

Danube Day 2014 in Germany

Active for a living Danube in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg

Securing sustainable flood protection and upstream fish migration were key priorities at events in the Danube regions of Germany.

The summer-long **Bavarian State Garden Show** in Deggendorf, themed around the 'sustainable river', provided the perfect opportunity to publicise Danube Day values. The Bavarian State Environment Ministry presented the **Danube.People.Nature** exhibition examining how natural and managed landscapes protect lives and livelihoods. The event saw the launch of the sustainability-based 2020plus Flood Protection Action Programme. Visitors, young and old, enjoyed the exhibition and the Danube Day cloth bags presented by Bavarian Environment Minister, Marcel Huber. The venue was also a flagship of sustainable design: the newly created Danube Park incorporates 35ha of water retention areas, new cycle and walking trails and a miniature River Danube. A Danube blog maximised exposure and Bavarian TV broadcast live from the show.

"The Danube region is a hotspot for European biodiversity. Along the 380-km Bavarian Danube are nearly 130 protected areas... Bavaria takes its responsibility for this unique natural treasure very seriously."

Dr. Marcel Huber, State Environment Minister, on Danube Day.

During the event, Minister Huber unveiled a €135,000 smartphone **Danube Experience App**: the latest way to learn about the river. Cyber-space tour-guides - Max the beaver and Vroni the fish - are ready to guide you round the Danube! The app was developed by the Neuburg Auenzentrum and currently covers the German stretch, with plans to extend it to the entire Danube in German, Hungarian and English.

A huge **public celebration in Neuburg and Ingolstadt** proved a fitting tribute to 10 years of Danube Day. Once again the two cities and the Auenzentrum came together to provide Bavarians with one of the highlights of the summer. For the hearty: the Ingolstadt Danube Swim and fiercely contested canoe race; for the hedonists: the Neuburg floating stage music festival, fantastic fire show and open-air theatre.

"Through fun, games and entertainment, the event is designed to draw attention to our unique ecological river system".

Paul Leikam, Sanitation and Flood Protection, Neuburg City Council.

Danube Day in Baden-Württemberg was a great day for Danube fish! The opening of a new **upstream fish migration facility** at the Rottenacker Hydroelectric Power Plant near Ehingen ensures they can return upstream to spawning grounds. The public and VIPs attending the event toured the power plant and viewed a display of wildlife engravings.

“Thanks to the new facility, fish and other riverine animals are able to migrate through the former barrier... Baden-Württemberg has been working on an Integrated Danube Programme since 1992. Much has been achieved; yet much remains still to do.”
Tübingen District President, Hermann Strampfer.

Danube Day in Ulm and Neu Ulm was the venue for a screening of the 2013 documentary ‘Danube - journey to an unknown Europe’ at the Haus der Donau. The acclaimed series followed three of Swiss TV’s most popular journalists as they explored the European lifeline and discovered unique stories. Organisers, Donaubüro teamed up with other local environmental organisations to showcase activities before the screening.

2014 also saw Germany welcome the well-travelled **Danube Day Fish United flag**. Featuring 14 fish in national colours of each country, the flag was ceremoniously passed from the Czech Republic to Germany, as part of its 14-year journey through the Basin. Heide Jekel, Germany’s ICPDR Head of Delegation accepted the flag from her Czech counterpart.

Danube Day Partners

Bavaria: Bavarian State Environment Ministry; Neuburg Auenzentrum; Bavarian Nature Conservation Fund; Cities of Neuburg and Ingolstadt.

Baden-Württemberg: Tübingen District; State Office for Water, Riedlingen; Community of Rottenacker; *Kleinwasserkraftwerke GmbH & Co. KG*, Memmingen.

Ulm/Neu-Ulm: *Donaubüro* (Danube Office Ulm/Neu-Ulm); *BUND für Umwelt und Naturschutz* (Union for Environment and Nature Protection); *Donautal-Aktiv e.V* (Danube Valley Active NGO); *Gau Schutzgemeinschaft Neu-Ulm* (Neu-Ulm District Conservation Society) and *Umweltstation "mooseum"* (Mooseum environmental NGO).

Danube Day 2014: Get active for a living Danube!

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): benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org.