



Annual Report **2014**

2014, as seen by Arnika

Year number 13 was definitely a lucky one for Arnika. Its stable team and financial security led to multiple successes. Speaking locally, these included, for example, an amendment to the law about the preservation of woodlands, but also other wood-related topics. We also succeeded in detecting a lot of problematic products for kids and thanks to collaboration with the Czech Trade Inspectorate; we managed to remove them from the market. At the same time, we explored how the population of the village of Mohelnice deals with waste separation and we helped to run a more effective waste collection system in Mikulov and nearby areas.

We used up thousands of kilometres travelling and helping abroad. We continued to help and support people in Kazakhstan who had decided to fight against toxic pollution in their country. We presented the results from samples taken the previous year, we took new ones, and in some places the local authorities have already started to take action to reduce toxic contamination. We also help Kazakhs to protect the natural habitat of one of the world's most endangered cats – the snow leopard – and the virgin environment near the former capital city, Almaty.

However, our international activity also helps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, and other countries, while on the other hand, we take inspiration from neighbouring Germany.

Thanks to our organization Arnika, a lot of positive and remarkable events happened in 2014. On the following pages you will find a brief overview of them. But nothing could have been done without you – our supporters, sponsors, partners, donors, volunteers, and employees. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of you. You are for us, as well as for me, the motor that will drive our future work, and also our commitment to working hard moving forward.



*Jindřich Petrlík,
Arnika's chair in 2014*

*Motto of Arnika: "The old Lakota was wise. He knew that man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard; he knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans too."
(words of Luther Standing Bear from the Lakota tribe)*

Arnika in numbers

1284 working hours of our volunteers

192 600 Czech crowns saved thanks to their volunteering

6000+ signatures on a petition

812 references to Arnika in the media

105 helped us with our work

48 public-access events – tours, happenings, workshops, stands, and others

61 avenues nominated in the Avenue of the Year 2014 survey

10 500+ online votes received in the Avenue of the Year 2014 survey

23 days to raise funds for painting the avenue

112 trees painted in Uherský Ostroh in the Zlín region

27 cherry trees planted between the city districts of Štípa and Velíková near Zlín

12 kilograms of samples taken in Kazakhstan

68 kilogramů odebraných vzorků v Kazachstánu

150 attendees at international conferences organized by Arnika

35 years of protection of endangered plants in the
Central Bohemian Uplands (Českého středohoří)

In 2014, the number of countries where Arnika provides professional support increased once again.

One such country is Bosnia and Herzegovina and a local project for a better environment, located in central Bosnia.

Thanks to the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, we have started to monitor the most polluted places.

We located hot spots such as, for example, the Mittal Steel steelworks in Zenica, the cellulose plant in Maglaj, the tannery in Visoko, or cities such as Tuzla and Lukavac, where under the socialist Yugoslav regime, the chemical and metallurgical industry, coal mining, and the power industry were concentrated. This caused an ecological disaster comparable to what happened in the northern part of the Czech Republic or North Moravia a couple of decades ago, before the ecologization of local factories took place.



Speaking of foreign countries, one of the biggest events organised by Arnika in 2014 was a huge tour around central Kazakhstan, called Expedition Kazakhstan without Poisons 2014, which had multiple goals: to inform locals about the results of the analysis of the first samples, to take new samples, to meet and greet activists from several parts of Kazakhstan, and to present results at an international conference in Astana.

All of them were accomplished and the collaboration with EcoMuseum and CINEST continues. Nowadays it is represented by professional help to hundreds of people, many tours, tens of workshops, and more than one thousand people from local municipalities, office workers, industry, and public representatives, who work together to tackle the environmental problems that concern them the most.

In southern Kazakhstan, we have launched another project. Its aim is to incrementally improve the information level of the local population about their rights to a healthy environment. We will continue to work with many local organisations who know best what **the most significant topic** in the area is. One of the problems that we will try to solve is the protection of the natural habitat of the last 200 snow leopards in Kazakhstan – in the Ile-Alatau National Park.

Since the project started, we have accomplished several achievements – we managed to finish the preparation and present at a conference in Maastricht an alternative report on compliance with the Aarhus Convention in Kazakhstan. It was an alternative to the official government version.

Non-compliance with public law also came up at an international panel discussion of lawyers at a meeting in December, who demanded an explanation of the differences and suggested remediation from Kazakhstan.



In June 2014 a big conference wrapped up a project in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Solutions (CES) in Belarus that had lasted for over two years. During the lifetime of the project we succeeded in raising public awareness about healthy lifestyles and child protection against toxins in toys and other products in 13 mother and child centres located in seven cities and villages.

Another project with a similar topic is located in seven South Asian countries.

In 2014 Arnika continued to help protect children against the negative impact of lead which can be found in paints. In China we helped a local organization called Green Beagle to strengthen their civil initiatives to protect the victims of toxic pollution. At the same time we performed an analysis of dangerous dioxins from samples obtained in China.



A ban on four incineration plants was also imposed in 2014 thanks to the work of experts from Arnika. Three such plants would have incinerated tyres and investors had planned to run them in the villages of Hrbovice, Tušimice, and Němčice nad Hanou. During all three sets of legal proceedings, objections and questions from Arnika were presented and regional officials raised a demand to answer them. Since the investors were unable to provide answers and complete the missing documentation, the local authorities stopped the legal proceedings and the projects were swept aside. Another incinerator plant, in Lysá nad Labem, was stopped because the owner was not able to coordinate the combustion and filter technologies.





There are still new theories, previous ones having been proved false, popping up on how trees endanger the situation on the roads.

As we would like to serve as an example to others and help to increase passive safety on roads, we decided to paint another avenue along a road with white safety strips on the trees. This year we chose the Avenue of the Year 2013 in the Zlín region. The author of the nomination herself, Karolína Svitálková, highlighted the historic(al) importance of the alley, but also provided a list of accidents which had happened there so far. We strongly believe that the new reflective strips will improve the orientation of drivers and the number of road accidents will decrease. This project could not have been completed without the contributions of tens of individuals. Thanks to them we were able to gather the necessary tens of thousands of crowns through the campaign "Tins (of paint) for the avenue" to buy the necessities for the painting.

And what is happening with developers in sorely-tried Prague? Even though the population of Prague is slowly decreasing, the number of house building projects has not decreased. In 2014 Metrostav planned to rebuild the Na Klamovce city park into a commercial block of flats. The park was saved by the people from the neighbourhood twice. In 2013 the court agreed with the locals and cancelled the first amendment to the local plan, while the second proposal, submitted by the management of Prague, was recalled by the Mayor of Prague after dynamic argumentation put forward



Arnika once again directly helped to plant a new avenue. After a long time, which was filled with barriers and objections, we finally found a compromise with the road authorities in the Zlín region. Thanks to this agreement, we were able to replace a dying blackthorn avenue with twenty-seven new cherry trees between the city districts of Štípa and Velíková with huge support from non-local and local volunteers, including kids from a nearby primary school. Again, this would not have been possible without tens of contributors from the whole Republic. Thanks to their donations we were able to purchase all the necessary supplies.

The icing on the cake is the title of the Avenue of the Year 2014, which went to 177 Japanese (flowering) cherries from Karviná and to Doctor Ivan Ďurovič, who submitted these flowering beauties for nomination.



One of the pillars of Arnika's activities is the protection of people against dangerous substances. We focus, of course, mainly on children, because their bodies are more sensitive to the effects of such toxic substances. That is why we had several school supplies tested in a laboratory in 2014. Unfortunately, our suspicions were confirmed and toxic phthalates were found in some products. We informed both the public and local authorities about such findings.



What were known as "loom bands" were a massive hit in 2014. Many children paraded with "friendship bracelets", the most famous product created out of these bands. Later on the alarming news about dangerous phthalates being present in such bands appeared in the UK. Expediently, we started to organize many information points at various



places in the Czech Republic and got "loom bands" tested. Luckily, they were not made from PVC, which means that there were no phthalates in them. However phthalates were found in a charm which was packaged together with such bands, according to results from the laboratory of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague. In this case, we also notified the public and local authorities and they confirmed our findings and took the necessary measures to remove such items from the market.



We are also proud of the thirty-five-year-old tradition established by Team Bořena – volunteer care of a unique location in North Bohemia. It was founded long before Arnika was established, even long before the Velvet Revolution, by a bunch of students from Bílina. They replanted precious plants from places endangered by waste from a mine dump to another location – the slopes of the Lipská hora mountain. Thanks to this tradition and intensive and regular care during the last 35 years, Golden Flax and the European Michaelmas Daisy can still be found in our natural environment.

You support us

Your help, whether financial or verbal, represents huge support and commitment to us.

Every felled avenue of trees is such a waste! Thank you for doing your best to save them! It makes me angry to see that trees have to pay for the ruthless fast driving of people.

Renata Vaculíková, Starý Hrozenkov, 5/2014

I visit South Bohemia quite often and every year I notice new white strips on trees. This makes me very happy and I suppose that your involvement and education lie behind it. I think you have played the leading role in saving the avenues in our country and it's principally thanks to your dedication that the public perspective on this topic has changed.

Jana Kolková Rydvalová, Praha, 6/2014

I'm so glad about your activities; you are true professionals in what you do.

Renáta Weidlichová, Praha, 8/2014

I like the fact that Arnika focuses on local topics. I think that the civil society in the Czech Republic needs more organizations like you! Thank you for your activity.

Martin Černý, Pardubice, 8/2014

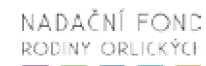
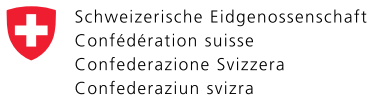
I really appreciate and value your job. It makes me fall asleep with a good feeling that somewhere near Zlín the avenue of cherry trees will cheer people of goodwill up.

Dobroslava Gabryšová, Praha, 11/14

Today, my wife and I took a walk along the lime avenue from Dobrá u Přibyslavi to Žižkova Pole. I want to honour those who helped to save this avenue.

S pozdravem Jarda a Ivana Krajičkoví, Havl. Brod, 10/14

Donors



Major Donors in 2014: Czech Development Agency* / Global Greengrants Fund – Marisla / Gruntvig / IPEN – The International POPs Elimination Network / Prague City Hall / Prague 3 Municipal District / Prague 5 Municipal District / The Environment Ministry of the Czech Republic / Karl Janeček Foundation / The Open Society Fund Prague / Otakar Motejl Fund / Partnership Foundation – Swiss-Czech Cooperation Fund / The Endowment Fund of the Orlický Family / Foundation for the Development of Civil Society / VIA Foundation / German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) / European Commission – EU Aid Programme / Statutory town of Havířov / Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic / Ziel3 – Goal3

*From the funds of the Czech Development Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic under the Programme of International Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic.

...and hundreds of individual donors. Thank you; without you, the list of our achievements would be much shorter!

Donors

We would like to thank our following supporters as well:

Zbyňek Andráš and Enter magazine, Martin Bystrianský, Šárka Dostálová and the Slunečnice association, Alica Dvorská, Maria Hrušková, Václav Větvička, Petr Kučera, Jan Cága, Richard Brulík, Tomáš Hakr, Martin Jiříčka, Miroslava Jopková, Zora Kasiková, Hana Librová, Dana Losenická, Jan Losenický, Jakub Němečka, the Ottomanský family, David Pithart, Ondřej Prcín, Zuzana Roithová, Alena Rybníčková, Ivanu Ryndovi, Eva Schallerová, Tiboru Schwarzovi, Radka Skácelová, Irena Swiecicka, Mark Šíra, Radim Šráma, Ondřej Tošner, Dan Urbánek, Lenka Vokasová, Pavel Vrána, Kateřina Vrbická, Adin Vyhlička and also Green Circle, the company HUKOS for lending us a roentgen/X-ray analyzer, Krásné ztráty, Music Society Děčín, Centre for Environmental Solutions – Belarus, EcoMuseum – Kazakhstan, Center for the Introduction of New Environmentally Safe Technologies (CINEST) – Kazakhstan, Eco Mangystau – Kazakhstan, Dřevotvar, Mladá Fronta publishing house, Deník, Fórum dárců, OP Tiger and the Čoromoro.cz portal, Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald, Department of Food Analysis and Nutrition UCT Prague, Elena Levčenková, Maria Holečková, Eko Forum Zenica – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sergej Soljanikov, Světlana Spatarová, Sergej Kuratov, Alija Tonkobajevová, Eva Kubíčková, European Eco Forum – Brussels, Olga Speranská, Tomáš Szabó, and the company LMC s.r.o. for free advertising on the Jobs.cz and Práce.cz portals.

Donations by companies:



Nakladatelství MH

Our thanks also go to all our volunteers: your work is invaluable and we appreciate everyone who dedicates his or her leisure time to helping us with our mission.

Overview of financial management

According to its statute, Arnika has set up three programmes that have their own legal personality and thematic scope. All three programmes are governed by the same statute as registered at the Ministry of the Interior under no. VS / 1-1 / 48279/01-R on 16 October 2001, as last amended by the General Assembly on 6 November 2007.

COSTS		REVENUES	
Personal costs	3 531 613	Donations by individuals	709 027
Consulting and professional services	2 157 831	Donations by companies	74 000
Communication services	202 871	Public Grants	2 477 413
Publishing costs	101 287	EU Grants	5 501 303
Consumables	278 030	Grants from Czech foundations	2 589 399
Travel and meals	1 375 667	Grants from foreign foundations	1 241 461
Office and space rentals	365 895	Grant rollover from previous periods	607 180
Promotion and entertainment	73 348	Proceeds from our activities	572 613
Other costs	1 552 253	Bank interest and exchange rate profit	13 422
Chemical analysis	471 407	Grants shares to partner organizations	-3 492 374
Exchange rate loss	43 032		
TOTAL COSTS	10 153 234	TOTAL REVENUES	10 293 444
BALANCE	140 210		

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMES

Arnika –
 costs 1 216 38
 revenues 1 271 20
 HV 2014 54 826

Arnika – Centre for
 Citizens' Support
 costs 5 512 255
 revenues 5 562 437
 HV 2014 50 183

Arnika – Nature Conservation
 Programme
 costs 394 278
 revenues 422 988
 HV 2014 28 711

Arnika – Toxics and Waste
 Programme
 costs 5 316 918
 revenues 5 323 408
 HV 2014 6 490

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(Founded in 2001; registered
association since January 1,
2014)

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Arnika's annual meeting is arranged once a year. In the period between meetings, Arnika's activity is led by the executive managers, numbering five members. In 2014 Jindrich Petrlík (chair), Martin Skalsky, Jana Vitnerová, Vendula Krčmářová, and Jan Kotrbáček occupied the positions.

Arnika became a member of the Green Circle NGO Association, STEP Environmental Consultation Network, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA), Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), and European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

We report to the Ethical Code of Environmental Organizations and to the Transparency Rules of Non-Governmental Non-profit Organizations.

Account for donations and contributions:
290 011 7959 / 2010 (Fio banka)

Arnika is being part of helping, protecting the environment, and changing the situation for the better, and not only in the year 2014. Please join us and support our work! We are one of the few organizations that is not afraid to face and fight against the senseless destruction of the natural environment.

Thank you.

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