

## TOPIC 2: The River - Its Secrets and Beauties

Dušana Bizjak

### LJUBLJANICA – A QUIET HAVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY

Why I have chosen this topic?



I am very interested in the topic of the Ljubljana river, since I like nature, part of which is also water.

When we look from the water surface, we get a unique sight of the buildings, bridges and cultural monuments, which become completely different from the water perspective.

One can also observe passengers on the bridges and the city hustle and bustle on the banks of the river. When we are on the water we can observe the city's beat in a different way.

Every movement on the water – swimming, boat riding and observing of everything which lives in it – attracts me. I was also interested in the life story of Tomo Zupančič, who rode the first raft on the Ljubljana river.

He was born in Ljubljana and has lived with it as long as he can remember. When he was a child, he spent a lot of time with his grandparents in Barje (the Ljubljana Marshes), where he liked to explore nature.

Later he worked as a teacher in a grammar school and spent long summer holidays at the sea, where he worked as a skipper, teaching tourists how to sail. He was also an active

member of the Ljubljana diving club.

He remembers how unbelievably live the Ljubljana river became during the war in Croatia. The citizens of Ljubljana were not able to go to the Adriatic Sea and stayed at home due to the war, and they were using their boats on the Ljubljana river.

Despite inadequate legislation, he managed to make and launch his first boat and started sailing on the Ljubljana river thirteen years ago. At first only occasionally for casual groups, and gradually he started with tourist rides.

Today he has three boats and several captains, who work for him. He participates also in a European project for the setting up of professional basis for sailing and is the keeper of the navigational route of the Ljubljana river, including the care for cleaning of the river banks.

I hope we will have an opportunity to sail with him, so that he will be able to tell us some interesting things.