



Danube Rectors' Conference i.v.z.w
Registration number (ondernemingsnummer)
0518.970.982 (RPR Brussel)
Registered address in Belgium
Marcus van Vaernewijckstraat 23, 9030 Mariakerke-Gent, Belgium

DRC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

NOVEMBER 12, 2021, 09.00-12.00

ONLINE MEETING

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2021

1. Opening
2. Approval of the Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2021
3. Approval of the Minutes of the DRC General Assembly 2020
4. Annual report on DRC activities 2021
5. Annual report of the DRC Secretariat 2021
6. DRC Summer School
7. DRC Membership issues
8. DRC Financial issues
9. DRC Annual Meeting 2022
10. DRC Action Plan for 2022
11. DRC Budget for 2022
12. Any other business
13. Closing



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DRC GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

NOVEMBER 06TH, 2020; 10.00-12.00
ONLINE MEETING

Participants:

DRC Presidency

Ivanka Popović **IP** (University of Belgrade) – DRC President

Friedrich Faulhammer **FF** (Danube University Krems) – DRC Vice President

Miroslav Vesković **MV** (JRC) – DRC Honorary President

Sebastian Schäffer **SSch** (IDM Vienna) – DRC Secretary General

Daniel Martinek **DM** (IDM Vienna) – DRC Permanent Secretariat

Representatives of the DRC member universities

Aurel Vlaicu University from Arad

Babes-Bolyai University

Eötvös Loránd University

State University 'Uzhhorod National University'

Ulm University

Ulm University of Applied Sciences

Università di Trieste

University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest

University of Banja Luka

University of Belgrade

University of Craiova

University of Maribor

University of Nova Gorica

University of Novi Sad

University of Pecs

University of Ruse

University of Sarajevo

University of Zagreb

University Politehnica of Bucharest

Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad

West University of Timisoara



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Guests:

Biljana Antunović (University of Banja Luka) - Applicant for DRC membership

Peter Sperber (Deggendorf Institute of Technology) - Applicant for DRC membership

All participants were provided with the documents presented at the General Assembly.



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Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020

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2. Approval of the Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020
3. Approval of the Minutes of the DRC General Assembly 2019
4. Annual report on DRC activities 2020
5. Annual report of the DRC Secretariat 2020
6. DRC Summer School 2020
7. Report on the DRC financial situation in 2020
8. DRC Membership issues
 - Application of the University of Banja Luka
 - Application of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology
9. Election of the new DRC Presidency
10. DRC Action Plan for 2021
11. DRC Financial Budget for 2021
12. Any other business
13. Closing

| | Agenda Item | Comments /Minutes |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Opening | IP welcomes all participants to the DRC General Assembly. |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020 | The agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020 is hereby approved. |
| 3. | Approval of the minutes of the DRC General Assembly 2019 | The minutes of the DRC General Assembly 2019 are hereby approved. |
| 4. | Annual report on DRC activities 2020 | IP summarizes in its presentation the key activities of the DRC network in 2020 such as cooperation within the EUSDR, organization of DRC Summer School, continuation of the cooperation amongst the member universities, strengthening exchange with universities beyond the networks and other university alliances, supporting research community in the region through the Danubius Young Scientist Award Alumni. |
| 5. | Annual report of the DRC Secretariat 2020 | DM presents the Annual report of the DRC Secretariat and points out essential activities in 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - completed incorporation of the Danube:Future project into the DRC website - presentation of DRC at various events such as European Week of Regions and Cities or EUSDR meetings - involvement of DRC as the partner within the Jean Monnet project "From Fictional to Functioning Democracy: Developing Concepts and Strategies for Inclusive and Participatory Europe (FIFUDEM)", including newly established "Democracy Talks" - providing two full scholarships for participants of the two OeAD summer schools - postponing of the DRC Summer School to 2021 - providing the "Artist-in-residence" scholarship – the Elias Canetti Society in Ruse - DRC membership payments and financial projection - statistical analysis of DRC network |

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| 6. | DRC Summer School | <p>SSch informs about the postponement of the 17th DRC Summer School on Regional Cooperation on "Sustainable development in the Danube Region. Where we are and how we tackle future challenges?"</p> <p>to 2021. As originally planned, the Summer School will be organized in cooperation with the Danube:Future and taking place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.</p> |
| 7. | Report on the DRC financial situation in 2020 | <p>The preliminary financial report for the year 2020 was completed by the DRC Secretariat in close cooperation with general management of the IDM, according to the financial plan and the account data.</p> <p>The projected account balance by the end of 2020 is EUR 167.201,57, which would be roughly EUR 4,500 more than by the end of 2019. Given the difficulties with the bank account experienced in 2019, all the payments for 2019 – such as the costs for the 16th DRC Summer School, contributions to the secretariat as well the hosting of the DRC website - have been transferred in the beginning of 2020. In addition, the scholarships financed through the OeAD and the Elias Canetti Scholarship were again provided.</p> <p>Finally, the newly-established technical equipment for the DRC secretariat as well as the EUA membership have been covered.</p> <p>The Financial Report and the minutes of the General Assembly 2019 have been sent to IAB in Belgium.</p> |

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| <p>8.</p> | <p>DRC Membership issues</p> | <p>According to the account data, the membership fees in 2020 were paid in order (up to four exceptions), so there is no need to exclude any member.</p> <p>The General Assembly approved unanimously the official application to become member of the DRC from the University of Banja Luka and the Deggendorf Institute of Technology.</p> <p>Biljana Antunović, Vice-rector for international cooperation, presents the University of Banja Luka as well as Peter Sperber, the President of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, presents the Deggendorf Institute of Technology.</p> <p>The General Assembly approves the applications unanimously, so the DRC network has two new members. The General Assembly and the Presidency warmly welcomes the new members to the network.</p> |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Election of the new DRC Presidency</p> | <p>Based on the nominations received, the candidates for the new DRC Presidency for the period 202-2022 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zdravko Kačič, Rector of the University of Maribor, as DRC President • Ivanka Popović, Rector of the University of Belgrade, as DRC Vice-President • Friedrich Faulhammer, Rector of the Danube University Krems, as DRC Vice-President <p>The General Assembly elected unanimously the new DRC Presidency according to the nominations.</p> |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <p>10.</p> | <p>DRC Action Plan for 2021</p> | <p>The DRC Action Plan for 2021 pursues the long-term goals of the DRC and follows the Action Plans from the previous years:</p> <p><u>to improve higher education in teaching and research in the Danube region:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DRC as the partner of IDM within the Jean Monnet project "From Fictional to Functioning Democracy: Developing Concepts and Strategies for Inclusive and Participatory Europe (FIFUDEM)" - DRC is a permanent observer in the EUSDR Priority Area 7 Steering Group - DRC organizes the 17th edition of the DRC Summer School in Cluj Napoca in cooperation with the Danube:Future partners <p><u>to establish and facilitate bilateral and multilateral contacts between the universities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DRC promotes and supports the Danubius Award and the Danubius Young Scientist Award applications - DRC holds its Annual Meeting - DRC organizes events (for instance sport tournaments) in order to facilitate relations between students of the member universities <p><u>to link national and international organizations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DRC is a permanent observer in the EUSDR Priority Area 7 Steering Group - DRC participates at the Annual Conference of the European University Association (EUA) - DRC is present at the EUSDR Annual Forum <p><u>to create a strong network:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DRC holds its Annual Meeting - DRC creates through the Danubius Young Scientist Awardees a network of young promising scientists from the region |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p>11.</p> | <p>DRC Financial Budget for 2021</p> | <p>SSch gives an overview on the financial budget for 2021. As against the revenues of EUR 31.515,00 there are expenses of EUR 22.004,00. The account balance by the end of 2021 is estimated at around EUR 176.817,14.</p> <p>For the next year, the General Assembly proposed to increase the “various” expenditures by EUR 7.000,00 in order to create a Alumni group composed of the Danubius Young Scientist Award winners. Moreover, for the organization of various events (sport, cultural) an amount of EUR 3.000,00 was proposed. The DRC secretariat will serve as a facilitation platform and will use the technical equipment.</p> <p>The Elias Canetti Society Ruse asked the DRC for the continuation of financing of the “Artist-in-Residence” Programme in the amount of EUR 3.000,00.</p> <p>Providing two full scholarships for participants of the two OeAD summer schools in the amount of EUR 3.600,00.</p> <p>The certain amount for the regular costs for the digital communications equipment of the secretariat is to be expected.</p> <p>The financial budget for 2021 containing the above mentioned changes in expenditures was put to vote. It is approved unanimously by the General Assembly.</p> |
| <p>12.</p> | <p>Any other business</p> | <p>MV proposes to further engage with the Presidency of the EUSDR, which will be held by Slovakia, as well as to establish closer relations with the EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel.</p> <p>Rector Volodymyr Smolanka invites all representatives to the DRC Annual Meeting 2021 taking place at the Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine.</p> |



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| | | |
|-----|---------|--|
| 13. | Closing | <p>IP thanks all participants for taking part in the General Assembly and for the fruitful discussion. To the members of the DRC Presidency, IP expresses her thanks for the good and trustful cooperation in the last year and is looking forward to further cooperate as part of the new DRC Presidency in 2021.</p> |
|-----|---------|--|

Minutes:
DM



Annual report of the DRC Secretariat 2021

1. Newsletter

So far **eight** newsletters have been prepared and sent by the DRC Secretariat in 2021. The newsletter remains an important tool to disseminate information throughout the DRC network and beyond. The DRC Secretariat is responsible for the content of the newsletter, which is prepared in cooperation with the Presidency and with our partners (**DRC member universities, JRC, CASEE, EUA**), to whom we are very grateful for their inputs and the continued support of the DRC. The open rates was maintained at around 25% throughout the year. It remains to find means of reaching our members and wider audience. Moreover, our social media reach, despite an increase of likes and abonnements to 134 respectively 163, remains low. In any case, the newsletter is the most important tool to make use of the potential of the DRC network and the **secretariat encourages all members to subscribe, read and disseminate our information.**

2. Website & Intranet

Our website is the first point of information about our organisation and is regularly updated on the implemented initiatives as well as on the internal issues of the network. For the period since the last General Assembly in November 2020, our website has had 4.561 visitors and 9.262 page views, which is a decrease of 22% respectively 25% compared to 2020. This development is partly caused by the coronavirus pandemic as is clear from the statistics generated by the website. Nevertheless, this is also a task for the Secretariat, to make more use of the website and bring users back. The content with the highest click rate remains the Danubius Awards, which is also advertised on the IDM website (and generates a much higher page count there).

3. PR & Communication

The secretariat continues its efforts in coordination PR and outreach activities together with the network of the IDM. Sebastian Schäffer remains in charge of all relevant channels at the DRC, IDM as well as the summer school and takes care of a timely and interlinked dissemination.

Our DRC Facebook page continues to grow in terms of audience, with 163 followers to date, representing an increase over last year. The main content constitutes the posting of the newsletter immediately after sending it to our list of subscribers. The potential of the DRC Facebook page is surely higher and we will continue to increase the audience ratings. Once again, **closer cooperation with member universities would certainly contribute to raising awareness about the DRC social media channels.**

An important part of the annual schedule are the DRC presidency meetings. In addition, the secretariat uses opportunities in connection with activities of the IDM to cross-promote DRC related issues. Daniel Martínek represented DRC on many occasions such as **European Week of Regions and Cities**, meetings organised by the **EUSDR Priority Area 10** as well workshops by Danube Strategy Point. The DRC was also strongly represented during the **Danube Salon at the Europa-Forum Wachau 2021** whereas DRC President Zdravko Kačič participated in the panel discussion moderated by DRC Secretary General Sebastian Schäffer. Moreover, Daniel Martinek of the DRC Secretariat prepared a short video on his perception as the Danubius Young Scientist Award winner on the scientific cooperation along the Danube River.

Equally importantly, the DRC is represented as a main project partner within the Jean Monnet funding from the Erasmus+ Program of the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency for the project "*From Fictional to Functioning Democracy: Developing Concepts and Strategies for Inclusive and Participatory Europe (FIFUDEM)*". **FIFUDEM** is conducted at the IDM in the period from 2019 to 2022 and within this framework the DRC network is used as an important tool for dissemination of the project's results. The DRC is currently being represented during so-called **Democracy Talks** – series of discussions addressing current democratic developments within and outside the European Union. In the period from last General assembly two episodes have been undertaken: Session III: "What about Solidarity in Europe? What about the European Idea?" and Session IV: "Tackling nationalism, challenging certainties - Joint history textbooks". Another edition is planned for December, which will pick up the topic of law and democracy. Within the project, there has also been published thematic issue of the IDM magazine **Info Europa**, with a circulation of 51.000. The publication is also available online (in German). An edition of the scientific journal "**Der Donauraum**" has also been published in the framework of the project. This issue is based on the Kick-off Conference "**Democracy Is (No!) Fiction. Developing**

Concepts and Strategies for an Inclusive and Participatory Europe” that has taken place at the Haus der Europäischen Union in Vienna on January 13, 2020.

The DRC Secretariat used the new Zoom technical equipment not only within the internal communication with the DRC Presidency and with the representatives of the DRC member universities, but also to implement online formats such as Democracy Talks within the FIFUDEM project or Danube Conference 2021. Thus, the new technical equipment significantly contributed to the improvement of the communication streaming and increased the visibility of DRC.

Also in 2021, the DRC provided two full scholarships for participants coming from the Danube Region, which enabled them to take part in two **OeAD summer universities** taking place online. This financial support of young researchers also increases visibility and connection with further partners. The scholarship holders shared their experiences via DRC communication channels, relevant information can be found in the presentation of the DRC Secretariat. An **“Artist-in-residence” scholarship** has been provided to the Elias Canetti Society in Ruse allowing young German-Romanian writer and playwright Thomas Perle one-month stay at the Elias Canetti House in Ruse during September and October 2021.

4. Members and Database

The DRC received two applications for the membership in 2021 from the **University of Reutlingen (Germany)** and the **J. Selye University (Slovakia)**, who have provided the necessary documents. We have received two further inquiries for membership by the **AAB College** and the **University of Gjakova „Fehmi Agani“ (both Kosovo)**, but the applications have not been handed to the Secretariat yet. In 2021, we have, unfortunately, received one termination of the DRC membership. The University of Bolzano provided the relevant documents as stated in the Agenda. All updated contacts will be available on the DRC website respectively the intranet.

Eleven universities did not pay for the year 2021, which is an **increase** in comparison to the last year. The total amount of outstanding membership fees for 2019-2020 is 8.112,32 Euro which is about **5.000 Euro more compared to 2020**. Details can be found in the Financial Report.

5. Finances

Due to the termination of contract with the CBA & Partners and after careful selection of possible Belgian accounting agencies and the decision of the DRC Presidency during the Presidency Meeting in September 2021, the DRC accounting will transferred to the De kleine prins Agency in Belgium by November 2021. The DRC Secretariat already signed the contract, the establishing of the cooperation is currently undertaken including providing all necessary data about DRC and introducing to the online accounting platform.



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The preliminary financial report for the year 2021 was completed by the secretariat in close cooperation with the accounting and the general management of the IDM, according to the financial plan and the account data. The projected account balance by the end of 2021 is **185.282,57 Euro**, which would be roughly 18.000 Euro more than by the end of 2020. Apart from the regular financial contributions to the secretariat, the hosting of the website and the EUA membership, there have been again scholarships financed through the OeAD and the Elias Canetti Society as well as Zoom licenses and newly-established accounting in Belgium.

The secretariat would like to thank the Presidency, the member universities and all partners for the excellent collaboration throughout the year and is looking forward to continuing the cooperation in 2022!

Residence scholarship "Sharing Future" 2021

Organized by the International Elias Canetti Society (IECS)
with the kind support of the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC)

REPORT

The chosen candidate to implement their project idea through this year's "Sharing future" scholarship in Ruse was **Thomas Perle**.

Thomas Perle is of Romanian-Hungarian-German descent. After the fall of the communist regime, he emigrated with his parents from Romania to Germany. In 2020 he took part in the 13th edition of Ruse's Literature Festival. This year, he was amongst the applicants for the 2021 call for applications of the *Sharing Future scholarship*, which he ultimately received after his project idea was selected and approved. He has been working for a month in Ruse on the drama "donauwellen"/"Danube waves", which he conceptualized together with local Bulgarian actors and a regisseur.

For one month he studied and gathered information for a period in Ruse's history, the public protests against gassing of Ruse in 1987, through interviews and literary review. The second part of the play was about Danube, about people who live in different countries, speak different languages, think they know each other, but do they? The part of the drama that takes place in Ruse takes us back to the 1980s, when chlorine poisons from the coast of Giurgiu sparked the first mass protests in communist Bulgaria.

He interviewed local Bulgarians for their memories of what has transpired. He gradually formed the text of what he would later transform in a theatrical-literary performance with the actors Kadri Habil, Yasena Gospodinova and the director Nikolai Nenov. The artistic team gathered multiple times, they rehearsed, reworked, improved, and polished the artistic work until they were ready to present it as a performance on the last day of the Festival in Ruse.

This year's festival was the longest by far, two weeks, from the 1-17th of October, literary readings, film screenings and book presentations of contemporary German, Austrian, Hungarian, Polish, Czech and Bulgarian authors were here to be heard and felt. Additionally, the Bulgarian selection was comprised of nominees for the international prize for literature "Elias Canetti". The Bulgarian authors' participation was made possible with the support of the Municipality of Ruse and their call for funding of project ideas in the field of culture.

On the 17th of October Max Czollek presented his works *Gegenwartsbewältigung* and *Desintegriert euch!* After that the artistic scene switched from the political to the theatrical and cultural mood. Thomas and his entourage of fellow artists led the guests to a world not so far away in time, presented in an immersive way through lightshows, artistic fog/smoke, music and acting.

The guests of the festival felt, saw and remembered past feelings and emotions connected to the not-so-distant 1987, some were even moved to tears. The 20 minutes the performance lasted went by as smoothly as the artificial clouds and fog which accompanied it. In the end a long discussion formed in an informal setting with a glass of Glühwein, tea, or coffee in a pleasant warm atmosphere and gas lanterns.

The performance was recorded live at Canetti House and the whole product can be watched on the International Elias Canetti Society's YouTube channel

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qes70Sx6vk&ab_channel=InternationalEliasCanettiSociety).

The event was published on the International Elias Canetti Society's webpage:
<http://eliascanetti.org/2021/10/17/literaturen-festival-2021-finalat/>

as well as here on Facebook:

1. <https://www.facebook.com/elias.canetti/posts/10216578544696445>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/elias.canetti/posts/10216501640133879>

Photos of the evening can be seen here:

<http://eliascanetti.org/2021/10/17/literaturen-festival-2021-finalat/>

Additional links:

Ruse.info

<https://rousse.info/%D0%BD%D0%B0-1-%D0%B2%D0%B8-%D0%BE%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B2%D1%80%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4/>

BNR (Bulgarian national radio)

<https://bnr.bg/hristobotev/post/101536720>

21.30 to 23.00

Alarma

- Premiere of the film "Away from Time" directed by Deyan Tsviatkov (studio guest).
- **"The Breath of Europe" - a highlight of the Ruse Literature Festival: an interview with the German-Romanian writer and playwright Thomas Perle**
- Piero Epifania - a Peruvian between psychedelic rock, China and... Sofia.

Thomas' event was a success for the International Elias Canetti Society in the full sense of the word as well for the city of Ruse. It attracted an ample audience that included people of all ages and we received solely positive feedback from all participants. His stay in Ruse made a strong impact and encouraged sensible intercultural exchange, which would not have been possible without the support of the Danube Rectors' Conference and we sincerely hope to repeat the residency next year and continue to foster cultural dialog with artists from all over Europe.

Prof. Dr. Sc Penka Angelova



| Country | University | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------------|--|------------|-------|--------|
| Austria | | | | |
| 1 | Danube University Krems | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 | Technische Universität Graz | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Johannes Kepler Universität Linz | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4 | Montanuniversität Leoben | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5 | Karl-Franzens Universität Graz | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6 | Universität für Bodenkultur Wien | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | Universität Wien | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| BiH | | | | |
| 8 | University of Banja Luka | ✓ | ✓ | 479,1 |
| 9 | University of East Sarajevo | ✓ | ✓ | 479,1 |
| 10 | University of Mostar | ✓ | 479,1 | 478.28 |
| 11 | University of Sarajevo | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 12 | University of Tuzla | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Bulgaria | | | | |
| 13 | University of Ruse | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Croatia | | | | |
| 14 | Josip Juraj Strossmayer University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 15 | Juraj Dobrila University of Pula | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 16 | Sveučilište u Zadru | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 17 | University of Zagreb | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Czechia | | | | |
| 18 | Czech University of Life Sciences Prague | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 19 | Czech Technical University | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 20 | Tomas Bata University in Zlin | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Germany | | | | |
| 21 | Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 22 | Deggendorf Institute of Technology | | | ✓ |
| 23 | Universität Ulm | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 24 | Ulm University of Applied Sciences | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 25 | Universität Regensburg | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Hungary | | | | |
| 26 | Andrássy Gyula Universität Budapest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 27 | Corvinus University of Budapest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 28 | Eötvös Loránd University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 29 | Semmelweis University of Medicine | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 30 | University of Pécs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Italy | | | | |
| 31 | Free University of Bozen/Bolzano | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 32 | University of Trieste | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Moldova | | | | |
| 33 | State Agrarian University of Moldova | | | |
| 34 | Technical University of Moldova | not member | ✓ | ✓ |
| Romania | | | | |
| 35 | "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 36 | Babes-Bolyai University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 37 | Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine King Michael I. of Romania Timisoara | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 38 | National School of Political Science and Public Administration Bucharest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 39 | Ovidius University of Constanta | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 40 | Spiru Haret University, (USH Bucharest) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 41 | Technical University of Cluj-Napoca | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 42 | Transilvania University Brasov | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------|------------|------------|
| 43 | University Politehnica of Bucharest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 44 | USAMV, Cluj-Napoca | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 45 | UASVM Bucharest | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 46 | University of Craiova | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 47 | University of Oradea | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 48 | University of Pitești | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 49 | Stefan cel Mare" University Suceava | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 50 | Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 51 | West University of Timisoara | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Serbia | | | | |
| 52 | Megatrend University | | | |
| 53 | University of Belgrade | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 54 | University of Defence | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 55 | University of Novi Sad | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Kosovo | | | | |
| 56 | University of Prishtina | ✓ | 472,1 | |
| Slovakia | | | | |
| 57 | Comenius University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 58 | Constantine the Philosopher University Nitra | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 59 | SUA Nitra | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 60 | Trnava University | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Slovenia | | | | |
| 61 | University of Maribor | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 62 | University of Nova Gorica | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 63 | University of Primorska | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ukraine | | | | |
| 64 | Odessa National I.I. Mechnikov University | ✓ | | |
| 65 | Uzhhorod National University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Missing membership payments | € 1.000,00 | € 1.548,80 | € 5.563,52 |
| | Outstanding membership fees | € | 8.112,32 | |

APPLICATION

for membership of the Danube Rectors' Conference i.v.z.w

Name of the institution Reutlingen University (Hochschule Reutlingen)

Address Alteburgstraße 150, 72762 Reutlingen

Telephone +49 (0) 7121 / 271 – 1006 Fax + 49 (0) 7121 / 271 – 1103

E-mail: praesident@reutlingen-university.de; Website: <https://www.reutlingen-university.de/en/home/>

Institution data:

Founded in 1855

Profile of School: Reutlingen University is one of Germany's leading universities of applied sciences, offering international academic programmes with close ties to industry and commerce. On our campus we have around 5300 students spread across five different Schools: Applied Chemistry, Engineering, ESB Business School, Informatics, and Textiles & Design. Professors, Visiting Lecturers and administrative and technical staff guide these talented young people along their academic path. We offer 46 degree programmes at Bachelor's and Master's level, in which we train the top executives of the future. At the same time it is very important to us to support our students' personal development and to ensure that they become specialists and managers for whom social responsibility is second nature.

Legal status of the institution State University, State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany,
c.f. University State Law (LHG Baden-Wuerttemberg (4.HRÄG))
§1,4

according to national law, accreditation act etc.

Explicit confirmation of the constitutional principles of universities: freedom of research and teaching, plurality of scientific methods

This guaranteed by our National and State Law in the Federal Republic Germany and the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg

Academic Profile International University of Applied Research with a focus on Engineering, Business Studies, Informatics and Design. Bachelor, Master and MBA degree programmes with a strong focus in Applied Research

type and structure of studies, information on research activities, international-dimension

Audit Internationalization from German Rector's Conference from 2009-2011 and successful Re-Audit from 2015 – 2019.

Number of Students/out of them number of PhD Students 5300 /97 Number of Teachers 160

Number of Faculties/Departments: 5 _ Applied Chemistry, Engineering, ESB Business School, Informatics, and Textiles & Design _____

Head of institution elected _President Hendrik Brumme appointed by Senate, University Council and Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Member of the European University Association Yes No

Particulars: International University and top ranked in Applied Research among the university of Applied Sciences in the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Rector/President

name : __Prof. Dr Hendrik Brumme

e-mail : _ hendrik.brumme@reutlingen-university.de
telephone: +49 7121 271 1000

Vice-Rector/Vice-President Research

name : _Prof. Dr Petra Kluger

e-mail: _petra.kluger@reutlingen-university.de _____

telephone: +49 7121 271 2061

Head of IRO

name: Prof. Baldur Veit, LL.D.

e-mail: baldur.veil@reutlingen-university.de

telephone:+49 7121 271 1004

Coordinator for activities

name: Prof. Dr Dieter Hertweck, School of Informatics

e-mail: dieter.hertweck@reutlingen-university.de

telephone: +49 7121 271 4081

Place/Date Reutlingen, June 28th, 2021 _____

Signature



Prof. Dr Hendrik Brumme

President, Reutlingen University

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.

HRK German Rectors' Conference

The Voice of the Universities

The Secretary-General
Dr Jens-Peter Gaul

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Ahrstraße 39, 53175 Bonn

Contact:
Marijke Wahlers
Head of Department
International Affairs

Details:
T: +49 228 887-170
wahlers@hrk.de

Reference:
C4/5386

To whom it may concern

Letter of reference

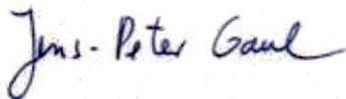
1 July 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hochschule Reutlingen / Reutlingen University is a member institution of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) – the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. Hochschule Reutlingen / Reutlingen University is a university under public law of the state of Baden-Württemberg in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Reutlingen University's strong and long-lasting commitment to internationalisation and international collaboration is demonstrated, among other things, by the fact that the institution completed the HRK Audit "Internationalisation of Universities" in 2011 and the HRK Re-Audit "Internationalisation of Universities" in 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jens-Peter Gaul



Slomškovo trg 15
2000 Maribor, Slovenija

Danube Rectors' Conference
Secretariat

Maribor, October 15th, 2021

Subject: Support Letter for membership Application by
Fachhochschule Reutlingen

Dear colleagues,

by this letter I wish to express the support of University of Maribor for the application of Fachhochschule Reutlingen (University of Applied Sciences Reutlingen) for membership in the Danube Rectors' Conference. Fachhochschule Reutlingen is situated in Baden-Württemberg in Reutlingen and has co-locations also in other towns, e. g. in Böblingen, where there is the Hermann-Hollerith-Zentrum. Fachhochschule Reutlingen is a strongly developing higher education institution and among other focuses on knowledge transfer in the field of digitalisation in the Danube region. Fachhochschule Reutlingen is coordinating the Working Group called Digital Danube within the Steering Group of priority Area 8 of the EUSDR. Therefore, I am convinced that Fachhochschule Reutlingen will bring added value to the Danube Rectors' Conference.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Dr. Zdravko Kačič
Rector



APPLICATION

for membership of the Danube Rectors' Conference i.v.z.w

Name of the institution J. Selye University
Address Bratislavská cesta 3322 (P.O.Box 54), 945 01 Komárno, Slovakia
Telephone: +421-35-3260 789, +421-905-274 832 Fax
E-mail info@ujs.sk Web site ujs.sk

Institution data:

Founded in 2003

Profile of School:

J. Selye University (hereinafter referred to as JSU) was founded on 23 October, 2003 through the passing of the law No. 465/2003 on its establishment by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The act came into force on 1 January 2004. It is the only independent legal entity in Slovakia, which offers academic study programmes to an ethnic minority in their mother tongue, i.e. Hungarian.

The main role of JSU in fulfilling its mission is to provide higher education and carry out creative scientific activities.

The media of instruction are Hungarian, Slovak and other languages such as English and German. The university provides education in all three levels (Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral) in accordance with the Bologna Declaration and Act No. 131/2002 on higher education and on the change and supplement to some acts.

It has a selective admission policy based on students' past academic records and grades. For making studies and courses more transparent, students get credits for successful completion of courses according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The credit value of a given subject is determined in the study plan of the relevant study programme. Subjects are completed by an exam or assessment, in some cases (eg excursions, physical education activities) by attending lessons and doing assignments. The rules of study are described in the university's Study Regulations. JSU uses the academic information system so-called AiS2 for managing the three university study programmes.

JSU also provides several academic and non-academic facilities and services to students including the University Library (nearly 100 000 volumes), 2 dormitories (Sirály1, Sirály2; suitable for cca. 1000 students), a university canteen and 2 cafeterias, sports facilities, financial aids and/or scholarships, studies abroad and several exchange programs (within the Erasmus+ programme and the Makovecz Higher Education Cooperation Programme of the Carpathian Basin), as well as administrative services in the Rectorate and in the student administration offices. The IT Service Centre deals with IT related issues. JSU has a Career Advisory Centre as well, that organizes lectures, mediates training possibilities, informs students about job opportunities, and deals with individual counselling. They are building an alumni system too.

Legal status of the institution JSU is a public university and self-governing institution, which was established and may be abolished by law.

according to national law, accreditation act etc.

Explicit confirmation of the constitutional principles of universities: freedom of research and teaching, plurality of scientific methods

The mission of JSU is to offer high priority to quality study programmes at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD levels and to boost research programmes, preserve and respect universal ethical norms, promote the development of harmonious personality and ensure freedom of thought and opinion.

The explicit confirmation of the constitutional principles of the university is primarily provided by Act No. 131/2002 on higher education and on the change and supplement to some acts.

JSU aims to educate young intellectuals who can become the pillars of our national community and whose language skills will enable them to succeed at home and abroad.

Our university is an institution where multiculturalism, freedom of thought and opinion, responsibility, human dignity, democracy, creativity, the originality of academic research and efficient instructor-student communication are basic principles.

Besides providing high quality education our institution also contributes to the development of science and research by building cooperation with the international network of institutions, thus providing an opportunity for Hungarian researchers in Slovakia to join international research projects. Our institution is a regional centre of science and research taking an active role in the economic, social and cultural life of the region.

Academic profile:

JSU is a modern educational and scientific institution. Education at the university started in the academic year 2004/2005, which means that it is the youngest public university in the Slovak Republic. Each year more than 1800 students study in three levels (Bachelor's., Master's and doctoral.), either full-time or part-time at three faculties (Faculty of Education, Faculty of Reformed Theology and Faculty of Economics and Informatics).

The faculties offer courses in accredited programmes in the complex system of undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

The Faculty of Education (hereinafter referred to as FE JSU) offers any combination of the following study programmes: Teaching of Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Informatics, English, Hungarian, German, Slovak, Catechesis, and History. As independent training programs, they offer pre-school and elementary education, Hungarian language and literature as a liberal arts program, as well as pedagogy and public education. FE JSU has a dynamically expanding network of practice schools. Their goal is to reach all Hungarian-inhabited regions of the country and to have a practice school in every region.

The Faculty of Economics and Informatics (hereinafter referred to as FEI JSU) offers its applicants the following study programmes: Applied Informatics, Corporate Economics and Management, Commerce and Marketing and Rural Development. There is a growing interest in the practical programme of FEI JSU. Their goal with the professional internship programme is to provide students an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge by expanding their professional knowledge, thereby increasing their competitiveness in the labour market and to work on forming long-term cooperation with companies and institutions in the region.

At the Faculty of Reformed Theology (hereinafter referred to as FRT JSU), those who are interested can select from Missiology, Diaconia and Social Care Training, and an integrated Master's degree in Reformed Theology. FRT JSU maintains a particularly good professional relationship with the ecclesiastical and social institutions of the region. There is cooperation with the Slovak Reformed Christian Church, thus the faculty can also secure jobs for graduate pastors and social workers throughout the country.

There are doctoral schools at all three faculties. FE JSU holds a PhD programme in Hungarian Language and Literature and History Didactics, FEI JSU has a PhD programme in

Education of Mathematics and Informatics and in Business Economics and Management. In addition to its own doctoral studies programme, FRT JSU holds the right to appoint associate professors within the theology study programme after a successful habilitation procedure. After completing the inauguration procedure, they may also nominate candidates for university professors who will be appointed by the president of the Slovak Republic.

The university research aims at achieving results that can be applied and utilized by all faculties that, of course, take part in the realization of the research work. FE JSU takes pride in the scientific work that is carried out in the Nanochemistry and Supramolecular Laboratory of the Department of Chemistry, while FEI JSU conducts scientific research at the Intelligent Robotics Centre.

Besides several national and international journals in which our professors publish their research, we have our own scientific journals like *Eruditio-Educatio* at FE JSU, *Acta Oeconomica Universitatis Selye* FEI JSU and *Theological Forum* at FRT JSU.

JSU provides international research scholarships that are available through the Central European Exchange Program so-called CEEPUS, which involves 15 Central and Eastern European countries. The university is currently participating in 7 CEEPUS networks.

In addition to the options offered by the faculties, students, academic and non-academic staff of JSU can get scholarships within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. Nearly 120 valid bilateral agreements provide access to the European countries and beyond. JSU has recently been awarded the right to participate in the new programme period and it holds the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027 certificate as well. Students can also study at the university's foreign partners within the Makovecz Higher Education Cooperation Programme of the Carpathian Basin. We cooperate with many foreign partner institutions via the grants of the National Scholarship Program and the International Visegrad Fund.

[type and structure of studies](#), [information on research activities](#), [international dimension](#)

Number of Students/out of them number of PhD Students: 1849 students (+45 PhD Students)
Number of Teachers 144

Number of Faculties/Departments 3 Faculties / 19 Departments

Head of institution elected in 2020 appointed by the president of the Slovak Republic
Member of the European University Association Yes No x (not yet, but our application is being processed)

Particulars:

Rector/President

name : Dr. habil. PaedDr. György Juhász, PhD.

e-mail : juhaszg@ujs.sk

telephone: +421 35 32 60 606

Vice-Rector/Vice-President

name : Dr. habil. Ing. Renáta Machová, PhD.

e-mail: machovar@ujs.sk

telephone: : +421-35-3260 789, +421-905-274 832

Head of IRO

name : Mgr. Adriana Kinczerová

e-mail: kinczerovaa@uj.s.sk

telephone: +421 35 32 60 613, +421 919 149 450

Place/Date _____

Signature



Dr. habil. PaedDr. György Juhász, PhD.

Name

Rector of J.Selye University

Position

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.



Univerzita J. Selyeho - J. Selye University

Bratislavská cesta 3322, P.O.Box 54, 945 01 Komárno
Slovakia

Danube Rectors' Conference
Slomškov trg. 15
20000 Maribor
Slovenia

Your ref.

Our ref.
6418/3646/2021/RK/PR3

Handled by / extension-line /
e-mail
Adriana Kinczerova / 789 /
kinczerovaa@ujss.sk

Komárno
23.09.2021

Subject

Membership Letter

Dear Sir/Madam,

on behalf of J. Selye University (hereinafter referred to as JSU) I the undersigned

Dr. habil. PaedDr. György Juhász, PhD.,

Rector of JSU,

hereby request your approval to become a member of the

Danube Rector's Conference.

You can find the university's application form in the attachment with the statement of support from the Slovak Rectors' Conference.

Thank you for considering my request!

Sincerely,

.....
Dr. habil. PaedDr. György Juhász, PhD.

Rector of JSU





SLOVENSKÁ REKTORSKÁ KONFERENCIA

Danube Rectors' Conference
Current Presidency:
University of Maribor
Slomškov trg 15
2000 Maribor
Slovenia

Bratislava 14/07/2021
No: 53-2/2021

Subject: SUPPORT LETTER – J. Selye University in Komárno

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, the undersigned
Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Rudolf Kropil, PhD.,
President of the Slovak Rectors' Conference and Rector of the Technical University in Zvolen
hereby declare
that Slovak Rectors' Conference supports J. Selye University in becoming a member of
the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC).

Sincerely,


Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Rudolf Kropil, PhD.
SRC President



Freie Universität Bozen
Libera Università di Bolzano
Università Lìedia de Bulsan

Bozen / Bolzano,
Date of the digital signature

Ref: Membership termination

Dear Sirs,

I am hereby officially informing you about the decision, taken by unibz, to terminate our membership in the DRC – Danube Rectors' Conference.

We regret to take this step but although the activities of DRC are of unquestioned value, we have realized in the course of time that we indeed had not often the opportunity of taking part in them.

For this reason, we have come to consider terminating our membership as the most reasonable option.

I am confident that you will understand our position and kindly ask you to confirm acceptance of the above.

Looking forward to your kind reply I thank you in advance and remain

Yours faithfully

Paolo Lugli
Rector

Rektorat
Rettorato
Rectorate

www.unibz.it
rectorate@unibz.it

Franz-Innerhofer-Platz 8
Piazzetta Franz Innerhofer 8
39100 Bozen / Bolzano · IT
Postfach / Casella postale 276
T: +39 0471 010 200
F: +39 0471 010 209



| Statement of revenues and expenditures 01.01. - 04.11. 2021 | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts DRC | account balance | revenues | expenditures |
| Account balance 01.01.2021 | 169.894,18 | | |
| Membership fees | | 26 936,48 | |
| Account interest | | 13,43 | |
| Account charges | | | -314,16 |
| EUA Affiliate membership | | | -1.117,00 |
| DRC Website | | | -108,00 |
| OeAD Scholarships | | | -3.600,00 |
| Elias Canetti Scholarship 2021 | | | -3.000,00 |
| Tech. equipment DRC Secretariat – Zoom Licence | | | -167,88 |
| Tech. equipment DRC Secretariat – Zoom Rooms | | | -562,80 |
| Tech. equipment DRC Secretariat - Webinar | | | -444,00 |
| Accounting De kleine prins | | | -4.235,00 |
| Services DRC Secretariat 2021 | | | -6.000,00 |
| Account balance 04.11.2021 | 177.295,25 | 26.949,91 | 19.548,84 |

| Accounting projections 04.11. - 31.12. 2021 | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts DRC | account balance | revenues | expenditures |
| Membership fees not yet paid | | 8.112,32 | |
| Account interest estimated | | 5,00 | |
| Account charges estimated | | | -130,00 |
| Sub-total | | 8.117,32 | -130,00 |
| Balance - estimated 31.12.2021 | 185.282,57 | 35.067,23 | 19.678,84 |

Subject: Notification on possibility to obtain financial means for progressive doctoral students

Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) supports realisation of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), especially in the field of priority area Knowledge society, and therefore invites students of doctoral study programmes at DRC member universities to apply for the obtaining of targeted means for support for following targets of EUSDR¹:

1. Increase of the number of innovations, official inventions or EPO and PCT patent applications;
2. Increase cooperation and mobility in the field of research and education;
3. Increase of the number of joint publications on research results.

DRC notifies that in the framework of the »**DRC Initiative Fund**« there are means for the development of applicant projects/solutions/prototypes by doctoral students from DRC members².

Applications will be accepted till XX.XX.2022 to the address:



(QR Code is symbolic)

Results will be sent to applicants via e-mail till XX. XX. 2022.

Based on the criteria below. An expert committee shall evaluate the applications. Applications obtaining the highest scores shall be selected, in case of a draw, the application shall be selected regarding the time of arrival.

Financial means are dedicated to following activities:

1. Material costs – financing material costs needed to prove or develop an applicative aspect of knowledge or technology (e. g. parts for the development of a prototype or consumables) but not meaning purchase of equipment or regular costs of equipment;
2. Irregular cost of use of research equipment at other DRC member institutions (e. g. hours of use or costs of laboratory staff that is not initially provided for otherwise);
3. Service costs (e. g. patent attorney for verification of state-of-the-art of technology or for drafting patent application, excluding official fees), if not interfering with internal regulations of host or home institution.

¹ Target 2, 3 and 4 EUSDR PA7: <https://knowledgesociety.danube-region.eu/priority-area-7/>

² DRC members: <https://www.drc-danube.org/members/list-of-members-1/>

4. Travel costs and costs of stay for the student and his or her family members (e. g. travel costs and rent of an appartement for 4 persons).

Value of financial means by DRC for financing the »DRC Initiative Fund« in line with this notification amount to **50.000,00 EUR**, whilst a **maximum of 25 applications shall be accepted or a maximum of 5.000,00 EUR shall be allocated at one application. An applicant may receive a maximum of 2.000,00 EUR for following targets 1 or 3 and 1.000,00 EUR for following target 2. Applicants may apply to all three targets and thus obtain of maximum of 5.000,00 EUR.**

The named amounts encompass all ³taxes and payments (e. g. VAT, tolls, customs).

The expert committee is composed of three members nominated by the presidency of DRC.

The proposed project/solution/prototype named in the application must be completed till 31. 12. 2022. Beneficiaries file a short report on performed activities to the DRC secretariat till 31. 1. 2023 in form of a textual report and a short presentation (power-point).

For additional information and support, we will be at your disposal under info@drc-danube.eu.

DRC Presidency

³ In line with VAT reverse charge, VAT outside Belgium is calculated by a standard level of 21% VAT. https://www.belgium.be/en/economy/business/taxation_and_accounting/tva

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Every application shall be evaluated according to following criteria:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Demonstration of applicability of obtained knowledge and skills of the student:</p> | <p>Evaluation criteria (score from 1 to 5): Presented application/activity is 0 – not connected to the study; 1 – a regular study obligation; 2 – an independent upgrade of done study obligations; 3 – an upgrade of done study obligations with inclusion of a mentor (researcher or senior student of tutor, respectively); 4 – an independent upgrade of research activities*; 5 – an independent upgrade of research activities* with inclusion of a mentor (researcher or senior student or tutor, mentor of a final thesis); (*) – preparation of applicant's final thesis (e. g. diploma, master or doctoral thesis).</p> |
|---|--|

1. Increase of the number of innovations, official inventions or EPO and PCT patent applications:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Innovation potential of application:</p> | <p>Evaluation criteria (score 0, 1, 3 or 5): 0 – no comparable solution identified; 1 – one comparable solution identified; 3 – one comparable solution with comparison of innovation potential with applied solution identified; 5 – at least three comparable solutions with comparison of innovation potential with applied solution identified;</p> |
| <p>Identification of eventual users (cases of companies with a used case):</p> | <p>Evaluation criteria (score from 0 to 5): 0 – no example of a company noted; 1 – one case of a company noted; 2 – two different cases of companies from same branch noted; 3 – two cases of two companies from different branches noted; 4 – more than two cases of companies from at least two different branches noted; 5 – more than three cases of companies from at least three different branches noted;</p> |
| <p>Number of relevant patent applications or granted patents from the field of application (state-of-the-art overview)</p> | <p>Evaluation criteria (score 1, 2, 3 or 5) 1-one patent application, 2-three or more patent applications, 3-one patent application with comparison of differences, 5-three or more patent applications with comparison of differences)</p> |
| <p>References of mentor</p> | <p>Evaluation criteria (score 1, 2, 3 or 5) 1-mentor is co-inventor in 1 patent application, 2-mentor is co-inventor in 3 patent applications, 3-mentor is co-inventor in 5 or more patent applications, 5-mentor is co-inventor in 5 or more EPO or PCT patent applications</p> |

2. Increase cooperation and mobility in the field of research and education:

| | |
|--|--|
| Planned duration of mobility | Evaluation criteria (score 1, 2, 3 or 5) 1-1 week, 2-1 month, 3-2 months, 5-3 months or more |
| Mobility is connected to cooperation between institutions | Evaluation criteria (score 1, 3 or 5) 1-existing informal cooperation; 3-existing formal cooperation; 5-existing formal cooperation and joint research in the field of doctoral student. |
| Soft skills development at host institution | Evaluation criteria (score from 1 to 3) 1-containing one soft skills course, 2-containing two soft skills courses, 3-containing three or more soft skills courses. |
| Use of research equipment | Evaluation criteria (score from 1, 3 or 5) 1-use of equipment at host institutions that is available also at domestic institution; 3-use of equipment not available at home institution and known to the student, 5-use of equipment not available at home institution and unknown to student. |
| Use of means of travel | Evaluation criteria (score from 1, 2 or 5) 1-airplane, 2-car, 5-public transport (bus, train) |

3. Increase of the number of joint publications on research results:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Multi-disciplinarity | Evaluation criteria (score 1, 3 or 5) 1-one discipline covered; 3-two or more related disciplines covered; 5-two or more unrelated disciplines covered. |
| Applicant's experience | Evaluation criteria (score 1, 3 or 5) 1-applicant is author in 2 or more publications, 3-applicant is author or co-author in 1 scientific publication, 5-applicant was not yet author or co-author of any scientific publication. |
| Mentor's past references | Evaluation criteria (score from 1, 3 or 5) 1-mentor was a mentor to more than 3 doctorate students, 3-mentor was a mentor to more than 5 doctorate students 5-mentor was a mentor to more than 10 doctorate students |

| | |
|---|--|
| Mentor's present availability/capacity | Evaluation criteria (score from 1, 3 or 5) 1-mentor is currently a mentor to more than 10 doctorate students; 3-mentor is currently a mentor to more than 5 and up to 10 doctorate students; 5-mentor is currently a mentor to not more than 5 doctorate students. |
|---|--|

Questionnaire

Name and surname:

Email:

Institution:

Stage of study:

Mentor:

Targets: (1), (2), (3) *mark appropriate

Application title: *no more than 50 characters

Shortly present your plan of activities: *no more than 500 characters

How is your activity connected to your studies or research and how applicable are obtained knowledge and skills: *no more than 1500 characters

List your activities and time frame for realization of your activities: *no more than 1500 characters

Involved persons (home and host institution; name, institution, study programme/profession):

Letter of acceptance by the host institution (free text stating that the host institution confirms the planned project/solution/prototype)

Target 1:

Are there comparative/competitive other activities/market solutions and how do they relate to your application (concentrate on the innovative aspect of your activity): *no more than 1500 characters

Name potential users and cases of use:

Explain how your activity addresses the target or targets you applies for: *no more than 1500 characters

List relevant patent applications or granted patents from the field of application (state-of-the-art overview):

List mentors patent applications/patents:

Target 2:

List the research equipment you will use to realize your activity: *no more than 1500 characters

Explain mobility at host organization (e.g. duration, why you selected this host organization, connection to host organization): *no more than 1500 characters

What is the added value of your mobility regarding skill development which are not related to your domain development (e.g. language, cultural learning, communication skills): *no more than 1500 characters

Target 3:

Enter your ORCID number:

Enter mentor's ORCID number:

I am author or co-author of: (1) (2) (3) (4) *mark

Mentor was mentor to: (1), (2), (3) *mark

Mentor is currently mentor to: (1), (2), (3) *mark

GDPR compliance

IPR compliance



DRC
Danube Rectors' Conference



Institute for the
Danube Region
and Central Europe

The Future of Research and Higher Education in a Globalised World: A View from and for the Danube Region

DRC Strategic Foresight
Project Proposal



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

DRC Strategic Foresight Project Proposal

What

Developing of strategic foresights within **four thematically defined areas** of crucial importance in the area of higher education. Focusing on the future developments of institutions of higher education in the DRC target region - **Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe** - future scenarios in four areas are going to be the outcome of the project.

Project results in form of multiple future scenarios should become an **essential contribution for the decision-making** of higher education institutions as well as other related organisations in the DRC region and beyond.

The positions and perspectives of **students, recent graduates and early-stage scientists** represent a unique approach to exploring the future of higher education as a significant supplement to existing projections of experts and advanced scientists.

Who

Preferably the **Danubius Young Scientist Award Alumni members**, optionally other students/young scholars from the DRC region; 5 participants/group, i.e. **20 participants** in total. The selection will be based on the diversity and broad representation of the EUSDR countries.

How

Conception, coordination and implementation by **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)** - seat of the DRC Permanent Secretariat

When

November 2021-November 2022

Project phases:

1. **November 2021:** Project presentation during the DRC General Assembly
2. **December 2021-January 2022:** Call for and selection of participants
3. **March 2022:** Project presentation, working methods, get-to-know, first steps (in-person meeting, Vienna)
4. **March-June 2022:** Foresight development (online meetings)
5. **July 2022:** Meeting in the framework of the DRC Summer School (in-person meeting, tba)
6. **August-October 2022:** Finalisation of outcomes
7. **November 2022:** Presentation of DRC Strategic foresight during the DRC General Assembly in Maribor, Slovenia

Where

Hybrid implementation, a physical meetings in Vienna, during DRC Summer School (place tba), Maribor

Strategic foresight methods¹

Horizon scanning: seeking and researching signals of change in the present and their potential future impacts. Horizon scanning is the foundation of any strategic foresight process. It can involve desk research, expert surveys, and review of existing futures literature.

Megatrends analysis: exploring and reviewing of large-scale changes building in the present at the intersection of multiple policy domains, with complex and multidimensional impacts in the future.

Scenario planning: developing multiple stories or images of how the future could look in order to explore and learn from them in terms of implications for the present.

Visioning and back-casting: developing an image of an ideal (or undesirable) future state, and working backwards to identify what steps to take (or avoid).

Four strategic foresights

Developing four strategic foresight by taking into account specific aspects and preconditions of higher education area of the DRC region.

1. University Autonomy and Governance

University autonomy and academic freedom represent a core principles in the functioning of an institution of higher education while fulfilling its basic mission of producing and dissemination of knowledge. Particularly in the DRC region, the limitation, undermining or destruction of university autonomy is becoming more frequent as a result of political reforms and of establishment of informal power structures within respective young democratic systems. What steps must be taken to assure a long-term independence of higher education? With what tools can we counter the erosion of universities' institutional autonomy across the DRC region and beyond?

Possible issues: university autonomy; informal leadership and management; academic freedom; apolitical reforms; transnational code of principles

2. Science and Learning in Digital Era

The Covid-19 crisis proved to be a significant impetus in the long-term trend of digitisation of higher education and learning. Distance education and remote learning has become a daily experience and a new normal even for in terms of digitisation less-prepared universities of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Digital innovative education emerging from all-encompassing digital transition of our age can, on one hand, support open, transparent and flexible research and schooling. On the other hand, however, it also brings with it many drawbacks such as challenging the interdependency of both amongst students and/or within the student-teacher relationship as has been seen in recent months. In what way should we shape the digital transformation in order to secure it serve everyone in the educational system and in "post-fact" society at large?

Possible issues: remote learning; e-learning; distance education; digitisation; digital divide; inclusion; educational strategies; learning culture; technology and education

3. Scientific Research for European Decision-Making

Climate change, sustainability, globalisation, migration, demographic shifts etc. The challenges of the 21st century affect the whole planet, having impact also in the countries of the DRC region. Universities and their research centres constitute an important component in providing evidence-based solutions to address above-mentioned global changes. However, to what extent is this research used in the framework of decision-making at the national and European level? How is it possible to enhance the role of science in the decision-making processes? Finally, as Anglo-Saxon scientific activity and its results remain the predominant source for policy-making processes in the European Union, how can the scientific voices from other parts of Europe be strengthened?

¹ Source: OECD, *Strategic Foresight for Better Policies*, 2019.

Possible issues: science and decision-making; evidence-based solutions; science and governance; research and policy-making

4. Employability of students/early-stage researchers

With the advancement of European integration, the conditions for employability of students and university graduates are constantly changing in a manner that rather negatively influence both the institutions of higher education as well as labour market in the DRC region. While the European Union is moving towards instituting of the so-called European Education Area building on the well-established Europe-wide recognition system (Bologna Process), the free movement of talents has also to a certain extent facilitated undesirable developments such as brain drain, underemployment or lack of human capital in underdeveloped regions. What instruments should be used in order to reverse these side-effects of integration efforts? Is there a need of an institutional reform to create a better employment prospects for migrating university-educated workers?

Possible issues: European Education Area; Bologna Process; brain drain; brain gain; underemployment; rural exodus; movement of talents; employment; human capital flight; work culture

Budget projection

Travel costs lump sum

20 persons x 200 Euro x 3 (Vienna, Summer School, Maribor): 12.000 Euro

Accommodation costs (max. 2 nights per stay)

20 persons x 150 Euro x 3 (Vienna, Summer School, Maribor): 9.000 Euro

Catering and social programme

20 persons x 75 Euro (Vienna, Summer School): 1.500 Euro

Organisation and implementation/External lectures

5.000 Euro

Layout and publication

2.500 Euro

In total: 30.000 Euro

Planned DRC budget 2022

| Account DRC | Account balance | Revenues | Expenditures |
|--|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Projected account balance - 01.01.2022 | 185.282,57 | | |
| Membership fees (66x500) | | 33.000,00 | |
| Services DRC Secretariat | | | -6.000,00 |
| Tech. Equipment - Zoom | | | -1.200,00 |
| 17th DRC Summer School | | | -7.000,00 |
| Accounting De kleine prins | | | -4.200,00 |
| OeAD Scholarships | | | -3.600,00 |
| Elias Canetti Scholarship | | | -3.000,00 |
| DRC Website | | | -110,00 |
| EUA Annual fee | | | -1.150,00 |
| DRC Initiative Fund | | | -50.000,00 |
| DRC Strategic Foresight | | | -30.000,00 |
| Account Interest estimated | | 20,00 | |
| Account Charges estimated | | | -520,00 |
| Balance - estimated 31.12.2022 | 111.522,57 | 33.020,00 | - 106.780,00 |