



THE DAY OF THE TREE

In the summer 2007 Macedonia suffered over 600 fires and lost a significant percentage of forests. That's why on March 12 2008 the Macedonian Government organized the *Day Of The Tree*. On that day, the people of Macedonia managed to plant over 2 million trees—symbolizing one tree for each citizen in the country. On Wednesday, November 19, the Day of the Tree was organized for second time this year and some 6 million trees were planted in a single day. The activities were held on approximately 100 locations throughout the country. Several locations (high in the mountains) were canceled because of the cold. This project involved hundreds of volunteers, the Macedonian army (the soldiers alone planted around 120,000 trees), many celebrities like the pop singers Karolina and Rebeka, and some politicians. The *Day of The Tree* was a success primarily because of the good atmosphere and the cooperation of hundreds of ordinary people who were transported by busses to distant locations during the whole day. Not only were they in a good mode because of the fact that the day was made a public holiday without work and school, but planting trees proved to be good fun, too. The whole thing was an idea of Boris Trajanov, the Macedonian world-famous opera singer and *UNESCO*. He hopes that the planting of million trees in Macedonia will inspire other countries to do the same. Several neighboring states have already agreed to participate in the March planting. And who knows, maybe we can expand this project to the whole world because with a small investment (just 25 eurocents per tree) we can make our world better place for living.

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