



# Third Meeting of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force

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# DANUBE - CLASSROOM ON THE WATER ДУНАВ - УЧИОНИЦА НА ВОДИ

АМБИЈЕНТАЛНА НАСТАВА - НОВ ПРИСТУП УЧЕЊУ  
ENVIRONMENT-BASED EDUCATION - NEW APPROACH TO LEARNING



# WHO ARE WE?

“**Nova skola**” is private house of education established 1996. in order to develop inovative and unique teaching and learning program.



The project “**Danube - Classroom on the water**” was launched by “Nova skola” 2010. as an unique environment-based and integrated teaching program performed on the privately funded, purpose-built ship “Heart of gold”.



# SHIP “HEART OF GOLD”

This is  
CLASSROOM  
ON THE  
WATER

- purpose-built ship meets all educational requirements by its construction, technical equipment and safety.



# SAFETY



CATAMARAN CONSTRUCTION



HIGH TECH NAVIGATION AND  
SAFETY EQUIPMENT



EXPERIENCED CREW BY  
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND  
REGULATIONS

# COMFORT



TEACHER'S  
ROOM



SERVICE



OPEN DECK



AIR  
CONDITION



4 TOILETS



KITCHEN

# INTEGRATED TEACHING – LEARNING PROGRAM



Interactive teaching  
and learning during  
cruise



Workshops on the  
Danube river banks



# TOPICS

- Danube geography
- History of monuments and places along Danube
- Danube habitats and coastal life
- Danube importance to economy
- Dealing with fear of water
- **Ecological & environmental awareness**



# ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The main goal of ecological education in “classroom on the water” is raising awareness of the:

- composition of the river bed and quality of the water and their influence on the river ecosystem
- water and shore pollution and their influence on the river ecosystem
- relations in river food-chains and their importance
- endangered species and their significance

# SOME IDEAS HOW TO IMPLEMENT STURGEON CONSERVATION ISSUES IN OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- Including content considering sturgeon in our text-book for classroom on the water
- Observing juvenile sturgeons, caught by net and placed in jars with river water:  
taking notes about appearance, way of moving, eating, etc., sketching sturgeons, returning them back in river.
- Integrative approach:  
correlate story about sturgeons as living fossils with story about neolithic cultures of fishermen in Danube basin (Vinča, Lepenski vir in Serbia, for example)
- Sturgeon as a possible theme of annual „Danube 588“ children art colony

# SPECIFICS OF OUR APPROACH

- Direct contact with specific environmental issues on the river (environment-based learning)
- Unique and significant personal experience for the children
- Workshops on the boat-classroom (detecting problems and suggesting possible solutions)

# RESULTS

"Danube - Classroom on the water" project has already educated about 12,000 children and about 5,000 teachers during seminars, based on the "Danube box" project.



# DANUBE 588 ART COLONY FOR CHILDREN

We have created and implemented the biggest and the most extensive cultural and educational event ever performed for the “Danube Day” on 16 June 2012.

It included 1,176 children from 25 schools in 14 Danube river municipalities. The final exhibition created of the 588 pupils’ art achievements was 588m long.



# MISSION

“Danube – Classroom on the water” –  
is unique educational center for the  
development of education projects on  
Danube river.

# OUR GOAL



- To raise the level of knowledge among children about the Danube river.
- To emphasise the development of environmental awareness.
- To encourage critical and creative thinking.

# OUR TARGET GROUP

The programs are designed for children of preschool and primary school age.



# VISION

- Development of Multifunctional Educational and Cultural center on Danube - seminars for teachers based on “Danube Box” project, creative workshops, children theatre performances, movie projections...
- Development of dozen piers for “Danube – Classroom on the water” along Danube in cooperation with Danube river municipalities.
- Development of International Danube Academy.
- Development of Art colony for children “Danube 2872”.



# CHALLENGES

- Inadequate number of suitable piers along the Danube river, which limits our possibilities for teaching in a number of locations (only 6 piers along 588km).
- Lack of support from the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management for implementation of “Danube box” educational program.
- Lack of support from City of Belgrade for obtaining the docking permit for “Danube – Classroom on the water” ship.

# NEXT STEP

- To internationalize already implemented project “Danube 588/12” by organizing Art colony for children “Danube 588/13” with pilot project “Danube 2850”. Children and teachers from 10 Danubian countries will simultaneously paint the Danube motifs on Danube Day.



# WELCOME TO THE CLASSROOM ON THE WATER



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