

DRC NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER  
2020



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Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

we hope that you are enjoying the beginning of the new academic year. We will experience another semesters affected by the corona pandemic which brings many challenges as well as opportunities, particularly for the Danube Region.

The DRC secretariat has - in the framework of the DRC events - also largely entered into an online operating, whereas this year's **DRC General Assembly** will be held on **6th of November 2020** as an online event supplemented by the **Danubius Awards 2020 official ceremony**.

Don't miss the chance to meet **2 prominent scientists** and **14 promising young researchers** coming from the Danube Region and awarded by the Danubius Award 2020 on **6th of November 2020 at 1:00 pm**.

Moreover, we would like to draw your attention to an event "**Young Generations Take over the Danube Region**", an event during which you can learn how macro-regional cooperation such as EUSDR works and **how youngsters and young adults are supported by the Danube Region Strategy**.

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

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#### 1. 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.**

Below you can find the Agenda of the DRC General Assembly.

### **Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020**

1. Opening
2. Approval of the Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020
3. Approval of the Minutes of the DRC General Assembly 2019
4. Annual report on DRC activities 2020
5. Annual report of the DRC Secretariat 2020
6. DRC Summer School 2020
7. Report on the DRC financial situation in 2020
8. DRC Membership issues
  - Application of the University of Banja Luka
  - Application of the Deggendorf University of Applied Sciences
9. Election of the new DRC Presidency
10. DRC Action Plan for 2021
11. DRC Financial Budget for 2021
12. Any other business
13. Closing

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

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### **2. DANUBIUS AWARDS 2020 CEREMONY**



The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) are pleased to announce the date for the **Danubius Awards 2020 Ceremony** taking place on **6th of November 2020 at 1:00 pm** as online event.

Further details of the Award Ceremony will be published in due time on the DRC webpage.

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### 3. 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 contribute with their research to the analysis of the afore-mentioned issues and to find a common narrative that would held the future Europe together.

### **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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## **4. 25th Anniversary of the Danube University Krems**



Donau-Universität Krems  
Universität für Weiterbildung

We are pleased to announce that the **Danube University Krems** is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The official celebration ceremony will take place on **October 2, 2020 in Krems, Austria**. The number of participants is limited, however, the entire event will be broadcast online. An official invitation will follow soon.

The DRC Secretariat congratulates the Danube University Krems on a successful 25 years of continuing education and scientific excellence and wishes her success in the years to come.

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## 5. Young Generations Take over the Danube Region





The European Week of Regions and Cities is the perfect framework to bring the Danube Region Strategy closer to the people:

On **13th October**, starting at **14:30 CET**, we invite all interested parties to join us for an hour to learn how macro-regional cooperation works and **how youngsters and young adults are supported by the Danube Region Strategy**.

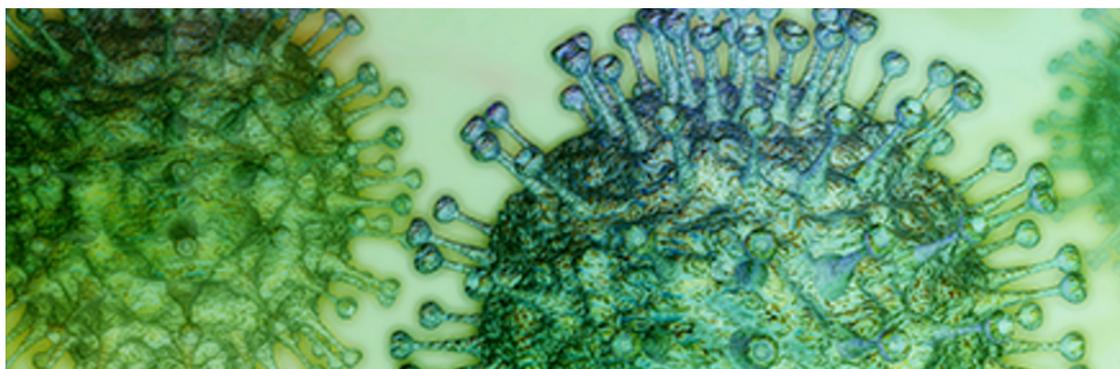
EUSDR (through the **Danube Strategy Point**) and the project consortium **Supercomputers and Intellectual Property Rights for successful Technology Transfer** are teaming up to present both the practical "how" and the policy "why" of presenting **concrete projects, strategic actions and hands-on experience**.

Participants will be shown how cohesion and cooperation go hand in hand and how the actions of a macro-regional strategy are reflected in projects with the aim of supporting business growth and ensuring prosperity in the Danube Region. The session will also show **how young people and academia enable SMEs to gain a competitive advantage** by applying High-Performance Computing (HPC), how co-designing knowledge-intensive innovative products may be used in transnational value-chains and how intellectual property rights may be protected.

Join us by [registering for our session](#) - the countdown for registration is running - 27th September.



## 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, know-how and good practices in order to face the current situation.**

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. JRC | 11 open Calls for access to Nuclear Research Infrastructures



#OpenAccess



We are glad to announce that the JRC has opened 11 calls to access JRC nuclear research infrastructures:

### **Laboratory of the Environmental & Mechanical Materials Assessment (EMMA)**

[Calls close 15/10/2020]

[AMALIA, assessment of nuclear power plants core internals](#)

[LILLA, Liquid Lead Laboratory](#)

[SMPA, Structural Materials Performance Assessment Laboratories](#)

[MCL, Micro-Characterisation Laboratory](#)

## European research infrastructure for nuclear reaction, radioactivity, radiation and technology studies in science and applications (EUFRAT)

[Calls close 15/10/2020]

[RADMET, Radionuclide Metrology laboratories](#)

[GELINA, the JRC Neutron Time-of-Flight Facility](#)

[HADES, Underground laboratory for ultra-low level gamma-ray spectrometry\]](#)

[MONNET, Tandem accelerator based fast neutron source](#)

### Actinide User Laboratory (ActUsLab)

[Calls close 30/09/2020]

[HC-KA, Hot Cell Laboratory](#)

[FMR, Fuels and Materials Research](#)

[PAMEC, Properties of Actinide Materials under Extreme Conditions](#)

Three state-of-the-art laboratories are located in Karlsruhe and are designed for research on actinide materials. Actinide elements are the backbone of nuclear technologies, such as energy, space exploration or medical treatments. Scientists will be able to conduct exploratory research to help develop new nuclear equipment or materials. The JRC will also make accessible four of its European facilities for nuclear reaction and decay data measurements in Geel. Such measurements help to make nuclear reactors and the handling of nuclear waste safer, and enhance radiological protection for citizens and the environment. In Petten, four research infrastructures provide hosting opportunities in laboratories for mechanical tests in ambient and corrosive environments from cryogenic to high temperatures at the macro and micro scales. Scientist have the opportunity to investigate materials performance, mechanical and corrosion properties and characterisation to make reactor infrastructures safer.

The calls are addressed to external users from academia and research organisations, industry, SMEs, and more in general from the private and public sectors.

You can find all relevant information here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/research-facility/open-access>

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## 8. Save the Date: 7th Danube Participation Day



We gladly share the word that the **7th Danube Participation Day** will take place on **21 October 2020**.

The Danube Participation Day 2020 will present the first draft of the Guidance Paper for Youth Participation in the Danube Region. Against this background, participants will have the opportunity to exchange on possible ways forward in order to **boost cooperation and participation of young people and youth initiatives**. In doing so, the Danube Participation Day wants to provide a **platform to raise awareness**

**of valuable contributions from existing youth initiatives in the region** and taking initial steps forward to acknowledge and involve youth in the Danube Region.

This year`s Danube Participation Day represents the continuation of efforts from the conference in 2019 that marked the kick-off for the draft of the guidance paper.

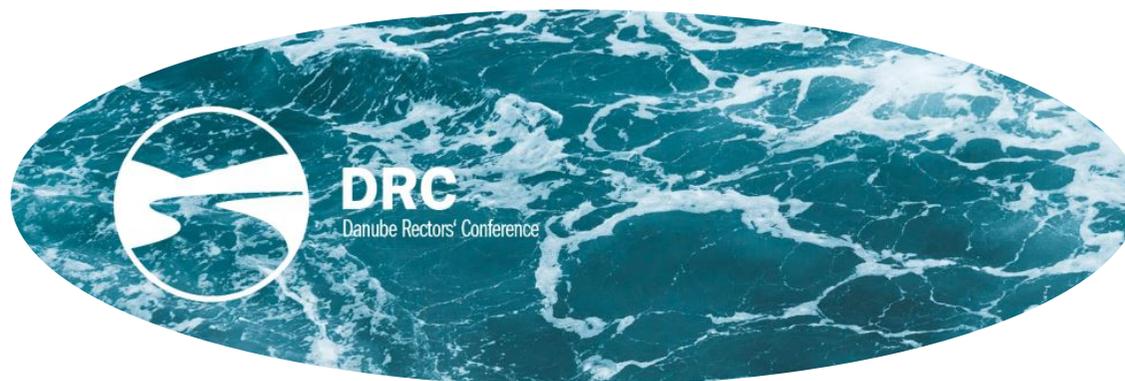
**Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the Danube Participation Day will be a virtual event.**

Further information on the registration and the agenda will follow soon.

Regular updates are also available at the Website of Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation at <https://capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/danube-participation-day/>.

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## 9. DRC Facebook Page



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

## 10. 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](#).

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Email



Website



Facebook

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

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