

Danube Day 2013 in Slovenia

Rivers inspire superheroes, water detectives and Art Masters

In 2013, nearly 800 young Slovenes were inspired by their rivers to become Art Masters, Water Detectives and superhero creators in three innovative national competitions. Engaging young people from the Sava and Drava Basins, the contests mobilised artistic talents to find highly imaginative ways to address river pressures!

Celebrations began on International Sava Day with the climax of the 5th **You're My River competition** in Ljubljana. This year, the highly creative competition was on the hunt for River Superheroes, fighting to solve environmental problems across the Basin! Organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment in partnership with Coca-Cola Slovenia, teams of young people researched river issues to create their own superhero to tackle the most pressing problems.

Entries were highly imaginative: the 'Super Water Purifier' was ready to solve the Drava's problems, able to build invisible walls to stop flooding. Hardworking 'Mimi the Octopus' from Breg Primary in Ptuj had long tentacles with a filtering system that zaps any rubbish. 'Great Whale Tina' had powers to raise groundwater levels and is happy to help other rivers in trouble too! The latter was one of two winning ideas from students from Murska Sobota. As part of their prize, they attended the **Sava Commission's Youth Parliament** in Zaslavica, Serbia, along with pupils from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia to debate water issues.

Hundreds of pupils were similarly inspired by their rivers to create environmental art in the **10th Danube Art Master contest**. Along with ICRO's **Water Detective** contest, 520 students from 34 schools met the challenge to get creative for the Sava rivers. This year's Art Masters crown went to Nika Erčulj, Aja Jelaska and Kristina Mandič, 11-12 year-olds from Ljubljana, for their 'Danube Without Borders' eco sculpture. They were crowned at a Ministry of Agriculture & Environment / Global Water Partnership award ceremony in the Technical Museum, Bistra.

Danube Day Partners

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment in partnership with GWP Slovenia; ICRO (Institute for Integral Development and Environment); DPPVN (Society for Bird Research and Nature); National Education Institute and Coca-Cola HBC Slovenia.

Danube Day 2013: Get active for the sturgeon!

For more about the 14-country Danube Day celebrations, view www.danubeday.org or email the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR): benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org.