

# Annual Report

# 2015



# Chairman's Introductory Word



*Even without any revolutionary changes, the year 2015 belonged to important and busy year for Arnika. We have been participating on protection of trees, helping to build future face of Prague, informing public about toxic substances in the environment and in the goods on the market, enforcing the priority of recycling and product´s reuse over the waste incineration and helping nature.*

*The most important achievements of this year have been following: the renewal of the historical tree avenue in Šluknov and surrounding areas including Šilhéřovice, successful launch of the 'Polluters under the magnifying glass' mobile app or the collection of 9,000 signatures for petition called 'Don't incinerate, recycle' going in Vysočina. The collection of signatures went during the public consultation representing the new regional wastage plan.*

*In 2015, we also published the results of two long-term projects lasting several years. First of all the pollution prevention in the surroundings of large industrial plants in Kazakhstan and as a second, the database and map of tree alleys in the Moravian-Silesian Region.*

*We were involved in helping the local organizations to protect the environment abroad, especially in Thailand, Bosnia and Kazakhstan where we´ve been exchanging our experience with Icelandic activists.*

*I would like to point out on the fact that our achievements are not only ours. Our partner organizations, collaborators, supporters and donors are important part of ours achievements as well. It could not happen without your help - thank you very much!*



## Save Trees



Arnika is being part of avenue protection and protection of trees for a long period. It has already reached several achievements. This year, we have saved hundreds of trees of being cut down. This procedure is usually required due to road reconstructions or building purposes in cities and villages. In 2015, we painted white safety stripes on the trees along the roads to increase the road safety and avoid of chopping down the trees. We have painted more than 150 trees in the alley of the town Zásmyky, Kolín District. Our organization also helped to plant a tree new avenue in Šluknov where the border line village of Fukov is based near Germany. We have been part of the renewal of the historical tree avenue founded by Rotshilds in Šilhéřovice, Hlučín Region. The removing of avenue's trees has been discussed with local residents of region Frýdlant. Only one avenue of total amount of 6 is convicted to be removed. We continue creating a database of Moravian and Silesian tree-lined avenues with the University of Ostrava. In this moment the database contains nearly a thousand of entries. We also published the publication called 'Tree Avenues of Moravian-Silesian Region - Concept of Preservation, Renewal and Maintenance'. We have organized 4 public discussions for citizens and 1 seminar for state administration. The 3rd annual conference aimed on protection of tree avenues 'Aley 2015' has taken the place in Lednice together with the tour of the South-Moravian tree avenues. Our environmental experts have given answers for 200 questions about tree and avenue protection. 65 candidates have been participating to take a title of the survey 'Alley of the Year 2015'. The Budkovany fairy-tale tree avenue nearby Jedovnice, Moravian Karst has won the title.

## Prague – City for Life



The territorial development of the capital city Prague is another project of Arnika. For many years, Prague suffers from a vague concept, a range of sudden changes in favour of developers and lower involvement of the public. For three years, the Metropolitan plan of Prague has been in preparation. However, it is not clear what the new plan would bring to the residents living in Prague. In 2015, Arnika tried to involve the public in the plan of preparation with success. The situation was often difficult because of various changes in the city administration. In October 2015, we started collecting signatures for the petition asking the Prague's representatives to keep their promises and make the development process of Prague.

We are also focused on changes in the existing local plan. Arnika helps the public to understand ten changes what it have been discussed recently— we keep records of the problematic projects of developers on the website <http://zmenyprahy.cz> where we also advise people how to face the problematic amendments. The success of this effort is proven by more than 20 decisions of the court that has refused the illegal changes of the local plan.

In 2015, we launched a new public competition. It is a double competition for the best and the worst new building in Prague which will win the titles called Glass Inferno and Prague Jewel. The competition will be evaluated in 2016. However, there are couple of interesting candidates and some of them surprisingly appear in both categories.

# Future Without Poisons



'Future Without Poisons' is one of the most successful campaigns of Arnika from the very beginning. In the past this campaign was the one where we achieved big success that makes us proud of: introducing the Integrated Pollution Register and joining the Czech Republic to the Stockholm Convention.

In 2015 we followed up this success by launching the mobile app 'Polluters under the magnifying glass' which allows you to get the information about the pollution with toxic substances in the specific locations of the Czech Republic. We also published the lists of polluters every year. We are pleased to note a decrease of total emissions of the carcinogenic, toxic and mutagenic substances. Spolana Neratovice was the only one which discharged more of these substances during the year 2014 than the previous year.

In the letter addressed to the members of the European parliament, we asked for a grant the exceptions of recycling toxic materials, particularly the phthalate DEHP. We also tried to support of using the material without toxics, material what is recycled and used again across the market.

We also pointed out on toxic substances in children's toys made of plastic parts of recycled electronic wastage which should not be subjected to the plastic recycling process due to their composition. For example, we found out a high content of brominated flame retardants in the popular Rubik's cube.

# Living Water

In the course of the 'Living Water' campaign, we took samples of sediments from the rivers Bílina, Elbe, and Klášský potok in August 2015 and evaluated the content of the persistent organic substances what are dangerous for human health. The samples contained also high concentrations of PCB, dioxin, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzo(a)pyrene. Sampling and testing the water were a part of the 'Living Water' project that is held by Arnika to draw attention of the public to the importance of protection of water and the connected ecosystems. The project also included a national competition for elementary and high schools.





## Don't Burn, Recycle!



Arnika's campaign 'Don't Burn, Recycle!' appeals to the public as to the politicians to join and actively step forward against building numerous incinerators and put more attention on prevention of wastage, support of recycling, used product collection, deposit-refund system and composting.

The petition called 'What you sort, you don't pay' addressed to the region municipalities, the Government of the Czech Republic and the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The petition demands penalty charge for waste (that means the person who sorts the waste responsible and does not much fill the rubbish bin should pay less). We have also more ambitious goals regarding recycling. In October 2015, we presented this petition to the first region in the Czech Republic – Vysočina Region. This region had been just processing the new regional Waste Management Plan.

We also actively support administrative procedures in the case of individual incinerators. The project 'Citizens Aloud' was particularly helpful for this. At the beginning of 2015, the court accepted the Arnika's objection of a bias in favour of the Building Authority in Cheb which led the territorial governance of the waste incinerator project in Cheb. We also represented a successful online educational tool 'Integrated register in public services' on the website [moodle.arnika.org](http://moodle.arnika.org).

2015 was first year of the contest Waste Oscar aiming on promoting the examples of good practice in the waste management. The competition had two categories. The first category, we judged the amount of the mixed waste produced per inhabitant (the less the better) in municipalities in three groups, depending on size. In the second category, the expert jury selected the best ideas, concepts, and ways of communication with the public; the individual cities, villages, and companies took part in this category. Dalešice, Moravany and Kdyně become winners of the first category. The company STKO Mikulov, the city of Písek and the village of Chvalšiny won in the second category.

## We Help Nature at Home and in the World



We were involved in the international campaign 'Nature Alert' together with other Czech NGOs in 2015. The campaign responded to the efforts of companies and lobbyists to break European directives aimed on nature protection within the frame of the 'fitness-check' (eligibility examination). These European directives are the legal basis for Natura 2000. It has been collected more than five thousand of votes for keeping the directives and all Europe was participating this vote. The campaign is planned to continue in 2016 when the European Commission will decide whether to modify the directives or not.

We helped nature in person with putting our hands in the activities as well. About 30 volunteers from the Czech Republic and Germany have attended the traditional camp of the land trust Bořena this year. They were taking care of meadows and removing seeded woody plants in the landscape park České středohoří (Central Bohemian Uplands). In honour of the eve of the World water day on 21st of March a group of volunteers cleaned the surrounding area of river Botič in Prague.

# Arnika Abroad



International cooperation is more and more important for Arnika from year to year. In 2015, we helped foreign non-governmental organization with the nature and environment protection, particularly in Kazakhstan, Bosnia, and Thailand. We also exchanged valuable experience with our colleagues from the less exotic Iceland.

In Thailand, we started a multi-annual project for reducing toxic pollution and increasing transparency in the decision-making process related to the environment. The urgent environmental problems of Thailand (the land of thousand Buddhas, but also the land of many industrial plants) are being solved by Arnika together with EARTH what is Thai non-governmental organization. One of the goals is opening of the Integrated Pollution Register to the Thai public. Furthermore, we focus to help the EARTH organization to map the locations affected by a heavy pollution by highly toxic substances and mobilize small communities living in the neighbourhood of the industrial plants to participate in finding a solution of these problems.

In the Bosnian city Zenica, Arnika helps the people living in the neighbourhood of the Arce-lorMittal factory. This company is well-known also in the Czech Republic (unfortunately in Bosnia the behaviour´s being more brutal). We help local people to create a strategy how to deal with authorities. We also point on this problem in front of the international community. Arnika was involved in two activities in Kazakhstan with significant results during year 2015. In May, we published a new study with specific suggestions how to ensure the health protec-

tion of the people living nearby steelworks and other plants of heavy industry, waste dumps, or abandoned military bases. The study summarizes detailed information about the pollution that threatens almost a million of people in the central and eastern Kazakhstan. This study was preceded by thousands of kilometres, hundreds of detailed analyses of soil, sediments, eggs, and fish to find out the presence of heavy metals, dioxins, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBS). Experts discovered serious contamination of heavy metals on numerous of children's playgrounds and mercury in the Nura River – moreover, the toxic metal is gradually accumulated in the fish´s bodies. The surrounding area of the city of Ekibastuz is contaminated by PCB. The study was published by the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague plus two Kazakhstani non-governmental organizations EkoMuzeum and CINEST. The campaign of protection of snow leopards (ounces), endangered by plans to organize winter Olympic games, was the second Arnika's project going in Kazakhstan. These plans included the intention to build a huge centre of winter sports in the national park where the last pieces of the ounce population live. Arnika created a petition together with Kazakhstan´s organization the NGOs. Thousands of signatures and hundreds of e-mails were the result of this petition what it has been sent directly to the president of the International Olympic Committee.

# Economic Results

## Overall budget of the organization

### EXPENDITURE

Personal costs	3,859,176
Consulting and expert services	5,249,182
Communication costs	172,612
Publishing costs	513,184
Consumable material	562,987
Travel and subsistence expenses	1,224,097
Rent of offices and other premises	463,676
Promotion and representation	182,110
Other costs	262,791
Exchange rate losses	140,329
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,630,145</b>
<b>Economic Balance</b>	<b>328,699</b>

### INCOME

Donations from individuals	1,500,187
Donations from corporations	314,658
State subsidies	2 540,569
EU subsidies	10,179,589
Grants from Czech funds	1,095,017
Grants from foreign funds	1,376,997
Grant income of previous periods	500,000
Own activities	1,084,738
Bank interest and exchange rate gains	15,427
Grant share of partner organizations	- 5,648,340
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12,958,843</b>

## Budget of individual subjects:

### Arnika

Expenditure	1,143,481
Income	1,418,209
<b>Economic balance 2015</b>	<b>274,728</b>

### Arnika- Citizens Support Centre

Expenditure	4,326,902
Income	4,313,794
<b>Economic balance 2015</b>	<b>-13,108</b>

### Arnika - Nature Conservation Programme

Expenditure	264,926
Income	474,620
<b>Economic balance 2015</b>	<b>209,694</b>

### Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme

Expenditure	7,285,560
Income	7,142,945
<b>Economic balance 2015</b>	<b>-142,615</b>

# Supporters by Financial and Material Donations



Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt BU / European Commission – EU Aid / Global Greengrants Fund / IPEN – International POPs Elimination Network / Prague City Hall / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic / Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic / Open Society Fund / Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation / Civil Society Development Foundation / Via Foundation / Orlický Family Fund / Prague 3 / Objective 3 Programme supporting cross-border cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Free State of Saxony in 2007-2013 / Fund for NGOs Programme supported the projects 'Living Water', 'Citizens Aloud', 'Sharing experience of participations in decision-making in Iceland and in the Czech Republic', and 'Talking Openly about Prague: public participation in decisions making on the image of the city' / Supported by grants from Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway within EEA funds ([www.fondnno.cz](http://www.fondnno.cz) and [www.eegrants.cz](http://www.eegrants.cz)) / Grundtvig Programme / Visegrad Fund

Private sector donors:

ACRIS zahrady s.r.o. / Advantage Solution / Auditdaně, s.r.o. / Botanická zahrada Praha / Clever choice / Epson / Fotoškoda / Habalon / Javorník -CZ- plus / Kitl / MEDFIX, s.r.o. / Ostravské výstavy, a.s. / Plaston, s.r.o. / Probio / Raddit consulting, s.r.o. / Satelitní technika, s.r.o. / TOPOS, tiskárna / Výstaviště FLORA Olomouc / YSoft, s.r.o.



# Special Thanks to

Zbyněk Andráš and the Enter magazine, Martin Bystrianský, Šárka Dostálová and the Slunečnice association, Marek Martinec, Ondřej Petrlík, Wiliam Menrath, Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson from the Landvernd organization from Iceland, Vojta Staněk and Eva Staňková, the Ecological Alert and Recovery organization from Thailand, Družina association, Alice Dvorská, Marie Hrušková, Václav Větvička, Petr Kučera, Jan Cága, Richard Brulík, Tomáš Hakr, Martin Jiříčka, Miroslava Jopková, , Hana Librová, Dana Losenická, Jan Losenický, Gabriela Babulíková, Jens Weber, Ellen Ellen Gießmannová, Wolfram Kalenbach, Tomáš Páca, Jakub Němeček, David Pithart, Ondřej Prcín, Zuzana Roithová, Alena Rybníčková, Ivan Rynda, Eva Schallerová, Tibor Schwarz, Radka Skácelová, Irena Swiecicki, Marek Šír, Radim Šrám, Ondřej Tošner, Dan Urbánek, Lenka Vokasová, Pavel Vrána, Kateřina Vrbická, Adin Vyhlídka and also Zelený kruh, the HUKOS company for lending the X-ray analyser, Café Campus, Center for Environmental Solutions – Belarus, EcoMuseum – Kazakhstan, Center for Introduction of New Environmentally Safe Technologies (CINEST) – Kazakhstan, Eco Mangystau – Kazakhstan, Dřevotvar, Nakladatelství Mladá Fronta, Deník, Fórum dárců, OP Tiger and Čoromoro.cz, Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald, Department of Food Analysis and Nutrition of the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague, Elena Levchenko, Marie Holečková, Eko Forum Zenica – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sergei Soljanikov, Sviatlana Spatarova, Sergei Kurat, Alya Tonkobayev, Eva Kubíčková, European Eco Forum – Brussels, Olga Speranská, Tomáš Szabó and the LMC s.r.o. company for the free advertisement on the websites Jobs.cz and Práce.cz

# Contacts:

**Arnika,  
Registered organization (established in  
2001; since 1st of January 2014) Arnika**

IN: 265 432 81  
Chlumova 17  
130 00 Praha 3  
GSM: 774 406 825  
www.arnika.org  
arnika@arnika.org

**Arnika – Centre for Citizens' Support**

IN: 709 472 61  
Martin Skalský, Head of the Centre  
cepo@arnika.org

**Arnika – Nature Conservation Programme**

IN: 703 520 27  
Ing. Jana Vitnerová,  
Head of the Programme  
priroda@arnika.org

**Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme**

IN: 709 478 05  
RNDr. Jindřich Petrlík,  
Head of the Programme  
toxic@arnika.org

**Branch offices:**

**Arnika České Budějovice**

Mgr. Jitka Straková  
Fráni Šrámka 35, 370 04 České Budějovice  
tel.: 777 266 386  
ceskebudejovice@arnika.org

**Arnika Děčín**

Kamil Repěš  
Hudečkova 1, 405 01 Děčín 1  
tel.: 777 113 237, decin@arnika.org

**Arnika Ostrava**

tel.: +420 736 734 155  
ostrava@arnika.org

**Arnika Havířov**

RNDr. Marcela Klemensová  
Selská 1329/43, Havířov město  
tel.: 739 593 364

Arnika's annual meeting is arranged once a year. In the period between meetings, Arnika's activity is led by the executive managers containing five members. In 2016 Jindřich Petrlík (chairman), Martin Skalský, Vlastimil Karlík, Lucie Kerbachová and Jiri Nahodil sat in the chairs.

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), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), MKOL The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe) and the Coalition for the Rivers. 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 (Fiobanka)**

Arnika is being part of helping, protecting the environment and turning up the situation into better, not only in year 2016.

Please join us and support our work!

As one of the few organizations, we are not afraid to face and fight for senseless destruction of the nature.

Thank you.