



## Danube Day 2008 in Czech Republic

### Inspiring the younger generation

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

The 29th June saw festivities near the Moravian city of Olomouc, and also the town of Litovel, where the Ministry of the Environment, the Union for the Morava River and the Morava River Basin State Enterprise hosted a family day on the Morava River. The fun started with a 3km boat trip from the north end of Olomouc to the site of the Danube Day camp in the Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area. Here, the River Morava slowly meanders through the landscape, surrounded by upland forest including oak woodlands. In these beautiful surroundings, visitors were able to find out more about environmental projects and Danube issues and enjoy live music, environmental films and local food. A presentation was given on the project to revitalise the Morava River in Olomouc and discussions took place on flood control. There were also opportunities to cruise other parts of the river and visit the new flood protection and restoration projects.

The event also saw the culmination of the Czech Danube Art Master schools competition. Organised in the Czech Republic by the Union for the Morava River, school pupils were invited to let their creativity run wild and create a piece of environmental art which encapsulated what the Danube meant to them. Competition was fierce with 229 works produced by pupils from the 43 schools that entered the competition. The talented winner was announced at Olomouc on Danube Day and received an excursion to the Donau Auen National Park. They also went onto the international stage of the competition in Vienna.

### **"Rivers for the life of towns"**

Union for the Morava River project aimed at fostering the relationship between towns and their inhabitants and the rivers they depend on.

### Danube Day Partners

Ministry of Environment • Union for the Morava River • Morava River Basin State Enterprise • Ministry of Agriculture • The T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute.

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

For general information about the 14-country Danube Day celebrations, 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).