

World Opportunities Day

World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March to promote the importance of water as a vital and limited resource. Earth Day is celebrated a month later, on 22 April, to raise people's awareness about the state of the environment. There are several other world days related to spatial and environmental issues, whose primary aim is to inform the public and re-examine professional activity rather than hold celebrations. Considering the current state of the environment, they are also becoming an increasingly important opportunity not only to show our gratitude for all the resources and rights we have available, but also to become aware of our responsibility to preserve them for future generations.

Relaxed festivities and carefree enjoyment are now over. Natural resources and their quality, as well as the universal rights to enjoy them, are dwindling. Through small steps backward, changes to established practices and legal regulations are slowly chipping away the privileges we have been given and have enjoyed. All these things should not be taken for granted. We have achieved them hand in hand with the progress of our civilization and culture.

The right to drinking water and the fact that water resources are a public good are inscribed in the Slovenian constitution. I am not familiar with the legal regulations governing the right to water in other countries, but I consider Slovenians among the more fortunate nations because in Slovenia the wealth and quality of water, and access to it, are also protected by law. However, like with all other rights, once they are achieved and even provided for in legal documents, we also seem to take this one for granted to the extent that we feel we no longer have to fight for it. Ideas about changing the law to prioritize the rights of landowners and developers over the universal right to this resource can thus be considered a breaking point.

This is an opportunity to reflect and take action, so that later we do not say: "Do you remember when we had all that, and now we've lost it forever? Irrevocably. Why?" Because we will need to do everything again from the start. The rights we lose say more about our society than the rights we (still) have.

Damjana Gantar,
Editor-in-Chief