



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

**NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR**

## How schools can help in raising awareness on climate change

**Let's celebrate international environment days to bring global messages to the local level:**

- World Wetlands Day (2 February),
- International Day of Forests (21 March),
- World Water Day (22 March),
- International Mother Earth Day (22 April),
- World Climate Change Day (15 May),
- International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May),
- European Day of Parks (24 May),
- The Sava River Day (1 June),
- World Environment Day (5 June),
- World Oceans Day (8 June),
- World Habitat Day (first Monday of October),
- World Animal Day (4 October),
- World Walking Day (15 October),
- International Mountain Day (11 December).

For more information, contact:  
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## Participate!

Reasonable use of the online newspapers and their environmental, climate, biodiversity and human rights content in the classroom. Encouraging students to contribute to school newspapers themselves.

## Biodiversity

Slovenia is a biodiversity hotspot. Kindergartens and schools located in parks and on Natura 2000 sites should become promoters of these most valuable parts of Slovenia's territory. Slovenia has 70 parks: one national park (Triglav National Park), three regional parks (Kozjansko Regional Park, Notranjska Regional Park and Škocjan Caves Regional Park), 37 landscape parks, 66 nature reserves and over 1,200 natural monuments, which together cover 13% of Slovenia's territory. Slovenia has 355 Natura 2000 sites covering 37% of its territory. Nature and, therefore, areas with nature conservation status are allies in adapting to climate change. Children should learn about the animal and plant species around their schools and homes.



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## Drinking water

Slovenia is rich in water, with around 28,000 km of watercourses. Waterways are the lifeblood of our planet and without water there is no life. Children should learn about the watercourses around their schools and homes. They should find out where their drinking water comes from and learn about the threats to drinking water and how to protect it.

“All activities on the ground are reflected at the tap,” stressed Professor Mihael Toman.



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## School campaigns

### **Ecosystem restoration – Prevention of the spread of invasive non-native species:**

Schools should organise campaigns to remove non-native invasive plant species in their immediate vicinity. Raising children's awareness that pets (e.g. terrapins, aquarium fish and other animals) must not be released into the wild when we can no longer care for them.

### **Lessons outside the classroom within the curriculum:**

Students should learn about the curriculum content using examples from the local environment. All human activities have an impact on the environment and nature. Students should learn about ecosystem services, i.e. the services freely provided by nature (clean air, clean drinking water, fertile soils, fruits of the forest, herbs, natural building materials, medicines, clothing, energy, space for leisure, etc.).



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# Two recommendations of a systemic and long-term nature:

**Eco-kindergartens and eco-schools should become a standard, not an above-standard.**

We live in an era of global crises, including the climate and biodiversity crises. Kindergartens and schools should prepare children to live independently and to be future leaders and administrators of the state, thus ensuring a secure future for the generations to come. Co-existence with nature should become a way of life and be integrated into school curricula.

**Food security and self-sufficiency:**

Children are our treasure, so we must give them the best food. Menus should be enriched with locally produced food coming from organic farms to the greatest possible extent. The Traditional Slovenian Breakfast project, which highlights the importance of agriculture and beekeeping for food production and is celebrated on the third Friday in November, should no longer be an exception, and Slovenian food should become a staple of the daily diet in educational institutions.