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**DRC NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
2022**



DRC
Danube Rectors' Conference

WE STAND WITH UKRAINE



DRC
Danube Rectors' Conference

The DRC Presidency stands with Ukraine.

Russia's aggression is not just a completely unjustified attack on Ukraine. It is an attack on all of us. While we fear for the safety of our friends and partners at the universities across Ukraine, particularly our members Uzhhorod National University and Odessa National I. I. Mechnikov University, we ask our network for any support in these dark times.

We will continue our efforts and engagement with Ukraine throughout our several formats like the Danubius Awards, the DRC Summer School and the EUSDR.

Dear subscribers of the **DRC Newsletter**,

We are approaching the end of the year and behind us are a handful of events and a series of activities implemented this year also together with our partners. Keep reading to find out the highlights of last months.

Every two years, **the DRC elects its new presidency**. Accordingly, the DRC Annual Conference 2022 was held last month, where new presidency for the 2023-2024

term was elected.

Together, we had the opportunity to discuss the topic **"Digital Transformation of the Danube Higher Education Area in Conditions of Recovery"** during The Annual Meeting, which was held from **November 9 to 11 at the University of Maribor in Slovenia**, and it also represented the opportunity to meet other members and exchange experiences.

We hope that in this last edition of the newsletter for the year 2022 you will find many exciting information and we encourage you to continue to follow our activities in 2023!

As you already know, we are open to all your **suggestions** that can help us grow and improve the content that we share with you.

Election of new DRC Presidency
Ivanka Popović elected as Acting Honorary President
Ivanka Popović nominated for the EUA Presidency
Expression of gratitude to the Acting Honorary President
DRC Annual Conference 2022 at the University of Maribor
Final conference of the FIFUDEM Project
Danubius Awards 2022 Ceremony
New calls for open access to JRC research infrastructure
CASEE Newsletter
DRC Facebook page
EUA Affiliate Status and EUA Newsletter

1. Election of new DRC Presidency

Following the elections of the new presidency during the **DRC General Assembly** on **11 November 2022**, we gladly announce the new DRC Presidency for the period **2023-2024**.



Beginning with 1 January 2023, **Mag. Friedrich Faulhammer, Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krems**, takes over the position of DRC President. The role of the new Vice-Presidents will be assumed by former DRC President **Prof. Dr. Zdravko Kačič, Rector of the University of Maribor**, and **Prof. Dr. Daniel David, Rector of the Babeş-Bolyai University**.

2. Ivanka Popović elected as Acting Honorary President

As a result of the **DRC General Assembly on 11 November 2022**, the DRC is pleased to announce the election of former DRC President and Vice-President **Ivanka Popović** as **DRC Acting Honorary President**. We would like to thank Prof. Popović for all efforts and valuable contribution in her previous roles within DRC Presidency and look forward to continuing the successful cooperation in the upcoming years!



3. Ivanka Popović nominated for the EUA Presidency

We are also glad to announce that Ivanka Popović has also been nominated for the position of **EUA President**. The DRC Presidency fully supports her nomination as it

is convinced that her election as EUA president would not only strengthen the voice of universities from **Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe**, but she would firmly represent and promote the interests of the EUA members.

4. Expression of gratitude to the Acting Honorary President



With much esteem, we would like to thank Miroslav Veskočić for his work and contribution during his term as **Acting Honorary President**. With a feeling of gratitude and appreciation, we look back on all his valuable insights and ideas that shaped the developments of DRC in the past years. **On behalf of DRC Presidency**, we wish Miroslav Veskočić all the best in his future and a successful continuation of his dedicated support of higher education and research in the Danube Region and beyond!

5. DRC Annual Conference 2022 at the University of Maribor



We are incredibly pleased to inform you that **the DRC Annual Meeting** was held at

the University of Maribor in Slovenia from the 9th until the 11th of November 2022!

This year's conference enabled our members to connect and exchange ideas related to **"Digital Transformation of the Danube Higher Education Area in Conditions of Recovery"**.



We would like to thank not only our hosts at the University of Maribor for the excellent organization but also all representatives of **DRC member universities** for their participation in the annual meeting. In addition to the election of the **new DRC presidency**, it has been decided on other DRC-related issues.

You can find detailed information on the DRC Annual Meeting, including the **Minutes**, on the [DRC Intranet](#).

DRC Intranet

6. Final conference of the FIFUDEM Project



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The idea behind the accepted project proposal was based on the observation that liberal democracy has been eroding for years, so in some cases, we could speak of fictional instead of functioning elements of democracies.

The consortium aimed to conduct research on European integration and enlargement in its focus region and disseminate the project's results through **the international IDM publications, events, and network** as well as through the network of **the IDM project partner, the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC)**,

including **65 university members**. All these various activities aimed to affect various segments of the public discourse on the importance of strengthening liberal and functioning democracy and supporting active citizenship in an inclusive and participatory European Union.

Some **results** of the project regarding Publications are **IDM Info**, which is the print newsletter of the IDM and is published four times a year with updates on the project in various issues during the project period; **the IDM's academic journal "Der Donauraum"**, which brings together contributions from experts in the fields of political science and communication studies, international relations, contemporary history and sociology and was conventionalized based on the FIFUEM kickoff conference in January 2021; **The IDM Policy Paper Series (IDM PPS)** deals at regular intervals with current political issues with a focus on the Danube region, Central and South Eastern Europe.

Some of the **events** that took place during the Project are: **Kickoff Conference 2020, Young Scholars Forum 2020, Train the trainer seminar 2021/2022, DRC Annual Meeting 2021, IDM@GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum 2022, DRC Summer School 2022, Final Conference 2022, 5 Democracy Talks.**



What the FIFUEM Final Conference: "Functioning democracy in the making"

7. Danubius Awards 2022 Ceremony



The **Danubius Award** was created in **2011** by the **Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)** and the **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)** to honor people with extraordinary achievements who have made a special contribution to the Danube region in their scientific work or in their work.

The award ceremony took place on **November 10, 2022** in Maribor in the presence of **Barbara Weitgruber**, Head of the Department from the BMBWF, and **Friedrich Faulhammer**, Chairman of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM).

Prof. Dr. Diana Mishkova, History Professor and Director of the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) in Sofia, Bulgaria, won the **“Danubius Award” 2022**. With her work focusing on modern and contemporary history of Eastern Europe, the modernization of South-Eastern Europe, European societies, and European peripheries as well as national identities, she has contributed profoundly to research on the Balkans.

Ukrainian scientist Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tamara Martsenyuk has been awarded the **“Danubius Mid-Career Award” 2022**. She is an Associate Professor at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. In her studies, she focuses on gender research, social inequality issues, gender policies, social movements, and empowerment. In addition to numerous stays abroad and participation in international research projects, she also brings her expertise to national policy forums and NGOs.



In addition, 13 young scientists from the Danube Region were awarded **the Danubius Young Scientist Award 2022** for their scientific work.

By presenting these Awards, **the Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)** is contributing to the implementation of **the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** adopted by the European Council in 2011. Through the awarding of outstanding scientific achievements, the Danube region is made visible as a research area and the perception of its multidisciplinary challenges and potentials is strengthened.

Danubius Awards 2022



Watch the Danubius Awards 2022 Ceremony

8. New calls for open access to JRC research infrastructure



The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) opens its scientific laboratories and facilities to people working in academia and research organisations, industry, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and more in general to the public and private sector.

The JRC offers access to its non-nuclear facilities to researchers and scientists from EU Member States and countries associated to the EU Research Programme Horizon Europe. For nuclear facilities, the JRC opens to EU Member States and to countries associated to the Euratom Research Programme.

The Nanobiotechnology Laboratory, the European Laboratory for Structural Assessments in Ispra (IT), the Actinide User Laboratories in Karlsruhe (D), and the Laboratory for environmental & mechanical materials assessment in Petten (NL) opened calls to access their research infrastructures.

Offering access to visiting researchers is part of JRC's strategy to: **enhance dissemination of scientific knowledge, boost competitiveness, bridge the gap between research and industry, provide training and capacity building.**

Scientists will have the opportunity to work in the following fields: **nuclear safety and security (Euratom Laboratories), chemistry, biosciences/life sciences, physical sciences, ICT, and foresight.**

Applications to access the JRC Research Infrastructures can be submitted with **deadlines** for **Nanobiotech until 1 March 2023, 23:45 (CEST)**; for **ELSA until 15 February 2023; 23:45 (CEST)**; for **ACTUSLAB until 10 March 2023; 23:45 (CEST)** and for **EMMA until 31 January 2023, 23:45 (CEST).**

You can find the JRC Research Infrastructures Brochure [here](#), and for all information and applications, visit the following [link](#).

9. CASEE Newsletter



The “**ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe**” (**CASEE**) is a network of Central and South Eastern European Higher Education Institutions linking Life Science disciplines in the region ranging from natural resources, environment, food, agriculture, biotechnology and natural resources.

The objectives of network are:

- to support the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube region
- to strengthen research, education and University Development in this region
- to develop joint research, educational and other projects (e.g. joint curricula, joint continuous educational offers, structural development, human resource

development, QA, know-how-transfer, e.g. via an e-platform)

Besides fascinating updates and opportunities in the newsletter, CASEE prepared a COVID-19 corner informing about challenges at the educational institutions related to the current pandemic situation.

Check CASEE's Newsletter [here!](#)

10. 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



11. 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](#).

EUA ensures that **the independent voice of European universities** is heard, representing more than 850 universities and national rectors' conferences in 49 European countries. The role of the EUA in **the Bologna Process** and in **influencing EU policies** on higher education, research, and innovation is crucial. As

the largest such organization that represents universities in Europe, it also draws attention to the importance of achieving the United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, whereby the universities' involvement through research and education is necessary.

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



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