

Danube Day 2013 in Bosnia-Herzegovina



Celebrating achievement in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the region

As ICPDR President in 2013, there was much to celebrate in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Events highlighted significant achievements made in the sustainable management of the Danube – the most international of water resources - both nationally and through 14-country cooperation.

Just SW of Sarajevo, the beautiful surroundings of **Vrelo Bosne**, the source of the Bosna River at the foot of Mount Igman, provided the stunning backdrop for Danube Day. ICPDR President and Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević, presided over a celebration with classical and choral recitals, live-theatre and performances by local pupils. Young children bravely took to the stage to read sincere messages of hope for their rivers and perform dances in front of a VIP audience including the Deputy Minister; Mayor of Sarajevo and 90 embassy, ministerial, water agency and NGO representatives.

At the Ministry-organised event, Mrs Salkičević-Dizdarević emphasized the need to focus on sustainable management and biodiversity conservation.

“Environmental protection should not always be based on fear of catastrophes! For almost 20 years, the ICPDR has worked on aligning the interests of people and vulnerable nature along our rivers. On Danube Day, we celebrate our achievements.”

Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and ICPDR President for 2013.

This message was strongly echoed by children from across the region taking part in the 14-country **Danube Art Master** competition. Organised nationally by Ekotim, the competition encouraged children to think about what their rivers mean to them and express it in a piece of artwork.

“The work of our children, when tasked to make something from what they find on their river banks, has always produced artworks made out of rubbish - while from other countries have come works made from wood, stone or sand – indicative of our rivers of rubbish.”

Rijad Tikveša, President of Ekotim.

Announced at the Danube Day celebration, children eagerly awaited results to see who would be crowned 2014 Art Master for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sponsored by Green Danube Partners, Coca-Cola, the top

prize of a digital camera and trip to the contest's international round in Budapest went to 14-year-olds, Maida Softić and Fatima Lilić, from Ilidža. Impressing the judges with their wire and plastic sculpture made from rubbish, it depicted two dancers engaged in *The Danube Waltz on the Beautiful Blue Danube*.

Nine years of tremendous creativity arising from the competition was on display at the Vrelo Bosne celebration. The Danube Art Master exhibition from 2004-2013 demonstrated the strength of young people's commitment to a sustainable future. The competition also featured at the **Sarajevo Kids Festival** in June, the largest event for children in the country, attended by 40,000 young people.

Danube Day Partners

Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations; EKOTIM (Society for the Protection of the Environment, Nature and Health); primary and secondary schools.

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.