RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP IN DANUBE REGION

Danube Rectors' Conference & Annual meeting 7th -8th of November 2013

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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INTRODUCTION

DANUBE RECTORS' CONFERENCE (DRC) is an international association which represents a network of 56 universities from the Danube Region.

The aim of this association is to improve higher education in teaching and research in this region, and in particular the advancement of the member universities, by establishing and facilitating bilateral and multilateral contacts between the universities.

DRC pursue in particular the following activities:

Coordination of ideas and actions of its members through the exchange of information on issues of common interest, promotion of cooperation among members, in order to contribute to the stability and the development of an open and democratic society in Europe,

Meanwhile DRC acts as a consultant, by presenting its views and making appropriate recommendations on problems which concern the universities, the government, national or international organizations, as well as to other stakeholders involved in the university management.

DRC maintains links with national and international organizations the activities of which are of interest or relate to universities and, in particular, with the national Rectors' Conferences, EUA, UNESCO, EU, Council of Europe, etc.

DRC organizes conferences, workshops, summer schools and participates in EU funded projects, contributing actively to the Priority Areas Workgroups' of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Eligible members of the DRC are universities in the region and institutions that are recognized by the state or belong to the network of state recognized universities which submit regular application.

The DRC membership allows professional updating during Conferences and Workshops, networking with other universities and a real integration in relevant action groups for the Danube Region Strategy (EUSDR).

DRC was recently registered as entity body in Brussels and has a new statute and a permanent secretary in Vienna. Through the actual presidency of Czech University of Life Science in Prague, DRC is organizing the 2013 Annual meeting the 7th-8th of November at University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (USAMV) Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

CONCEPT AND PROGRAMME

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP IN DANUBE REGION

DRC Conference & Annual meeting 7th -8th of November 2013

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) is a network for universities placed in the Danube Region. Established during a meeting in Vienna in 1983 by the Rectors from the universities of Ulm, Linz, Vienna and Budapest, DRC aims to improve higher education in teaching and research in this region. DRC is focusing, in particular, on the development of the member universities by establishing and facilitating bilateral and multilateral contacts between its institutions. Since then, the number of countries and institutions involved in its activities has grown considerably. The founding countries Austria, Germany and Hungary have been joined by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Presently, 56 higher education institutions from 13 countries are active members of this regional network.

In the early years, the Danube Rectors' Conference has served as a forum who initiated a number of joint research projects, such as the "Ecology of the Danube" (natural and life sciences, environmental engineering and technology) and "Blue Danube," a transdisciplinary project that involved disciplines from sciences, history and culture.

The Danube Rectors' Conference has grown considerably in recent years, and its agenda has expanded. The network objectives and activities enlarged and helped members to increase the academic performance, to facilitate mobility, reduce drop-out rates and to lower the cost of tertiary education. DRC underlined the importance of multilateral cooperation in the region and performed support actions for the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies. Recently the Danube Rectors' Conference endorsed an integrated university model based of institutional autonomy and established working groups on university legislation, curricula and the evaluation of teaching and research.

Danube Rectors' Conference priorities nowadays are to:

- coordinate the exchange of the ideas and information on issues of common interest for its members;
- promote cooperation and contribute to the stability and the development of an open and democratic society in region and Europe,
- to act as an authority of the members universities on problems which concern general interests of education and research by presenting official reports and making

appropriate recommendations, to governments, national or international organizations, as well as to other entities who are involved universities policies.

In order to perform these tasks, DRC is ready connected with national and international organizations interested or related to universities, as the National Rectors' Conferences from the Danube region, EUA, UNESCO, EU, JRC, Danube Academies' Conference, etc.

During the last years the DRC organized many conferences, workshops, summer schools and participates to some EU funded projects. The DRC is an active partner for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and a contributor to the Priority Areas Workgroup's.

One of the most significant challenges that the DRC higher education institutions faces is the competition with other European and worldwide universities. To succeed in such a hard environment our institutions needs to enhance permanently the quality of education and research, to be more active on innovation and technology transfer and to be more present in the international higher education arena and research area.

To sustain this challenge DRC is acting for his universities members through:

- organizing professional updating Conferences and Workshops on common interest;
- building confidence and establishing cooperation programs between universities;
- integrate universities in the relevant action groups for the Danube Region Strategy;
- linking universities with international entities which sustain education, research and innovation and promote the DRC institutions' interest;
- establishing database on DRC members requests.



DRC Annual meeting in BOKU Vienna, 2011

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

DRC was recently registered as entity body in Brussels and has a new statute and a permanent secretary in Vienna. Through the actual presidency of Czech University of Life Science in Prague, DRC is organizing the 2013 Annual meeting in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. During this event a Conference, dedicated to the "Research and innovation partnership in the Danube region" will be organized by the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (USAMV) Cluj-Napoca, which is celebrating its 145 anniversary. Just one year before lunching EU program Horizon 2020, European Innovation Partnership and other research linked programs, DRC is considering that a presentation of these new opportunities, in connection with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is welcome and necessary.

In November 2011, just four months after the launched of the EUSDR, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission initiated a scientific cooperation support program to boost the development of the Danube region. This macro-regional strategy relies on an integrated approach to encourage better policy development and the alignment of funding and resources through concrete actions and projects, resulting in a more efficient and better balanced implementation of the EU's overall objectives under Europe 2020. The JRC initiative relies on a "strong partnership with key scientific partners of the Danube Region, such as Danube Rectors Conference and the Academies of Sciences of the Region (DAC) which represents 56 Higher Education Institutions of the Region".

To sustain such initiative DRC participate this year to the JRC Workshop organized in Ispra, DAC Conference in Bucharest, JRC Conference in Bratislava and to the Danube Forum in Bucharest. Some conclusion of this initiatives and reunions will be presented to the DRC Conference in November in Cluj-Napoca, were important personalities of European Commission will be present with their presentations.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The high-level Conference will be organized with the contribution of the Romanian Minister of National Education. As special guests, we are honored to have the contributions of three European Union commissionaires, for Research, innovation and science, for Regions policy, for Agriculture and rural development as well as the Deputy General Director of JRC. Three Romanian Ministers will follow the conference being linked with the Research and innovation, the Danube Strategy and the new CAP policy in this region.

At the Conference will participate the president of the Danube Academies Conference and the vice-president of the Romanian Academy. A new agreement between the two institutions will be signed with this occasion, to strength cooperation between academics in the Danube region.

All the 56 universities are invited to participate through their representatives. For the first time, non DRC universities will be invited to participate to this high-level event. Because of limited places we are expecting for a participation of maximum two persons per DRC

member and only one for non-DRC universities. Participation of other national and international organization is welcome.

4. ORGANISATIONAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS

The Conference will take place on 7 and 8 November 2013 and will last one and half day. At the end of the Conference DRC will held the Annual meeting and a press conference. An official cooperation memorandum will be signed, with this occasion, between DRC and DAC. Discussions and debate between participants is expected for a final panel conclusion regarding research and innovation cooperation between participant universities and their contribution for a commune database in this area.

The venue for the event will be the Life Science Institute at the USAMV Cluj-Napoca. An official dinner will be organized on the evening of 7 November, as well as a lunch on 7 and 8 November. The accommodation is reserved at Opera Plaza Hotel at discount rate for DRC members. The hotel reservation is on charge of participants. Limited rooms can be offered at the university guest house. For non-DRC members others four hotels, surrounding university, were booked at discount rate. Please visit the conference site and registration for hotel reservation (http://www.usamvcluj.ro/DRC/).

The maximum capacity of the Conference room is 180 persons. Consequently, participation in the event will be upon invitation only and based on registration order. The event will be accessible to the mass media.

The event will include seven sessions. The official opening ceremony will continue with three sessions coordinated by three key notes speakers from the high-level European Commission and three political representatives of the Romanian government. The next three sessions will focus on collaboration with JRC and DAC and the new development of smart specialisation in the Danube region. The second day last session will focus on the research and innovation activities in the region based on a survey which cover the participant universities. The Conference will be ended by a panel of participants, where conclusions and proposals mentioned during the conference' sessions will be summarizing for a DRC final statement and conference press. Conclusions will be sent to all participants who will be guided for further collaboration for EU projects and commune Danube strategy.

The participation of the DRC members and invited speakers to the Conference is free of charge. The registration documents, lunches, dinners and transportation from/to the hotel (not the optional field trip) are all included. The participation of the non-DRC representatives of the Danube region universities and other entities is based on a 120 € fee (or 150 € with field trip). A limited number of places are offered to the non DRC participants, based on "first come first served" principle.

Information concerning the accommodation for the DRC members can be found at the official website of the Opera Plaza Hotel http://www.booking.com/hotel/ro/opera-plaza.ro and for non-DRC members on the official website of the Hotel Napoca

<u>http://www.hotelnapoca.ro/</u>. Other information you can find on the DRC site http://www.drc-danube.org, on organizer site: <u>http://www.usamvcluj.ro/DRC/</u>.

Cluj-Napoca international airport have direct connection with 20 European cities by 5 airlines (http://airportcluj.ro/passenger-information/destinatii).



Institute for Life Sciences USAMV Cluj-Napoca



New Institute of Advanced Horticulture Research of Transylvania, USAMV Cluj-Napoca

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 6th of November 2013:

15:00 - 21:00 Registration at Opera Plaza Hotel, Cluj-Napoca

19:30 – 21:00 Welcome Cocktail at Opera Plaza Hotel, Cluj-Napoca

Thursday, 7th of November 2013:

07:45 Shuttle service from the hotel to the conference

08:00 - 09:00 Registration at Life Science Institute, USAMV Cluj-Napoca

09:00 - 09:30 OPENING SESSION

- Welcome by Carmen Socaciu, Vice-rector of USAMV Cluj-Napoca
- Welcome by Jiří Balík , President of DRC, Rector Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
- Welcome by Doru Pamfil, Vice-president DRC, Rector of USAMV Cluj-Napoca
- Welcome by **Gheorghe Ioan Vuşcan**, Governor of Cluj County.
- History about Cluj-Napoca by Radu Ardevan, UBB Cluj-Napoca
- Celebrating 30 years of DRC, Ferdinand Devinsky, Honorary President of DRC

09:30 - 10:15 SESSION 1: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN DANUBE REGION

This session will focus on Research an Innovation in Europe and will present new opportunities for the Danube universities for cooperation and integration in the European Research Area through the Horizon 2020 programme. An integration example on an evidence based policies will be presented by representative of the Romanian government.

09:30 Introduction and moderation by **Jiří Balík**, President of Danube Rectors' Conference

09:35 – 10:15 **Key note speeches** on research and innovation in Europe

- **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn,** European Commission, Commissionaire for Research, Innovation and Science (video message)
- Rudolf Strohmeier, European Commission, Deputy Director General DG RTD
- **Mihnea Costoiu,** Minister Delegate for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development, Romania







10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break

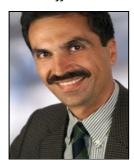
10:45 – 11:30 SESSION 2: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY IN DANUBE REGION

The session will focus on the evaluation of the cooperation in the Danube Region countries and the opportunity for research and innovation through the new EU Strategy. Romanian contribution to the implementation of EUSDR will be summarized.

10:45 Introduction and moderation by **Martin Gerzabek**, Vice President of Danube Rectors' Conference

10:50 – 11:30 **Key note speeches** on research and innovation strategy in the Danube region

- **Johannes Hahn,** European Commission, Commissionaire for Region Policy
- Bogdan Aurescu, State Secretary for Strategic Affairs, Minister of External Affairs
- Vasile Puşcaş, Former Chief Negotiator of Romania and Minister for European Affairs









11:30 - 12:15 SESSION 3: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP IN DANUBE RURAL AREA

The new European Innovation Partnership program has the potential to strength collaboration in the agriculture area and stimulates the Danube region universities to participate to research an innovation projects to sustain the CAP policy and rural area development. A vision of potential cooperation with the Romanian agriculture research system will be presented for future rural development partnerships in the Danube region.

11:30 Introduction and moderation by **Doru Pamfil**, Vice-president of Danube Rectors' Conference

11:35 – 12:15 **Key note speeches** on research and innovation partnership in agriculture

- Dacian Cioloş, European Commission, Commissionaire for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Daniel Constantin, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Romania







12:30 – 13:00 Press conference

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break at Research Centre for Biodiversity

14:00 - 15:00 SESSION 4: JRC SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The session will presents the JRC scientific support for Research and innovation in connection with the EU Danube region strategy

- 14:00 Introduction and moderation by **Michael Lošťák**, Vice-rector of Czech University of Life Science Prague
- 14:05 14:45 **Key note speeches** on the support to research and innovation in the Danube Region
 - Vladimir Šucha, JRC Deputy Director-General European Commission
 - **Tudor Prisecaru,** State Secretary for Research, Minister of National Education







14:45 – 15:00 Discussions on collaboration between JRC and DRC

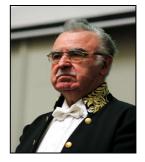
15:00 – 15:45 SESSION 5: DAC RESEARCH COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE REGION

The session will presents the DAC scientific support for Research and innovation in connection with the EU Danube region strategy

- 15:00 Introduction and moderation by **Aleksa Bjeliš**, Rector of University of Zagreb, Croatia
- 15:05 15:45 **Key note speeches** on research and innovation partnership in agriculture
 - **Štefan Luby**, President of the Danube Academy Conference
 - Cristian Hera, Vice-president of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest







15:45 – 16:00 Discussions on the collaboration between DAC and DRC and **Memorandum of Understanding**

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 SESSION 6: TOWARDS A SMART SPECIALISING AND INNOVATIVE DANUBE REGION

16:15 Introduction and moderation by **Miroslav Veskovic**, Rector of University Novi Sad, Serbia

16:20 - 17:00 Key note speeches:

- Andrea Conte, Economist, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Adrian Curaj, General director UEFISCDI Bucharest







17:00 - 17:30 CLOSING REMARKS

Closing remarks by **European Commissioners**

Closing remarks by Vladimir Šucha, Deputy Director-General of the JRC

Closing remarks by **Martin Gerzabek**, Vice-president of the Danube Rector's Conference

17:40 – 18:00 Choral concert offered by Capella Transylvanica, Aula Magna "Mihai Şerban"

18:00 - 18:45 DRC Board Meeting

20:00 – 23:00 Official Dinner at Opera Plaza Hotel, Cluj-Napoca

Friday, 8th of November 2013

08:15 Shuttle service from the hotel to the conference

09:00 – 10:30 SESSION 7: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DANUBE AREA Institute for Life Sciences

09:00 Introduction and moderation by Martin Gerzabek, Vice-president of the DRC

09:05 – 09:40 **Key note speeches:**

- Jonathan Loeffler, Managing Director of Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum
- Adrian Curaj, General director UEFISCDI Bucharest
 BigData for S&I policies Romania Case Study







09:40 – 10:30 Discussions between participants

10:30 - 10:45 FINAL PANEL CONCLUSIONS

10:45 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:45 DRC ANNUAL MEETING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY Presentations and approval of the new members

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at Research Centre for Biodiversity

14:30 – 22:00 Trip to Jidvei Castle and vineyards (optional)



Saturday, 9th of November 2013

05:00 – 21:00 Shuttle service from the hotel to the airport (by request)

CONTACTS

www.usamvcluj.ro
http://www.drc-danube.org/

International Relations Office Marioara Grebenişan, PhD Office phone: + 40 264 599 346

Central phone: + 40 264 596 384 ext. 210

Fax: + 40 264 599 346 Email: iro@usamvcluj.ro



DANUBE RECTORS' CONFERENCE University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania 7 – 8 November 2013



REGISTRATION FORM

(To be filled on-line)

Institution:						
Member DRC	YES 🗌 NO					
Mr. Mrs. /Ms.	Title:					
Family name:						
First name:						
Address:						
City:						
Zip Code:						
Country:						
Phone:						
Fax:						
E-mail :						
Arrival date:						
Arrival time:						
Departure date:						
Departure time:						
Arrival by:	Plane [Rail	☐ Bu	ıs 🔲 Car		
I will be accommodated at:		Hotel Ope	era Plaza****			
and have reserved accommoda	tion directly	http://www	ttp://www.operaplaza.ro/ (near to the city centre)			
with the hotel, mentioning th	ne password	Single room:	60 €; Double ro	om: 70 €		
"Danube Rectors Conference"	F	Reservation at: http://www.booking.com/hotel/ro/opera-plaza				
	[Grand Hotel Napoca****				
	<u>1</u>	http://www.hotelnapoca.ro/ (near to the city centre)				
	9	ingle room: 50 €				
				.hotelnapoca.ro/rezerv		
	Please book your hotel room individually, and mention the password "Danube Rectors Conference"			"		
<u>by October 27th, 2013!</u>						
Special requirements:						
(e.g. dietary requirements)						
ATTENDANCE:						
		YES 🗌	NO 🗌			
Conference on Thursday, November 7 th		YES 🗌	NO 🗌	Lunch: YES	NO 🗌	
Conference on Friday, November 8 th		YES 🗌	NO 🗌	Lunch: YES	NO 🗌	
Dinner on Thursday, November 7 th (hotel		YES 🗌	NO 🗆			
Opera Piaza), at 19:30		YES	NO			
Choral Concert by Capella Transilvanica on		YES 🗍	№ П			
Thursday November 7 th , at 17:40			NU [
Trip to Jidvei Castle and vineyards on Friday,		YES 🗌	NO 🗌			
November 8 th (optional)		123 🗀	.,,,			

Please send the completed form before October 27th, 2013 by e-mail or fax:

E-mail: iro@usamvcluj.ro Fax: +40 264593792

(Please mention "DRC 2013 REGISTRATION" in the subject of your e-mail!)
For non-DRC members the registration fee is 120 EURO. The trip to Jidvei castle: 30 EURO

HOW TO BECOME A DRC MEMBER

Eligible members of the DRC are universities in the region and institutions that are recognized by the state or belong to the network of state recognized universities which submit regular application.

The universities located in the Danube region, which belong to the network of state recognized universities, are eligible as "full members with voting rights" of the DRC and need to submit regular applications. Institutions that have submitted the application for membership could be invited for Permanent Committee and General Assembly meetings with the status of observers. The first presentation of a candidate university at the General Assembly has to be done by its rector (or by an appointed representative of the rectorate) — only the presentation at the General Assembly completes the formal admission procedure. Without a presentation a new member cannot be admitted.

The DRC offers eligible universities and institutions the opportunity to join the DRC as an observer/ guest for one year, before becoming a full member. In this year the observers/ guests can participate in the activities of DRC without paying membership fee, etc., but cannot vote on DRC decisions.

The institution wishing to join as a "full member" should satisfy accepted academic standards. The institution is required to have national accreditation within its home country. Upon request, a copy of the certificate of accreditation is to be sent to the President of DRC. The candidate institution needs to present the recommendation of National Rectors' Conference or at least recommendation of two full members of DRC in case Rectors' Conference does not exist in its home country.

The decision of acceptance as "full member" rests with the General Assembly of the DRC on the proposal of the Permanent Committee or the Presidency of the DRC and on the basis of submitted application forms.

To apply, please fill online the APPLICATION FORM at the below mentioned address: http://www.drc-danube.org/members/become-a-member/

APPLICATION

for membership of the Danube Rectors' Conference

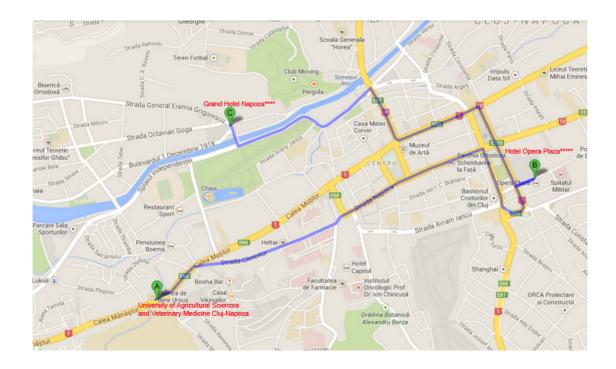
To be filled on-line at http://www.drc-danube.org/members/become-a-member/

Name of the institution	
Address	
	Fax
E-mail	Web site
Institution data:	
Founded in	
Profile of School	
Legal status of the institution _ according to national law, accre	editation act etc.
teaching, plurality of scientific	stitutional principles of universities: freedom of research and
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	es, information on research activities, international
Number of Students/out of the	m number of PhD Students Number of Teachers
Number of Faculties/Departme	ents
Head of institution elected	appointed (by whom)

Member of the European University Association	Yes	No	
Particulars:			
Rector/President			
name :			
e-mail :	_		
telephone:	<u> </u>		
Vice-Rector/Vice-President			
name :			
e-mail:			
telephone:			
Head of IRO			
name:			_
e-mail:	<u>-</u>		
telephone:			
Place/Date			
Signature, Name,			

This Application form should be submitted with the letters of reference by the National Rectors' Conference or at least of two full members of DRC in case the National Rectors' Conference does not exist in its home country.

MAPS



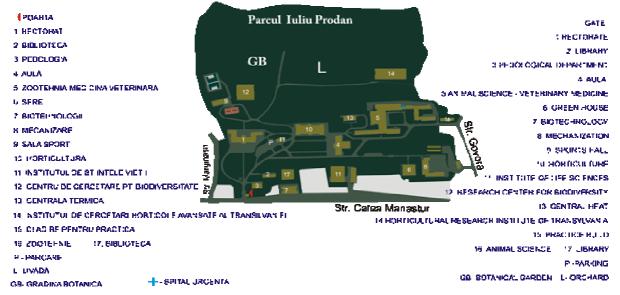
HOTEL OPERA PLAZA ***** Str. G-ral Traian Mosoiu, Nr. 10-12, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

http://www.operaplaza.ro/

GRAND HOTEL NAPOCA**** str. Octavian Goga nr.1 Cluj-Napoca, Romania http://www.hotelnapoca.ro/

UNIVERSITATEA

DE STIINTE AGRICOLE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA, CLUJ-NAPOCA



QUESTIONNAIRE

The Questionnaire will be used for a DRC report regarding the research activity in the Danube region. The report will be presented on 8 November 2013 during the DRC Annual Conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Iha	Thank you for cooperation!			
1.	1. University name:		DRC Memb	er 🗌
2.	2. University address:			
	PhoneFaxEm	nail		
3.	3. University contact person for DRC:			
4.	4. Your university is a: research&teaching	teaching&	research teaching only	
5.	5. The university profile is: comprehensive	specialized	d other	
6.	6. How many students you have? Total	: BSc	+MSc - + PhD	-
7.	7. How many teaching& research staff you have?	under 100] 100-500	000 🗌
8.	. How many research projects financed in 2012? Total: national+ international			al
9.	. International research projects with DRC members			
	(check the list of members http://www.drc-danube.org/members/list-of-members/)			
10	10. International research projects with non DRC	members but f	rom Danube region	
11	11. How many scientific papers were published in	2012? Total	from which ISI Thomson	-
12. The main research and publications are covering the area of (tree most important):				
a				
	b			
	C			
13. Are you familiar (or wish more information) on the benefit of the DRC collaborations through:				
•	• Danube Strategy yes] no	more informations	
•	• Horizon 2020 yes] no	more informations	
•	• European Innovation Partnerships yes] no	more informations	
14.	14. If you agree to contribute to a DRC database co	oncerning the r	esearch and innovation? ves	no \square

Signature of contact persor	ONLY for fax:
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The Questionnaire is available on line at: http://www.usamvcluj.ro/DRC/

The Questionnaire is available until 25th October 2013.

You can send the Questionnaire by Fax: +40264 599 346 Visit: http://www.usamvcluj.ro/DRC/

Thank you,

DRC organizers of the 2013 Annual conference

Contact person and more information: Marioara Grebenişan, Telefon:+40 264 599 346,e-mail iro@usamvcluj.ro