

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Danube Day reinforced Czech people's identity with their Danube Rivers. It also strengthened international collaboration with Austrian and Slovak partners and highlighted habitats at risk from development. Organised by the Union for the Morava River, with Hnutí Duha / Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and the Morava River Basin Administration, the day united people in respect and understanding for the Danube and its tributaries.

An **excursion to Czech, Austrian and Slovak Morava river forests, meadows and wetlands** highlighted the value of areas that may be damaged by the proposed Danube-Oder-Elbe waterway. Participants visited some of the most beautiful locations in the region, including several NATURA 2000 sites, on a round trip from Břeclav to Hohenau, Marchegg, Bratislava, Děvínská Nová Ves, Malacky, Moravský Ján and Brodské.

The quest to find this year's young **Czech Danube Art Master** concluded with the award being presented to Eva Horáková and Hana Zemková, two students from the Uherské Hradiště Secondary School, for their imaginative piece: *River has flowing hair*. So impressed by the high standard of entries, the two Ministries, the Union for the Morava River, the Morava River Basin Administration, Veronica and the Czech Association of Nature Protectors each awarded prizes.

Danube Day Highlights:

- Excursion to Czech, Austrian and Slovak Morava River floodplain areas potentially damaged by the proposed Danube-Oder-Elbe waterway.
- High standard of entries in the *Danube Art Master* competition.

"I am grateful for such competitions because they show us ... a new dimension to the world: perception through the eyes, mind and creative hands of young people."

Jan Dušek, teacher of the 2005 Czech *Danube Art Master* competition winners from the Uherské Hradiště Secondary School.

Danube Day: more than just water!

Danube Day Partners:

Ministry of Environment • Ministry of Agriculture • Morava River Basin Administration • Union for the Morava River • Hnutí Duha / Friends of the Earth Czech Republic

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For general information view www.danubeday.org or email: jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org.