

## Danube Day 2013 in Croatia

### Celebrating the Sava's past and Croatia's future on Danube Day

Danube Day was celebrated at three key events in 2013, reaching over 5000 people. The 29th of June marked festivities in Vukovar, where Croatians also celebrated the country's **accession to the European Union**. On the 5th of July, the Danube and its largest right-side tributary, the Sava, were celebrated together at the climax of the **Our Beautiful Sava** campaign in Slavonski Brod. While young people made their mark in the 10<sup>th</sup> national Danube Art Master final in Osijek.

The Danube and its second largest tributary, the Sava, were celebrated through tradition and science at **Slavonski Brod**. The **Fišijada fish stew festival** brought age-old sights, sounds and smells to the river banks. Returning to his home town, Agriculture Minister Tihomir Jakovina watched as 100 chefs battled it out to find the Fiš grand master for 2013. Top prizes went to chefs from Velika Kopanica. But by far the largest contribution came from a 1000-litre cooking pot, enough fish stew for 40 people. While the crowds sampled gastronomic delights, the Bošket and Široki Šor ensembles revived musical traditions performing songs from the Posavina region of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

**"The importance of water resources is increasingly evident: transcending local, and even national, issues because water knows no boundaries."** Tihomir Jakovina, Minister of Agriculture

Traditional crafts and trades were on display and students from the Faculty of Textile Technology in Zagreb brought us right up-to-date with fashion accessories inspired by the Sava landscape. Children had the chance to learn about water science at Croatian Waters' mobile water laboratory and 'Visible and Invisible Water World' presentation, and then test out their knowledge in a fun quiz.

Danube Day was also celebrated in Croatia's largest river port, **Vukovar**. Forming part of EU Accession celebrations, the day was marked with spectacular music and art performances.

Green Osijek held the culmination of Croatia's **Danube Art Master contest** at **Osijek's** Zlatna Greda Eco Centre. Canoeing, horse-riding, drumming workshops and eco games were amongst the popular activities enjoyed on June 29<sup>th</sup>. 13-year-olds, Lora Petak and Vinko Kovačić from Semeljci, beat off stiff competition from across the country to become 2013 Art Masters for their clay sculpture, "Danube People", depicting a couple poking their heads out of the Danube waters. They went on to be crowned **International Danube Art Masters for 2013** at the 13-country final in Budapest.

## **Danube Day Partners**

Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure; Ministry of Tourism; Hrvatske vode (Croatian Waters); International Sava River Basin Commission; Green Osijek Association for Environment and Nature Protection; Zlatna Greda Eco Centre; Coca-Cola HBC Croatia; Faculty of Textile Technology in Zagreb; State Agency for Inland Waterways; Cities of Slavonski Brod, Sisak, Zagreb and Županja; State Institute for Nature Protection; National Chamber of Economy; National Tourist Board; Institute for Tourism; Tourist Boards of Slavonski Brod, Sisak, Zagreb and Županje; City Museum of Sisak; Stephen Gruber Heritage Museum; Sigma Inventors Society; HF Eco Ethnic Groups; ZET; Zagreb Holding; eSTUDENT association; Bošket & Široki Šor ensembles.

## **Danube Day 2013: Get active for the sturgeon!**

For more 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).