

## 2. Methods to convey Sustainable Development topics

### Step ONE / facts\*

Today, the Danube River is highly endangered due to the development of industry, urbanization, intensive agriculture and river regulation. Key problems of its catchment area include nitrate congestion, high levels of organic matter from wastewater, changes in river flow and impact on sediment transport, exposure to problematic substances (heavy metals, oil and toxins), pollution from accidents, including landfills, loss of wetlands.

### Step TWO / information and awareness\*

An important part of solving these problems is the information and awareness of the inhabitants living along the Danube and its tributaries. The Danube is not only important for nature, for centuries it has also been the cradle of culture and civilization and an important source of drinking water.

Two thirds of the Slovenian territory belongs to the Danube basin with the main rivers Sava, Drava and Mura. Tributaries Drava and Mura are a real treasure trove of diverse flora and fauna.

### Step THREE / education and action

Education of as wide as possible network of trained promoters for sustainable development in the Danube basin, who would then pass their knowledge to pupils, students and also adults through educational workshops as well as through field actions.

The promoters are organized in a pyramid manner from the top on national level to the bottom on local level. In such organisation the opportunity for the financial and political confirmation is key for the sustainable development of the Danube river basin.



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