



Danube Day in Czech Republic

A children's film festival and a river family fun-day will take centre stage at this year's Czech Danube Day, focussing on uniting people in respect and understanding for the Danube and its tributaries.

Uherské Hradiště is the location for a children's film festival showcasing startling and inspirational environmental films covering water, wildlife and other environmental topics. In between showings, there will be a chance to discuss the films and take part in a competition.

29th June will see celebrations in the Czech city of **Olomouc**, and also the town of **Litovel**, where the Union for the Morava River (UMR) and the Environment Ministry will host a family day on the Morava River. The fun will start with a 3km boat trip from the north end of Olomouc to the site of the Danube Day camp. Here, visitors will be able to find out more about environmental projects run by the UMR and enjoy live music and local food. There will also be opportunities to cruise other parts of the river and visit new flood protection and restoration projects and the Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area. Competitions and information stalls will help ensure the Danube Day message reaches everyone.

The event will also see the culmination of the Czech **Danube Art Master** schools competition. Part of a basin-wide competition taking place in each of the 14 countries and overseen by the Danube Environmental Forum, pupils are invited to let their creativity run wild and make a piece of art inspired by their river. Organised in the Czech Republic by the Union for the Morava River, the winners will be announced at the family fun day on 29th June. Contact Lukáš Krejčí of the UMR for details on how to enter.

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 rivers from Germany to Ukraine simultaneously sound their horns in a salute to the rivers.

Further information:

Please contact the Czech Danube Day Contacts:

Marta Novakova of the Environment Ministry (marta_novakova@env.cz; +420 267 122 294).

Lukáš Krejčí of the Union for the Morava River (krejcilukas@atlas.cz; +420 549 49 7603).

Doubravka Nedvěďová, Environment Ministry, (doubravka_nedvedova@env.cz; +420 267 122 166).

More information will be available soon at: www.env.cz and www.uprm.cz.

Organisers:

Ministry of Environment; Union for the Morava River and the Morava River Basin Administration. Partners include: Ministry of Agriculture; T.G. Masaryk Water Research Institute (Brno branch); Uherské Hradiště's House of Culture; Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area; Friends of the Earth (Czech Republic); Dolphin Boat Hire and Global Water Partnership (GWP).

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.