

ROMANIA

Once again, Danube Day in Romania was a magnificent affair, with a programme of events far too numerous to list. Engaging a huge audience, major events took place in Giurgiu and Galati with others in Tulcea, Braila, Turnu Severin, Oltenita, Constanta, Calarasi, Orsova, Turnu Magurele, Mehedinti, Gura Vaii, Dubova, Iasi, Buzias and Targu Mures. Organisers included the Ministry of Environment and Water Management, "Romanian Waters" National Administration, NGOs (such as Eco-Counselling Centre of Galati - ECCG), local authorities and key partner, Coca-Cola. The vast array of events included formal meetings, riverbank festivals, craft fairs, concerts, ship parades, river cruises, fishing contests, public awareness campaigns and schools competitions. Events stressed our shared responsibility to look after the Danube Rivers.

Giurgiu was the venue for an **Official Danube Day National Conference** organised by the Ministry of Environment and Water Management and "Romanian Waters" National Administration. 60 local and national authorities, civil representatives and experts gathered to review past and future initiatives, touching on issues such as the Trans-European Network, Water Framework Directive, Global Water Partnerships, heritage, protection and public-private partnerships.

Nearby at the Giurgiu Danube Harbours Administration, the citizens of Giurgiu enjoyed a fabulous **celebration of national and local Danube culture**. Enjoying the summer sun, visitors were treated to folk music, dancing and other traditional displays along the river bank. Delegates from the conference joined the celebrations with a cruise along the river.

This year's **Danube Art Master competition** was even bigger than in 2004 with 1000s of pupils, teachers and volunteers involved. Nine local NGOs, led by ECCG, worked together to coordinate the event in Mehedinti, Braila, Galati, Alba Iulia, Cluj, Pitesti Targu Mures, Turnu Magurele, Sibiu and Iasi. Suzana Zeca, 17, from Braila won the top prize at a national award ceremony at the Giurgiu conference.

Danube Day: more than just water!

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

Danube Day Highlights:

- 1000s involved in *Danube Art Master*. Display toured 6 cities along with ECGG poster exhibition: *Water: the Earth's most valuable treasure*.
- Special anniversary basin committee sessions.
- **Giurgiu:** national conference organized by the Ministry of Environment and Water Management and "Romanian Waters"; major summer festival; seminar on Danube pollution and NGOs; photo exhibition.
- **Galati:** 2500 citizens enjoy festivities; public campaign; fun water experiments; educational and art activities; museum and Danube trips for children; 15-day tour of the Siret rivers with children performing songs and dances about nature.
- **Braila:** Over 700 people attend seminars, beach clean-up and river cruise at the Natural Park.
- **Turnu Magurele:** *Days of the Danube* combined workshops and field trips plus programme for young people from 6 countries.
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority organised *Together for a Fresh Delta* and *A Chance for the Blue Danube* educational projects.
- Plus events in **Iasi, Mehedinti, Mures, Calarasi, Constanta, Orsova, Turnu Severin, Gura Vail** and **Dubova**.

"Each of us can work towards protecting the Danube ecosystem which sustains us... Public awareness regarding the protection of the Danube and its tributaries is essential..."

Sulfina Barbu, Minister of Environment and Water Management.

Danube Day Partners

Ministry of Environment and Water Management • "Romanian Waters" National Administration, various Water Directorates and Water Management Systems from Giurgiu, Galati and other counties • National Institute for Hydrology and Water Management • National Administration for Meteorology • River Basin Committees • Global Water Partnership Romania • DEF Romania • Eco-Counselling Centre Galati • Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Policy Bucharest • Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development • Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority • Coca-Cola Romania and Coca-Cola HBC Romania • County Councils of Giurgiu, Galati, Teleorman and other local authorities • Euro Teleorman

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Association • Youth Teleorman County Council • Teleorman School • Dutch Provinces Gelderland Si Overijsels • Eco School Catamarasti-Deal, Botosani • Museum of Natural Sciences • Eco Alpex • Aquaterra Ecological Society • "Eco Sud Vest" Society • Sun Valley Association • Jules Verne Hobby Club • Water House - AquaFil • Silvanus Environmental Association • AIESEC • Peace Corps Volunteers from Pitesti and Galati • Environmental Experts Association • Giurgiu, Galati, Braila, Iasi, Mehedinti, Mures and Teleorman Prefectures • Galati and Livezeni City Halls • Environmental Protection Agency Galati • Lower Danube Cultural Centre, Galati • County Inspectorate for Schools – Children Palace • Galati Harbour Administration • Danube Harbours Administration Giurgiu • Galati District Department for Sports and Youth • Romanian Maritime Ports Galati • "Heart of Child" Foundation Galati • Transylvania Economic College • Aurel Persu Secondary School • Tg. Mures Agriculture School • Solidarité Eau Europe • Luxembourg Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs.

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