

France Prešeren: THE WATER MAN

fragment

"Fear not, fairest Urška, just keep well in step!
Fear not," he declares, "if the thunder resounds,
Fear not that the water so noisily pounds
Fear not the strong winds with their whistling sounds;
Just speedily, speedily make your feet haste,
Just speedily, quickly, there's no time to waste."

"I must have a rest now, I'm quite out of breath!
Let's stop for a little, kind dancer, my dear!"
"The white land of Turkey is not at all near,
Where Danube is met by the Sava so clear,
The deafening waters are waiting to greet
You, Urška! so quickly keep moving your feet!"

He spoke, and they danced on more rapidly yet,
Away from the dance floor and further they whirled,
Beside the Ljubljanica thrice round they swirled,
Still dancing, they 'neath the loud waters were
hurled.

A whirlpool was seen from their boats by some men,
But nobody ever saw Urška again.



Reichman: URŠKA AND WATER MAN

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM: How should school respond to this?

On November 25. 2019, members of the ECO-us support team attended a professional meeting and watched a film Warrior. After watching the film, there was a conversation about the necessity of environmental activism and how school should respond to this situation. The discussion was moderated by a professor dr. Robi Kroflič and his interlocutors were a high school student and a representative of the Youth for Climate Justice movement, Žana Radivo, and a climatologist and a professor at the Biotechnical Faculty, dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj.

written by Maja Bergant



Some photos from the meeting

I am what I drink. I drink tap water.



Public drinking fountains in Ljubljana.

Every year from April until October, when it is warm, you can drink clean tap water from public drinking fountains in many different locations in Ljubljana. Public drinking fountains are connected to the city's public water distribution Kleče, which is the biggest and the most important water supply in Ljubljana's water system. In Spring Jp Vo-Ka company checks whether everything is technically flawless and if quality of water in public fountains meets the regulations and the law. During operation, they are included in the regular internal control of the drinking water of the water supply system operator and would be shut down as soon as any deviation from the provisions of legal acts was found.

They can be found in locations where there is a public water supply network in the immediate vicinity, the dwell time from the water supply to the drinking water tap is short, so the water does not usually overheat.

This is very important as water heating during summer temperatures is a problem that should be avoided. Unless otherwise water should be running as long as fresh water comes out of the fountain. This is a recommendation for users of the fountains.

Is a public drinking fountain clean and safe to use?

If we compare it to domestic taps where water comes from the same source, public drinking fountain has special features.

Drinking water in public fountains can be used by many people daily. The fountains are exposed to different weather conditions, polluted air, vandalism and are also available to animals. Because of all these phenomena users need to be alert to any special features before use. Despite regular maintenance it may happen that a fountain is damaged or dirty.

Where you can find public drinking fountains?

If you visit the centre of Ljubljana you can hardly miss them as they are located from Pogačar's to Gornji trg. Parents are especially happy of public drinking fountains at the playgrounds of Tivoli and runners and walkers in Koseze pound and Cankar's vrh.



Application Tap Water Ljubljana.

Public drinking fountains are not only an urban decoration of the city, they are also a reminder that people in Ljubljana drink good water. Public access to these fountains also bears a symbolic message that water is a natural good that should be accessible to all with the awareness that drinking water has its price.

When you visit our beautiful city Ljubljana you may find it easier to spot public drinking fountains now that you know that they exist. Let the refreshing sip of natural drinking water gives you a respect for the nature which gives us this privilege.

Neža Rigler

Download the App TAP WATER LJUBLJANA on your mobile phone



News From Slovenia:

WATER

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Simon Gregorčič: SOČI

fragment

How beautiful you are, lucid daughter of the mountains,
so graceful in your natural beauty,
your diaphanous depths are not troubled by the tempests rage!
Yet, alas, you poor one,
Fearful tempests, terrible storms are threatening you.
From the warm south they will come raging across your fertile plains.
Alas, not long away is that day.
Clear sky above you,
hail of bullets around you,
and rain of blood and stream of tears,
thunder and lightning.
Swords will cut here,
blood will run knee deep,
our blood will feed you,
enemy blood will spoil you!



Malorh: SOČA

FLOODS CANNOT BE PREVENTED, WE CAN ONLY BE PREPARED FOR THEM

Almost every year, autumn in Slovenia is characterized by heavy rainfall, which triggers the flooding of large rivers in various regions. As much as 15% of the area, which represents about 3,000 km² of the entire territory, is at risk of flooding. The most extensive floods occur between September and December, and the trend is increasing. Every year at least one or two large-scale floods cause considerable damage. There are a number of measures that can be used to limit or even prevent the negative impacts of floods. Nevertheless, we often forget the fact that floods are a natural phenomenon that cannot be entirely prevented.

Lively events in November

The Slovenian coast was back underwater on the night of November 12 to November 13, 2019, due to the high tide. Among the most affected were the inhabitants of Izola and Piran, where the water almost reached their waists. Since the phenomenon is not uncommon in this part of Slovenia, the public has been taught how to act self-protectively - with **flood bags**, which they receive free of charge, or in some other way that prevents water from invading facilities. In such situations, they are also obliged to follow instructions of the competent authorities and the **information** provided by the media.



Flooded streets in Piran.

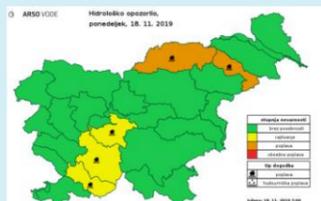


Inhabitants receive free flood bags.

According to the Slovenian Environment Agency, the highest sea level recorded at the Koper measuring station since November 1969 was 373 cm. The global climate changes are expected to have a significant impact on the future sea levels.

River Drava

On November 18, 2019, sirens sounded at five o'clock in the morning in the area of the municipalities of Maribor, Starše and Duplek, at approximately six o'clock in Ptuj and shortly before nine o'clock in Dravograd, due to the rising Drava river. The flow of the Drava River was swelling up, consequently, the road leading from Dravograd to Vič had to be closed for all traffic. The municipal headquarters recommended that residents, living along the banks of the Drava and Meža rivers, withdraw their cars to higher ground, follow notices, act self-protectively and comply with the instructions of firefighters.



Hydrological warning provided by Slovenian Environment Agency.



River Drava.

And our capital?

Ljubljana is the most endangered flood area in Slovenia with the highest damage potential. In the event of catastrophic floods, approximately 8,000 hectares of land are threatened, of which more than 400 hectares are urban. Approximately 20,000 people inhabit the floodplains, mostly in the southwestern part of the municipality, which is quite densely populated and located near the Ljubljanica river. It is there that torrential Gradaščica or Mali graben flood, respectively. One of the major floods was in 2010, when much of the capital was under water.



Ljubljana under water.



Ljubljana is flooded due to the poor maintenance of the existing drainage system, lack of conductivity of the Mali graben riverbed from its discharge into the Ljubljanica dam to the Bokalski dam, the interruption of flood water corridors towards Barje and Ljublanica, as well as the reduction of flood areas as a consequence of urban sprawl.

While floods cannot be entirely prevented, risks and their negative impact can be reduced. Municipality of Ljubljana does not take the problem lightly:

- more than ten million euros have already been allocated to increase flood safety;
- it has organised clearings and cleanings of roadside ditches and regular removal of shrubs and trees;
- it has financed the construction of a water restrainer in Brdo that will prevent the flooding of the Glinščica river in Rožna Valley;
- By 2020, they plan to renovate the water restrainer in Podutik and Rakovnik.

By 2022, however, a water restrainer Razori is expected to be built in the municipality of Dobrova – Polhov Gradec, which will have a major impact on flood safety in the municipality of Ljubljana.

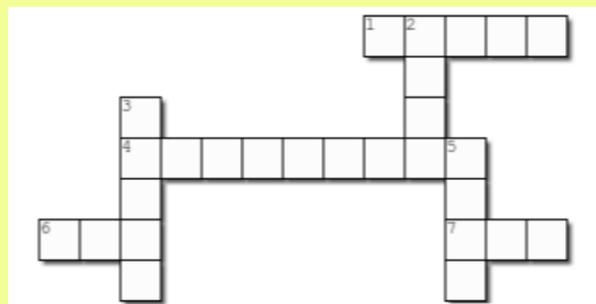
What is a water restrainer?

A water restrainer is an area where large quantities of water can be restrained during a flood and thus reduce the flow in the watercourse. The water restrainer is filled with water only in case of floods, otherwise the land can be cultivated normally.

Nevertheless, soon after these measures were accepted, the situation reoccurred. Instead of snow warnings, Slovenian Environment Agency issued a warning on December 22, 2019: "On Sunday, rivers are expected to swell up all over the country. Spills are possible in southern, southwestern, central and eastern Slovenia. The sea level will increase between 5am and 9am on Monday. The sea is expected to flood the lower parts of the coast by roughly 30 centimeters."

Nina Trampuš in Marija Farič

WATER CROSSWORD



Across

1. a natural disaster
4. we drink at home
6. a large amount of salty water
7. state of water when it is cold

Down

2. a large amount of water
3. state of water when it is hot
5. falling from the sky

Project ECO – US SUPPORT: THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN ESTONIJA

From 4th to 8th of November 2019 teachers from primary school Nove Fužine Maja Bergant, Mateja Majhen and Renato Planinšek attended the 1st International Meeting Erasmus + project, named Eco-us support in Estonia. The meeting was held in the north-eastern part of this Baltic country, to be more exact in Kohtla-Järve. There were beside us also teams from our partners' schools from Estonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Turkey. The main topic was ecology in fields where we can do more for our environment.

The first day we visited city hall of municipality Kohtla-Järve where we were informed that their policy is to invest into knowledge of their youth and not so much into buildings. We were able to see that by ourselves in later visits of their schools and kindergartens. Kohtla-Järve is a city which is very close to border with Russia and we soon realised that Russian is also very common language in Kohtla-Järve. There are two kindergartens, one for Estonian speaking children and the other for Russian speaking children. A kindergarten Lasteaed Tareke, which we visited, is a beautiful place full of educational toys and materials for children to learn and explore. Every little place in the kindergarten is a small exhibition of recycled products out of packaging made by children and their parents. Children in the kindergarten wear shorts and T-shirts with short sleeves. There is also a pool which they use whenever they can. The little ones also had a presentation for all of us and showed us their dancing and singing talents, but mostly they impressed us with the knowledge about protecting and saving our environment and the whole planet. After this we visited »Avinurme centre«, a place packed with wooden products. We were also able to make some wooden baskets, more or less successfully.

Next day there was a logo competition. Logos were made by pupils from all partners schools. We chose the one which will be our official logo for the whole two years. After that we went to see a school in Kohtla-Järve. Once again, we saw that classrooms are nice and fully equipped, halls not so much. There too is a pool which is used during class and also in the free time.

Later that day we made a trip to Narva city which is located right at Russian border. There we visited a castle which is also a museum and from it you can clearly see Russia as the border is only a few metres away. The state border is river Narva.

In the last part of our educational meeting we visited one more kindergarten, fully equipped with electronic devices, different robots which they use in educational purposes. At the end there was a viewing of Health Care museum in Tallin where we saw and learned a lot of new information about a human being in the broadest sense.

The rest of the time we explore viewing of Tallin and it did not disappoint us. A beautiful historic city with many interesting places and many souvenir shops. The weather which is colder than Slovenian, did not surprise us as we were well prepared.

written by: Renato Planinšek,
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Visiting Estonia