoring and regulation of both hazardous substances and related waste imports.

At the turn of November and December, Arnika also participated in the second meeting on a global plastics treaty aimed at fighting plastic pollution and introducing measures to curb its exponentially rising production, this time in Busan, South Korea. In response to the postponement of the negotiations on the plastic treaty, [Arnika criticized the actions of oil-producing countries and industry](#), which blocked key binding points of the agreement, and also questioned the scien-

tifically confirmed harmful effects of microplastics on health. Arnika insists that the treaty must contain clearly binding measures – limiting plastic production, regulating toxic additives throughout the entire product life cycle, effective monitoring, and the “polluter pays” principle. The organization again pointed out that the UN process is burdened by lobbying from fossil fuel states and plastic producers, which leads to non-transparent, consensus-blocked negotiations in which representatives of civil society and the most affected groups have minimal space.

The main task – protection of mature trees

In 2024, Arnika continued its intensive campaigns for the protection of trees and alleys throughout the Czech Republic. It announced the winner of the 2023 Alley of the Year poll and at the alley festival in Králíky, it announced the next, fourteenth, year of this popular event. It also published two important analyses: car accident statistics from

collisions with trees by roadsides and statistics on felling and planting for 2023. In cooperation with the company Groown, Arnika ensured the professional treatment of trees in the Alley along the Nežárka River near Jindřichův Hradec. It planted a total of 70 new trees in Jistebník and Opava. For the public, it organized eight educational events on the topic „Trees in the City,” which were attended by 152 people. Exhibitions about trees and alleys were seen by hundreds more. In its

eco-counseling center, Arnika answered 61 questions about tree protection. At the legislative level, it participated in the preparation of an amendment to the Act on the Protection of Nature and Landscape (ZOPK), where it managed to push through the obligation of replacement planting for trees felled due to construction. At the same time, Arnika began to work in the working group of the Ministry of the Environment on the creation of the National Nature Restoration Plan.



For living rivers

Arnika's river team continued in 2024 to protect and revitalize watercourses through a number of international and local projects. In January, Arnika organized the conference „Elbe Lives – Meeting of Friends of the Elbe“ in Děčín and actively participated in the expert group of the Ministry of the Environment on Article 9 of the National Landscape Restoration Plan, dedicated to river ecosystems. A March round table in Ostrava on the removal of obstacles in watercourses was accompanied by a screening of the film *Dam Busters*, whose release in Czech cinemas was arranged by Arnika. In May, Arnika participated in an international conference on the perspectives of river landscape restoration in the Oder basin in Wrocław and organized a two-day meeting of the international coalition *Time for the Oder* in Olomouc, where an excursion to the revitalization of the Bečva River took place with the participation of experts from the Morava River Basin Authority and the AOPK. In June, Arnika sent its team to a camp by the Rzav River in Bosnia. In September, Arnika participated in a water management meeting with the Agency for Nature and Landscape Protection (AOPK) focused on the consequences of floods. In October and November, it organized a series of webinars for the professional public on the Water Framework Directive, the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, and the National Recovery Plan (with an emphasis on Article 9 on rivers) – with accompanying screenings of the film *Dam Busters* and debates. At the same time,

Arnika monitored the post-flood state of rivers in the Jeseníky region, including the Bělá. In December, Arnika responded to the insensitive dredging on a Europeanly important section of the Olše River, demanded its cessation, and intervened with the ČIŽP, because the intervening Odra River

Basin Authority destroyed natural habitats, did not increase the flow capacity of the watercourse, and, on the contrary, increased the risk of floods. It also participated in negotiations with stakeholders regarding the planned revitalization of streams in the Jeseníky region.





Eco-counseling

In the Eco-counseling center, Arnika registered 342 inquiries received and handled. Of these, 123 concerned the problems of Prague, 78 trees, 69 waste and its incineration, and 49 consumer issues as well as inquiries about toxic substances in the environment.

Jubilee year of the Waste Oscar Competition and the fight against incinerators

In 2024, Arnika's waste team organized the 10th year of the Waste Oscar Competition competition, which recognizes municipalities with the aim of reducing the amount of mixed municipal waste to less than 150 kg per inhabitant per year. The award ceremony, including a thematic seminar, took place in the building of the Central Bohemian Region in Prague. Arnika also organized thematic webinars for municipalities, systematically provided them with advice, and helped them introduce innovative motivational systems for municipal waste collection, which significantly reduce its volume. Through these activities, Arnika supported municipalities in meeting European and national legislative goals and strengthened its community involvement.



However, Arnika also increased the number of activities related to the involvement of young people in environmental issues. It significantly

spread awareness through workshops, swaps, and lectures focused on waste prevention and reducing the use of plastics. It also published a map of Prague 6 with an overview of second-hand shops, textile containers, and tips for upcycling and ecological cleaning.

In 2024, Arnika also continued the #NespalujRe-cykluj campaign, which advocates for sustainable and gentle waste management. It warned against the negative impacts of incinerators – especially emissions of toxic substances and the waste of

raw materials. Together with local associations, Arnika commented on a number of plans for the construction of incinerators, actively participated in public hearings, and submitted expert comments to investors, state institutions, and the Ministry of the Environment. The campaign also included a happening with Minister Hladík, a devil carrying toxic slag, and an angel symbolizing a circular solution. Arnika promoted waste prevention, expansion of deposit-refund systems for single-use drink bottles and aluminum cans, recycling, and the circular economy,

and disputed the claims of the landfill lobby, which blocked legislative progress in the deposit-refund system. It provided free counseling to 12 municipalities and local associations and expertly answered hundreds of questions in the eco-counseling center. It also organized two webinars for municipalities and the public – one on the difference between linear and circular waste management and the other on textile waste – and published educational fact sheets for municipalities and citizens on a sustainable future and toxic substances in plastics.





Prague – A City for Life

Arnika's Prague team drew attention to the zoning procedure for the construction of a new runway at Václav Havel Airport and prepared practical instructions and templates for objections. This led to 300 downloads of the notice of proceedings, 160 downloads of objection

templates for individuals, and 90 downloads for associations. 40 inquiries on this topic were resolved in the counseling center. Thanks to our advocacy and campaign, the planned urban-transport solution for the embankment near the Vltava Philharmonic will consider alternative variants, including the planting of trees instead of tunnel solutions. Arnika also led a

campaign against an air-conditioned ski slope in Chuchle, which would have seriously disrupted the Soutok Park – thanks to this, the project did not pass. It also achieved that the municipality allowed access to the content of the Metropolitan Plan, which increased the transparency of the preparation of the new Prague spatial plan. The campaign for the sustainable solution of the

brownfield of the Žižkov Freight Station was also successful. The city purchased the building of the station, and also thanks to Arnika, conditions are being created here for education capacities, public green space, and at least 360 new affordable apartments (250 municipal + 110 affordable). Arnika also revealed that the developer Penta stands behind the plans for the reconstruction of

the area around the main Prague railway station – in response, Penta backed down, and the change to the spatial plan is now being handled by the city, the city district, and Czech Railways (instead of a private development company).

A great triumph was also the success at the Supreme Administrative Court: the decision

designated the errors of Prague 1 and the municipality in approving the construction of the building complex by Zaha Hadid as legally binding – it is therefore a precedent that will increase the protection of the public interest and associations in similar future cases. Two key cases – the building complex by Zaha Hadid and the Metropolitan Plan – were included in the report of the Ministry of the Environment on the (non-)fulfillment of the Aarhus Convention.

Experts from Arnika's Praha - město pro život (Prague - A City for Life) campaign presented the principles of sustainable urbanism at 18 public meetings and working groups. Together with the Czech Association of environmental NGOs Zelený kruh, Arnika pushed through that from July 1, 2024, civic associations can enter into proceedings on construction exemptions concerning the felling of trees or specially protected species. It also closely monitored the prepared amendment to the spatial planning with regard to the European Nature Restoration Law, climate protection, and support for affordable housing. In 2024, Arnika also (co-) published three expert publications focused on the causes and solutions of the housing crisis: The Prague Housing Crisis: Perspectives and Contexts, A Methodological Guide to Participatory Housing for Municipalities and Housing Initiatives, and Certified Prague.



Arnika's Foreign Projects

Armenia

In Armenia in 2024, Arnika focused primarily on [supporting local communities](#) in protecting their rights to a healthy environment and participating in decision-making about the future of areas burdened by mining. It continued its work with communities suffering from pollution in the Lori, Ararat, and Kotayk regions, and expanded its investigations and counseling to other locations (Jermuk, Berd, Archis, or Meghri). Over two dozen consultations with local residents were held in the field, to whom Arnika provided legal and expert assistance, and to communities that faced the threat of mining or the construction of small hydroelectric power plants – in several cases, the planned projects were completely stopped thanks to the mobilization of locals. A significant example was the community of Berd, which rejected a geological survey project, or the village of Margaovit, where citizens interrupted a public hearing due to a lack of information and participation.

Arnika also followed up on previous human biomonitoring and chemical research and, in cooperation with local doctors and activists, prepared supplementary information materials on health risks in the communities, with measurement

results and recommendations, and arranged for their distribution to the municipalities of Ararat, Surenavan, Melikgyugh, and Karaberd.

Arnika was also successful on Armenian social networks, where its posts reached over 400,000 users, mainly thanks to the Citizens' Voice platform, which shared live broadcasts and reports from public hearings. Arnika also organized [expert seminars](#) for the development of local coalitions and the sharing of good practices – for example, a webinar on successful strategies for civic engagement in the legislative process, which followed up on a successful series from the pre-

vious year. And it also [welcomed its Armenian colleagues](#) on a study tour to the Czech Republic.

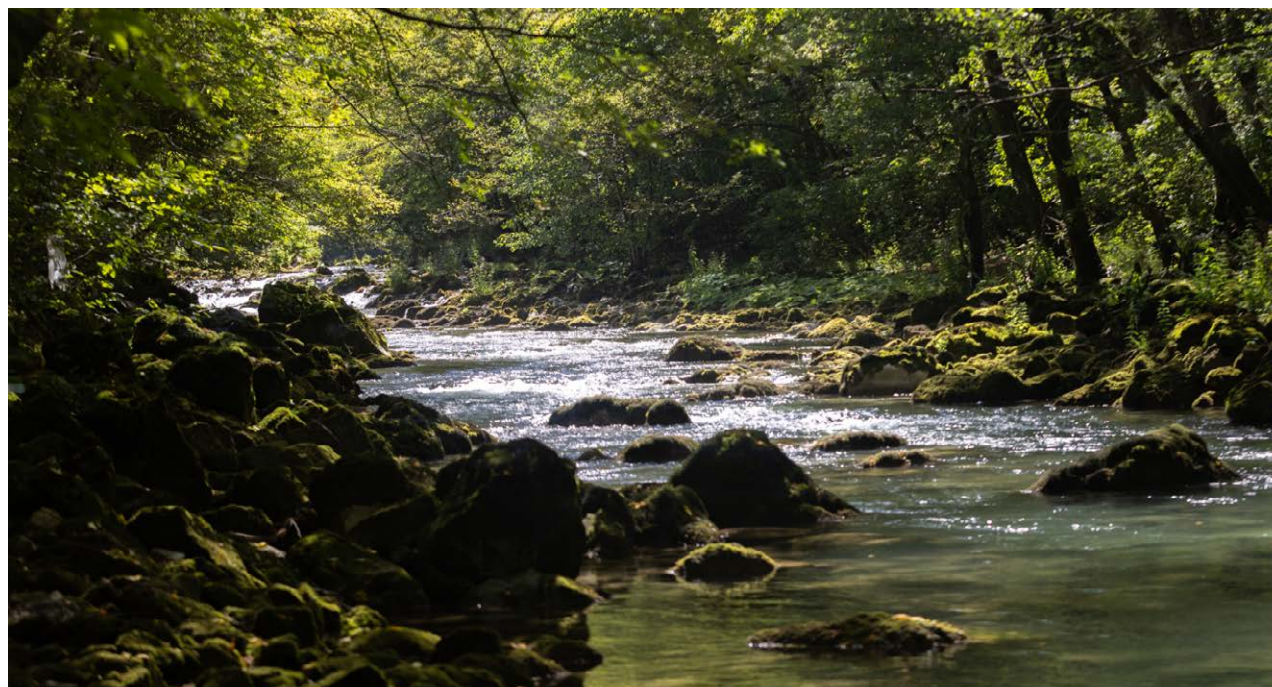
Together with partners from the organizations CCMS and EcoLur, Arnika also actively participated in commenting on Armenian legislation, especially the law on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and the Strategy for the Development of the Mining Industry. The proposals concerned ensuring the rights of municipalities to information, assessing health impacts, and social justice. In some cases, Arnika managed to achieve the adoption or partial incorporation of its proposals into the final documents.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Arnika, together with local partners Center for Environment, Aarhus Centre Sarajevo, and Center Dr. Stjepan Bolkey, continued its [efforts to declare new protected areas](#) with the aim of protecting the last wild rivers in Europe, which this country can boast of. It also continued its [legal support for citizen initiatives](#) focused on protecting rivers from the construction of small hydropower plants and other projects harmful to nature. In five cases, Arnika managed to achieve the cancellation of all issued permits. Arnika managed to completely stop the construction of two small hydropower plants on the Rzav River when the relevant ministry canceled the remaining two concession contracts.

A significant Arnika event took place near the Rzav River - a [five-day biological camp](#), which was attended by 39 experts from five countries. The participants collected over 4,000 biological data points and registered 99 species of beetles, 96 species of butterflies, 15 species of bats, 18 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 69 species of birds. Thanks to the participation of the Czech arachnologist Ondřej Machač, <https://arnika.org/en/news/endangered-jewels-of-nature-biodiversity-mapping-on-bosnian-rivers-reveals-unknown-fascinating-wildlife> 140 species of spiders were identified, of which 53 had never been discovered in BiH before. Many



of them were also rare or protected species, among which the critically endangered six-spotted gnaphosid spider stands out, for example. During the biological surveys, a completely new species of butterfly for BiH was also discovered – it is the species *Anthocharis damone*, which had previously been recorded in Europe in southern Italy, Greece, Macedonia, and Albania.

Arnika organized an excursion to the sources of the Sana River and opened a photographic exhibition by Majda Slámová “[Jewels of Nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)”, which depicts localities whose protection Arnika is trying to promote. And this,

among other things, in the legislative process. Therefore, it commented on the amendment to the Law on Nature Protection in the Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its comments were taken into account. It also commented on the amendment to the law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is still in the legislative process. Together with representatives of citizen initiatives, Arnika prepared nine recommendations for creating an effective system of nature protection. To support citizen initiatives, Arnika also published a manual “How to successfully push for the declaration of a protected area,” which clearly describes specific procedures.

Serbia

In 2024, Arnika also joined forces with the Serbian organization Youth for a Healthy Serbia (ALHem) in a project that focused on hazardous chemicals in consumer products. Almost 40 young activists from different parts of Serbia took part in it with the aim of trying out leading an environmental campaign in practice. The project responded to the fact that although

Serbia banned toxic phthalates in 2023 in line with EU legislation, this ban is not enforced in practice.

Arnika first provided the young participants with training in key areas such as fundraising, project management, chemical safety of products, and opportunities for civic engagement. The main part was practical instruction on how to collect samples for laboratory analysis and thus obtain

indisputable data. The team then had sent 30 products of plasticized PVC for laboratory analysis and [the results were alarming](#): 63% of the samples contained phthalates in concentrations exceeding the permitted limit, in some cases many times over. The record holder was a children's raincoat, which exceeded the limit by approximately 500 times.

Based on these worrying findings, Arnika organized an expert debate with representatives of state institutions, the health and civil sectors, which was preceded by the publication of the research report [„The Harsh Truth about Soft Plastics 2 - From Regulation to Reality.”](#) The meeting revealed that the relevant ministries are not clear on who is in charge of market control, which, together with the test results, generated considerable interest from the Serbian media.

The young participants were actively involved in all these steps and received a certificate at the end. The impact of the project proved to be long-term. Even half a year after its end, the ALHem organization continues to negotiate with ministries that have still not been able to clarify their competencies for controlling goods on the market, and media interest in the topic has not waned either. All this clearly shows how necessary similar projects and the education of a new generation of leaders who understand the issue and are able to solve it are in Serbia.



Georgia

In Georgia, Arnika, in cooperation with the local partner -Green Pole and its campaign My City Kills Me, and the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, improved the AirGE citizen air pollution monitoring stations and eliminated technical problems, thanks to which newly manufactured stations can be set up for more accurate measurements. In total, it produced and installed 62 stations in 10 cities ([the network now includes 93 stations in 11 cities](#)). In 57 stations, it installed, in addition to sensors for detecting dust, sensors for measuring nitrogen oxides, and trained 62 new citizen monitoring volunteers.

In Rustavi, Arnika, in cooperation with the civic movement Gavigudet (We Are Suffocating) took samples of soil, river sediments, and food, which it subsequently analyzed for the content of heavy metals and toxic substances in the laboratories of the UCT and the State Veterina Institute Prague. It also supported citizen campaigns in Rustavi against pollution from the industrial zone and in Kaspi (in cooperation with the Union of Disabled Persons of Kaspi) against dust from cement plants. Furthermore, it published a [Citizen's Guide to Environmental Legislation](#) and submitted two legislative initiatives to parliament aimed at limiting emissions from cars and dust from construction work. However, due

to the political situation, parliament did not deal with any of the proposals.

In the field of the environment, one of Georgia's biggest problems is air pollution, to the solution of which Arnika is trying to contribute. However, the political situation in the country was tense, and the government introduced [a law to control the media and non-governmental organizations](#). In addition to activities to protect the environment, Arnika also had to provide assistance to environmental defenders against administrative harassment and physical attacks.





Aarhus Convention

We participated in international meetings of the Aarhus Convention, the aim of which is to ensure people's right to information about the environment, participation in decision-making processes, and justice. In cooperation with the Aarhus ECO Forum, we promoted the improvement of the situation in countries where these rights are systematically violated.



Kazakhstan

In 2024, Arnika completed a three-year project in the Karaganda Region of Kazakhstan, implemented with the Karaganda Regional Ecological Museum, the aim of which was to increase the involvement of civil society in solving problems related to climate change. During the project, Arnika managed to achieve significant results, which include the promotion of climate measures into the Action Plan for the Environment of the Karaganda region with a budget of 1,289,883 EUR. The regional maslikhat also approved a climate change mitigation strategy, which Arnika

developed. Through an awareness campaign, it informed almost 400,000 people about the context of climate change.

Thanks to the project's participation in the issuance of new environmental permits for the largest polluter in the region - the ArcelorMittal Temirtau steel plant (Qarmet) - lower emission limits were set. A significant success was also that the Maslikhat of the Karaganda region approved changes in the protection of green zones, which led to the first-ever court enforcement of compensatory tree planting by a private company.

Arnika also promoted the renewal of the Green Council of the Karaganda region and its recognition by the regional akimat. It attracted 112 officials and other decision-makers to seminars on climate issues.

For the creation of binding strategies, Arnika assembled a working group and created four expert profiles of climate risks for four cities. Recommendations on climate change were developed for 7 types of organizations and businesses (1,965 recipients) and a strategy for the Karaganda region for mitigating climate change. Arnika summarized all its experience in the brochure Guide to Climate Action, for decision-makers and the public. The project also had practical impacts: At 9 locations, Arnika installed one of five types of practical measures (bike racks at schools, solar panels, shading technology, a heat pump, or a green wall). The permanent exhibition of the Ecomuseum was expanded with a section on climate change, and 3 thematic exhibitions were displayed. In 4 cities, 7 interactive presentations were held in open spaces. Several activities were aimed at students and their teachers: an online course and excursions. In 10 regions of Kazakhstan, 15 workshops for teachers were organized. With small grants, [Arnika supported](#) independent journalists and 6 projects of citizen initiatives. 36 non-governmental organizations from Kazakhstan were integrated into the Green Regional Environmental Network of Central Asia.

Moldova

In Moldova, Arnika together with local partner Biotica, laid the foundations for [building the Natura 2000 network](#) – it publicly raised the topic at an international conference, provided examples from the Czech Republic during a ten-day study trip for 15 representatives of the state and non-profit sectors, and prepared a working version of a roadmap, a mobile application, and a methodology for mapping protected species. Trained botanists began mapping. For civil servants, Arnika organized three training

sessions on forest and river management. It provided the administrations of three protected areas with drones and motorboats, which will help them monitor natural disasters, illegal logging, and poaching.

Arnika [supported the establishment and development](#) of the Association of Volunteer Nature Rangers of Moldova, which replaces the insufficient capacities of the state environmental inspectorate. 73 nature rangers underwent a series of four trainings, received basic equipment, and participated in events abroad (training in



Romania, a summer camp in the Czech Republic, a conference in France). The association became a member of the International Ranger Federation and the European Ranger Federation. Arnika prepared a draft directive of the Environmental Inspectorate, which is intended to provide legal protection to the rangers. It also filmed and published 4 short videos about the volunteer rangers.

Together with municipalities in the territory of the newly declared [Lower Dniester National Park](#),

Arnika organized 7 community events in 5 localities (224 volunteers marked a tourist trail, cleaned up a landfill and [2 springs](#), built 5 pools, and organized [3 expert excursions](#) (62 participants)). In the village of Tudora, Arnika also organized a round table and helped to push through adjustments to the strategic plan. To provide information about the nature of the Lower Dniester National Park, it created a trilingual official website, [lower-dniester.org](#), and installed information boards in two municipalities.

Ukraine

Arnika supports the sustainable reconstruction of regions affected by the war, together with local partners Free Arduino / EcoCity and Zeleniy Svit – Friends of the Earth. However, due to the ongoing attacks by the Russian Federation on Ukraine, the work is considerably complicated and Arnika must often change its plans.

At a number of sites, a screening survey was carried out, and analyses of soil and water samples revealed significant exceedances of limit values for organic substances and heavy metals. For example, a wild landfill of pesticides or dangerous arsenic contamination was found near a tailings pond and a thermal power plant dump. In the sediments of the destroyed Ukrainian Kakhovka dam, Arnika, together with the company Dekonta, [analyzed the pesticide DDT and other dangerous substances](#).

Arnika established cooperation with 15 hromadas (municipalities) in the Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia Regions, for which it created 15 maps of environmental risks and a database of 44 heavily polluted sites. It also provided assistance in the preparation of development documents and post-war reconstruction plans. In cooperation with the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, and the company Dekonta, it took samples from 5 localities. It also began the implementation of two pilot projects



in two hromadas and organized a study trip to the Czech Republic for representatives of municipalities and the regional administration.

Arnika in Ukraine organized 9 educational events focused on post-war reconstruction, the environment, and sustainability (1,316 participants and viewers). It sent comments on the prepared legislation on regional environmental centers and prepared an analysis for the monitoring system of the Dnipropetrovsk region. It presented new

forms of cooperation in solving local problems to representatives of hromadas and regional administrations and showed examples of the functioning of local action groups during a [study trip to the Czech Republic](#). Arnika also continued to expand citizen monitoring of the environment and makes information accessible to the public. It prepared monitoring plans for 15 hromadas and installed 40 EcoCity stations. It published 51 reports on air and water quality. Its websites recorded almost 80,000 visits.

Persecution of environmental defenders

In the countries of Europe and the former Soviet Union, Arnika monitored cases of persecution of environmental defenders and provided them with necessary assistance. A significant deterioration of the democratic environment occurred in Georgia, but we also recorded attacks on civil society in Croatia, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. The cases are published here: <https://stop-persecution.org/>



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, SUBSIDIES, GRANTS, AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Active Citizen Fund, Brainmarket, Candy Cane, Czech Development Agency, ČSOB Helps Regions, Digital Defenders Partnership, European Climate Foundation, Econe, EEB, European Union (EU Aid program), EkoRozvoju Foundation, Groown s.r.o., City of Prague, Hewlett-Packard, Ing. Jana Moučková - Audit daně CZ s.r.o., IPEN, Martina Heliová - BIOCONT LABORATORY, spol. s r.o., Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (Transformation Cooperation Program), Ministry of the Environment, Moravian-Silesian Region, OSF Foundation, VIA Foundation, Pardubice Region, Patagonia, UNDP Challenge Fund, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Georgia, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kazakhstan, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Moldova, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ukraine, Zelená domácnost - INREKO s.r.o.



Ministerstvo životního prostředí



TRANSITION
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí
České republiky



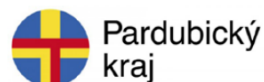
Česká rozvojová agentura

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway
**Active
citizens fund**

| Nadace OSF



NADACE VIA



Ministerstvo spravedlnosti
České republiky



Digital
Defenders
Partnership



THANK YOU ALSO FOR IN-KIND DONATIONS

Botanical Garden in Teplice, Canon, HaBalon, Karel Zeman Museum in Prague, Kazda Publishing House, National Stud Farm Kladruhy nad Labem, Zíchovec Brewery, and Sonnentor

A BIG THANK YOU ALSO GOES TO INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS:

Aarhus Center Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Alžběta Medková, Association of Volunteer Environmental Inspectors „Rangerii“ (Moldova), Auto*Mat (Michal Kalina, Vratislav Filler, Zuzana Poláková, Martin Šotola), Barbora Jelínková, Beginner's mind (Ondřej Lukeš), Bout – Bez obalu u Terky, Center for Environmental Monitoring of the Dnipropetrovsk Region (Ukraine), Center for the Environment (Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Czech Bat Conservation Society, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute Brno (Jáchym Brzezina), Czech Hydrometeorological Institute Ostrava (Blanka Krejčí), ČSOP Studénka, Dekonta, a. s. (Pavel Mothejl, Petr Mothejl, Martin Polák, Hana Čermáková), Ecological Society Biotica (Moldova), Eliška Málková, European ECO Forum, European Ranger Federation (Michael Grossmann, Germany), Eva Volfová, Faculty of Architecture BUT in Brno (Jan Malý Blažek, Tomáš Hoření Samec), Filip Taufer, Free Arduino – EcoCity (Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine), Gavigudet (Rustavi, Georgia), Green Pole – My City Kills Me (Tbilisi, Georgia), Holešovičky pro lidi (Michal Trník), Pálava PLA (Vladan Riedl), ChemTrust, Initiative of Tenants (INN), Jakub Nakládal, Jitka Špičánová, Kateřina Vídenová, Krkonoše National Park – Michal Skalka, Anna Josefovičová, Magdalena Jozová, Martin Vimr, Monika Domincová, Nikol Krejčová, Nina Fabšíková, Petr Kněžek, Petr Městecký, Petr Roth, Petr Zewlakk Vrabec, Platform for Social Housing (Barbora Bírová), Re-set, Regional Ecological Museum of the Karaganda Region (Kazakhstan), Shared Houses, Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Petr Kodenko Kubala), Spolka (Lýdia Grešáková), State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic (Markéta Smolová), State Health Institute Prague (Jan Rosmus), Štěpán Sukdol, Táňa Zabloudilová, Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete - Hungarian Association of Conscious Consumers, Typonaut.cz (Jakub Němeček), Union of Persons with Disabilities of the City (Kaspi, Georgia), Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Petr Roubal), Institute for Environmental Studies of the Faculty of Science, Charles University, under the leadership of Prof. Tomáš Cajthaml, Vanda Klestilová, Vladimír Turner, Vojtěch Michal, University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (Jana Pulkrabová), World from Space (Jan Labohý, Matúš Hrnčiar), Zeleniy svit (Dnipro, Ukraine) and Zelený kruh (Petra Kolínská)

...and hundreds of individual donors and volunteers. Without you, the list of our successes would be much shorter!

CONTACTS

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Arnika – Center for Citizen Support

IČ: 709 472 61

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Arnika – Toxics and Waste Program

IČ: 709 478 05

toxic@arnika.org

The supreme body of Arnika is the General Assembly, which meets once a year. In the period between member meetings, the activities of Arnika are managed by the Executive Board. According to the association's statutes, members of the executive board act on behalf of Arnika, including individually.

Executive Board: Martin Skalský, Jindřich Petrлік, Václav Orcígr, Lucie Kerbachová, Karolína Brabcová. Since November 2024, the Arnika Executive Board has had seven members. The new members of the board are Marcela Černochová and Lenka Petrлікová Mašková.

In 2024, Arnika was a member of the following organizations:

Zelený kruh (Green Circle) Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, **Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS)**, European ECO Forum, **European Environmental Bureau (EEB)**, European Rivers Network (ERN), **Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)**, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), **International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)**, International Rivers, **International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe (MKOL)**, Coalition for Rivers, **Climate Coalition (KLIK)**, Coalition for Easy Giving, **Network of Environmental Counseling Centers (STEP)**, Pavučina Network of Environmental Education Centers.

We adhere to the Code of Ethics for Environmental Organizations and the Rules of Transparency for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations. Help us and support our work. We always stand on the side of nature, regardless of the profit of an individual or corporation. Account for donations and contributions: 290011 7959/2010

Account for donations and contributions: 290 011 7959/2010



OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FINANCES

BALANCE SHEET

as of 31.12.2024 (in whole thousands CZK)

ASSETS

	Arnika, z.s.		Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme		Arnika - Centre for Citizen Support	
	Status as of the first accounting days period	Status as of the last accounting days period	Status as of the first accounting days period	Status as of the last accounting days period	Status as of the first accounting days period	Status as of the last accounting days period
A. TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.I. INTAGIBLE FIXED ASSESTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.II. TOTAL TANGIBLE FIXED ASSESTS	0	0	254	254	415	415
A.II.4. Land	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.II.4. Tangible movable assets and their files	0	0	254	254	415	415
A.IV. TOTAL FIXED ASSET ALLOWANCES	0	0	-254	-254	-415	-415
A.IV.7. Rights to separate tangible movable items and sets of tangible movable items	0	0	-254	-254	-415	-415
B. TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,699	2,518	5,693	6,202	7,213	6,729
B.I. TOTAL RESOURCES	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.II. TOTAL RECEIVABLES	108	67	2,744	1,308	41	509
B.II.1. Subscribers	9	0	1,947	1,267	7	0
B.II.4. Operating advances granted	61	61	0	0	1	0
B.II.5. Other receivables	0	0	0	41	33	87
B.II.6. Receivables from employees	0	3	1	0	0	0
B.II.9. Other direct taxes	38	3	0	0	0	0
B.II.12. Claims on subsidies and other settlements with the state budget	0	0	796	0	0	0
B.II.17. Other receivables	0	0	0	0	11	0
B.II.18. Doubtful accounts active	0	0	0	0	0	422
B.II.19. Allowance for receivables	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.III. Total current financial assets	2,387	2,432	2,946	4,848	3,057	6,003
B.III.1. Cash in hand	15	24	68	95	82	106
B.III.3. Funds in accounts	2,372	2,408	2,878	4,752	2,975	5,897
B.III.7. Acquired short-term financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.III.8. Money on the way	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.IV. Total other assets	204	19	3	46	4,115	217
B.IV.1. Accrued expenses	10	19	3	11	18	10
B.IV.2. Deferred income	194	0	0	35	4,097	207
TOTAL ASSETS	2,699	2,518	5,693	6,202	7,213	6,729

BALANCE SHEET

as of 31.12.2024 (in whole thousands CZK)

LIABILITIES

Arnika, z.s.

Arnika - Toxics and Waste
Programme

Arnika - Centre for Citizen
Support

	Status as of the first accounting days period	Status as of the last accounting days period	Status as of the first accounting days period	Status as of the last accounting days period	Status as of the first accounting days period	Status as of the last accounting days period
A. TOTAL OWN RESOURCES	2,509	2,237	764	1,625	2,880	3,769
A.I. Total assets	2,509	2,237	242	1,103	2,820	3,709
A.I.1. Equity	100	100	112	112	270	270
A.I.2. Funds	2,409	2,137	130	991	2,550	3,439
A.II. Profit and loss account	0	0	522	522	60	60
A.II.1. Outturn under approval procedure	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.II.2. Outturn under approval procedure	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.II.3. Undistributed profit, unreimbursed loss of previous years	0	0	522	522	60	60
B. TOTAL FOREIGN RESOURCES	190	281	4,929	4,577	4,333	2,960
B.I. Total reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.II. Total non-current liabilities	0	0	2	0	0	30
B.II.6. Doubtful accounts passive	0	0	2	0	0	30
B.II.7. Other non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.III. Total current liabilities	175	159	2,992	2,791	585	899
B.III.1. Suppliers	44	5	206	489	9	7
B.III.3. Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.III.4. Other liabilities	6	0	0	0	47	400
B.III.5. Staff	90	114	288	260	361	348
B.III.7. Liabilities to social security and public health insurance institutions	35	40	142	135	140	119
B.III.9. Other direct taxes	0	0	23	24	27	25
B.III.12. Liabilities in relation to the state budge	0	0	2,124	1,883	0	0
B.III.13. Liabilities in relation to local government authorities	0	0	209	0	0	0
B.III.17. Other commitments	0	0	0	0	1	0
B.IV. Total other liabilities	15	122	1,936	1,786	3,748	2,031
B.IV.1. Deferred expenditure	15	33	0	0	402	452
B.IV.2. Accrued income	0	89	1,936	1,786	3,346	1,579
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,699	2,518	5,693	6,202	7,213	6,729

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS

prepared in accordance with Decree No. 504/2002 Coll.
as of 31.12.2024 (in whole thousands CZK)

Line	Item	Arnika, z.s.	Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme	Arnika - Centre for Citizen Support
A.	COST	X	X	X
A.I.	TOTAL PURCHASES AND SERVICES CONSUMED	1,628	6,275	6,362
A.I.1	Consumption of materials, energy and other non-stored supplies	74	122	786
A.I.2	Goods sold	26	0	6
A.I.3	Repair and maintenance	1	0	0
A.I.4	Travel expenses	24	496	880
A.I.5	Representation expenses	3	2	0
A.I.6	Other services	1,500	5,655	8,176
A.II.	Change in the status of own activity inventories and capitalization of materials, goods, internal services, and fixed assets	0	0	0
A.III.	Total staff costs	1,439	4,909	6,232
A.III.10	Wages and salaries	1,179	3,727	5,056
A.III.11	Statutory social insurance	260	1,168	1,176
A.III.13	Statutory social expenses	0	15	0
A.IV.	Total taxes and fees	0	0	37
A.V.	Total other costs	85	139	166
A.V.16	Contractual penalties and default interest	0	0	0
A.V.17	Write-off of bad debts	0	0	0
A.V.19	Currency losses	24	109	124
A.V.20	Donations	0	14	0
A.V.21	Shortage and damage	0	0	0
A.V.22	Other operating expanses	61	15	42
A.VI.	Depreciation, assets sold, creation and use of reserves and provisions, total	0	0	0
A.VII.	Total contributions provided	0	0	22
A.VIII.	Total income tax	0	0	0
TOTAL COSTS		3,152	11,323	16,305

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS

prepared in accordance with Decree No. 504/2002 Coll.

as of 31.12.2024 (in whole thousands CZK)

Line	Item	Arnika, z.s.	Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme	Arnika - Centre for Citizen Support
B.	REVENUES	X	X	X
B.I.	Total operational subsidies	150	4,096	13,282
B.I.1	Operational subsidies	150	4,096	13,282
B.II.	Total contributions received	2,966	7,106	2,967
B.II.3	Contributions received (donations and membership fees)	2,966	7,106	2,967
B.III.	Total sales for own services and goods	34	74	0
B.IV.	Total other income	2	48	56
B.IV.7	Interest income	1	0	56
B.IV.8	Exchange rate gains	0	48	0
B.IV.10	Other miscellaneous income	1	0	0
B.V.	Total proceeds from the sale of assets	0	0	0
	TOTAL REVENUES	3,152	11,323	16,305
C.	RESULT FOR THE ACCOUNTING PERIOD	0	0	0
D.	PROFIT OR LOSS AFTER TAX	0	0	0

OVERVIEW OF SUBSIDIES

Arnika, z.s.

Donor	Project	Amount
Ministry of the Environment	New opportunities for river landscape revitalization - education and awareness	150,000.00

Arnika - Centre for Citizen Support

Donor	Project	Amount
European Commission	Participation of the civil society in mitigation of the climate change in Karaganda Oblast of Kazakhstan	668,205.45
European Commission	Osmoderma eremita species conservation in SCI Poodří	240,314.99
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Strengthening the civic campaigns for better environment in Georgia	1,807,187.86
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Jewels of the nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Strengthening the resilience and participation of the local communities	768,779.95
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Natura 2000 Moldova: Promoting the European approach to the nature protection in Moldova	1,274,933.85
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Participation of the civil society in mitigation of the climate change in Karaganda Oblast of Kazakhstan	192,330.00
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Green Restoration of Ukraine: Sustainable recovery of war-affected regions	2,353,844.62
Ministry of the Environment	Space for wildlife	300,000.00
Ministry of Regional Development CZ	Prague a city for living	769,545.00
Ministry of Justice CZ	Transparent planning and development in Prague	209,448.00
Capital City of Prague	Prague School of adaptation	370,000.00
Capital City of Prague	For a sustainable and neighborly Prague III	440,000.00
Czech Development Agency	Strengthening the environmental monitoring in the Dnipropetrovsk region during the war conflict	1,135,716.34
Czech Development Agency	Identification and prioritization of environmental burdens in Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine	2,685,176.77
Moravian-Silesian Region	Trees will help us adapt to the changes	56,104.00
The Pardubice Region	Financial donation for the Tree Alley of the Year poll	10,000.00

Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme

Donor	Project	Amount
Baltic Environmental Forum Germany	LIFE Chemical Ambassadors for Europe (LIFE21/GIE/DE101074245 LIFEChemBee)	298,107.10
European Commission	Transparent Pollution Control In Indonesia	696,969.67
Capital City of Prague	Don't throw it away, recycle it!	208,542.90
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ecological transformation of mining areas in Armenia	569,163.15
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Youth for healthy Serbia	437,698.56
Ministry of the Environment	LIFE Chemical Ambassadors for Europe (LIFE21/GIE/DE101074245 LIFEChemBee)	390,734.00
Ministry of the Environment	ToxFree LIFE for All (LIFE22-GIE-HU 101114078)	303,595.22
Ministry of the Environment	How to understand the circular economy correctly?	299,500.00
Municipality Prague 6	Swap and Conscious Consumption on Šestka	62,500.00
Tudatos Vásárlók Közhasznú Egyesülete (TVE)	ToxFree LIFE for All (LIFE22-GIE-HU 101114078)	767,559.67

OVERVIEW OF ARNIKA'S FUNDING SOURCES

Share of financial resources for each of Arnika's areas of activity

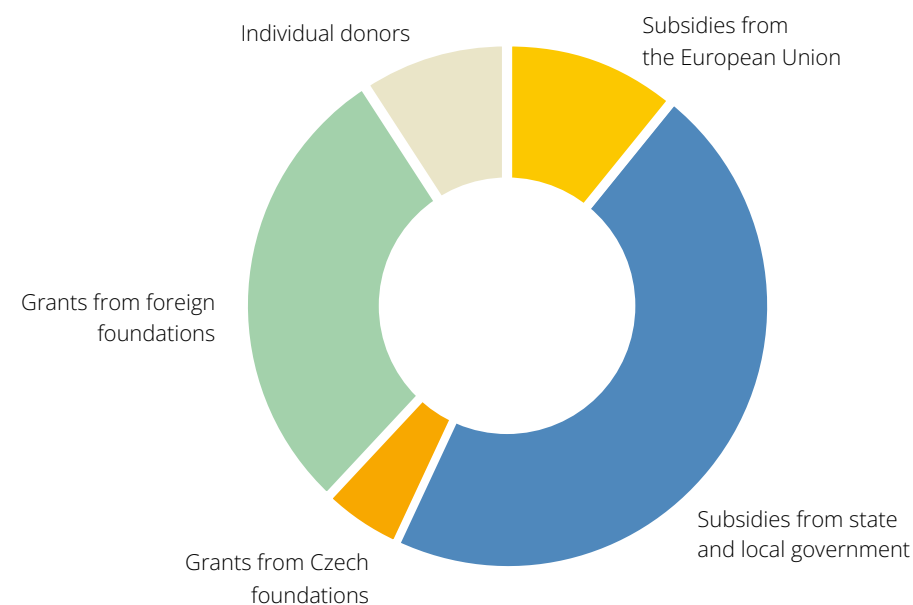
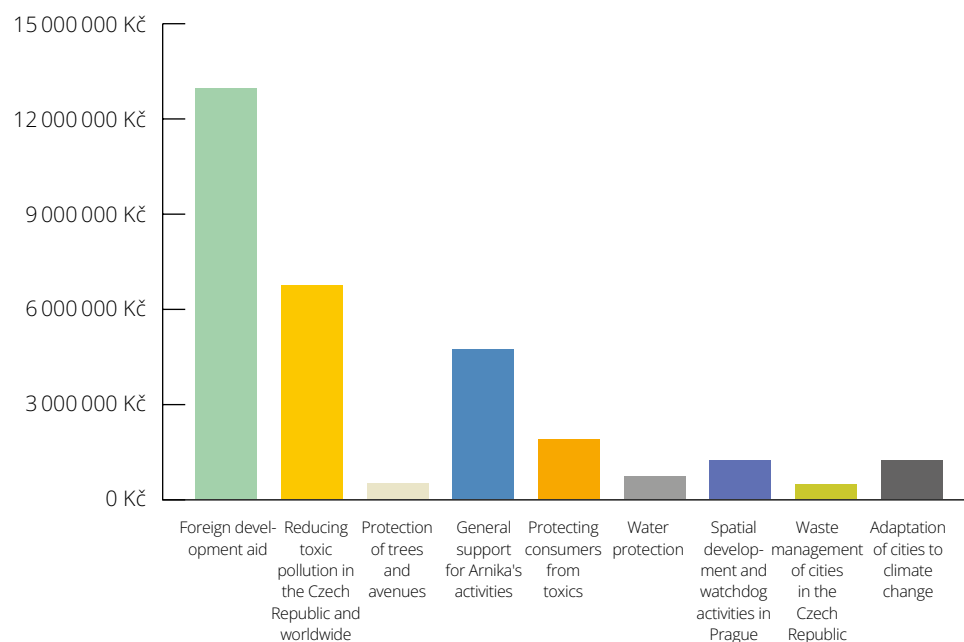
Foreign development aid	12,956,200 Kč	42.40%
Reducing toxic pollution in the Czech Republic and worldwide	6,751,886 Kč	22.10%
Protection of trees and avenues	520,972 Kč	1.70%
General support for Arnika's activities	4,713,729 Kč	15.43%
Protecting consumers from toxics	1,888,748 Kč	6.18%
Water protection	719,015 Kč	2.35%
Spatial development and watchdog activities in Prague	1,291,020 Kč	4.23%
Waste management of cities in the Czech Republic	486,043 Kč	1.59%
Adaptation of cities to climate change	1,228,143 Kč	4.02%

TOTAL 30,555,756 Kč

Sources of funding for Arnika's activities in 2024

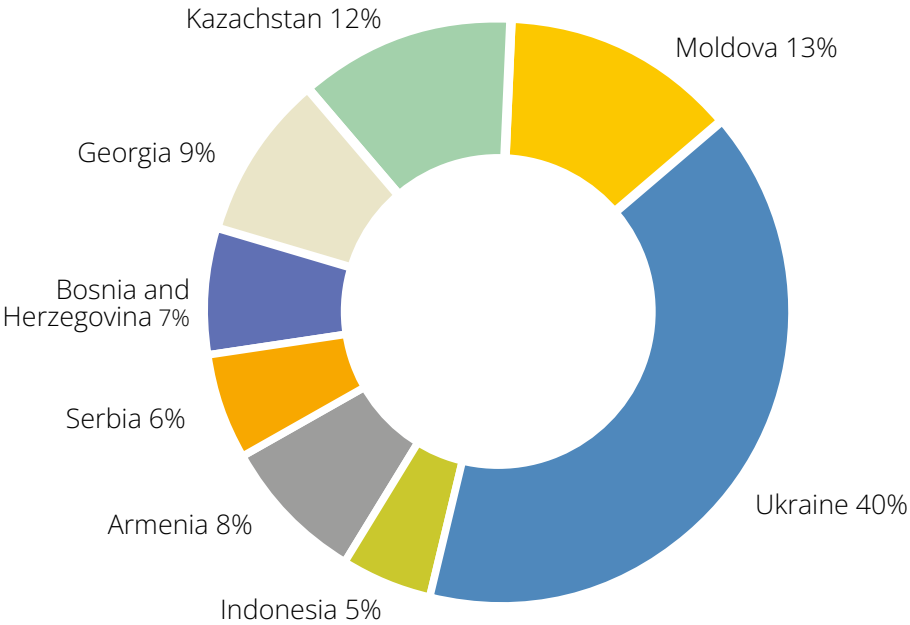
Subsidies from the European Union	3,365,486 Kč	11%
Subsidies from state and local government	14,100,471 Kč	46%
Grants from Czech foundations	1,420,709 Kč	5%
Grants from foreign foundations	8,941,345 Kč	29%
Individual donors	2,727,745 Kč	9%

TOTAL 30,555,756 Kč



Foreign development aid -
funds donated by Arnika to foreign partners

Bosnia and Herzegovina	883,800 Kč
Georgia	1,119,156 Kč
Kazachstan	1,505,700 Kč
Moldova	1,540,080 Kč
Ukraine	4,793,362 Kč
Indonesia	554,567 Kč
Armenia	975,437 Kč
Serbia	742,501 Kč
TOTAL	12,114,604 Kč



ARNIKA
Annual Report
2024

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