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Dear subscribers of the **DRC Newsletter**,

We successfully entered the year **2023** where **new activities** await us. We look forward to the first events of this year and the realisation of all plans in the coming period. In this edition of the DRC Newsletter, we bring you the latest information from the network with a brief overview of the important events behind us.

We are entering the period of the next two years with the **newly elected DRC presidency** and we are convinced that this cooperation will bring many positive outcomes.

In the following newsletter, you can find out **more information** about our **new DRC president, Rector Friedrich Faulhammer**. Also, we would like to draw your attention to the information on the **DRC Summer School 2023** as well as Save the Date for the **DRC Annual Conference 2023**.

We hope that you will find many exciting things in the new editions of the DRC Newsletter this year and we encourage you to actively participate in the events and activities that will be announced soon.

As always, we welcome any **suggestions** to enhance the quality of the content we share with you.

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1. Committed to the Danube Region - Introduction of the new DRC President Rector Friedrich Faulhammer



We bring you a few introductory words about the new DRC President Rector Friedrich Faulhammer.

Friedrich Faulhammer (*1963) studied law at the University of Vienna, worked at the Institute for Legal History, moved to the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research** in 1990, became Section Head of the Higher Education Section in 2005, served as its Secretary General from 2009, and has been instrumental in shaping Austrian and European higher education policy, including the implementation of the Universities Act 2002.

Friedrich Faulhammer has been **Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krems (Danube University Krems)** since 2013, appointed for his third term of office until 2025, which has been instrumental in the further development of the University, such as its complete integration into the Austrian University Act, the establishment of PhD studies and the implementation of the Austrian continuing education reform. The University for Continuing Education Krems has a **strong international orientation towards Europe**, especially towards Central Europe and the Danube region.

In 2016, Friedrich Faulhammer was elected **President of the DRC** for the first time by the General Assembly. Faulhammer used his term of office in 2017 and 2018 to concretise the universities' contribution to the implementation of the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** by setting up transdisciplinary research and networking projects and to anchor the Danube Rectors' Conference as a stakeholder at the European level.

Friedrich Faulhammer is also committed to this important European region within the Vienna-based **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)**. As the new chairman for the next three years, Faulhammer aims to **focus on close cooperation between research and society**. In doing so, IDM and the University for Continuing Education Krems will further deepen their long-standing cooperation.

For more information about the new DRC president, visit our [DRC website](#).

2. Election of new DRC Presidency

After the **DRC General Assembly** on **11 November 2022**, the new DRC Presidency for the period **2023-2024** has been elected.



As of January 1, 2023, **Mag. Friedrich Faulhammer, Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krems**, began his term of office as the new President of the DRC, with former DRC President **Prof. Dr. Zdravko Kačič, Rector of the University of Maribor**, and **Prof. Dr. Daniel David, Rector of the Babeş-Bolyai**

University, taking on the role of Vice-Presidents.

3. Ivanka Popović elected as Acting Honorary President

The **DRC General Assembly** on **11 November 2022**, resulted in the selection of **Ivanka Popović**, a previous President and Vice-President, as the **DRC's Acting Honorary President**. We sincerely appreciate Professor Popović for her invaluable efforts and contributions in her previous roles within the DRC Presidency and anticipate a productive and cooperative relationship in the future!



4. Ivanka Popović nominated for the EUA Presidency

We are delighted to announce that Ivanka Popović has been nominated for the position of **EUA President**. The DRC Presidency fully supports her nomination, believing that her election as EUA president would not only amplify the voices of universities from **Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe**, but she would also effectively represent and advocate for the interests of all EUA members.

The upcoming EUA President will be chosen at the **Association's General Assembly** in **April 2023**, held by **Gdańsk University of Technology in Poland**, and will begin their term in July. The Association's Council has put forward three candidates for the position of EUA President for the 2023-2027 period:

Janet Beer, Vice-Chancellor (until end 2022), University of Liverpool, United Kingdom;

Josep Maria Garrell i Guiu, former Rector, Ramon Llull University, Spain, and EUA Board member; and

Ivanka Popović, former Rector, University of Belgrade, Serbia, and EUA Board member.

The elected candidate will take the role from Professor Michael Murphy, who has been in the position since 2019.

5. DRC Annual Conference 2022 at the University of Maribor



We are excited to inform you that **the DRC Annual Meeting** was successfully held at **the University of Maribor in Slovenia** from the 9th until the 11th of November 2022!

The conference provided a platform for members to connect and discuss the topic of **"Digital Transformation of the Danube Higher Education Area in Conditions of Recovery"**.



We express our appreciation to the University of Maribor for their expert organization of the annual meeting and to all representatives from **DRC member universities** for their attendance. The event was successful not only in the election of the new **DRC presidency** but also in making important decisions related to DRC issues.

Complete details about the DRC Annual Meeting, including the **Minutes**, can be accessed on the [DRC Intranet](#).

DRC Intranet

6. Call for nominations: Danubius Young Scientist Award 2023



The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) created the **Danubius Award** in 2011, with the intention to honour persons with extraordinary achievements in their scientific activity and output in relation to the Danube Region.

To complement this award with a specific prize for young scientists – the so-called **"Danubius Young Scientist Award"** competition is now **open** for nominations!

14 young scientists will be granted this award – one for each country that is part of the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** [Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine]*.

The award seeks to highlight the scientific work and talent of young researchers and enhance the visibility of the scientific community in the region: Moreover, the award encourages young scientists to engage in the scientific examination of the multifaceted issues and questions specifically related to the Danube region.

The award will endow **1,350 Euro for each winner** of the Danubius Young Scientist Award.

An award ceremony is planned for **October/November 2023**, the details of which will be announced in due time.

Moreover, thanks to the ongoing kind support by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre the JCR will invite the awardees to visit one of their facilities in Ispra, Italy, in 2024.

For more information, visit our "**Danubius Young Scientist Award**" page.

Danubius Young Scientist Award

7. DRC Summer School 2023



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



We are looking for BA, MA and PhD level scientists, who are interested in the developments of the countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, have scientific record and intend to have deeper knowledge about the Danube Region. The participants will have the chance to share their specific scientific results related to the topics of the Danube Region and European integration. After the end of the Summer School the contributions will be included as an article in the scientific journal **“Der Donauraum” (“Danube Region”)** published regularly by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM).

Date: 16–22 July 2023

Application deadline: 31 May 2023

Target group: BA, MA, PhD level students and scientists

Registration fee: none

Accommodation: provided and covered by the organisers

Board: provided and covered by the organisers

Travel: covered by the organisers up to 200 €

Language of instruction: English

Course location: Cluj-Napoca

Organisers: Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC), Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Babeş-Bolyai University, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

More information on the Summer School will be published in the upcoming weeks. Check the DRC webpage regularly!

8. Save the Date: DRC Annual Conference 2023



Date: 19-20 October 2023

Venue: West University of Timisoara,
Timisoara, Romania

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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