



Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

we hope you are enjoying the nice weather out there! Before you jump into the summer holidays and a well-deserved rest, we would like to catch your attention with the next edition of our newsletter.

Most importantly, the **Call to nominate the candidates for DRC Presidency for the period of 2020-2021 is now announced**. The DRC President is also calling the **DRC Permanent Committee** to meet via online event on 22nd of September 2020. Moreover, the date for this year's **General Assembly** was set on 6th of November 2020.

We would like to ask you also to spread the word about the [\*\*Young Scholars Forum on Central and South East Europe\*\*](#) organized by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) and taking place in December in Vienna, Austria.

You can also have a look on some initiatives of the IDM: the IDMonSite discussion with **Maurizio Fermeglia**, former rector of the University of Trieste, or collected videos of IDM's initiative "**What's the Matter, Europe?**".

Enjoy reading and remember, feedback and comments are always [welcome!](#)

1. CALL FOR NOMINATING THE CANDIDATES FOR THE DRC PRESIDENCY
2. CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE
3. SAVE THE DATE: DRC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020
4. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS | IDM YOUNG SCHOLARS FORUM
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## 1. CALL FOR NOMINATING THE CANDIDATES FOR THE DRC PRESIDENCY

According article VII of the DRC statute the DRC Presidency shall be composed of Rectors of universities that are full members of the DRC. The Presidency is elected by the DRC General Assembly, following nominations sent to the DRC secretariat after a call for candidates has been sent to all members.

Therefore, **this newsletter is intended as the call to nominate the candidates for DRC Presidency for 2020-2021.** The nominations should be sent to [DRC secretariat](#).

## 2. CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE

According to Article VI.2 the President of the DRC calls for a Permanent Committee meeting to be held as an online meeting on **22nd of September 2020 at 15:00 CEST**. The draft agenda will be sent accordingly.

Information about the Permanent Committee is available on our [website](#).

## 3. SAVE THE DATE: DRC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

Given the travel restrictions and other difficulties the universities are facing in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the DRC Presidency, after careful consideration and in consultation with the Uzhhorod National University, agreed unanimously on the postponement of the Annual Conference scheduled to take place on 4.-6. November 2020 at the Uzhhorod National University to 2021.

**The General Assembly for all DRC member universities will be held as an online meeting on 6th of November 2020 at 10:00 CET.**

Information regarding the registration as well as the draft programme will be

We look forward to seeing you during our General Assembly in November!

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#### 4. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS | IDM YOUNG SCHOLARS FORUM



### 7<sup>th</sup> Young Scholars Forum on Central and South East Europe

**“European narratives – in search for common diversity”**

**02 – 06 December 2020, Vienna, Austria**

Europeans face Europeans. The national policies of the states making up the old continent continue to shape Europe's future at the expense of Europe as whole. The divisions among the countries are deepening, very often in a way that creates a crisis both internally and in a global context. The constant search of common narratives – as the basis for a common identity-based policy – seems to be increasingly difficult in the face of fragmented political spectrum and ever-more differing policy approaches in Europe. The purpose of the Forum is to provide space for young scientists to find what is common to all Europeans.

As part of the 3-day event, 20 young researchers from all over Europe are invited to present and discuss their research work related to the topic of the Forum, as well as to network among themselves. The conference will take place on the first two days under the direction of experts within four thematically different panels:

- Europe as an area of peace and stability
- Europe as a space of cultural diversity
- Europe as a global actor
- If not the EU, is there/has there been an alternative?

The third day is designated for further exchange among participants during a thematically appropriate social programme in Vienna and Lower Austria.

#### **Who we are looking for**

We are seeking a maximum of **20 young scholars** working on Central and South Eastern Europe in the fields of peace research and security policy, cultural studies, political sciences, economy, geography, sociology, media studies and history to

## Aims of the Forum

- Promoting and encouraging young scholars to engage with Central and South East Europe
- Presentation of research by young scholars to a wider public
- Exchange among young and more advanced researchers on topics, methods, sources and results
- Networking
- Furthering mobility within the region
- Publication of contributions and results

More information on the programme and the submission process can be found on the [IDM website](#).

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## 5. WHAT'S THE MATTER, EUROPE? | IDM

This year we celebrate **25 years since the EU accession of Austria**, but why should we care about this anniversary? Being convinced that during the transnational Corona crisis **Europe** needs more mutual understanding and passionate advocacy than ever before, the IDM team launched the initiative “**What’s the matter, Europe?**” and presents a collection of personal stories on Europe.

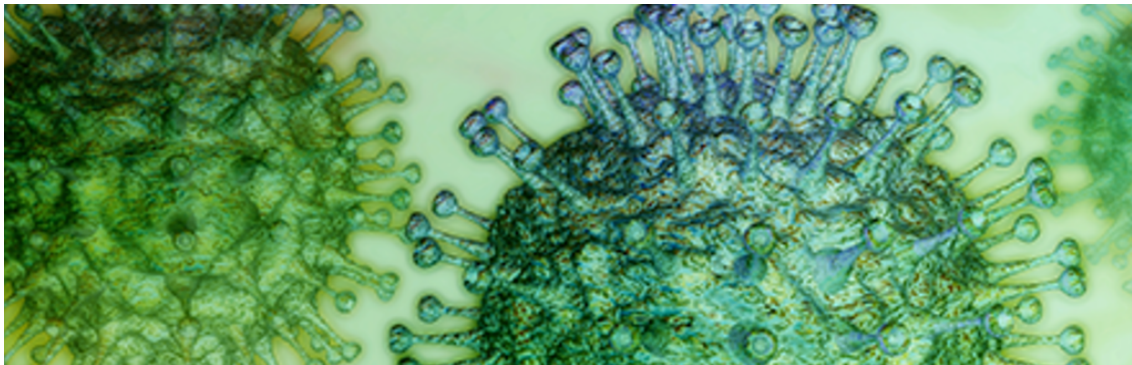
The **IDM Team** is delighted, that the initiative to rekindle the European idea has attracted a lot of involvement and interest by the public. **Click on the icon below to watch the final video!**

Along with the slogan „What’s the matter, Europe?“, participants from varying fields shared their stories and wishes for Europe’s future, including the Austrian president [Alexander Van der Bellen](#), EU Commissioner [Johannes Hahn](#) and MEP [Claudia Gamon](#) (NEOS). The videos can be found on Social Media under the Hashtag #WhatsTheMatterEurope and on the IDM YouTube channel.



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## 6. COVID-19 MEASURES AT THE UNIVERSITIES



We are recovering from difficult times we experienced in the past months. Although the intensity of COVID-19 is waning in Europe, we need to learn from our experiences and be prepared for potential second wave of the virus.

We also express our gratitude to all our member universities and their students as well as to all other educational institutions in the region for showing immense solidarity throughout the crisis. In the future, the universities should continue to be the driving force for innovation and research in the region and beyond, and thus contribute to contain the fallout of the corona crises both in health and socio-economic terms.

Currently the economies are opening up, however, the universities are yet to operate normally. The introduction of different forms of **distance learning** was an unprecedented and in many ways challenging situation for most universities in the region. In order to use the gained experiences efficiently we need to exchange the lessons learned regarding the distance learning.

Therefore, we decided to explore how university associations such as DRC could contribute to alleviating the impact of government measures on universities, whereas **our focus primarily referred to various forms of the distance learning (E-learning)**. The collected information on the possibilities of the distance contact could consequently also be used during our DRC Annual conference taking place in November this year.

For more details on how some DRC member universities are coping with the current challenging situation, click [here](#). Also DRC President and Rector of the University of Belgrade **Ivanka Popović** has, amongst others, addressed the measures introduced at the University of Belgrade following the government regulations. To watch the IDMonSite discussion with Ivanka Popović, click [here](#).

**We would like to ask you to share your ideas and recommendations for our activity during these times of crisis and to share with us your experience,**

Please contact us via our e-mail address [info@drc-danube.org](mailto:info@drc-danube.org)

We wish you every success in coping with the emergency measures and take care of yourself!

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## 7. IDMonSite with Maurizio Fermeglia

The guest of the [IDMonSite](#) discussion on 7th of July 2020 was **Maurizio Fermeglia**, Full Professor at and former rector of the member university of the DRC [University of Trieste](#). As member of the Programme Committee of the **EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2020**, Prof. Fermeglia gave insights to the reorganization of the ESOF taking place in Trieste, Italy, and originally planned for 5-9 July.

In addition to the presentation of the [ESOF](#), Daniel Martínek (IDM, DRC Secretariat) discussed with the renowned scientist the **role of science and research** during coronavirus times and the **(un)preparedness for the environmental crisis** that awaits us in the years to come.

Watch the discussion in the video below!



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## 8. DRC Vice President Friedrich Faulhammer on the 30 years anniversary of Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad

*"Your university created a link between Europe and its region, between science and society."*

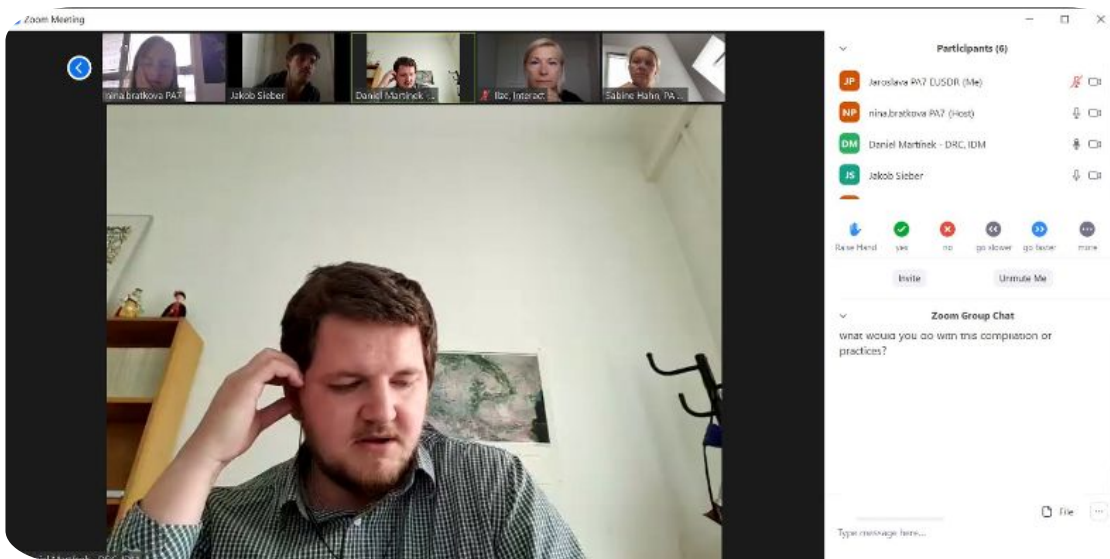


and DRC Vice President, send his message wishing ongoing academic success and prosperity.



## 9. Online meeting of the Cross-macroregional Task Force

Daniel Martínek (DRC Secretariat) took part in the first online meeting of the Cross-macroregional Task Force on Digital solutions within education organized by the [Danube Region Strategy: Knowledge Society](#) team with the support of [INTERACT](#) on 8th of June 2020.



The original initiative is to have a platform for **learning from good practice and to take joint initiatives e.g. on pedagogical measures, technical solutions, or data protection**. Let us wait for the first results!

As the [Joint Research Center \(JRC\)](#) is our long-term partner, the DRC would like to present its [2019 Annual Report](#).

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the European Commission's science and knowledge service which employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to EU policy.



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## 11. EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel's initiatives related to the outbreak of COVID-19

The **EU Commissioner of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel** has launched new initiatives in this extraordinary challenging times where she and her team want to make sure EU citizens and other stakeholders stay informed on the latest developments in the sector of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.



A [newsletter](#) series is available to update on the Commissioner's portfolio and initiatives.

Also a [new website](#) was recently launched including up-to-date information on coronavirus research and funding opportunities.

Highlights from the website are:



- Commission unveils [EU vaccines strategy](#) - Research and innovation [supporting vaccine development](#) for COVID-19

Finally, a [webpage](#) providing information on online learning resources is also available.

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## 12. JRC | Science and Knowledge in a Time of Crisis



From the preparation of guidelines and control materials for testing and better characterisation of the pandemic, to the detailed analysis of epidemiologic and economic impacts, the **European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)** is evaluating and anticipating the evolution of this crisis so that it can be managed effectively.

Security remains a top priority and the JRC is involved in monitoring and early detection of risk signals.

Social aspects and the environmental perspective cannot be forgotten – the JRC is carefully monitoring the situation from the citizens' perspective. Understanding their fears and concerns will allow national and international institutions to better manage the crisis.

This document supplements information contained in "[Solidarity with Europe – JRC science to tackle the coronavirus crisis](#)"

You can find the JRC Newsletter for June [here](#).

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## 13. DRC Facebook Page

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We are trying to improve the circulation of information within our network.  
We kindly ask you to also connect with us via [Facebook](#) and visit the [DRC webpage](#).

Thank you very much and best regards from Vienna



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#### 14. EUA Affiliate Status and EUA Newsletter

We are continuously strengthening and expanding our network. Since November 2015, the DRC is affiliate member of the [European University Association](#).

If you are interested in their news and activities, please follow the [link](#).

[Email](#)[Website](#)[Facebook](#)

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Danube Rectors' Conference i.v.z.w.

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