

Updated information on IBY celebrations in Hungary

The official Hungarian opening ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity was held on 11th March 2010. The *Snowdrop Festival* was hosted by the Arboretum of Alcsút where native snowdrop species (*Galanthus nivalis*) as well as the largest Mediterranean snowdrop field of Hungary can be seen. This extraordinary sight is extended over two hectares. The International Year of Biodiversity was opened by the State Secretary for Nature and Environment Protection and the Archduke Mihály Habsburg-Lohtaringiai. More than 24 species and subspecies of snowdrops were shown by botanists and professional guides to the visitors.



Opening of the International Year of Biodiversity at the Arboretum of Alcsút



Archduke Mihály Habsburg-Lotharingai and students of the local school listen the explanations of a botanist



Venue of the IBY opening ceremony



Snowdrop field in sunlight