



Danube Day 2009 in Serbia

Over 100 organisations work together for Serbia's Danube Day

Danube Day in Serbia was marked in 5 of the country's 9 largest cities, with major events in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš. More than 100 organisations from the governmental, NGO and business sectors were involved in events in 10 towns and cities. Many activities were aimed at engaging the youngest Danube users. Public festivities, high level meetings, conservation tasks, boating adventures, competitions, live music and the best fish soup in the country all helped ensure Danube Day got people thinking and taking action for the Danube rivers. This year's events took place in Belgrade, Vinča, Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Pancevo, Smederevo, Donji Milanovac, Golubac, Negotin and Kladovo.

International cooperation is at the forefront of Danube Day and events began with a meeting to strengthen international relations on Sava Day (1st June). The 2nd **Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin** saw Ministers from Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina join with officials from the European Commission, UN, ICPDR and other partners to sign a protocol on water pollution arising from navigation.

27th June brought fun, action, information and festivities to **Belgrade**. Events kicked off in with a **celebration at Zemun Quay** where a river clean-up action saw children and adults carry out rubbish collections, putting a stop to plastic bottles on their eastwards tour of the Danube countries! Visitors enjoyed boat trips around Great War Island, a special children's show, "Blow-fly fortress on the Danube" and age-old Danube traditions. A painting and carving workshop for children with special needs was very popular and live music by *Gora* got people dancing for the Danube. There was also a chance to learn about the Danube and Sava and find out what can be done to help rivers. A highlight of the morning was the culmination of the search to find Serbia's young **Danube Art Master** for 2009. The top 10 artworks created from natural materials found by the riverside were announced and winners received prizes.

Also in Belgrade, Fish Fest 2009 showed off the best in fish cookery; 50 students from Belgrade, Niš and Novi Sad universities toured the Danube and Sava by boat, visiting Great War Island and learning about the region; an NGO "Danube Bike Tour" fair was held and an exhibition examined past Danube journeys: the Exhibition of Navigation of the Danube in the 19th and 20th Centuries. In Vinča, Ritopek and Grocka, art workshops and exhibitions, a flower market, public ceremony on the Bolečica river and clean-up action took place. Celebrations continued on into July, when 60 students took part in week-long Danube Eco Camps on Great War Island. Once again, the sound of ship horns reverberated

across Serbia and the Danube Basin at 14:00 on Danube Day, as Danube workers paid a very special tribute to their river. The annual **Greet the Danube horn blast**, organised by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), saw ships from Germany to Ukraine simultaneously sound their horns in a salute to the rivers.

Outside of the capital, regional events also focussed on engaging children in respect for their rivers and the people and wildlife of the entire Danube Basin.

Pancevo: 2009 marked 100 years since the building of Pancevo's twin lighthouses, located at the confluence of the Danube and Tamis. Highlighting the importance of these rare and culturally important structures, a major celebration took place on Danube Day, with other events continuing throughout the year.

Donji Milanovac: The "Danube My Sea" creative sand art and paper boats workshop culminated in an exhibition and folk evening.

Smederevo had a packed programme: children's workshop; chess/sports contests; riverside walk and clean-up and art exhibitions. The 4th Festival of Danube Folklore brought together more than 7 Danube countries incl. Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Serbia.

Golubac: Children from Smederevo, Bela Crkva, Veliko Gradiste, Golubac and Donji Milanovac took to the Danube to learn how to sail at "Camp 2009".

Kraljevo: Rafting on the Ibar river from Maglica to Kraljevo was very popular.

Novi Sad: 150 children took part in school workshops on water resources. Adults and children alike also enjoyed fish cookery contests, art exhibitions, a river clean-up action, fun workshops, sculpture competition, the "Vode Vojvodine Regatta 2009", the "More than Water" documentary and a Danube concert. A press tour was held. Events concluded with the 22nd World Canal Conference, which helped promote Danube and Vojvodina canal navigation. The conference raised awareness of waterways, especially those in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Negotin's festivities included a regatta from Mihajlovac to Kusjak; fish cookery competition and rock concert.

Kladovo put on a host of events including a Danube bike camp; Fetislam Fortress children's art workshop; Danube Day festival with regatta; Tekija to Hajducka vodenica excursion with sports events, fish cookery and Djerdap Reservoir boat trip; and a ceramics/weaving exhibition in the Stara Varos Tourist Info Centre.

"This year, as we finalise the Danube River Basin Management Plan, our goal is to link central and regional activities throughout Serbia and to engage people in the Danube Day campaign through increased public awareness of the influence of individual actions and their contribution to preserving our Danube."

Aleksandar Prodanović, Director of the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

Danube Day Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Water Directorate; Coca-Cola Hellenic Serbia; Coca-Cola Company Serbia; Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning; Ministry of Infrastructure; Ministry of Economy and Regional Development; Ministry of Culture; Belgrade Port Authority; People’s Office of the President of the Republic of Serbia; Natural Protection Service of Serbia; Republic Agency for Recycling; Serbian Environmental Protection Agency; Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia; PWMC Srbijavode; PWMC Vode Vojvodine; City of Belgrade: Secretariats for: Environmental Protection; Utilities and Housing Services (Water Administration); and Economy; PWMC Beogradvode; PUC Zelenilo Beograd; PUC Gradska čistoća; Executive Council for the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina: Secretariats for: Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management; Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development; and Economy; Serbian Chamber of Commerce; National Tourism Organisation of Serbia; Tourism organisations of Belgrade, Majdanpek, Smederevo, Novi Sad, Golubac, Donji Milanovac, Kraljevo, Negotin and Kladovo; Toyota Serbia; SEKOPAK; Singidunum University (Faculty of Applied Ecology); Educons University (Faculty of Environmental Protection); University of Belgrade (Faculties of Security, Biology, Geography, Civil Engineering Agriculture, Mining and Geology, Forestry, Technology and Metallurgy, Chemistry); University of Novi Sad (Faculties of Mathematics, Technical Sciences); University of Niš (Faculties of Protection at Work, Mathematics); University of Arts in Belgrade (Faculty of Applied Arts); University of Kragujevac (Faculty of Mathematics); University of Kosovska Mitrovica (Faculty of Mathematics); Independent University of Banja Luka (Faculty of Ecology); municipalities of Novi Beograd and Zemun, Pancevo; PC Poslovni prostor Zemun; Cities of Novi Sad, Smederevo and Kraljevo; City Institute for Urgent Medical Care; Siniša Stanković Institute for Biological Research; Jaroslav Černi Institute for Water Resources Development; Đerdap Archeological Museum; Dunavski talasi Association; Zora ecological organisation, Kostolac; Eurobačka NGO; Dunav u srcu Association; Urbana ekologija NGO; World and Danube NGO; Association of Ship Model Makers Panon; Naša deca Association; Metalac Boat Club; Serbian Sailing Association; Đerdap tours; Fruška gora National Park; Vodenica Restaurant; Market tours; Tračak NGO; PUC Gradsko zelenilo, Novi Sad; DEF Serbia; McCann Erickson Public Relations; Fullhouse Group; TV media: RTS 1; TV B92; TV Avala; TV Fox; Radio: Radio Smederevo; Radio S; Radio B92; Radio 202; Radio Index; Radio Belgrade; Radio Saška; Newsprint: Blic; Vreme; Večernje Novosti; 24 Sata; Press; Tina; Yellow Cab; Bg Vodič; Ns Vodič; Alma Quatro.

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.