



Danube Art Master 2012 International Competition

Get active for the rivers!

Get involved in **Danube Day**, help secure a positive future for the Danube and win great prizes in this Danube-wide competition! Following the huge response to last year's 'Danube Art Master' competition, you now have the opportunity to join the creative extravaganza for 2012. Children from a school, NGO, day care centre or association for children in the Danube Basin are invited to create a piece of art celebrating the Danube environment and enter it into this international contest. Every year, this ambitious 14-country competition unites thousands of children from across the Danube River Basin.

Competition Details

The challenge for every participant aged 6 to 16 is to create their own 'environmental art' inspired by the mighty Danube and its tributaries. Jointly organised by the Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the competition encourages children to have a closer look at their local rivers and water bodies, ideally experience them hands-on and reflect on what "the environment" means to them. The competition motivates young people to think about a vision for the Danube that would meet the needs of its diverse multi-national people and wildlife. By entering, participants will learn about the basin and can play a role in its protection.

Win fantastic prizes!

The competition will comprise two levels: national and international. The former will be carried out in each country and national winners selected to receive prizes. National prizes vary from country to country, so please contact your country's organizer for details. The national winners will be invited to take part in the international competition.

The creators of the best piece of work will be crowned 'Danube Art Master' and will be rewarded with prizes for themselves and more prizes for the school, day centre or other group that they are part of – such as laboratory test kits for their school, underwater cameras and other water-related treats.

How to Enter

To take part, arrange your school, association, day centre, etc. to reflect on rivers and water bodies and ideally make an outing to the Danube river or one of its tributaries before the end of June 2012. The idea is for students to be inspired by what they see and **use materials found by the river to create works of art, preferably directly along its banks**. This could mean sculptures, pictures, mosaics or collages made from material such as driftwood, stones or even rubbish dumped by the river. Drawings and paintings are not the works we are looking for and can not be accepted.

To enter, take a colour photograph of your art and send it to the competition organisers in your country by post (prints) or e-mail (digital). See contact information below. Closing dates vary from country to country; details are available from national organisers. A minimum size of a digital photo is 1 MB in JPEG format. Prints should be at least 15x20 cm on a standard matte or glossy paper.

Winner selection

The jury will be composed of national representatives of all IPCDR countries (one per country). For the judging, text or other hints on the national origin of the artwork will be blanked out to allow a neutral assessment. The judges' decision is final.

The winner shall be notified by e-mail. The prizes can neither be exchanged nor their value paid out in cash. Employees and officers of GWP CEE and ICPDR, as well as the immediate family (defined as parents, spouse, children, siblings and grandparents) and household members of each such employee and officer are not eligible.

The competition is open to children who have reached an age between 6 and 16 years in 2012. Participation in the competition constitutes the winner's consent for their name and contribution picture to be made public in publications of GWP CEE and the ICPDR. The submission deadline is 30 June 2012.

Background Information on the Danube Basin & Danube Day

The Danube and its tributaries form one of Europe's most important river systems. Throughout history, the Danube Basin has played a crucial role in the political, socio-economic and cultural development of Central and South East Europe. It is the most international basin in the world, covering 817,000 km² or approximately 10% of continental Europe. From the Black Forest to the Black Sea, the river flows over more than 2,850 km, connecting more than 80 million people in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

Rivers are the basis for life, power, food, water, transport and recreation. Danube wetlands control pollution and clean up toxins in the water. The rivers are a commercial link across Europe and a unifying force for communities with different cultures, languages and histories. The Danube is of utmost importance to Europe's wildlife. A staggering 320 bird species have been found at the Delta alone.

However, over the last century, the Danube and its wildlife have suffered considerable losses. The basin is now left with only 20% of its former floodplain area, only half of which is in near-natural condition; pollution blights some areas; many stretches have been severely altered. On the 29th June 1994, the Danube River Protection Convention was signed in order to address these problems, establishing the ICPDR. The work that followed has been successful and made the ICPDR a model for many other river basins.

For more information, see www.danubeday.org
or contact Richard Müller, GWP CEE Secretariat, at gwpcee@shmu.sk



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