



## Danube Day 2007 in Slovenia

Danube Day in Slovenia combines stunning art with a serious focus on the issue of water conservation and river pollution in the Danube Region, and again links Danube Day to International Sava River Day.

The quest to find the 4<sup>th</sup> **Danube Art Master** has been reaching out into all Slovenian primary schools, with children being asked to fire up their imagination and make fantastic and inspiring sculptures from natural materials found near the river. The competition is organised by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in cooperation with the NGOs DEF, GWP, and ICRO, and this year the theme for the artworks in "**Celebrating Danube Cultures**". Children are being asked not only to be inspired by the art, but also to think about what their river means to them and others in the Danube River Basin, and to consider wider environmental issues such as preserving water and sustaining the natural environment.

The competition reaches its climax with the crowning of the Master at a special event on International Sava Day (1 June; deadline for submissions: 14 May). Not only the winner, but other entrants and schoolchildren will be invited to take part in a day of **festivities and celebration** of the Sava and the Danube. The crowning ceremony will be combined with entertainment and also the prize giving for ICRO's annual **Water Detective contest**. As well as fun games and entertainments, children will get a chance to meet a **special guest star**, from the world of Slovenian children's books!

Continuing the theme of mixing art with serious concern for the environment, on Sava Day (1 June) in **Ljubljana** students from the Secondary Educational Centre of Biotechnology, Technical Grammar and Veterinary Nursing School will together create a **Water Dragon** (the city's symbol) using stone from the Sava, in front of Municipality House. They will also decorate the area with posters, signs about water conservation, and an art installation called **Polluted River**, thus drawing visitors' attention to the importance of conservation and the environment for both the Sava and Danube. The theme of the event is "**Water is everything for everyone**", and it is being organised by the students in cooperation with DEF, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Municipality of Ljubljana.

## Further information

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## Organisers

Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning; Ministry of Education and Sport; National Educational Institute of Slovenia; Secondary Educational Centre of Biotechnology, Technical Grammar and Veterinary Nursing School; Municipality of Ljubljana; ICRO Society for Bird Research & Nature; DPPVN Slovenia; Global Water Partnership (GWP).

## **Danube Day: uniting Danube people in celebration**

For general information view [www.danubeday.org](http://www.danubeday.org) or email the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River: [jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org](mailto:jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org).