

Press-release, 27.10.2015 / English version

- **Danubius Award 2015 goes to the Austrian scientist Leopold März**
- **14 young, promising scientists from the Danube Region named as Danubius Young Scientist Award Winners 2015**

The award ceremony for the 2015 "Danubius Award" to the Austrian researcher Leopold März and for the "Danubius Young Scientists Award" to 14 young researchers in the region took place on October 27th 2015 at the dinner of the conference "Scientific support to the Danube Strategy" hosted by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ulm, Germany.

The awards have been presented by Ms. Barbara Weitgruber, Director General for scientific research and international relations at the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy and Ms. Susan Milford, Managing Director of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM).

„Austria has a central role within the Danube Region as a partner and mediator country and we want to actively use this role also for promoting scientific excellence. With a view to the pressing societal challenges in the region – from migration and integration to building a competitive, future-oriented industrial sector – an increased cross-border co-operation is pivotal in developing new approaches and solutions" stated Reinhold Mitterlehner, Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Science, Research and Economy.

The Danubius Award was created in 2011 by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BMWF) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) with the intention to honour persons with extraordinary achievements in their scientific activity and output in relation to the Danube Region. Within a rotation system in one year achievements in the fields of humanities, social and cultural studies are awarded, in the following year achievements in the fields of life sciences. The prize is endowed with 7,200 Euros. The Award Winner has been selected by an independent jury chaired by rector Univ.-Prof. Dr. Martin Gerzabek.

The Danubius Awards is a contribution towards implementing the EU Strategy for the Danube Region which has been endorsed by the European council in 2011, with the aim of giving higher visibility to the Danube region also as an area for collaborative research and seeking to increase the awareness of the interdisciplinary research challenges and potentials in the region.

Since 2014 this award is complemented with a specific prize for young scientists – the so-called "Danubius Young Scientist Award". The award, which is open to all scientific disciplines, seeks to highlight the scientific work and talent of young researchers and to increase the visibility of the scientific community in the Danube Region. Moreover young scientists are encouraged to engage themselves in the scientific examination of problems and questions specifically related to the Danube. The prize is endowed with 1,200 Euros per winner. Universities, Academies of Sciences and Research Institutions in all 14 countries of the Danube Region have

been encouraged to nominate suitable and promising candidates that have been assessed by an international expert jury.

“Danubius Award” 2015 - Winner:

During his entire professional career **em. Univ.-Prof. DI Dr. DDr. h.c. Leopold März** has significantly contributed to the development of key scientific priorities at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU). Within his own research field he has concentrated on detecting the biological role of protein glycosylation and has published pioneering and highly cited work in this area. For the decision to select him as this year’s “Danubius Award” winner his engagement and merits in developing and networking academic institutions in the Danube Region have also been key factors. Among other functions he has been president of the Danube Rector’s Conference (DRC), member of the board of trustees at the Danube University Krems and long-term Vice-chairman of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM).

“Danubius Young Scientists Award” 2015 – list of Awardees:

Austria (AT)	Marija Zunabović-Pichler
Bosnia & Herzegovina (BH)	Jelena Trivić
Bulgaria (BG)	Strahil V. Karapchanski
Croatia (HR)	Stela Jokić
Czech Republic (CZ)	Abraham Kabutey
Germany (DE)	Florian Kühner-Wielach
Hungary (HU)	Valentin Brodsky
Montenegro (ME)	Milena Đukanović
Republic of Moldova (ML)	Victor Popescu
Romania (RO)	Alida Timar-Gabor
Serbia (SR)	Ivan Jarić
Slovenia (SL)	Domen Mongus
Slovakia (SK)	Martin Urík
Ukraine (UKR)	Anton Igorovych Manilov