



CZECH REPUBLIC: UNITING TO PROTECT NATURE AND CELEBRATE CULTURE

Art, films, water and nature all combined in the Czech Republic's Danube Day events, which highlighted both the protection of the environment and the celebration of art and culture.

An amazing day of learning about nature and culture was organised in Olomouc by Union for the Morava River, together with Friends of the Earth, Olomouc and the Morava River Basin state enterprise, Povodí Moravy. As many as 50 Danube Day participants enjoyed a 3km river trip from the north end of the city to the celebration site, on the "Dolphin" river boats. At the celebration site a huge tent had been constructed for visitors, where there were demonstrations and exhibitions on flood protection, and other material available on wetlands, environmental protection and ecological issues. Food was provided, and the folk group Musica Veronica enchanted visitors with their musical entertainment. A further excursion allowed participants to view the important flood protection measures recently in place in Olomouc.

In Prague and Uherské Hradiště, school children got a chance to see some stunning and thought-provoking documentary films with the main focus being water and nature. Organised by the Ministry of Environment and Uherské Hradiště House of Culture, more than 200 pupils saw the screenings of fascinating Czech and international environmental films, helping to educate a new generation about the importance of nature and ecological issues.

Spreading the message even further the 2007 Danube Art Master competition had its biggest response yet. Students from many educational institution in the Danube catchment area (Morava, Dyje, Bečva, Svatka, Svitava, Jihlava, Vlára rivers etc.) were eligible to enter, and the organisers, Union for the Morava River, worked hard to inform schools in the area of what the competition was about. As a result the take up was enthusiastic, with 450 children from 42 schools entering over 1,000 images of the works of art they had made, inspired by their river. The first prize – the total winner of Danube Art Master 2007 in the Czech Republic – was for a wonderful natural sculpture entitled "Bridal tingle (of the Morava River with the Danube River)", made by Klára Bártová and Simona Schwarzbachová from the school Velká Bíteš.

"The topic of Danube Day 2007 – Celebrating Cultures –attracted the most participants in the history of the Danube Day in the Czech Republic"

Press Release of the Ministry of Environment

ORGANISERS AND PARTNERS

Ministry of Environment • Union for the Morava River • Friends of the Earth / Rainbow Movement Olomouc • Povodí Moravy • T.G.Masaryk Water Research

Institute • Ministry of Agriculture • Uherské Hradiste House of Culture • Protected Area Litovelske Pomoravi • Company Dolphin