

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia's Danube Day saw crowds of happy, waving children greeting their river and sending out messages of solidarity to all the peoples of Danube Day. With the vast majority of Slovak territory (96%) belonging to the Danube Basin, the **Danube Greetings** initiative proved a popular and poignant action. In Eastern Slovakia, Roma children from the Postarka Pastoral Centre sent greetings from the Topla River in Bardejov; Laborecka Primary School sent goodwill from the Laborec River in Humenne; pupils from Zelený Strom Primary gathered by the Slana in Roznava; and students from Velke Kapusany Secondary and Dneperska Primary, Kosice, floated symbolic greetings in bottles and paper boats on the Hornad. From the banks of the Hron in central Slovakia, students from Zvolen Secondary sent good wishes; as did the Lokca Primary School in Orava. In western Slovakia, children cheered on the banks of the Vah in Ladce. With greetings sent from across the country, the Global Water Partnership Slovakia-led initiative not only engaged children living close to the Danube but also those living near tiny tributaries far from the main channel.

Many of the greetings were read out at the **Danube Day celebrations in Bratislava**, Slovakia's main tribute to Danube Day. The event was organised by the Ministry of the Environment, state authorities, Global Water Partnership (GWP), Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) and other partners and attended by the Environment Minister, László Miklós. During a day full of watery activities, children played music along the banks of the river and took part in art competitions. Visitors enjoyed water monitoring experiments, photographic exhibitions, dance displays, discussions, marionette theatre and boat trips, as well as the finale of Slovakia's **Danube Art Master** contest.

Along with wild-water rafting at Čunovo and the IAD Austria-Slovak Danube cycle tour, Slovakia celebrated a great Danube day out.

Danube Day Highlights:

- Young and old enjoy a day of celebrations at the Leisure and Culture Park, Bratislava.
- Hundreds of school children send messages of goodwill.

Danube Day: more than just water!

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

- Open day at Čunovo wild-water rafting centre and the Gabčíkovo information centre.
- Slovak participants join Austrian and Hungarian cyclists in the IAD Danube cycle tour.

“We wish the Danube rivers clean water, variety of plants and animals and people who care for our beautiful European rivers.”

Slovak pupils from Dneperska Primary School, Kosice, send their message to the rest of the Danube Basin.

Danube Day Partners:

Ministry of the Environment • Slovak Environmental Agency • Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise Bratislava • Water Research Institute • Slovak Hydro-meteorological Institute • Vodohospodárska výstavba, state enterprise Bratislava • Municipality of Bratislava • Bratislava Old Town District • Bratislava Petržalka District • Bratislava Culture and Information Centre • Global Water Partnership Slovakia & Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe • International Association for Danube Research & International Association for Danube Research–Slovakia • IG-Fahrrad • Danube Environmental Forum • TJ Sokol • Coca-Cola Beverages Slovakia • NGO – Bratislavské Regionálne Ochránárske Združenie • Hájenka children´s folklore ensemble • Úsmev children´s choir • Up To Date children´s dance group • Bratislavské bábkové divadlo marionette theatre • Kirchner Landschaftsplanung • Enconet Consulting.

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