



Danube Day in Bulgaria

Events in every Danube municipality will spread the Danube Day message far and wide in Bulgaria. Inspiring young people to consider the people and wildlife that depend on the Danube rivers is a central theme. Fun educational events will highlight the message that real solutions to the rivers' problems can only be found if all the Danube nations work together.

Under the slogan "**One River - 14 Countries - One Common Goal,**" Bulgaria's Danube Day will get people thinking about, looking after and enjoying their Danube. Numerous workshops, seminars, sports events, fun competitions and exhibitions will take place in communities across the region. The governmental, non-governmental and private sectors are working to ensure that Danube Day secures positive action for the river.

Children from across northern Bulgaria will be getting creative in the 2008 **Danube Art Master** competition (launched May 2008). Every young person living in the Danube Basin is challenged to let their creativity run wild and make a piece of art inspired by their local river and this year's theme: "Together for Clean Water." Youngsters are encouraged to devote time to considering what rivers mean to them and think about a vision for the Danube that meets the needs of its diverse multi-national peoples. National winners will be invited to compete against the Danube Art Masters from the 13 other Danube Basin countries. Prizes will be awarded to the national and international winners and their creations will be shown in a special exhibition in Bulgaria in October.

The competition is part of a 14-country contest overseen by the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) that has seen thousands of children create Danube artworks over the last five years. Entries can be made of elements found by the river: reeds, stones, sand, driftwood or even rubbish! It's time to get creative and win a prize!

Ruse is the location for an international symposium entitled "**Danube Regions' Competitive Advantage - Potential for Alternative Tourism Development**" involving ministerial and local government officials, MEPs and experts from the tourism industry as well as Danube organisations. The full programme is available at: www.danubeday.org/en/bulgaria.

The sound of ship horns will reverberate across the Danube Basin at 14:00 on Danube Day, as Danube workers pay a very special tribute to their river – a river

that provides them with food, water, power, recreation and, crucially, their livelihoods. The annual **Greet the Danube ship blast**, organised by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), will see ships along the Danube from Germany to Ukraine simultaneously sound their horns in a salute to the rivers.

Further information:

Please contact **Ivan Kalamerov** of the Danube River Basin Directorate of Pleven (dunavbd@bddr.org; +359 64 885 132). See also: www.dunavbd.org and www.moew.government.bg.

For details of the Danube Art Master competition, contact **Milena Dimitrova** of the Centre for Environmental Information & Education – CEIE (milena@ceie.org; +359 2 8669047). See www.danubeday.org for more inspiration. Information will also be available soon at: www.ceie.org. N.B. Participants will be divided into three age groups; deadline for entries is 31st July 2008 and winners will be announced by 31st August 2008.

Organisers:

Ministry of the Environment and Water and the Danube Region Basin Directorate of Pleven in cooperation with: Danube municipalities; district administrations; various NGOs; local schools and Global Water Partnership (GWP). Official sponsor: Coca-Cola HBC-Bulgaria.

Danube Art Master competition: Centre for Environmental Information and Education (DEF NFP); WWF Danube Carpathian Programme; Bulgarian Environment Partnership Foundation and Ecobulpack (national packaging waste recovery company). Partners include: the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR); Regional Inspectorates of the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Ministry of Education.

The Danube rivers: let's use them – not abuse them!

For general information about the 14-country Danube Day celebrations, view www.danubeday.org or email the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River: jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org.