Annual Report 2013
We have occupied a prominent place among Czech environmental organizations for twelve years, and the thirteenth year of the new millennium was a year of stabilization and success for us. As in previous years, we systematically informed the public about the largest polluters. And, as it turns out, our charts for disabled people are an important tool to push companies that are damaging their environment to green their operations. Companies are installing new filters and the authorities have ordered a few toxic operations to be stopped in the near future.

We are also successful in the area of protecting avenues of trees along roads. The new Decree stipulated that anyone who wants to cut down trees in an avenue must always apply for permission even if the individual trees do not need a permit. During our adoption of the Roztilský stream, we cleared its surroundings of garbage and then mowed the Bílé stráně in the Central Bohemian Uplands, so that rare plants can continue to grow there. The courts also agreed about the rights of people whose rights have been damaged by the illegal practices of a few officials, who allowed more massive construction than was approved by documents.

We also provide significant help beyond our borders – we support, in particular, the rights of people to information about the environment and we are involved in the removal of toxic pollution in Kazakhstan, Belarus, and a number of Southeast Asian countries.

A number of others, which I believe are also positive news for you, appear below. All this is possible thanks to Arnika's contributors and our partners, volunteers, and employees. Please allow me to express my thanks and also the commitment that we will try not to betray your confidence in us in the future.

The motto of Arnika: "If the human heart moves away from nature, it hardens. Lack of respect for what grows and what is alive will also quickly lead to a lack of respect for people."

(Luther Standing Bear from the Lakota tribe)
Arnika in numbers

608 hours of volunteers' work for our organization
5000+ signatures on a petition
899 mentions of Arnika in the media
68 volunteers who participated
54 events for the public – excursions, happenings, seminars, stands, and more
61 avenues were nominated in the Avenue of the Year 2013 survey
7000+ voices on the Internet decided on the winner in the Avenue of the Year 2013 survey
22 days to collect money for painting the avenue
105 trees painted in Dolni Tošanovice in North Moravia
100+ kilograms of samples brought from Kazakhstan
12 cities in Belarus involved in the Green Map
11 sampling events in Belarus
hundreds of flowers planted at Žižkov
Our experts commented on a number of plans for new incinerators, in which the incinerator lobby boasted about the benefits of their facilities. Thanks to Arnika’s activities in Jihlava, Přerov, and Karviná, incinerators were not built.

For the ninth time, we compiled rankings of those industrial plants whose gates, chimneys, and waste pipes most pollute the environment in the Czech Republic from the data of the Integrated Pollution Register. Most recently, this helped people in Valašské Meziříčí – the chemical company Deza responded to the constant pressure and installed new filters. Wallachia earned a rest from emissions of naphthalene.

After hard work and demanding negotiations, Arnika’s experts managed to urge the regional authority not to allow the chemical industry to use mercury further. It must end it by mid-2017. In addition, Spolana has to install other technologies to reduce dioxin emissions and regularly monitor pollution in its vicinity.

However, toxic substances are not only a problem in the Czech Republic. There is significant contamination in many other states too. Our many years of experience have helped in a number of other countries, such as Belarus, China, and Kazakhstan. First, there was a mapping of locations which were likely to be contaminated by dangerous chemicals in central Kazakhstan – an area five and a half times bigger than the Czech Republic – and an information campaign pointing out the risks posed by pollution to the locals.
In 2013, Arnika experts, in cooperation with colleagues from the College of Chemical Technology and a local non-governmental organization, took part in the Expedition Kazakhstan Without Poisons 2013. They visited the areas most affected by industrial pollution and brought nearly 100 kg of samples – including soils and sediments, but also fish, eggs, and milk.

We also supported the organization of a series of training seminars for citizens and Belarusian journalists.

Belarus also has its first eco-consulting clinic, with which we helped. We have been involved in the implementation of the new Electronic Waste Act and the introduction of a separate collection of used batteries. As part of our activities, we have set up a Green Map, which today covers 12 Belarusian cities. And, thanks to the analyses of toys we conducted, mothers, and not only from Belarusian maternity centres, know what products their children should preferably not be exposed to.

Probably, nobody wants to give to their beloved ones gifts that may endanger their health – for example ones containing heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, or mercury. This is why, before Christmas 2013, Arnika, in cooperation with Hukos, launched a “tour” in which the content of dangerous metals in consumer goods was measured for people who were interested. The tour started in Ostrava, where we tested about two hundred products.

In Belarus, in cooperation with our local partners, we released a handbook for active citizens to help them choose safe and environmentally friendly products, learn about environmental quality, and engage in decision-making processes. We also supported the organization of a series of training seminars for citizens and Belarusian journalists.

Whoever likes to read can draw tips on harmless gifts from How to Live Well, Healthily, and Environmentally Soundly, published by Arnika in 2013 in an innovative form.
The urban environment also suffers from problems – neglect of public space, building on arable land, the diminution of green areas, and the over-sizing of commercial constructions. We find burning cases all over the Czech Republic, but in their most concentrated form, probably in Prague. In order to make everyone familiar with the changes in the Prague Territorial Plan, Arnika launched a well-arranged website at http://zmenyprahy.cz; it contains information not only about where change threatens but also its possible impact on the quality of life of people in its surroundings. We have provided free technical and legal assistance in dozens of cases to people who have suffered damage.

We also monitored the work of the Prague politicians and evaluated their work and fulfilment of their pre-election promises.

After heavy pressure on the Minister of the Environment, we succeeded in pushing forward a change in the Decree on Tree Protection, which now provides better protection for avenues of trees and the road workers cannot cut them down without permission, as was previously the case. And to avoid this, Arnika continues to increase the safety of avenues along roads. White security stripes on more than one hundred trees appear to drivers in Dolní Tošanovice in North Moravia in conditions of poor visibility. And the plan is to paint other avenues.

The fact that the protection of avenues and traffic safety is a strong topic is evidenced by the abundant participation of road workers, natural scientists, officials, and other experts at the International Conference on the Protection of the Avenues for the Development of Regions. It took place in Uherské Hradiště in cooperation with the Faculty of Logistics and Crisis Management of Tomas Bata University. Its participants accepted the Declaration on the Protection of the Avenue from Uherské Hradiště, which Arnika initiated.
We also helped to protect trees and avenues in specific places: Křižanov, Prague, and Ždírec.

During the summer, photographers and tourists were able to nominate their favourite avenue for the traditional **Avenue of the Year 2013 survey**. There were 61 nominations and the winner was an avenue in South Moravia which links Jedovnice and Lažánky, with more than 21% of the votes. It was nominated by Mr. Jiří Židů.

A tradition that goes beyond the history of Arnika is the **mowing of meadows along the Leipzig hill**. What is known as the Bořena Team set out to botanically valuable sites in 2013 as well. This clay in the mosaic of Arnika’s activities appeared as long as thirty-three years ago. Its founders have changed over the years, but because of their work on the slopes of the hills, vulnerable plants are still growing.

Arnika wants, of course, to be a good neighbour in the immediate vicinity of its seat in Prague 3. That is why in 2013 there were two new innovations for the local community in Žižkov. The first one is a **perennial bed**, which newly decorates the intersection of Jesenius and Rokycany Streets. Since October 7th, people have also been able to use a **community-based composter** that serves in particular the neighbourhood of the New Troika Community and Family Centre.
Thanks to people like you, we can continue to work for a healthy environment. Your support, both verbal and financial, benefits us, motivates us, and is also a commitment to not stopping.

I appreciate your work; there are not many people who would stand up to the deliberate behaviour of the authorities, which are not acting in favour of the environment for citizens, but often only for their own good.

Daniela Zástěrová, OS Čakovice

I cheer you up.

Olga Sommerová, Prague

I decided to send a gift to Arnika, because what you do is something I consider to be extremely important for our society, both in fact and in symbolic terms. I expect you will be as great as ever and engage in both high politics and local affairs, and expand awareness and arguments to people whose landscape, natural environment, and sustainable development are important to them.

Petr Mores, Uherské Hradiště

I am proud that Arnika helps Belarusian non-profit organizations with the liquidation of the ecological burden there.

Mirek Ottomanský, Prague

Just thanks to your website, I started to watch the air quality daily. We value your work very much. It is only thanks to you that the design of the incinerator at Karviná was not successful. I work as a general practitioner, and I can see what bad air causes through my patients.

MUDr. Marcel Milerski, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm

The urban plan, the human dimension of city development, and the creative approach to solving social problems, together with Arnika's perseverance and the ability to gain credit in the sphere of civil society and keep it, are the reasons why I support Arnika.

Hana Pohořelá, Prague

I very much appreciate all those who are devoted to protecting the environment; it's wise. I am very proud of you and I wish you a lot of success and thank you for what you are doing.

Martin Dobrovolný, Jihlava
We thanks to

For help, support, and cooperation we owe thanks to:

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Donors


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... and hundreds of individual donors. Thank you; without you the list of our successes would be much shorter!
According to its statute, Arnika has set up three programs that have their own legal personality and thematic scope. All programs 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 of 6 November 2007.

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Arnika, voluntary organization (founded in 2001; registered association since 01. 01. 2014)

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Arnika’s leading organ is a members’ meeting, which takes place once a year. In the period between members’ meetings, Arnika’s activity is governed by an executive board with five members. In 2013, they were Jindřich Petrlík (Chairman), Martin Skalský, Jana Vitnerová, Vendula Krčmářová, and Jan Kotrbáček.
Arnika is a member of, among others, the Earth Circle and the STEP, EEB, IPEN, and GAIA networks. We are talking about 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 Bank)
Arnika managed to protect the environment and change things for the better, and not only during the trials and campaigns in the year 2013. Help us and support our work. We are among the last organizations in the Czech Republic that are not afraid to stand up in opposition to the senseless devastation of our natural environment. Thank you.

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