



Danube Day 2009 in Moldova

Traditional singing and dancing herald Danube Day

The River Prut was the setting for Moldova's Danube Day, with people gathering for Danube Day celebrations in western and southern Moldova.

Young people performing traditional concerts heralded Danube Day in Moldova with **festivities along the Prut** in the regions of Nisporeni, western Moldova, and Cahul in southern Moldova. Young people on summer camps, the general public and local authority officials enjoyed three special Danube Day concerts and took part in debates about the Danube rivers. Topics included protecting the Danube environment and the geography of the region and special emphasis was given to a discussion on extending the protected areas network in the Lower Prut region. Consultation meetings with local authority officials and local inhabitants took place to investigate the options for creating Moldova's first Biosphere Reserve in the Lower Prut region.

The event also saw children take part in the Moldovan stage of the **Danube Art Master** competition. 2009 is the sixth year of this international schools competition that has seen artworks created along the length of the Danube rivers. The annual search to find the most creative young artist in the Danube region is overseen by the Danube Environmental Forum. The competition challenges every pupil in the Basin to create a piece of environmental art inspired by their local river. The only rules are that you should be as creative as possible and think about what the Danube means to you. The national winner of the Moldovan competition will be entered into an international stage of the competition later in the year.

"The voice of the Lower Prut region could be the one which leads to the creation of the first Biosphere Reserve in Moldova."

Dumitru Drumea, Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Environmental Studies (ECOS).

Danube Day Partners

Global Water Partnership (GWP) Moldova; National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO: Regional Centre for Environmental Studies (ECOS); Local authorities in the Cahul and Nisporeni regions; Cahul Centre for Environmental Consultancy.

Shared Waters – Joint Responsibilities

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 (ICPDR): jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org.