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Dear subscribers of the DRC Newsletter,

Christmas is coming and the end of the year is slowly approaching!

We have all expected 2021 as the opportunity to start again - leaving behind the pandemic and all the limitations it brought about. **While the spread of the virus has not stopped, neither did we: all of us coped with the difficulties imposed by the circumstances, and we are pleased to see our partners' commitment to maintaining the DRC network operative also in 2021!**

We could experience such commitment recently, during the DRC Annual Meeting, which took place in November. Together, we had the opportunity to discuss what has been done during the outgoing year and the paths to pursue in order to improve our network and enhance cooperation further in 2022!

With this November/December edition of our newsletter, we would sincerely thank all the members and friends of the DRC for their interest in our work in 2021. **The Danube Rectors' Conference wishes you peaceful holidays and a happy new year!**

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



DRC Annual Meeting 2021

The Danubius Awards 2021

DRC Strategic Foresight: The Future of Science and Education in a Globalised World: A View For and From the Danube Region

DRC Initiative Fund

Upcoming EUA peer-learning opportunities

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1. DRC Annual Meeting 2021

On 10-12 November, the DRC Presidency and Permanent Committee and General Assembly were held online. During both meetings, the DRC Presidency and the DRC Secretariat presented the activities performed throughout the year, as well as developments of the DRC network and other topics. During the General Assembly, the applications of membership from two more universities in the Danube Region were approved. Therefore, **we are pleased to announce that the DRC network is welcoming two more members:**

the [University of Reutlingen](#) and

the [J. Selye University of Komarno](#)

Moreover, the Annual Meeting 2021 brings other exciting news. With immense pleasure, we have agreed that **the next Annual Meeting 2022 will take place in the beautiful city of Maribor, Slovenia** - upon invitation of the DRC President Zdravko Kačič, Rector of the University of Maribor.

Further documents, including the minutes, are available on our [DRC intranet](#). To get access as DRC member, please write an e-mail to info@drc-danube.org.

In addition, two new projects for the upcoming year have been presented and approved by the General Assembly:

DRC Initiative Fund

DRC Strategic Foresight:

The Future of Science and Education in a Globalised World:
A View for and From the Danube Region

Scroll down and learn more about these projects!

2. Danubius Awards Ceremony 2021



On November 11, 2021, the IDM, together with the Federal Ministry of the Republic of Austria of Education, Science and Research, awarded excellent scientists, whose talent has flourished in the Danube Region.



The **Danubius Award** went to Austrian scientist Prof. **Josef Glöb** University Professor for Applied Genetics at the [Institute of Plant Biotechnology and Cell Biology of Boku](#). We are honoured to have awarded this important prize to Prof. **Glöb**, who stands out for an exceptional career in physiology, chemistry, plant physiology, and applied genetics - together with his invaluable contribution to the Danube region's academic development.

The **Danubius Mid-Career Award** has been awarded to the Serbian scientist **Tanja Dabović**, Ass. Professor at the [Faculty of Geography of the University of Belgrade](#), where she has been working in the field of Spatial Planning since her PhD. Her work has mainly focused on planning disciplines, with particular emphasis on multi-level governance and cross-sector integration. Involved in different national and international projects, Prof. Dabović's research has proved to be meaningful for the Danube Region, as the award clearly demonstrates.



DANUBIUS YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

Country	Winner
Austria	Gusenbauer Claudia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Raič Mirna
Bulgaria	Mihaylova Svilenka
Croatia	Kovač Tihomir
Czech Republic	Šedová Petra
Germany	Corman Mihai-Razvan
Hungary	Szeghy-Gayer Veronika
Montenegro	Ćalasan Martin
Romania	Câmpu Andreea-Maria
Serbia	Salević Ana
Slovakia	Majzlíková Erika
Slovenia	Bezák Nejc
Ukraine	Karabiniuk Mykola

Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, the **Danubius Awards 2021 Award Ceremony** took place in a virtual format on November 11, 2021. You can find the recording of the ceremony on the [IDM YouTube channel](#).



3. DRC Strategic Foresight: The Future of Science and Education in a Globalised World: A View For and From the Danube Region

The project involves **20 young students and scholars from the Danube Region** countries. It aims to develop strategic foresight in the area of higher education in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. Participants will discuss, learn from one another and share ideas on four areas of higher education in the DRC region, namely:

- University Autonomy and Governance;
- Science and Learning in Digital Era;
- Scientific Research for European Decision-Making;
- Employability of students and early-stage researchers;

The call for application will be published in January on the [DRC website](#), where you will learn more about the project and the participation requirements!

Stay tuned!

4. DRC Initiative Fund

The Danube Rectors' Conference is glad to offer **students of doctoral study programmes at DRC member universities** the possibility to obtain **financial means for developing applicants' projects, solutions, prototypes**.

We are prepared to support outstanding students and young scholars' projects which can have a positive impact in the region, in line with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), by financing the following activities:

- Material costs
- Cost of use of research equipment at other DRC member institutions
- Service costs
- Travel costs and costs of stay for the students and their family members

We warmly invite young scholars to apply to the Call for applications, which will be published in January on the [DRC website](#).

5. Upcoming EUA peer learning opportunities

The European University Association invites all EUA member institutions to the **2022 Thematic Peer Groups**. Intended for senior leadership and staff with strategic and institutional-level responsibility for learning and teaching, this programme provides an opportunity for peer learning and the exchange of experiences. This year's themes are:

- Digitally competent teachers in designing quality learning environments
- Collaborative teaching practice
- Needs and wellbeing of student and staff

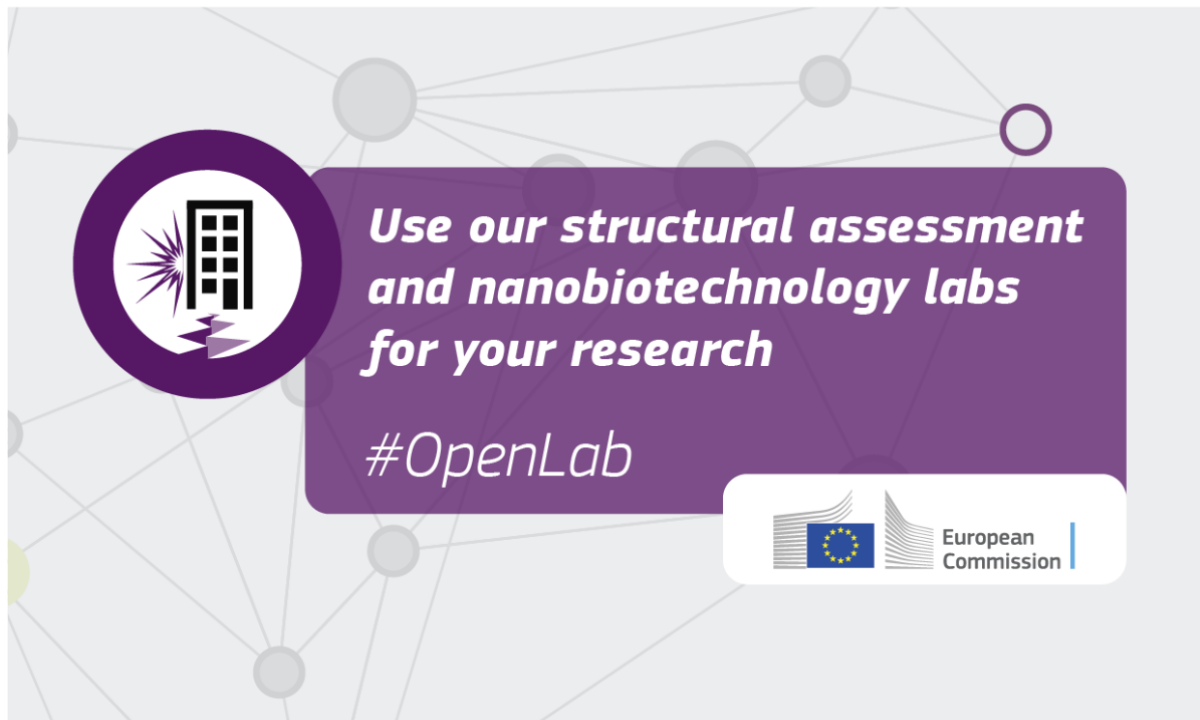
The deadline for applications is **28 January 2022**, and the results of the call will be announced in mid-February 2022. The full call is available on this [link](#).

The EUA kindly invites registrations for the following events. **European Learning and Teaching Forum**, a platform for discussion on how universities enhance learning and teaching through digital means (registration link [here](#)) and two new members for the **EUA Learning&Teaching Steering Committee**, which oversees EUA's Learning&Teaching activities (registration link [here](#))

For updates on EUA's Learning & Teaching activities, look for [#EUALearnTeach](#) on

Twitter and/or join the LinkedIn group [Learning & Teaching in European Higher Education](#).

6. The Open Access call of the ELSA and the nano-biotechnology laboratory



The [Open Access call of the ELSA and the Nano biotechnology Laboratory Joint Call](#) between two **JRC Research Infrastructures** to **tackle cross-boundary issues** with the **access cost waived** for institutions applying from WPSE-listed countries. We invite proposals for projects to experiment, prototype and demonstrate ideas for the **New European Bauhaus**.

The **ELSA Reaction Wall** and the **Nanobiotechnology Laboratory** will serve as collaboration platform to **stimulate creativity and innovation in the built environment**. Location: **Ispra, Italy**. Opening of the call will be on **September 22**, the closure one on **January 16**.

Research priorities:

- **Safe and green** renovation of buildings for the New European Bauhaus.
 - New materials and technologies.
 - **Sustainable materials** for construction.
 - Application of **advanced testing methods**.
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7. 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



8. 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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Website



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