

A stylized landscape illustration with a bright sun, white clouds, blue birds, green mountains, a dark green forest, and a green field with tall grass in the foreground.

Annual report 2017

The year **2017** through the eyes of Arnika **Arnika**



For sixteen years we have been one of the major Czech ecological organizations. The year 2017 passed without significant changes, yet it presented a good number of challenges. The following pages describe the way we overcame them.

One of our greatest successes was in the field of reducing toxic pollution. Thanks to advisory opinions, many Czech companies stopped using highly toxic mercury in the production of chlorine. We discovered a number of dangerous products for children and kitchen equipment and drew the public's attention to them. Once again, we attended to the protection of avenues, awarded a prize for the most beautiful one, and helped prevent unnecessary felling.

We offer our assistance abroad and help secure the right to environmental information. We played a part in the fight against toxic pollution in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Ukraine. We also focus on the preservation of the last wild rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are threatened by the preposterous construction of monstrous dams.

We could not have accomplished all of this alone. I would like to thank all our partner organizations, donors, volunteers, supporters, and patrons. You made this possible. Thank you!

Jindřich Petrlík

Chair of Arnika in the year 2017

Arnika in numbers

834 articles and reports in the media



nearly **4000** votes in the Avenue of the Year survey



300 hours of dedicated voluntary work

100 avenue planters with **52** trees in the Jeseník District



8205 people got to know about the biggest polluters in the Czech Republic from the Integrated Pollution Register (IRZ)



white reflective stripes were painted on **60** trees



we helped **188** people at our eco-centre

51 experts shared their experience at the Avenue Recovery and Upkeep conference



3 drainage basins of creeks in Prague received better care



8 localities in Thailand received help with toxic pollution cases



we mapped **31** white sides in the Central Bohemian Uplands and Poohří and Polabí regions and proposed the best way to conserve them



12 cases of persecution of environmental activists were published at international conferences

Recycling is the right thing. So let's do it the right way!

Children are usually more susceptible to the effects of harmful substances. Therefore, we decided to test children's toys and hairdressing supplies made from recycled plastic and the results were alarming. They contained an enormous amount of harmful brominated flame retardants. That is why we joined forces with popular actress Simona Babčáková and launched the **Poison-Free Recycling** campaign with the aim of banning toxic re-usable plastic and vindicating the good name of recycling. We fought for restrictions on harmful substances **at the Stockholm Convention conference** in Geneva. We tested the toys using a special instrument which allowed the participants to see the harmful substances for themselves.



Where do poisons in households come from?

Only a few people know how many poisons they have at home. We took **dust samples** in 52 Prague households and public buildings and got them analyzed in special laboratories. It turned out that the presence of **heavy metals** is especially high in offices. This is mainly due to old furnishing or harmful building material containing cadmium pigments or lead.

Stará Husí cesta became Avenue of the Year

The winner of the seventh Avenue of the Year poll came as a surprise. The first place did not go to a majestic avenue of full-grown trees. Instead, it went to Stará Husí cesta near Dřevčice (Liberec Region), planted by the local hikers, the Rover patriots, no more than three years ago. And so the title of **Avenue of the Year 2017** goes to more than 60 saplings of old fruit tree types and to Jaromír Henzl, their nominator.



Driving through the avenue in the Kroměříž region is safer

The number of avenues along roads is decreasing notably as a result of the belief that the trees endanger traffic, which has been proved wrong many times. We want to set an example by increasing the visibility of the trees. For the eighth time we painted reflective white stripes on an avenue, this time on more than fifty linden trees and maples over a hundred years old in Kvasnice, in the Kroměříž region. We are convinced that this will make them easier to spot and make the road safer. We could not have accomplished this without several hundred individual donors who helped us raise enough money through Can for Avenue to pay for the necessary supplies.



A new avenue grows in the Jeseník

For the fourth time we helped to plant a new avenue. With more than a hundred volunteers from local associations, residents, and children from the local school and children's home, we planted fifty cherry trees along the [path to Edita's spring near the Priessnitz Spa](#). The saplings can grow thanks to three hundred donors from all over the country, who provided all the necessary resources.



Biking through the avenues

Athletes and especially families enjoyed our summer [Tour de Avenue](#) bike trip. Everyone was able to enjoy the most beautiful avenue on the outskirts of Přebyslav. Participants arrived from all over the country and the starting fee contributed to all the avenue-related activities of Arnika.



Bořena takes care of PLA for nearly 40 years

founding of the team dates back to before the Velvet Revolution, when a group of environmentalists saved rare plants in locations destroyed by coal mining. The protected species were replanted to a new location – **white sides below Lipska Hora**. They have been taking care of them ever since. As a result, a lot of endangered plant species have survived, such as fringed gentian, golden flax, erect clematis, the European Michaelmas daisy, snowdrop anemone, and black salsify.

Protecting the countryside of the Central Bohemian Uplands with help from local farmers

Other regions deserve our attention as well. In cooperation with the PLA Administration České středohoří and local farmers we work on the restoration of traditional soil management on the white sides, which are home to many protected species of plants and animals. Because of this, we have created a detailed survey of these **unique prairies in the Central Bohemian Uplands** to make the protection of rare species more effective.



Rivers need cleaning too

As we do at home, we should do some spring cleaning in the natural environment as well. A crew of Arnika members along with other enthusiasts got into cleaning several **Prague streams and a tide pool**, removing trash and mud. With our support various endangered species of amphibians returned to a natural environment, away from the dangers of large cities.



Third season of Waste Prevention Oscars

Almost all municipalities have to deal with the management and reduction of waste. Many of them have found the right way and motivate their residents to sort waste and set an example for others. Every year we give out a **Waste Prevention Oscar** to the most effective ones. Last year's winners were Horní Brusnice, Štítná nad Vláří-Popov, and Kdyně. Our guide for mayors and councillors, called Waste Management of Small Municipalities, contains lots of useful tips for reducing the production of municipal waste.

Prague streams without heavy metals

Small and often overlooked streams in Prague are the main source of life-giving water for the surrounding environment and feed rivers such as the Vltava or Elbe. Despite the incinerators, landfills, and other sources jeopardizing the purity of water, our **measurements brought good news**. The water did not contain high concentrations of heavy metals.



Czech companies have reduced the use of lead

With the help of Arnika, the Minamata Convention on Mercury came into effect in August. At the Geneva conference we discussed health protection and further reduction of lead pollution with delegates from other countries, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations from all over the world. Only a millionth part of lead in a mother's hair testifies to the stress it causes in an organism, which can seriously damage the nervous system of the foetus. Many participants in the conference were curious and eager to be tested as well. We measured the amount of lead in their hair on the spot using an x-ray spectrometer. In the Czech Republic, lead was being used to make chlorine by the two largest polluters – **Spolana in Neratovice and Spolchemie in Ústí nad Labem** – even last year. By the end of the year both companies began using alternative methods of production.

People in Thailand live more healthily

For a long time, we have been encouraging Thai people living in suburbs in the vicinity of industrial factories to tackle the problems related to industrial pollution. Last year we cooperated with our colleagues from the Thai NGO EARTH and mapped localities affected by

highly toxic substances and heavy metals. On the basis of the analysis of samples of soil, eggs, and fish we have examined the seriousness of industrial pollution. The situation in some Thai localities is quite severe and because of this we will help the people ensure corporate responsibility and give them access to environmental information.



We reveal the persecution of ecologists

We have witnessed several countries having issues concerning violations of human rights. This makes it even harder for the public to participate in environmental decisions. We have focused on monitoring adherence to international treaties in post-Soviet states and in the west Balkans. We have revealed several cases of persecution of environmental activists and published their testimonies at www.stop-persecution.org.

Keeping an eye on rights

At the sixth meeting of the Aarhus Convention in Budva, Montenegro, we introduced **alternative reports on the situation** in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Hungary, Croatia, and even the Czech Republic, which (contrary to governmental versions) report on various issues. They raised concern among the delegates, and in the end we called on governments to secure the safety of ecological activists and NGOs and to create suitable conditions for enforcing the right to a healthy environment in the entire region.

FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN

After five years the second project in **Kazakhstan** was coming to an end. The results include several hundred analyses of soil, river sediments, eggs, fish, and camel milk. The analyses tested for persistent organic substances, pesticides, and heavy metals. Excursions and workshops served as a good way of informing local residents about the possible impact of an infested environment on their health and we suggested solutions to local authorities. One example is a website showing the levels of emissions of individual facilities, and additionally we mapped 32 contaminated places and shared almost £17,000 between citizens' initiatives so that they can defend the rights of local people more effectively. We implemented several legislative improvements. We also managed to solve some burning issues in several places – for example, the authorities in Baskuduk shut down a mismanaged landfill. We also insisted on the abortion of the preparation for natural gas extraction in the Ustyurt Nature Reserve, which is home to the rare saiga antelope.



We protect Bosnian wild rivers

We have been dealing with problems in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** for a long time. For two years we have been helping people living near the ArcelorMittal ironworks in the city of Zenica and other industrial enterprises, which cause immense air, soil, and water pollution. Last year we focused on **saving wild Bosnian rivers**, the last untamed streams in Europe. We were also joined by the Olympic athlete and kayaker Vavřinec Hradilek. For several years the rivers have been endangered by the unchecked boom of hydroelectric power plants. Animals and people are being driven out of the area by the construction of massive concrete dams.



To fight this, we decided to connect local citizens' initiatives, help them defend their rights, solve specific cases, and

The Green Line in Belarus helps locals

We launched the **Green Number** with a partner organization **in Belarus**, which gives advice on ecological issues. We presented the experience gained from four of our largest campaigns in the form of case studies – namely the construction of the Ostrovec nuclear power plant, the operations of the Kronospan company, the Amkodor industrial zone, and the intended privatization of rivers.



A fight against a Ukrainian oligarch

An agricultural giant, MHP, caught our attention **in Ukraine**. Its owner, Yuriy Kosiuk, is an oligarch and an advisor to President Poroshenko. His business activities affect the countryside and fates of many people deeply. Industrial animal farms with a capacity of millions of chickens occupy one of the most fertile black soils in Europe, produce a lot of waste, and are suspected of polluting water. With help from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we began mapping the most heavily polluted places. We prepared the ground for a global network of voluntary associations and together we implemented steps leading to the necessary change in legislation. With our support the Assistance Centre, helping locals defend their rights, was established.

Overview of financial management

BALANCE SHEET

31/12/2017

(in thousands of CZK)

Assets

		Arnika, z.s.		Arnika - Toxics and Waste		Arnika - Center for Citizens'		Arnika - Nature Conservation		
Row		Amount on the First Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the First Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the First Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the First Day of the accounting period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	
A.	Long Term Assets	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	
A.I.	Long Term Intangible Assets	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	
A.II.	Fixed Tangible Assets	10	0	0	105	105	0	15	15	
A.II.4.	Land (031)	11	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	
A.II.4.	Fixed Tangible Assets and their Groups (022)	14	0	0	105	105	0	0	0	
A.IV.	Depreciation of Fixed Assets	28	0	0	-105	-105	0	0	0	
A.IV.7.	Depreciation of Movable Fixed Tangible Assets and their Groups (082)	35	0	0	-105	-105	0	0	0	
B.	Total Short Term Assets	40	1 474	2 112	935	1 267	2 996	1 992	234	247
B.I.	Inventories	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
B.II.	Total Receivables	51	52	52	408	372	31	588	6	1
B.II.1.	Trade Debtors (311)	52	0	0	4	27	0	0	0	0
B.II.4.	Paid Operational Advances (314)	55	52	52	0	0	28	20	0	0
B.II.5.	Other Receivables (315)	56	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
B.II.12.	Subsidy Claims and Other Settlements with State Budget (346)	63	0	0	403	293	0	0	0	0
B.II.17.	Other Receivables (378)	68	0	0	0	51	3	3	6	1
B.II.18.	Estimated Receivables (388)	69	0	0	0	0	0	565	0	0
B.III.	Total Short Term Financial Assets	71	1 422	2060	143	595	2 965	1 404	228	246
B.III.1.	Balance in Cash (211)	72	55	43	53	33	44	89	0	5
B.III.3.	Account Balance (221)	74	1 367	2017	90	562	2 921	1 315	228	241
B.IV.	Other Assets	80	0	0	384	300	0	0	0	0
B.IV.1.	Prepayments (381)	81	0	0	148	4	0	0	0	0
B.IV.2.	Accrued Revenues (385)	82	0	0	236	296	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL ASSETS	83	1474	2 112	935	1 267	2 996	1 992	249	262

Overview of financial management

BALANCE SHEET

31/12/2017

(in thousands of CZK)

Arnika, z.s.

Arnika - Toxics
and Waste

Arnika - Center
for Citizens'

Arnika - Nature
Conservation

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

	Row	Amount on the First Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the First Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the First Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period	Amount on The First day of the accounting period	Amount on the Last Day of the Accounting Period
A. Equity	84	1 419	1 785	239	228	1 029	949	113	130
A.I. Capital	85	1 170	1 240	112	112	857	810	100	100
A.I.1. Own Capital	(901)	86	421	421	112	112	270	270	100
A.I.2. Funds	(911)	87	749	819	0	0	587	540	0
A.II. Total Profit/Loss	89	249	545	127	116	172	139	13	30
A.II.1 Profit and Loss Account	(+/-963)	90	X	295	X	-11	X	-32	X
A.II.2 Profit/Loss in Approval Process	(+/-931)	91	180	X	-85	X	-50	X	171
A.II.3 Accumulated Profit from Previous Years, Retained Earnings	(+/-932)	92	69	250	212	127	222	171	-158
B. Total Liabilities	93	55	327	696	1 039	1 967	1 043	136	132
B.I. Total Provisions	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.II. Long Term Liabilities	96	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.II.6. Estimated Payables	(389)	102	0	35	0	0	0	0	0
B.III. Short Term Liabilities	104	55	42	512	589	119	393	136	132
B.III.1. Trade Payables	(321)	105	32	7	179	70	0	0	0
B.III.4. Other Liabilities	(325)	108	3	1	0	0	1	6	0
B.III.5. Employees	(331)	109	20	19	77	112	97	70	0
B.III.7. Payables from Social Insurance and Public Hhealth Insurance Institutions	(336)	111	0	5	28	34	21	21	0
B.III.9. Other Direct Taxes	(342)	113	0	2	3	5	0	4	0
B.III.13. Payables from Budgetary Authorities of Regional Self-Governing Units	(348)	117	0	0	225	368	0	0	0
B.III.17. Other Payables	(379)	121	0	8	0	0	113	136	119
B.III.22. Estimated Payables	(389)	126	0	0	0	0	179	0	0
B.IV. Other Liabilities Total	128	0	250	184	451	1 848	650	0	0
B.IV.1. Accrued Expenses	(383)	129	0	0	106	451	1 787	60	0
B.IV.2. Deferred Revenue Passive	(384)	130	0	250	78	0	61	590	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	83	1474	2 112	935	1 267	2 996	1 992	249	262

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Drafted in accordance with Act No. 504/2002 Sb. as amended

31/12/2017 (in thousands of CZK)

Item Name	Row No.	Arnika, z.s.	Arnika Toxics and Waste Programme	Arnika Center for Citizens' Support	Arnika Nature Conservation Programme
A. Expenses	1	1,679	5,551	4,179	346
A.I. Used Material and Purchased Services	2	1,265	3,771	2,598	266
A.I.1 Consumable Material, Energies and Other Unstored Supplies (501-3)	3	28	78	76	7
A.I.2 Sold Goods (504)	4	2	0		
A.I.4 Travel Expenses (512)	6	5	435	435	16
A.I.5 Representation Costs (513)	7	6	25	9	5
A.I.6 Other Services (518)	8	1,224	3,234	2,078	238
A.II. Change in Operating Reserves and Capitalisation of Material, Goods, In-House Services and Long Term Assets (row 10-12)	9	0	0	0	0
A.III. Personal Costs	13	342	1,648	1,565	71
A.III.10 Wages and Salaries (521)	14	314	1,357	1,288	71
A.III.11 Statutory Health Insurance (524)	15	28	288	277	0
A.III.13 Mandatory Social Expenditure (527)	17	0	3	0	0
A.IV. Taxes and Fees	19	0	0	0	3
A.V. Other Expenses	21	72	132	16	6
A.V.17 Bad Debt Amortisation (543)	23	0	0	0	6
A.V.19 Exchange Losses (545)	25	1	127	6	0
A.V.20 Donations (546)	26		0		0
A.V.21 Shortages and Damages (548)	27		0		0
A.V.22 Other Expenses (549)	28	71	5	10	0
A.VI. Amortisations, Disposal, Provision Creation and Use and Adjusting Entries	29	0	0	0	0
A.VII. Total Contributions	35	0	0	0	0
A.VII.28 Member Fees and other Contributions (58x)	36	0	0	0	0
A.VIII. Total Income Tax	37	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	39	1,679	5,551	4,179	346

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Drafted in accordance with Act No. 504/2002 Sb. as amended

31/12/2017 (in thousands of CZK)

Item Name	Arnika, z.s.	Arnika Toxics and Waste Programme	Arnika Center for Citizens' Support	Arnika Nature Conservation Programme
Revenues	40	1,974	5,539	364
B.I. Operating subsidies	41	199	2,613	199
B.I.1 Operating Subsidies (691)	42	199	2,613	199
B.II. Contributions Received	43	1,306	2,271	137
B.II.3 Denations Received (682)	45	1,302	2,271	137
B.II.4 Membership Fees (684)	46	4	0	0
B.III. Own Activities and Goods	47	466	655	28
B.III.1 Revenues from Merchandise (601)	48	0	0	0
B.III.2 Revenues from Services (602)	49	445	638	28
B.III.3 Revenues from Sold Goods (604)	50	21	17	11
B.IV. Other Revenues	51	3	0	0
B.IV.7 Interest Revenue (644)	54	3	0	0
B.IV.8 Exchange Gains(645)	55	0	0	3
B.IV.10 Other Revenues (649)	57	0	0	1
B.V. Revenues from Disposal	58	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	64	1,974	5,539	364
C. PROFIT/LOSS BEFORE TAX	65	295	-11	18
A.VIII.29 Income Tax (591)	66	0	0	0
D. PROFIT/LOSS AFTER TAX	67	295	-11	18

Overview of donated assets

Donated assets of Arnika, z. s. – a total of 199,700 CZK

Ministry of the Environment – project "Reviving Prague Waters"
199,700 CZK

Donated assets of Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme – total 2,613,022 CZK

Prague – project "Prague polluters under the magnifying glass"

105,295 CZK

Prague – project "Chemicals and Wastes in the Life of the Praguans - Consultancy for the Capital City Residents"

123,048 CZK

Prague – project "Healthy and Playful Prague"

9,328 CZK

Ministry of the Environment – project "Prevent and Recycle in Municipalities under 2,000"

199,000 CZK

Ministry of the Environment – project "No recycling as recycling - Problem of entry and monitoring of toxic substances in recycled products"

199,650 CZK

Ministry of the Environment – project "DDT, polystyren and Stockholm public"

199,800 CZK

State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic – project "Oskar Waste Prevention for Waste Prevention"

369,223 CZK

•Ministry of Foreign Affairs – project "Increasing Transparency of Industrial Pollution Management through Citizen Science"

230,000 CZK

European Commission – EU Aid – project "Increasing Transparency in Industrial Pollution Management through Citizen Science"

1,134,394 CZK

European Commission (thanks to our partner CB UBA) – project "Enabling REACH consumer information rights on chemicals in articles by IT tools"

43,284 CZK

Donated assets of Arnika – Centre for Citizens' Support – 2,805,051 CZK

Prague – project "The potencial of active seniors"

20,000 CZK

•Pardubice Region – "Alley Conference 2017"
50,000 CZK

•Pardubice Region – "Expedition to the alley"

15,000 CZK

•Ministry of the Environment – project "How to prepare for the climate change"

199,500 CZK

•Ministry of the Interior – project "Transparent construction in the vicinity of Prague"

250,000 CZK

Ministry of Foreign Affairs – project "Support for Belarusian citizens in solving local environmental problems"

499,873 CZK

•Ministry of Foreign Affairs – project "Living water: Civil network for the protection of Bosnia and Herzegovina rivers"

653,236 CZK

Ministry of Foreign Affairs – project "Development of civil society in Ukraine' s regions"

637,127 CZK

•European Commission – EU Aid – project "Promoting the rights of citizens and public participation in decision- making processes relating to the environment in Kazakhstan"

480,315 CZK

Donated assets of Arnika – Nature Conservation Programme – a total of 198,720 CZK

•Ministry of the Environment – project " White hills - protection of the geocological phenomenon Poohří and České středohoří „

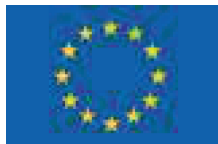
198,720 CZK

Financial and material donors

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



Ministerstvo zdravotnictví
České republiky



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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 Board containing five members. In the year 2017 Jindřich Petrlík (chair), Martin Skalský, Vlastimil Karlík, Lucie Kerbachová, and Jiří Nahodil were in office.

Arnika is 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), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), MKOL (The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe), and the Coalition for Rivers. We endorse the Ethical Code of Environmental Organizations and the Transparency Rules of Non-Governmental Non-profit Organizations.

Account for donations and contributions:

290 011 7959 / 2010 (Fio banka)

Arnika's operations in the year 2017 have managed to improve the environment and give us hope for a better future.

Please join us and support our work! We are one of the last organizations that is not afraid to face and fight the senseless destruction of our planet. Thank you.

