

## Danube Day 2014 in Slovenia

### Danube energy creates songs, water scientists and Art Masters!

On Sava Day, children gathered at the Ljubljana City Museum and University Botanic Gardens to await results of 3 national competitions. During 2014, youngsters had been inspired by their rivers to become song writers, Art Masters and Water Detectives. Involving 2000 children, the competitions mobilised talent from across the Sava and Drava Basins: young people found highly imaginative ways to have their say!

The **You're My River competition** was on the hunt for budding song writers and rappers. They had first to research river and energy issues and then create a song that spoke to both the head and the heart. In all, 90 songs were sent to organisers, Coca-Cola Slovenia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. At the City Museum final, last year's winners returned to perform a play for the VIP audience.

The delightful winner, *Mlakatanz (Puddle Dance)*, was performed by Ivan Glinška nursery from Maribor with staff members, Olga Gros and Katja Hauptman. They explored water through play, movement, conversation and music; running besides the Drava, jumping in puddles, swimming and investigating water in the classroom. Their happy, high energy video showed they'd gained much from the experience. Part of their prize was a singing workshop with rap artist, Zlatko.

Water and energy was also the theme of the **Water Detectives competition**, which brought together research, writing, art and science. The ICRO competition encouraged 800 children from 30 schools to ask themselves why it's important to promote sustainable energy production and healthy aquatic environments. The annual contest aims to achieve greater awareness of water topics among school pupils.

This year's **Danube Art Master** crown went to 5<sup>th</sup>-formers from Blaža Arnič Luče school for their 'Knot of Cooperation and Friendship', a driftwood sculpture symbolising the ways rivers bind us together. Motivating children from 19 schools to consider what their rivers mean to them, the contest was run by GWP Slovenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. Class 5B went on to compete against winners from across the Danube Basin in the 2014 Global Water Partnership-ICPDR final in Vienna. To view the wealth of creativity inspired by rivers across the Danube Basin, see Facebook and Flickr!

## **Danube Day Partners**

GWP Slovenia; Ministry of Agriculture and Environment; ICRO (Institute for Integral Development & Environment); Coca-Cola HBC Slovenia; National Education Institute; DPPVN (Society for Bird Research and Nature); Sava Commission; Slovak; MMC RTV Slovenia portal Bansi; the Eco Schools Programme and local schools.

## **Danube Day 2014: Get active for a living Danube!**

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 (ICPDR): [benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org](mailto:benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org).