



Danube Day in Slovenia

Danube Day 2008 will mobilise young Slovenians to both think and act for their rivers - with special events to inspire and inform.

Artistic creativity will be flowing on Danube Day this year with the search to find the young **Danube Art Master** for Slovenia. With every Slovene primary school in the Basin invited to participate in this international schools contest, competition for the coveted title is strong. The quest reaches its climax with the crowning of the 'Master' at a special event in the Planica Ski Jumping Centre (30th May 2008). The talented artists will spend the day at Kranjska gora, visiting the Zelenci wetland to see the spring of the River Sava. Surrounded by the wonderful landscape and wildlife of the region, the children will take part in an environmental fun-day and the winning artists will receive prizes. They'll also be the chance to meet the writer, Janja Vidmar, and Slovenian ski jumper, Robert Kranjec. The event will be combined with entertainment and prize giving for ICRO's (Inštitut za celostni razvoj in okolje) **Water Detective contest**.

The Danube Art Master competition is part of a 14-country basin-wide contest aimed at highlighting the importance of the Danube rivers and the need to conserve water and is organised in Slovenia by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning with DPPVN/DEF, GWP, ICRO and the National Education Institute (see organisers below for full list). To enter, pupils must let their creativity run wild and make a piece of environmental sculpture inspired by their river and this year's theme: wetland animals.

Ljubljana secondary school children will be the ones inspiring adults to take action at Slovenia's second celebration, taking place on international Sava Day (4th June 2008). Under the banner **With Good Will for Water**, students from the Secondary Educational Centre of Biotechnology, Technical Grammar and Veterinary Nursing will take to the streets of the capital on a mission to promote the importance of water and the Danube Rivers. The pupils will be supported by the Danube Environmental Forum, the Ministry of Environment and the Municipality of Ljubljana.

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:

For further details of Danube Day, please contact:

Milena Janežič of the Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning (milena.janezic@gov.si; +386 1 478 7335). See also: www.mod.mop.gov.si.

Milan Vogrin of the DPPVN/DEF (milan.vogrin@guest.arnes.si; +386 41 699 268).

For information on Sava Day, contact: **Sava Osole** (sava.osole@guest.arnes.si).

For information on ICRO's Water Detective contest, contact **Miran Rusjan**, (icro@siol.net; +386 1 722 5210).

Organisers:

Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning; DPPVN (Društvo za preučevanje ptic in varstvo narave Slovenia - Society for Bird Research & Nature); ICRO (Inštitut za celostni razvoj in okolje); GWP (Global Water Partnership Slovenia); Zavod RS za šolstvo; Biotehniški izobraževalni center Ljubljana (Secondary Educational Centre of Biotechnology, Technical Grammar and Veterinary Nursing). Partners include: Ministry of Education and Sport and the Municipality of Ljubljana.

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.