



Annual Report 2011

2011 as seen by Arnika

In 2011 Arnika had to deal with several challenges. On the following pages, you can see for yourself how we met them.

Which of them were the biggest ones? Like several times before, we had to deal with legal protection of roadside trees. The reason is that the Ministry of Transport once again attempted to give an exception for road builders and allow them to fell roadside trees without permission. Fortunately, the threat was averted.

We struggled to defend the Integrated Pollution Register (IRZ), whose efficiency was at stake due to the industrial lobby. For it is the publicly accessible register, that makes it possible for us to bring the biggest pollutants of the environment to light.

In the campaign “The Living Elbe” we fully engaged in protection of one of the richest ecosystems in Europe. It is in danger because of the needless weir near Děčín which is being planned.

We were very engaged in foreign activities in 2011. Thanks to us the chemical security in Armenia was improved – we were mapping old pesticide storages and searching for a way how to get rid of them safely. Towards the end of the year we started to look for sources of toxic material pollution in Belarus.

In October Arnika celebrated its 10 years existence. During this relatively short period we managed to investigate numerous cases and campaigns. Many of them were successfully resolved. We would like to thank all those who were there with us.

Martin Skalský, Arnika’s chairman in 2011



Arnika's Motto: “If a human heart is too far from nature, it becomes hard. If a person does not have enough respect for things that grow, things that are living, then he will soon not have enough respect for people either.”

(Luther Standing Bear, Lakota tribe)



Arnika's happening against the trees removal at the Thákur street. One of Tagore's works is called The Voice of the Grove (Banabáni). It is a book of poems with the topic of trees, bushes and flowers.

Arnika – Centre for Citizens' Support

Helping to defend right to healthy environment.

The campaign “Let’s save the trees” pleased us as well as made us worried in 2011. Right at the beginning of the year we were successful in the case of a planned felling of allees in Ostrava-Poruba, the regional court’s verdict was that Arnika was right. A compromise was reached in the case of the street Kopeckého. The final version of the plan will have space for both a parking lot and full-grown trees. However, concerning the activities of the Ministry of Transport and of the road builders, we were not pleased at all. They were trying to reduce the protection of trees along roads and to permit large-scale felling of allees once again. Thanks to the support of more than 30.000 signatories to the petition and of several experts, we were able to avert the threat of further large felling of allees. In association with the Palacký University of Olomouc Arnika made a database of allees in the Olomouc Region.

2011 in numbers:

- 5288 votes in the questionnaire “Allee of the Year”
- 28 cases described in the “Building Map of Prague”
- 71 participants in the Watchdog Incubator
- 28 press releases

More than 50 allees from all over the Czech Republic were nominated to the first year of the competition “Allee of the Year”. The highest number of votes and the first place won the linden alley from Vavřinec in Moravský kras. Arnika’s special award was given to a needlessly felled linden alley along the river Morava in Uherské Hradiště.

We actively participated in the events concerning the Prague land use plan including important meetings of the Prague Municipality. The inhabitants of the Pankrác Plain won a case with our support, and the permission for planned skyscrapers was cancelled. Arnika’s deputies took part in the crucial meetings of the Municipality. We put together the “Building Map of Prague”, an overview of suspicious changes in the land use plan. Arnika invited two teams of students from the Dutch Wageningen University to come to our capital city and to



examine its suburbanisation and urban sprawl. Their research confirmed that people are willing to participate in the decisions concerning their surroundings, but that the public is not much involved in the decision-making process.

Our experience and contacts to other non-governmental organizations were useful when we organized the extraordinary workshop Watchdog Incubator. Four days full of seminars and excursions in Prague, Brno, Bratislava and Vienna brought an interesting comparison of the development of these cities and how the politicians and authorities communicate with the inhabitants while approving plans and projects.

We launched the campaign „We will not be dug up!” in June, as a reaction to the plan Ministry of Regional Development, which completely ruled out public from building permit process. So that people would lose possibility to say their opinion for instance to supermarket building, opening quarry or waste dumps or impact of factories including chemical factories on environment. We joined together with other non-governmental organisations, to convince politicians, to explain arising risks to mayors of municipalities and to prepare our own legal proposals. It was in December that the Government finally rejected the plan of reducing democratic rights.

Arnika – Nature Conservation

Trying to maintain diversity of nature and our precious rivers.

At the beginning of 2011 delegate of Arnika Vlastimil Karlík participated in negotiations between the Czech Republic and the European Commission concerning EU-wide network of nature protection areas Natura 2000. The Commission agreed with the non-governmental organizations and ordered that twenty additional localities should be protected also, including the Elbe valley and Slavíkovy islands. The decision pleased us, because the most recent wildlife researches around Europe, although they proved further species decrease, the opposite was true in the Natura 2000 protected areas.

As usual we had to deal with soft flood control and river revitalization. With colleagues from Polish organization Fundacja ekorozwoju we arranged a series of seminars and follow-up excursions taking place both in our country and Poland. We were discussing the flash floods at Czech-Polish border in 2010. We were able to recognize faults in management of water flows in the landscape, which lead to rapid and devastating floods. Within Coalition for the Rivers we criticised Conception of Water Management policy. This document unfortunately prefers technical solutions and ignores natural potential of landscape.

2011 in numbers:

- **8 swimming days (in association with local initiatives)**
- **97 participants of seminars**
- **10 years of successful opposition to the building of weir in Děčín**
- **32 volunteers take care about white hillsides**

Throughout the 2011 we were engaged in the campaign Live Elbe. River, between Litoměřice and Děčín, has a unique natural dynamic, creates sand-gravel sediments and rare ecosystems. This area is threatened by project of “shipping weir” near Děčín, which is being pushed through over the years. With the action “We do not care about a weir – fishes”, Arnika in association with the Czech Fishing Union, pointed out the fact, that the building of a weir and hydroelectric power station will significantly damage fish populati-



ons in the river. We were swimming in Elbe from Děčín to Dresden together with a long-distance swimmer from the German initiative “Flussschwimmen” and with motto “the Elbe binds us, the weir divides”, and so after two days we have successfully reached Dresden.

Arnika again coordinated a swimming day in July. Several accompanying actions were part to the Big Jump 2011: a concert at Braník in Prague or fashion performances and bodypainting in Děčín. The swimming day took place also at Lysá nad Labem, Mělník, Křešice near Litoměřice, Třeboň, in Brno and at Přímělkov near Jihlava.

Since the beginning, the Bořena Team has been a part of Arnika. During their stay at a camp in Central Bohemian Uplands the volunteers mowed meadows and removed self-seeded wood plants and thanks to those interventions, the protected plants can continue to grow on local white hillsides. At the time of bloom of orchids and other rare plants, the Bořena Team arranged a trip for the public with a botanist to chosen localities.

Arnika – Toxics and Waste

Reducing toxic materials and improving waste management.

At the beginning of the year we have published for the first time the biggest polluters of the river Elbe. For this we used data from Integrated Pollution Register (IRZ). Then we had to defend it against effort of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Association of Chemical Industry, which wanted to reduce its effectiveness. There existed a danger, that up to a half of the reports including the information about enterprises on which people file a complaint, would disappear from the list. Arnika's appeal for preservation of the current extent of IRZ was by supported 130 mayors and representatives of Czech municipalities. During Arnika's happening, "magician" Kocourek let the major polluting factories disappear in front of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and a "hellish" delegation came to warn Association of Chemical Industry, that restriction of IRZ is a path to hell. At the end of the year we have drawn up regional rankings of the biggest polluters thanks to data from IPR.

2011 in numbers:

- 130 mayors and municipality representatives supported the IRZ-appeal
- 104 analysed samples of fish and sediments
- 1651 companies added to the polluters ranking
- 20 press releases

In June we announced the results of a one-year research conducted by Arnika and the Institute of Chemical Technology Prague (VŠCHT) on the presence of selected persistent organic pollutants. Unfortunately perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs) were found in the majority of fish samples and sediments. For some pollutants and many localities this was the first data about concentration of these pollutants in sediments and fish. Values reached dangerous level in several places.

We carried out an interesting project in the town Zliv to reduce waste. At first we processed a questionnaire survey and a study focusing on waste



management. Subsequently there were presented possibilities that would lead to further improvement, in Zliv's waste management.

Owing to the still not-improving state of air pollution in North Moravia, we continued with our campaign Cleaner air for Ostrava. Under the terms of the project We heat considerably we carried out a questionnaire survey in Kopřivnice, which included variable ways of house heating and their efficiency. One third of respondents state, they consider transition to eco-friendly heating.

"Thank you very much for your active help in the air quality in the Moravian-Silesian Region (and in the others as well, of course). As an individual I wouldn't stand much of a chance to change anything and it would end up with "curse words" and disappointment. I am aware of that you are doing work instead of me and I am grateful for that."
— Petra Kořená

Arnika and the World

Helping people not only in the neighbourhood.

Some problems cannot be simply solved at the national level. Therefore has Arnika ever since been a member in a range of international projects. At the same time, we feel that our country is developed enough to support countries which are in a more difficult situation.

In 2011 we successfully finished a project in Armenia in cooperation with the organization "Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment" (AWHHE). At first Arnika selected localities in Armenian regions Ararat and Armavir, where old chemical pollution deposits could possibly be found. The samples taken by Arnika from former pesticide storages indeed revealed the presence of hazardous substances, such as DDT. So in May 2011 the AWHHE held with us a round-table meeting in Yerevan, where both the press and responsible representatives of the Armenian authorities were present. There our experts suggested possible ways to decontaminate the old pesticide storages and unsecured storages of hazardous waste as well as to reduce the risk of degradation of drinking water and contamination of grown vegetable and animals bred nearby.

2011 in numbers:

- 7 international networks Arnika participates in
- 57 samples from Armenia analysed for residues of 251 pesticides
- 26-member team of students that researched Prague
- 2 years till the Mercury Treaty

Mercury can be taken as an example of heavy metals which cause global-scale problems. A constant and serious problem is mainly the presence of organic mercury compounds in fish bodies. It can then be passed into the human system through the food chain. Arnika and its partnership organizations in the international network IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network) therefore lead a campaign for a global convention that will reduce it. Our delegates Jindřich Petrlík and Jan Šamánek, participated in the third negotiations, which took place in No-



vember 2011 in Nairobi as **Co-Chair and coordinator of IPEN's Heavy Metals Working Group.**

Also in 2011 Arnika continued its successful cooperation with University of Wageningen. A team consisting of 26 students of the Dutch university has conducted a 4 week a research in Prague on urban planning and suburbanisation.

We have launched a new international project in Belarus in mid-2011. Its aim is to share technical experience, facilities and contacts of Arnika with a local non-governmental organisation "Centre for Environmental Solutions" (CES). We have successfully started the project by a seminar for non-governmental organisations in Minsk. Later in November an information centre in the headquarters of our partnership organisation CES has been opened, which is focused on toxic materials and waste management.

"We recommended the authorities to secure the contaminated areas immediately, so as to stop further pesticide leaks to the surroundings. If it hadn't been for the analyses done by Arnika, we wouldn't even know the scale of this problem."
– Emma Anakhasian, AWHHE

Eco-Advice Center

Providing complimentary help for local municipalities, civic organizations and individuals. If you need us, we will help you too.

We help people who want to become involved in environment decision-making: help them to understand laws and to write their objections. We also provide specialised consultations, i.e. concerning toxic materials, protection of trees or possible effects of new buildings on their surroundings. We are able to help you with publicity of your cases or with creating information materials for general public.

Our eco-advisory team provided **765 complimentary consultations** in 2011. However, one must add to this amount several hundred consultations at information stands. Altogether we have investigated **183 cases** of environmental damage and risks to human health.

Arnika's Center for Citizens' Support was most often contacted in cases of needless **cutting down of trees**. Some examples of cases we had to deal with: threatened parks in Prague at Střelecký ostrov and Thákurova Street, in Lysá nad Labem and in Skuteč, threatened alleys in Ostrava-Poruba, near the River Morava in Uherské Hradiště etc.

2011 in numbers:

- 14 professionally trained advisers
- 765 complimentary consultations
- 183 cases we dealt with
- 11 workshops and seminars

The second-most frequently asked questions were related to the **land use planning**. As far as the cases in Prague are concerned, we fought against the threat of building at Trojmezí, Roztyly, at the banks of the river Vltava at Sedlec, and of the areas at the railway station Prague-Bubny, the former Strnad's gardnery or enlarging of the landfill at Ďáblice. With the support of our advisers, people in Lysá nad Labem, Mikulovice or in Jablonec nad Nisou we were able to raise their objections to the land use plan.

In addition, new questions about planned **construction of waste incinerators** – at Chotíkov, Rybitví near Pardubice, Jihlava or in Karviné – were



asked. We were also interested in combustion of sludge from the Ostrava company Ostramo in Čížkovice cement works, that is being considered.

As usual, people contacted our Eco-Advisory Centre because of **industrial facilities polluting the environment**. This was the case of Lovochemie in Lovosice, Orsil Saint Gobain at Krupka or the aluminium plant at Napajedla. Several municipalities were concerned about plans to build bituminous mixture coating plants: i.e. Březín and Skelná Huť near Plzeň.

The last group of questions was of a **consumer nature** – people were interested mostly in ways how to avoid buying products that contain hazardous toxic substances.

“Arnika helped the village Slavičky with decontamination of a toxic waste dump in Pozdátky. Priceless was above all the professional support when judging the plans of the former owner of the dump. This year the decontamination was finally finished and now there is a meadow and a forest in its place.”
– Ing. Jiří Váral, mayor

Budget Summary for divisions of Arnika in 2011

In accordance with its statute, Arnika establishes own organizational units with regional or thematic scope of powers. All three units are governed by the same statute, registered at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic under number: VS/1-1/48279/01-R, date 16. 10. 2001 as amended according to last amendments approved on 6th November, 2007.

Overall Budget

EXPENDITURE	10 956 774,02	INCOME	10 930 342,17
Personal costs	4 251 539,00	Donations from individuals	692 912,25
Consultations and expert services	1 287 985,36	Donations from corporations	113 132,40
Communication costs (phone, Internet)	263 132,40	State subsidies	5 462 971,91
Publication costs	309 686,00	EU subsidies	3 166 955,00
Materials used	383 909,00	Grants from Czech funds	912 000,00
Travel and transport expenses	753 002,51	Grants from foreign funds	1 156 330,00
Rent	751 073,00	Bank charges	332,65
Per diem and representation	67 633,28	Own activities	1 336 941,20
Promotion	329 192,00	Income 2011	0,00
Other costs (repairs and maintenance, bookkeeping, services of partnership organizations, postage, bank charges)	2 102 599,09	Exchange rate gains	33 791,76
Foreign exchange losses	63 579,00	Accruals	-160 402,00
Chemical analyses, sampling, taking of samples and their preparation	393 443,38	Direct compensation to partner organizations cooperating on EU projects	-1 784 623,00
		Economic balance	-26 431,85

Arnika

Expenditure	2 016 256,70
Income	2 145 249,91
Economic balance 2011	128 993,21

Arnika – Centre for Citizens' Support

Expenditure	1 136 316,34
Income	1 328 868,07
Economic balance 2011	192 551,73

Arnika – Nature Protection Programme

Expenditure	1 458 454,72
Income	1 173 893,38
Economic balance 2011	-284 561,34

Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme

Expenditure	6 345 746,26
Income	6 282 330,81
Economic balance 2011	-63 415,45

Major Donors in 2011

The European Union, The State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, IPEN, The Czech development Agency, Prague City Hall, Open Society Fund Prague, Global Greengrants Fund – Marisla, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Environmental Partnership, STEP – The Czech Eco-Counselling Network, The Via Foundation, Environmental Health Fund

Thanks

In 2011 Arnikas work was substantially helped by:



Ministerstvo životního prostředí
České republiky



Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí
České republiky



and **789** individual donors. We thank you, without you the list of our achievements would be considerably shorter!

Thanks for help, support and cooperation:

Simona Albrechtová, Renata Běčáková, Iris Brunar, Jana Cenková, Romana Cermanová, Alena Dodočková, Marek Čaňka, Jiří Došek, Jan Dušek, Tereza Dvořáková, Chantal Pradines, Hana Felzmannová, Karen Fortuin, Anna Frajtošová, Václav Fryčka, Michaela Gomolová, Werner Hentschel, Oldřich Zozman, Magdaléna Hrubá, Marie Hrušková, Jan Hovorka, Eva Chvojková, Marie Jelínková,

Miroslava Jopková, Jiří Karnecký, Gisela Kalenbach, Torsten Kettritz, Andrea Klátilová, František Kraus, Aleš Létal, Hana Librová, Dana Losenická, Michal Man, Lenka Petrlíková-Mašková, Vladimíra Mauleová, Marie Medunová, Jan Mík, Vlado Milunič, David Pithart, Jakub Němeček, Miroslav Ottomanský, Lukáš Pelikán, Adéla Petráková, Přemek Podlaha, Ondřej Kobza, Ondřej Prcín, Jitka Repešová, Ondřej Rešl, Alena Rybničková, Ivan Rynda, Jitka Saniová, Eva Schallerová, Jindřiška Skalská, Josef Sklenář, Libor Štěrba, Václav Sojka, Kateřina Sůvová, Irena Swiecicki, Helena Šimová, Radim Šrám, Iva Švajcarová Voigtsová, Kateřina Trnková, Ondřej Tošner, Adéla Turková, Jan Vacek, Jiří Váhal, Michaela Valentová, Helena

Váňová, Čestmír Vítner, Bas van Vlet, Lenka Vokasová, Pavel Vrána, David Waliczek, Christiane Weitzel, Grietje Zeeman and Denisa Žůrková and also Green Step, Zelený kruh, University of Wageningen, Embassy of the Netherlands in the Czech Republic, HUKOS for loaning out the X-ray analyser, Unijazz and Krásné ztráty.

Donations from companies:

- **OLMEX-KAL, s. r. o.**
- **PROFITERM MORAVA, s. r. o.**
- **Valdemar Grešík – Natura, s. r. o.**
- **FotoŠkoda (prizes for the competition "Allee of the Year")**

Useful contacts

Arnika, the civic organization (founded 2001)

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The supreme authority in Arnika is the general meeting which takes place once a year (8.10. 2011). In the period between the meetings, Arnika is directed by the executive board consisting of 5 members. Its members in 2011 were Lukáš Matějka, Jindřich Petrlík, Kamil Repeš, Martin Skalský and Jana Vítnerová.

Arnika is a member of the Green Circle (Zelený kruh), a network of eco-advisory centres STEP and of the European Environmental Bureau. We are committed to the environmental organizations' code

of conduct and to the transparency rules of non-governmental non-profit organizations.

**Account number for donations and membership contribution:
290 011 7959 / 2010 (Fio banka)**

Only thanks to donors can we protect trees, protect environment from toxic materials, save endangered species of plants and animals and engage us in other campaigns independently and on a long-term basis.
Thank you.

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