2018 Annual report Czech Union for Nature Conservation Veronica





Annual Report of The Local Chapter of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation Veronica for the Year 2018

About Veronica

Veronica was established in 1986 as a regional magazine aimed at connecting culture and nature conservation and disseminating environmental education in a cultivated way. The activities of the Eco-Counselling Centre and Veronica Ecological Centre after October 1989 became the base for Ecological Institute Veronica (EIV) in 1999 as a professional workplace of ZO ČSOP Veronica (Local Chapter of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation).

EIV is an expert and educational institution offering the interpretation of professional environmental topics. Its activity is based in Brno and Hostětín and gives attention to both urban and country environment. We have worked with a wide range of subjects, with our local details as well as with many international issues, from Hostětín to Europe, from practical care of nature to works of art.

The main mission is to support environment-friendly relationship with nature, landscape, and their natural and cultural values.



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I. Our Achievements in 2018

- Our children's **Water Drop Trail** got the main prize for the contribution to the development of EVVO in the Zlín Region in the category EVVO project implemented in the Zlín region (2018, Year XVIII)
- Climate competition CO₂ League was successful again. It was attended by 60 schools from all over the country and the final conference was spectacular in the premises of the Prague Senate. The contest was also among the finalists of the Energy Globe we finished second.
- Maze in Nature unique terrain quiz on the topic of Water was established in Hostětín.
- We extended our offer for schools for **EcoGame** a structured simulation game in which the students become employees of the Research Institute of the Village of Future and attempt to develop sustainable way of living, water and energy management.
- We continue to work closely with **groups of disabled people**. We organized two camps for children diagnosed with SMA (spinal muscular atrophy) and muscular dystrophy as well as programs for the blind and partially sighted.
- Veronica coordinated the **Earth Hour** global happening as a support of climate protection for the tenth time in the Czech Republic.
- We have installed several **wireless sensors** for temperature, humidity and CO₂ concentration with the help of partnership with the Czech company Hardwario. We **visualize** real-time data with the open Grafana software.
- In 2018 our **website** had 794 000 views; 272 000 of page views were answered queries of Ecocounselling Centre.
- Veronica's educational activity is very varied. We organized 11 one-day and 14 multi-day educational events, 11 awareness-raising events and practical workshops, 8 stay events, 12 trips and excursions to interesting places and 17 field trips in Brno and Hostětín last year. We organized 11 eco stays and 52 one day educational programs for schools. We inspired more than 6000 people.



II. Climate Protection and Effective Use of Energy

The starting point of our programme is to protect global climate by reducing greenhouse emissions, especially CO₂. We support alternatives which eliminate burning of fossil fuels and contribute towards an effective use of energy. We provide education and disseminate information, but we also put theory into practice. Passive buildings and ecological architecture are specific for us. We focus on regional level work, elaborate the concept of energy self-sufficient territory. Our experience from model ecological projects in Hostětín has been used in cities. We publish and comment on the translations of the lastest documents about climate protection at www.veronica.cz/klima/. Veronica is a member of Czech Climate Coalition (www.zmenaklimatu.cz). www.veronica.cz/energie | www.veronica.cz/klima | www.hodinazeme.cz



Climatic demonstrations at Apple Festival - biochar production, photovoltaics, insulation, etc.

Climate Year 2018

We deal with climate protection in Veronica for more than 30 years. We monitored with worries inauspicious development and a growing gap between scientific knowledge and the response of society and its leaders. We tried our best to educate and disseminate information.

An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report came in October after a deadly hot and dry summer. The report has shown with unprecedented urgency that the rise in global temperature must not exceed 1,5°C otherwise the effects of climate change will be unmanageable. It has become clear that a new era of fighting the global warming is coming. Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels have to be stopped very quickly.

This harsh scientific report headed to the **World Climate Summit COP 24 to Katowice** – to the hands of politicians and negotiators. After years, this event was attended by one of us, Petr Ajs Kucka (last time our representatives attended the event was in Copenhagen in 2009). We had the opportunity to get to know almost instantly what rousing lectures were going to be discussed there by world's leading scientists who are losing hope that humanity will be able to respond adequately.

And then we saw Greta. Swedish student Greta Thunberg that has been able to wake the world community up. We believe that on time. Her protest against doing nothing has been backed by scientists and her peers – high school students from all around the world – who reacted unexpectedly. There are new groups emerging all the time and their goal is the fundamental reduction in emissions. In June 2019, while we are finalizing this annual report, the climate crisis is an openly discussed topic already. Even in Veronica we are determined to put all our efforts in climate protection and to keep up.



An example of island photovoltaics at Apple Festival

CO₂ League – Year-Round School Competition on Climate Change

8th **annual competition** CO₂ League (*www.co2liga.cz*) had been taking place since October 2017. There were **60 schools from all over the country**. Competition teams tackled climate change challenges: dealing with mitigation and adaptation, discussing water, transport, food, and energy consumption. They got to know the concept of resilience and focused on the effects of climate change in a place where they live. They formed a simplified vulnerability analysis. In each of these topics, pupils and students fulfilled number of practical tasks, explored connections, calculated savings, filmed videos, advertisements, organized polls, communicated their findings to classmates and the public. They also participated in the Earth Hour campaign.

The best teams participated in the **final conference** that was held in the ceremonial **premises of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic under the auspices of the Minister of Environment – Richard Brabec** in June.



Announcement of CO_2 League winners in the Senate

We educate on climate protection and energy efficiency

The Rural Landscape Summer School of Nature and Landscape Conservation, a five-day educational event, was held in Hostětín and presented the topic of climate change in a broader perspective through the eyes of 10 lecturers. It included issues related to climate change resilience - building, food, water, energy, with a focus on local solutions. It also included a field trip to see examples of a good practice and a **mobile exhibition** containing functional equipment to demonstrate energy self-sufficiency. The exhibition was open to the public in Hostětín throughout September. The ongoing counselling was also provided on climate change mitigation in family and apartment buildings and their surroundings, as well as those that are aimed towards climate change adaptation.

In November, a weekend workshop called the Smart Houses was held in Hostětín and was aimed at a topic of energy-efficient construction and passive houses. In addition to the general benefits of building in a passive standard, the topic of using smart technologies for energy management of buildings had been included as well as the use of photovoltaic panels in family houses, including detailed information on island operation, battery appliances, etc. Another topic was the durability of buildings in a passive standard against summer heat. The workshop was organized on the International Passive Houses Day, which supported its publicity.

In December 2018 a successful **seminar for self-government**, public administration, members of the National Network of Healthy Cities called **Municipalities**, **Climate Change and Carbon Footprint** took place in Brno. We presented the latest climatic knowledge in connection with the municipalities and their carbon footprint. The Vulnerability Analysis Tool, that was already mentioned before, was also introduced. It was attended by representatives from more than twenty municipalities not only from Moravia, but also from Bohemia and Slovakia.



Climate protection education

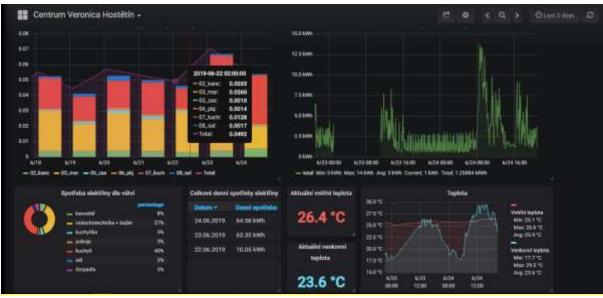
The Concept of Resilience in Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change

In 2018, we analysed climate change **Vulnerability analysis** in **five cities** (Opava, Uherský Brod, Valašské Klobouky, Kopřivnice, city district Brno-Jundrov). A meeting with stakeholders in cooperation with the facilitator in the individual locations took place under the leadership of an expert (Ing. Jiří Christ). Vulnerability and magnitude of individual threats were assessed in a participative way using local knowledge and existing expert material. Municipalities obtained vulnerability analyses. The protocol included a **matrix of threat prioritization** in the area, usable in other strategic materials of the municipality. A summary report was prepared on the vulnerability analyses. The methodology was further introduced to other municipalities, especially in the South Moravian and Zlín Regions.

Measuring and Visualizing

We are building a new modular control system for our passive building in Hostětín. We have installed several wireless sensors to monitor the temperature, humidity and CO₂ concentration thanks to the

partnership with the Czech company Hardwario. We visualize real-time data with the open Grafan software.



Sample data visualization system

Educational activities were carried out as part of the project From Vulnerability to Resilience co-financed by the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic based on the decision of the Minister of Environment. www.sfzp.cz, www.mzp.cz



Ministerstvo životního prostředí

Earth Hour

For the tenth time we coordinated Czech part of **world event as a support of climate protection** – **Earth Hour** (*www.hodinazeme.cz*), that took place on 24th of March 2018. Smaller municipalities switched off the public lighting for an hour, the larger cities switched off the lighting on some significant landmarks. A total of **113 municipalities, including 16 out of 26 statutory cities,** participated in the Czech Republic. Monuments like Petrin Tower, Brno's Špilberk Castle or Pilsen's St. Batholomew Cathedral, that is the highest church tower in the Czech Republic, switched off for an hour. In addition, many municipalities have voluntarily imposed different climate commitments. Almost one hundred companies joined the event and hundreds of individuals supported the Earth Hour with their climate commitment.

Cooperation in Climate Coalition

Climate Coalition (KliK) (*www.zmenaklimatu.cz*) is a platform of Czech non-profit organizations, that are aimed especially in protection of environment and cooperation for development and humanitarian assistance. In 2018, there was no coordinator in the Climate Coalition. We participated, as on of the organizations, on its operation, convening a members' meeting, searching for a coordinator and resources, in addition to commenting on both global land local climate events.

Straw Bale Houses Database

We run a unique map and directory of straw bale houses from all over the Czech Republic on website **www.veronica.cz/databaze-slamenych-domu.** These are examples of new buildings as well as renovations that use straw bales for their insulation. The database serves as a source of inspiration for those interested in natural building, with detailed information about each house (description of the house, photographs from the course of construction, type of construction, names of architects and designers, etc.).

In total, there are 81 houses in the directory and **17 new houses** were added in 2018.

III. Nature and Landscape Conservation

Nature and landscape conservation is a term of wide comprehension that not only includes terrain work, but also environment-friendly landscape management with an effort to minimize the impact of consumption on ecosystems. EIV pursues nature conservation on both **conceptual and practical levels**. Being one of the local chapters of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation, we are also concerned with the **activities of its central organs**.

www.veronica.cz/ochranaprirody | www.veronica.cz/prirodnizahrady



Thousands of people in Europe have joined the principle of natural gardens. From 2009 to 2018, we have awarded 179 Natural Garden plaques in South Moravian and Zlínský regions and almost 80 plaques in other regions. As a part of our ongoing activities, we support sustainable small-scale gardening, transferring experience, showing good practice examples, educating and certification of natural gardens.

In 2018, we certified 5 gardens, including 1 school garden. Gardens are continuously recorded on **Ecomap** of the Ecological Institute Veronica *www.veronica.cz/ekomapa* and newly also on the **Map of Natural Gardens** *www.veronica.cz/mapa-prirodnich-zahrad*.

Hostětín hosted a traditional **Garden Party** in June, accompanied by an excursion and counselling. Both adults and children enjoyed the event. We cooperate with SONS – Czech Blind United – so the visitors had the opportunity to try out a café in the dark or listen to blind musicians. 400 visitors were present.

Throughout the year there were guided **tours through the sample natural garden of the Veronica Centre**, where we also pass on our experience and motivate visitors to more natural ways of farming. Great excursions took place at the Garden Party and Apple Festival. One day at the Summer School in Hostětín was also dedicated to the garden.



Natural Garden Excursion

In November we organized an **excursion** to **natural gardens in Brno** - Ořešín. Participants visited three certified natural gardens: roZPUSTILÁ Garden from Hanka Rejmanová, Ořešín's Tschurbes by Vlašínovi and sample garden U Pazderků.

There were also **two public lectures and discussions** on the topics of natural gardening in the Brno House of Nature Conservation - How to Water in the Garden and Natural Gardener Looking forward to Spring.

We continuously provide **expert advice** on natural gardens. A total of 46 inquiries were answered electronically or via phone in Brno and Hostětín during the period.



Nature Conservation Management

As part of the maintenance of the site "V olší", k.ú. Hostětín, we carried out repeated interventions – removal of airborne trees and weed on the area of 0,2 hectares of flowery meadows in the forest with the historical occurrence of orchids (orchidaceae), especially western marsh orchid. We also involved children from House of Children and Youth Pastelka Uherský Ostroh in the maintenance of the site. Children were named the Protectors of the White Carpathian Nature on this occasion. We will continue the proposed maintenance in the upcoming years.



Children from DDM Pastelka

Brno Tree of the Year

We organized **the 17**th **annual Brno Tree of the Year survey** to support and increase the interest in urban greenery. The jury selected six finalists, among whom the public voted on the website, facebook and via ballots in the Brno House of Nature Conservation.

The 50-years-old Douglas fir, which grows in the garden colony at Kraví hora, **won** by a few dozen of votes. The tree was planted by Mr. Jan Toth in the spring of 1968 as a "tree of liberty" and recalls not only the birth of his daughter and the rental of the garden, but also the political spring that promised to get rid of the dictatorship. Many people came to celebrate, and the ceremonial announcement took place directly under the winning tree and was accompanied by the dulcimer music Veronica. The deputy mayor of Brno-center Jasna Flamiková spoke about the importance of greenery in the urban environment.

Theatre about Nature Protection

The Verdis theatre ensemble, operating at the ČSOP Veronica, rehearsed and played drama **Inspector Colleno or a Detective Drama behind the Scenes of ČIŽP** in March 2018. After the show there was a good mood supported (as usual) by auction, dulcimer and "žraut" (food). The play was produced by the Seventh Generation Magazine with the support of the Veronica Foundation.

IV. Veronica Ecological Centre Hostětín

The mission of the Veronica Ecological Centre Hostětín is to show, with the use of practical examples, realized projects and the results of their monitoring, that our relationship to nature, local resources and traditions as well as their considerate management can protect the environment and global climate, economically sstabilize the countryside and help to tackle unemployment even in relatively remote areas. **www.hostetin.veronica.cz**



Activity: Hand pressing of must in Hostětín

Excursions, Educational Stays, Lectured Tours to the Countryside, Campaigns, Practical Workshops

We prepared several educational events for more than 5,800 visitors.

excursions to Hostětín's model ecological projects

17

9	one-day seminars
14	multi-day training events (eg 4 fruit seminars, water management seminar, smart home seminar, The Rural Landscape Summer School of Nature and Landscape Conservation)

- 10 educational events and practical workshops (6th Garden Party, 17th Apple Festival, basket knitting course, Christmas baking, herbal workshops etc.)
- 8 residential events for parents with children and other target groups
- 10 thematic walks to see the snakes of the White Carpathians, excursions with crayfish observation in the local creek, walks on the path Naokolo Hostětín and to the landscape of Moravské Kopanice to Žítková

The event was visited by representatives of municipalities and officials, experts from companies and non-profit organizations, teachers and the general public, including parents with children.

As members of Líska we participate in **awareness-raising campaigns** such as Birds, live here with us; Trees; Fair Trade and Natural Garden Campaigns, which we are the regional guarantor of.

In addition to the standard offer, we have prepared **tailor-made education**. The Center also served as a base for field practice and workshops for many universities, trainings for companies and other institutions.



Gazebo for teaching in the natural garden

Sustainable Tourism

Veronica Ecological Centre Hostětín is an important factor in the field of sustainable tourism. It is because of its activities that lead people to experience nature and also the type of accommodation – eco-guesthouse meets the demanding requirements for the **environment-friendly services**.

It offers many outdoor activities for its guests. It offers the Naokolo Hostětín trail, a walk in the Sculptures in the nature, a stay in the natural garden, tours and many self-service activities.



Statue of Adam and Eve – and the pupils during the educational program

Self-service activities and programs

Self-service activities are designed for individual visitors. They will lead them through Hostětín and its surroundings. It will enable them to discover the beauties of the surrounding landscape and the history of this region through interesting tasks and quizzes from worksheets that can be downloaded from website: *www.hostetin.veronica.cz/samoobsluzne-aktivity*

The following activities are currently available:

- Švihácká hledačka
- Hledačka Živ-li's with Elements
- Apple Trees
- Research Trail
- Walk through the Natural Garden
- Maze in Nature



Interactive element in natural garden – wooden xylophone

Maze - A New Thematic Off-Road Quiz Where You Can Get Lost

The offer of self-service and lectured activities has been enriched with the **Maze in Nature**, which we have created as part of a project led by the Tradition of Bílé Karpaty. Game description is on: *www.hostetin.veronica.cz/bludiste*

It is a unique **adventure game** on the theme of Water in the Landscape, which is open free to children, youth and the general public all year round. Eight stations and answers to questions that are hidden in the woods will draw participants to the topic of water management, its conservation and quality in a playful way.

They return to direct contact with nature, learn to read and understand it, restore the natural sense of discovering and navigating in the field. They will try to flush the toilet with rain water, take off their shoes and find out the water quality in the stream, follow the raindrops or crayfish in the wild. They will also find out where drinking water in their tap is coming from, how much water and money they can save when they will use rainwater instead of drinking water – and everything they need for that.

The maze was created by experts from all over the Czech Republic. It is suitable for individuals, families, school and work teams. The game is available in two modules: self-service or moderated as educational programs as well as orienteering.

The project was supported in the grant proceedings of the Ministry of Environment and does not have to express opinions of the MoE.

Ministerstvo životního prostředí

Centre Veronica – a place to meet

The premises of our center are not only used by us or external organizations, but our hall has also been used by 9 not only local families (celebrations, christenings, trachts). Several events were organized by regional organizations, associations and companies – there were a **children's carnival and a Hostětín's ball**. We also organize regular meetings with the citizens of Hostětín and our supporters on Christmas and Easter and during the annual opening of the **Naokolo Hostětín educational trail**.



Ball of Hostětín's association Hokus in the Centre hall and dance performance



Christmas meeting of Veronica and people from Hostětín

V. Programs for Schools

One of the main pillars of educational activities at the Veronica Ecological Centre is also aimed at children and youth. There is a **wide range of environmentally oriented educational programs** prepared for schools - both **one-day and multi-day programs**. They are dedicated to learning about nature and landscape, crafts and sustainable development. The programs are based on the unique environment of the ecological village of Hostětín and its natural surroundings - the landscape of the White Carpathians.

http://hostetin.veronica.cz/skoly

One-day Environmentally Oriented Educational Programs

In 2018 we were visited by 485 pupils from 18 kindergartens, 906 pupils from 26 elementary schools and 255 students from 8 secondary schools from all over the country (predominantly Zlín Region).

We organized a total **of 52 one-day environmentally oriented programs** throughout the year. The greatest interest among the schools is in programs presenting **Hostětín's environmental projects** (If a Thousand Hostětíns, Magic Hostětín, EcoGame). The programs organized throughout the year in the **natural garden and orchard** are also very popular (Live Garden, Herb Garden, I drink musts, and you?, Live and Dead Water). We use the unique **landscape** around the Veronica Ecological Centre on popular field educational programs (The Forest of Fragrances, Colors and Sounds, White Carpathian Treasures) and we also offer programs related to **crafts and traditions** (Our Ancestors Crafts, Christmas Magic, Easter Celebration).



Educational program for schools

Residential Environmental Programs for Schools

Near and far schools are increasingly using our range of environmentally oriented residential programs. In 2018, we prepared **11 residental programs** (3 - 5 days) for pupils and students from kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. Schools from many corners of the country have the opportunity to spend time in nature in the unique environment of the Veronica Ecological Centre.

We offer educational residential programs for the youngest pupils (kindergarten and primary school) to familiarize themselves with **natural events** that are taking place in nature during every season. For older primary school pupils, we offer a residential program with elements of **research-oriented teaching**, in which they detect the principles of passive house operation, use of solar energy or try to evaluate the quality of water in the stream. For the oldest students from elementary and secondary schools, there is a **field program about the landscape** that we organize in cooperation with the employees of the Management of the CHKO White Carpathians. The program is aimed at understanding of the historical development and the current state of the landscape. Students can also try how they can influence its state in real life in a simulation game.



Research in the stream

Hostětín's Eco-Game or a Great Journey through Environmentally Friendly Life - new

In 2018 we created a new educational program - **EcoGame**. It is a **structured simulation game** in which pupils become workers of the Village Research Institute, who seek to develop a sustainable way of living, managing water and energy. There is not much time, it is therefore necessary to follow simple environmental measures in everyday life, which will provide enough time for research, information analysis and development. Can they handle it? Thanks to a good cooperation in team probably yes. And after the development finishes, they will be able to present their projects as part of a real

excursion. At the end, the pupils receive a workbook of **eco-challenges** that they can do at home or at school because the best time to start is now.



Educational program in the natural garden

The creation of the program was supported in the grant proceedings of the Ministry of Environment and does not have to express opinions of the Ministry of Environment.

Ministerstvo životního prostředí



Research in the natural garden

VI. Cooperation with People with Disabilities

We have been **through four years of the work on the topic of environmental education and training for people with disabilities**. During this time, we investigated the **needs of people with various medical restrictions** and their otpions when visiting the White Carpathians region.

In cooperation with the CHKO White Carpathians Administration we have created the **White Carpathian** Interpretation Plan for Disabled People, which serves as a basis for creating programs for these target groups. We have partially adjusted the premises of the Veronica Ecological Centre for people with disabilities (we added labels in Braille and guiding lines and we have equipped one room with a special positioning bed and a hoist with a curtain with the financial support of the Charta 77 Foundation and Kouzelná přání z. s.) and we have **created a** range of short-term and long-term EVVO programs for people with different types of medical restrictions.



Camp for children with SMA diagnosis

In 2018, we worked with visually impaired, disabled and elderly people. We organized **two rounds of relief psychorehabilitation camps** for children with SMA diagnosis – spinal muscular atrophy and muscular dystrophy, camp for children with multiple disabilities from association Domov pro mne, z. s. and residential programs and seminars for clients of the Czech Blind United (SONS) from Zlín, Vsetín, Uherské Hradiště and Kroměříž. There was also an educational program for Diaconia Vsetín.

In 2018, we have established and deepened cooperation with selected NGOs, regional and publicbenefit organizations operating in the health and social sectors and trained their staff. We updated White Carpathian Interpretation Plan for Disabled People, prepared a methodology for one-day and residential environmental programs for the visually and physically disabled people and elderly people and we implemented specialized EVVO programs.



Camp for children with SMA diagnosis



Camp for children with SMA diagnosis

We have trained the employees of the Czech Blind United (SONS ČR – branches in Zlín region) in the fundamentals of **environmental education and ecological operation of institutions** and had provided them with examples of good practice. In June, SONS participated in the organization of the educational event Garden Party, where we presented our activities and joint activities and created a program not only for the blind and partially sighted, but we also allowed the seeing people to try compensatory aids

and motion without using their sight. In autumn, the National Council SONS ČR was held at the Veronica Ecological Centre Hostětín and participants were also introduced to our activities.

We presented our activities at the **2nd Meeting of Friends of the Garden Therapy in Brno** that was organized by Lipka – a school facility for environmental education in Brno.

The project "Interpretation of the Natural Heritage of the White Carpathians for the Physically Disabled" was supported in the grant proceedings of the Ministry of Environment and does not have to express opinions of the Ministry of Environment.

Ministerstvo životního prostředí

VII. Eco-Counselling Centre

Our aim is a preventive protection of the environment. We offer advice, analyses and long-term consultations. Counselling centre is available via phone, email or our website. A large library and a study room are available to visitors. Specialized eco-counselling is also provided at our Hostětín workplace. The eco-counselling centre meets the dtandards of the Czech Eco-Counselling Network (STEP) and has a share in the management of this unifying organization.

www.veronica.cz/poradna



Semínkovna in Hostětín

During the whole year eco-counselling centre was open to public thanks to the Green Phone of the City of Brno (Zelený telefon města Brna) and the support of different smaller donors as well as individuals. It was always guaranteed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Clients are most interested in our Q&A section of our website. The eco-counselling centre answers questions on personal consultations, over the phone as well as inquiries submitted via web form and email.

Eco-counselling website was very busy in 2018 – **272 000 people** found the answers to their questions there. There was a total of 401 asnwers to the most frequently asked questions that eco-counselling centre receives. The most popular question deals with ecological cleaning and washing: "What's the difference between baking and washing soda?", that has more than 17 000 views.

During 2018 we added 6 more answered questions on the website. New answers are to these questions: Is a deer soap organic? Where to give the old books? Is reusing PET bottles for drinking water harmful? Is cellophane an ecological packaging and how to treat it as a waste? How to prevent projected public lightning that shines too much? Can anyone legally breed predatory birds tied to a chain?

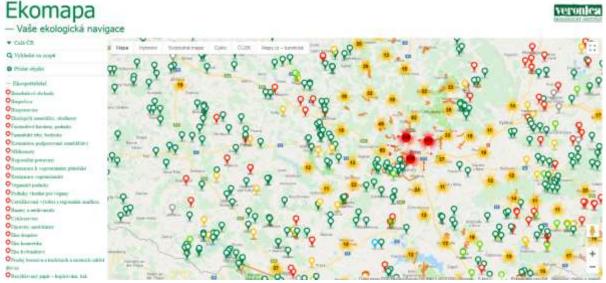
In 2018 we answered 416 registred queries. Most clients contacted the sevice via the web form (166), in person during business hours (99), via phone (87) and via e-mail (53). The most popular categories in 2018 were waste management, eco household, eco gardens and animals; followed by the topic of wells, greenery and felling of trees, ecological building and energy saving.

Торіс	Inquiries	Percentage
waste	90	22
household, eco-consumer, labelling	54	13
gardens, natural included	46	11
animals	43	10
wells	40	10
greenery, felling	33	8
water, washing, cleaning	29	7
energetics, building, climate	23	6
nature conservation, land trust, environment in general	22	5
agriculture, fruit growing	10	2
air, noise, light pollution	9	2
transport, cycling, tourism	5	1
others	12	3
Total	416	100

Inquiry Profile

Eco-map

Counselling Centre develop, update and use unique information tool – online eco-map that is available on address *www.ekomapa.org*. In more than 40 categories within topics – eco-consumerism, waste management, nature, buildings, institutions and the others, there are **more than 4800 interesting and** *important entries* from all over the Czech Republic. South Moravian and Zlínský regions are covered the most. The newest entries are in wells and nature gardens categories. The entries are inserted by employees from Ecological Institute Veronica, volunteers, interns and users themselves.



Eco-map

Well and Spring Counselling Centre

During the whole 2018, well counselling was running regularly every Monday. The most common interest was the quality of water of several wells, springs or boreholes. A few dozen questions were answered in counselling centre via phone in 2018 as well as via email. Counselling Centre conducted more than 100 (partially) free chemical analyses of water quality during the year and answered another 40 thematic inquiries.

More than 1200 wells and springs in the Czech Republic with the information about water quality is currently recorded in Well map *www.veronica.cz/mapa-studanek* as well as Eco-map (*www.ekomapa.org*). During 2018, 401 new wells were added, and 370 entries were updated. Information are regularly updated. According to questions and inquiries in eco-counselling centre, the records about nitrates and organic water pollution were clarified. Brno's wells were checked regularly in person. Their condition and water quality were checked.

A field trip to the wells around Brno took place in April. Well Counselling Centre was on radio programs on the Český rozhlas Brno (Czech Radio Brno) several times during the year.

Informing and Advising on the Website and Social Sites

In 2018 our webistes *www.veronica.cz, www.hostetin.veronica.cz* and *www.obchod.veronica.cz* and *www.umenivybirat.cz* had 794 000 views and 632 unique views; from which 272 000 views were on eco-counselling centre website in the Q&A section.

The most popular web pages were: Earth Hour (25 600 views), Query: What is the difference between baking and washing soda? (17 400), Eco Guesthouse in Hostětín (15 600), Query: Where to buy worms for the composter? (10 200), Well map (8 900), Family vacation and tourist experience in the White Carpathian – the land of the Žítková Goddesses (7 000), Christmas trees back to forest (6 600), Ecomap (6 500) and What to do with a wounded bird? (6 400).

We have more than 6700 followers on facebook *@eiveronica*, Centre Veronica page *@veronicahostetin* is followed by more than 2800 followers.

RozVerky - online e-mail newsletter - is sent to around 16 000 addresses approximately once in every three weeks.



Collaboration with the Network of Eco-Counselling Centres (STEP)

We participated in implementation of two projects focused on **alternative procedure for winter maintenance of sidewalks and roads, especially the exclusion of road salt**, in collaboration with the Network of Eco-Counselling Centres (STEP). We have prepared and published a methodology for public procurement called **"Winter maintenance of roads in municipalities. Procurment Methodology"**.

Two Veronica employees worked in the executive bodies of STEP. We participated in the organization and performance at the 2nd Year on the Conference on Environmental Education and Eco-Counselling, that took place in autumn in Brno.

VIII. Green Household, Green Institution, Green Company

Ecological Institute Veronica provides counselling services and shows practical examples in the realm of consumption reduction, change of consumers' behaviour, environment-friendly households, public institutions and companies. We provide the public with scientific knowledge and let people think independently about environmental context of consumers' behaviour. We ourselves follow the environment-friendly guidelines in the House of Nature Conservation in Brno and in the Veronica Ecological Centre Hostětín.

www.veronica.cz/nakupovani www.veronica.cz/zeleneuradovani www.umenivybirat.cz

Green Household

During the year, we updated consumer information and recommendations that are available to the readers on our website. Six responses to green household questions were added to the site during the year.

Environment-Friendly Operation of Institutions

Veronica acts as a consultancy organization in the field of ecological operation of institutions and helps them to implement so-called "green office". We work on topics very closely with Network of Eco-Counselling Centres STEP (see above).

In October 2018, a training about environment-friendly operation of institutions was held for the employees of Municipality Kopřivnice.



Education of employees of state administration and self-government administration

IX. Regional Development

Life is happening in a region or at a place. Sustainability and a happy life lie in the knowledge of the place in the sense of both "local heritage" (natural determinateness, local tradition, history, cultural uniqueness of the place) and "real functioning" (social aspects of environment-friendlier behaviour, possibilities of local businesses, real potential of municipalities and its use, legislative, local community involvement). The Ecological Institute Veronica disseminates environmental aspects of regional development with the respect for its contents as well as related procedural matters.

www.hostetin.veronica.cz/studie

Regional Brand Tradition of Bílé Karpaty (TBK)

We participate on activities of the civic association Tradition of Bílé Karpaty, a society supporting traditional agricultural and hand production and especially development of traditional fruit planting. The regional brand Tradice Bílých Karpat[®] (Tradition of White Carpathians) is a trademark for products and services from the unique White Carpathian region. **Two new regional brand holders were certified in 2018. The total number of the holders of the brand is 48.**

In 2018, new website was created, *www.vyrobkyzkraje.cz*. Interesting regional producers from all over the Zlín region are presented on this website. Their activities are divided by categories and anyone can easily search for "their" producer. Holders of all five regional brands in region are also presented in the catalogue.

www.tradicebk.cz| www.vyrobkyzkraje.cz



Market at Apple Festival in Hostětín

Apple Festival in Hostětín

Already 17th **year of traditional festival – celebrations of White Carpathians fruit growing** – presented to 1,500 people not only Hostětín musts and other products with the Tradition of Bílé Karpaty but also some crafts and their demonstration at the end of September.

The event is also devoted to ecological education (adults and children). The important part of festival is a fruit exhibition with with the tasting of old fruit varieties and counselling, excursion through natural garden and ecological projects, eco-counselling. A rich educational and entertainment program was prepared for children. Visitors could listen to the performances of folklore ensembles and several bands, taste Hostětín's apple cakes, biogoulashes, sour cabbage soup kyselica and vegetarian specialties. The festival was organized with the Tradition of the Bílé Karpaty Association, Moštárna Hostětín and the Hostětín Municipality. More than 100 volunteers helped with the organization.

During the celebration, we are very careful about the **environmental impact of the event**. People can read about ecological benefits or participate in eco-survey. All beverages at the event are served in returnable beverage cups, we try to ensure that all the waste is minimized and recycled.



www.jablecna-slavnost.cz

Organic Food Fair Brno

Organic Food Fair in Brno

27th year of the Organic Food Fair in Brno was held in the upper part of Zelný trh in October 2018. Organic fair have become a part of the whole year serie Markets on Zelňák – Events on Zelňák, thanks to cooperation with city district Brno-střed. Organic farmers offered organic vegetables, fruit, dairy and meat products, spreads, marmalades, wine, etc. on Organic Food Fair. There was a beautiful weather and event was attended by aproximately 1,500 visitors, 9 organic farmers and producers of certified organic food, 4 local producers of honest food without a certificate, 3 bistros or shops offering

refreshments and 2 non-profit organizations. There were several competitions and tasks prepared for children; adults could send a free greeting card with a theme of organic farming from Organic Food Fair or come for an advice about their garden to an eco-counselling centre.



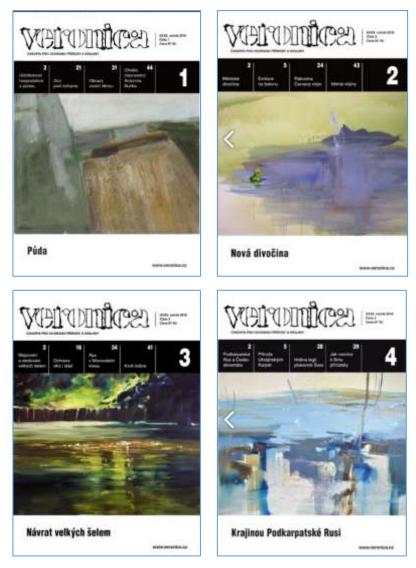
Organic Food Fair Brno

X. Veronica Magazine

The Veronica magazine for nature and landscape conservation is an environmentally oriented nationwide periodical. It keeps track of long-time trends as well as current nature and conservation issues. It strives to stimulate feelings and poetic perception of nature and landscape by involving literary and artistic elements. **www.casopis.veronica.cz**

In 2018, when Veronica Magazine have been published for 32 years, we introduced the following topics to readers:

- 1/2018 Soil
- 2/2018 New Wilderness
- 3/2018 The Return of Large Carnivorans
- 4/2018 The Landscape of Carpathian Ruthenia



Titulní stránky časopisu

Issue number 1 was dedicated to very important issue of soil, soil organisms, sustainable farming and threat to the soil by chemization and erosion. The expert guarantors of the topic were Ing. Jan Záhora and Dr. Ing. Milan Sáňka.

Issue number 2 was dedicated to an attractive topic of so-called new wilderness. Articles were dedicated to **nature in the city**, especially Brno theme was in the article by Jan Sychra dedicated to the unique and endangered reed at the Red Mill (Červený mlýn). The expert guarantor of the topic was Ing. Vilém Jurek who is a member of editorial board.

Issue number 3 was dedicated to the **return of large carnivorans to our nature** under the supervision of the guarantor of this issue Mgr. Tomáš Růžička. There are articles dedicated to lynxes, wolves and bears. The issue stands out for its excellent photographic accompaniment and unique illustrations by the painter Ludvík Kunc, who won the Josef Vavroušek Award in 2018.

Issue number 4 was dedicated to the **memory of one of the founders of Veronica, a long-time chairman of the ČSOP Veronica**, *doc. Ing. Antonína Buček*, who suddenly died at the beginning of the year. He left behind a great teaching and research work. Together with him, the issue recall Ing. Zdeněk Hrubý. Both of them dedicated their lives to the forestry research in Transcarpathia (among other

things). Individual articles in this issue deal with all sorts of aspects of the **landscape and nature in Transcarpathia**.

The intention was also to commemorate the centenary of the creation of Czechoslovakia. The guarantor of the issue was Mgr. Pavel Klvač.

All the issues were accompanied by regular sections – Interesting Facts from Nature, The Landscape of my Heart, Eco-counselling, Reviews, Activities of the ČSOP. All the issues also contain a serie dedicated to Trees of Freedom. The author of covers is Jan Spěváček.

Annotations of all the issues and some of the articles are accessible online to all on website of the magazine *www.casopisveronica.cz*. Subscribers have access to all the issues in the electronic archive.

XI. Cooperation and Connection

The Ecological Institute Veronica and its employees are involved in the leadership and activities of several NGOs and networks.

We worked in the Green Circle Council, the Central Executive Board of the ČSOP, the Executive committee of the Network of Eco-Counselling Centres (STEP). We participate in the activities of Ramsar Committee, The Tradition of Bílé Karpaty, z. s., Climate Coalition. We work in the program committee of the Local Action Group Bojkovsko and we actively participate in the work group of the project Creating a community plan in the ORP Luhačovice – area for disabled people and seniors.

We are members of the Network of Environmental Education Centers Pavučina z. s., Association of Environmental Education Centers in Zlín region – Líska, z. s., project Ekopobyt, which associates residential centers of environmental education from the whole country and the project Natural gardens without borders Czech Republic.

We also participate in the activites of the EVVO at the Ministry of Environment. We work in the Committee for Sustainable Municipalities of the Government Council for Sustainable Development and in the EU Council of the Government Council for NGOs and in the Monitoring Committee of the Integrated Regional Operational Program.



Residential program for schools - sharing wheel



Example of Veronica Centre activity at Apple Festival

XII. Financial Report

Overview of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2018

(Shortened Balance Sheet)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018 Amount in CZK Amount in EUR Fixed assets 27 686 192 1 076 237 Financial property 103 000 4 004 -13 329 086 Adjustment to acquired assets -518 137 Inventory 267 286 10 390 Financial investments (treasure, bank) 642 353 24 970 Receivables 1 873 180 72 816 Other assets – intermediate accounts 24 986 971 ASSETS TOTAL 17 267 911 671 250 Own capital 16 525 844 642 404 652 209 Short-term payables 25 353 Other liabilities - intermediate accounts 89 857 3 493 Profit / Loss from last years 0 0 Profit / Loss 2018 0 0 LIABILITIES TOTAL 17 267 911 671 250

Income Statement

The exchange rate of ČNB as of 31st of December 2018, 1 EUR = 25,725 Kč

	Amount in CZK	Amount in EUR
Material costs	1 083 643	42 124
Services	1 577 559	61 324
Printing	186 595	7 253
Wage costs, including social and health insurance	3 704 632	144 009
Taxes and charges	5 193	202
Depreciations	892 115	34 679
Membership fees	33 299	1 294
TOTAL COSTS	7 483 036	290 886

FOUNDATION GRANTS FROM LEGAL ENTITIES AND NATURAL PERSONS DONATIONS:			
Veronica Foundation – foundation grants 33 158 12			
Domácí anděl Endowment Fund	20 000	777	
Život dětem, o.p.s.	223 500	8 688	
Advokáti Endowment Fund	10 000	389	
Nano Green s.r.o.	5 000	194	
Naše Dítě Foundation	144 000	5 598	
Charta 77 Foundation	20 000	777	
Kouzelná přání z.s.	19 796	770	

PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	0	0
		230 880
REVENUES TOTAL	7 483 035	290 886
Other revenues	20 012	778
Revenues from stake in Moštárna s.r.o.	74 970	2 914
Utilization of Loss Funds	308 168	11 979
Utilization of Funds Assets Acquired from Subsidies	994 399	38 655
OTHERS:		
Other services	1 042 346	40 519
(food, accommodation, lease, trips)	2 428 613	94 407
Revenues from services in Veronica Centre Hostětín		
printed materials and goods	393 531	15 298
Revenues from sale of Veronica magazine and other		
Subsidies noin state budget of the czech republic – Employment Dpt.	102 555	0.511
Subsidies from state budget of the Czech Republic – Employment Dpt.	162 355	6 311
Subsidies fom SFŽP	760 339	29 556
Subsidies fom Brno City	123 000	4 781
Subsidies from state budget	396 756	15 423
SUBSIDIES RECEIVED:		
Membership fees	8 000	311
Donations of individual donors	263 973	10 261
Proceeds of public collection	31 120	1 210

We are not legally obliged to audit accounts, our accounting has been reviewed and the entire financial statements, including annexes and audit reports, are available at our headquarters.

Overview of subsidies received in 2018

State budget

Amount (CZK)	Description	Provider	Operation / Investment
199 472	Decision no. 38/32/18 - Interpretation of the natural heritage of the White Carpathians for the physically disadvantaged	Ministry of Environment	Operation
197 284	Decision no. 39/32/18 - Hostětín EcoGame - a great journey through environmentally friendly life	Ministry of Environment	Operation

Territorial self-governing units

Amount (CZK)	Description	Provider	Operation / Investment
44 000	Contract. no. 4128092477 Veronica - Brno magazine	Statutory City of Brno	Operation
25 000	Contract. no. 4128092478 Greenery as an adaptation environment	Statutory City of Brno	Operation
39 000	Contract. no. 4128092479 Eco-map for Brno	Statutory City of Brno	Operation
15 000	Contract no. MCBS/2018/0157195/STRR - Improving the backyard behind the House of Nature Conservation	Statutory city of Brno, city district Brno-střed	Operation

State funds

Amount (CZK)	Description	Provider	Operation / Investment
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760 340	Contract. no. 01071662 "From Vulnerability to Resilience"(transfer from 2017 from total subsidy 1 537 882 CZK)	State Environmental Fund	Operation
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Others

Amount (CZK)	Description	Provider	Operation / Investment
		Employment	
162 355	Employee subsidies	Department Czech	Operation
		Republic	

Donations received

Donations received – individual donors	203 872,10 Kč
Donations received – individual donors of Veronica magazine	48 100,50 Kč
Donations from Veronica Foundation for the project "Urban Wilderness as a City Air Conditioning" (part from 50 000,- CZK, rest in 2019)	23 157,75 Kč
Donations from od Veronica Foundation for the project "Improving the Backyard Behind the Nature Conservation House"	10 000,00 Kč
Donations from Domácí anděl Endowment Fund – SMA disability camps	20 000,00 Kč
Donations from Život dětem o.p.s SMA disability camps	223 500,00 Kč
Donations from od Advokáti Endowment Fund – SMA disability camps	10 000,00 Kč
Donations from Nano Green s.r.o.	5 000,00 Kč
Donations from od Naše dítě Foundation – for Assistants for SMA disability	144 000,00 Kč
Donation - Zdeněk Pazdera	12 000,00 Kč
Donations from Charta 77 Foundation – payment for the hoist for disabled in CEVEHO	20 000,00 Kč
Donations from od Kouzelná přání z.s payment for the hoist for disabled in CEVEHO	19 796,00 Kč

XIII. Our people

We would like to thank to all our employees, external collaborators and volunteers of the Ecological Institute Veronica for successful year 2018. Thanks for all their work, commitment and determination to fulfil our mission.

Employees: Radka Batelková (since March 2018), Renata Bolečková (Head of Operations), Lucie Čáslavová (maternity leave), Kateřina Elefantová (maternity leave), Yvonna Gaillyová (Director), Markéta Honzová (Environmental Counselor), Kateřina Koželouhová Plesková (maternity leave), Marie Křiváková (Director of Centre For Sustainable Rural Development), Petr Ajs Kucka (Program Manager), Petr Ledvina (Head of Eco-Counselling Centre), Hana Machů (Head of Promotion), Lucie Mikolášková (Accountant), Rudolf Pecháček (Well Counselling), Šárka Polanská roz. Husková (Lecturer), Miroslav Procházka (Financial Manager), Ludmila Stašová (Guarantor of Environmental Education and Training), Eliška Suchanová (maternity leave), Lenka Šlahorová (Kitchen Team Leader), Alena Šuráňová (maternity leave), Kateřina Švachová (Lecturer), Jana Tesařová (maternity leave), Mojmír Vlašín (Zoologist, Ecologist).



Fair-Trade Breakfast

Long-term external collaborators and co-workers: Ladislav Čmel, Bohdana Fabiánová, Ivo Hažmuk, Jan Hollan, Radim Machů, Radim Měřička, Jan Pospíšil, Jiří Turek, Barbora Valešová.

External lecturers of educational programs for schools: Jitka Datinská, Kateřina Kohoutová, Bronislava Matúšů, Martina Poláchová, Lenka Supová, Alena Šuráňová.

External helpers in the Veronica Centre: Anežka Bolečková, Eliška Bolečková, Viola Harvancová, Marie Holbová, Světlana Jálová, Marie Machálková, Anna Spáčilová, Iveta Šebáková, Dana Šimčíková, Hana Šlahorová, Michaela Tokarčíková, Milena Zajíčková.

Editorial Board of Veronica Magazine: doc. Ing. Petr Čermák, Ph.D., Mgr. Bohdana Fabiánová (editor in chief), Ing. Michal Friedl, RNDr. Yvonna Gaillyová, CSc., Ing. Vilém Jurek, Mgr. Pavel Klvač (chairman), RNDr. Miroslav Kundrata, doc. Ing. Jan Lacina, CSc., (deputy chairman), RNDr. Olga Lepšová-Skácelová, Ph.D., Ing. Tomáš Rothröckl, Mgr. Tomáš Růžička, RNDr. Jana Růžičková, PhD., doc. PhDr. Václav Štěpánek, Ph.D., Ing. Jiří Turek (proofreading), Ing. David Veselý, Ing. Roman Zajíček

Honorary Members: †doc. Ing. Antonín Buček, CSc., Ing. Ivo Dostál, †doc. RNDr. Karel Hudec, DrSc., Ing. arch. Jarmila Kocourková, prof. PhDr. Libor Musil, CSc., RNDr. Jitka Pellantová, †Jan Steklík, RNDr. Mojmír Vlašín

Ecological Institute Veronica Council: Doc. Ing. Antonín Buček, CSc. († March 2018), RNDr. Naděžda Johanisová, Ph.D., Doc. Ing. Helena Králová, CSc., RNDr. Miroslav Kundrata (President of the Council EIV) ,Doc. Ing. Jan Lacina, CSc.

ZO ČSOP Veronica Committee: Doc. Ing. Antonín Buček, CSc. († March 2018), RNDr. Yvonna Gaillyová, CSc., Ing. Marie Křiváková, Mgr. Hana Machů, Ing. Zbyněk Ulčák, Ph.D., Revizorka: Lenka Kožnárková

XIV. Acknowledgement

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Around 100 of volunteers help us every year at the Apple Festival. Thanks especially to those who have been returning for many years:

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Other supporters:

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Thank you all for your support. Our work would not be possible without your help!



Budkovník in nature garden in Hostětín



Composting toilet in the natural garden



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Become a member of Veronica Friends Club and support our work! Thank you!



Vážení spolubydlící, (na Zemi jsme opravdu spolubydlící), také máte někdy pocit, že by bylo dobře podat pomocnou ruku přírodě, ke které se naši jiní spolubydlící nechovají zrovna nejlépe? Nejsem si sice úplně jistý, jestli o to příroda vůbec stojí, ale na druhou stranu nic tím pokazit nemůžeme. Ale pozor, nemám na mysli přírodu někde daleko a nedohlédnutelnou. Mám na mysli přírodu, kterou kamenem přehodíš, kterou oběhneš než bys řekl švec a kterou přehlédneš i s jedním okem zavřeným. Takovou, kterou důvěrně znáš tak, že si s ní tykáš. Pro nás takové vznikl, kde se vzal, tu se vzal, KLUB PŘATEL VERONICA. Je a asi to bude klub malý, možná střední, takový opravdu klubový, pro ty "co spolu mluvíme".

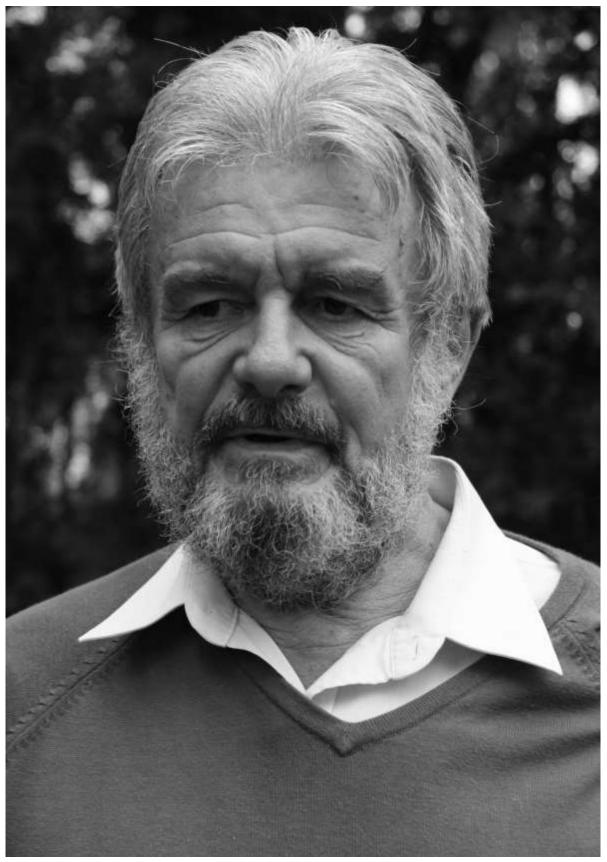
Já mám velikou nedůvěru k projektům zachraňujícím celou Zemi, vesmír a lidstvo nádavkem. Opravdu jsem velice nedůvěřívý, když takové projekty vyhlašují velké nadace a velké ekologické instituce. Takové začínají slavnostně a ryčně a končí prapodivně.

Mám rád VERONICU a nyní i její klub, protože je tak nějak akorát.

Tak hele, spolubydlící, přidáte se?

Zdraví Rostislav Pospišil, výtvarník

www.veronica.cz/klub



Thank you, Mr. Buček (1942 – March 2018).



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