



Danube Day 2009 in Slovenia

Mobilising young Slovenians to protect and enjoy their rivers

The quest to find the young Slovene **Danube Art Master of 2009** reached its climax with the crowning ceremony at a special event on Otok ljubezni (Island of Love) on the River Mura in Prekmurje. Famous for its beautiful surroundings and traditional floating mill that still grinds wheat today, the young artists were joined by the mayors of Beltinci and Razkrižje to find out which of the beautiful and creative creations made from natural materials found by the river would claim the top prize. The event was combined with entertainment and prize giving for ICRO's Water Detective contest. ICRO's annual national environmental awareness competition gets children understanding and promoting sustainable development. The Ministry of Environment published a new booklet about the sustainable use of the Danube and Sava rivers.

"I love my river" was also the theme for this year's celebration of international **Sava Day in Ljubljana** (1 June) where students from the Secondary Educational Centre of Biotechnology, Technical Grammar and Veterinary Nursing ran activities to promote the importance of water and the Danube and Sava rivers.

In another special event, the sound of ship horns once again reverberated across the Danube Basin at 14:00 on Danube Day, as river workers paid a very special tribute to their river. The **Greet the Danube horn blast**, organised by Global Water Partnership, saw ships along the Danube rivers from Germany to Ukraine simultaneously sound their horns in a salute to the rivers.

Danube Day Partners

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning; ICRO – *Inštitut za celostni razvoj in okolje*; DPPVN – Society for Bird Research and Nature (DEF); Global Water Partnership (GWP) Slovenia; National Education Institute; Secondary Educational Centre for Biotechnology, Technical Grammar and Veterinary Nursing; Coca-Cola Slovenia; local schools and communities; Ministry of Education and Sport; municipality of Ljubljana.

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.