



## **CROATIA: CELEBRATING CULTURES, HISTORIES AND TRADITIONS**

Croatia's Danube Day was a day of fun and festivities – celebrating Danube cultures and the links between countries that make them all part of the big Danube family!

On June 29, ships sailed down the Danube from Vukovar to Ilok, a beautiful, picturesque Danube town at the easternmost edge of Croatia, on the border with Serbia. The ships helped symbolise the links between Croatia and the other Danube countries by taking part in the "Greeting the Danube" ships' horn blast at 2pm. Once in Ilok, visitors were treated to a rich cultural programme, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Hrvatske vode (Croatian Waters). A documentary film was screened for their enjoyment, "Cultural History of Slavonia", produced by the Ministry of Culture. There was an exhibition of beautiful and inspiring photographs, "Danube Motives", by the photographer Maja Pasarić. In addition, visitors were treated to traditional songs, Slavonian dances and tamburitza music by the Art Company of the city of Ilok, and entertained by the city's Majorettes. Everyone who participated was given Danube Day materials, posters and badges, to help spread the message even further.

In Baranja region, Green Osijek ecological association once again organised a fabulous day of festivities at the Zlatna Greda Eco Centre, near Kopacki rit Nature Park. Visitors celebrated the Danube and its cultures, while enjoying horse riding, carriage trips, boat rides, canoe trips, bicycling and forest hikes. Musicians and entertainers were on hand to get everyone dancing and laughing and traditional crafts, local food, Danube displays and eco-products were featured.

Overall, visitors and local people, especially children, had a fabulous Danube Day, learning about the songs, customs and traditions of the Danube region, and celebrating how important the river is to their cultural heritage.

**"We are currently facing an important task: the formation of environmental protection standard in water management."**

Petar Cobankovic, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

## **ORGANISERS AND PARTNERS**

Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry & Water Management • Hrvatske vode (Croatian Waters) • Green Osijek • Vukovarsko-srijemska District.