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Danubius Awards 2021: Scientific excellence and talent flourish in the Danube region

Abstract: Danubius Award 2021 to the Austrian scientist Prof. Josef Glöbzl, Danubius Mid-Career Award 2021 to the Serbian scientist Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tijana Dabovic and Danubius Young Scientist Awards 2021 to the 13 aspiring researchers **from the Danube region**

The "**Danubius Award**" 2021 goes to the Austrian scientist Josef Glöbzl, Univ.-Prof. for Applied Genetics at the Institute of Plant Biotechnology and Cell Biology of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). Prof. Glöbzl has numerous achievements in the fields of physiology, chemistry, plant physiology and applied genetics, including around 100 publications listed on the Web of Science. From 2004 to 2010 he was Head of the Department of Applied Genetics and Cell Biology and from 2010 to 2018 Vice President for Research and International Research-Cooperation at BOKU. For the period 2018-2023, Prof. Glöbzl has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the University Council of the Medical University of Innsbruck. In addition, he has been strongly involved internationally, especially in the Danube region, in the transformation of the Central and Eastern European universities after 1989.

The "**Danubius Mid-Career Award**" 2021 have been awarded to the Serbian scientist Tanja Dabović. She is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Geography of the University of Belgrade, where she has been working in the field of Spatial planning since her PhD. She has participated in numerous national and international projects with a focus on planning theory, integration of planning disciplines, vertical and horizontal integration, with a particular focus on multi-level governance and cross-sector integration. Since 2015, she has been a national representative in the Association of European Schools of Planning. In addition, she was recently involved as a team member in the preparation of the last Spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition, 13 young scientists from the Danube region have been honoured for their scientific work with the **Danubius Young Scientist Award**.

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

"The Danube region is an important place for cross-border cooperation. Science, research, and innovation are essential for the successful development of the region and also act as important bridges between the countries and their scientific communities along the Danube. With the Danubius Awards, we are putting the Danube region, its talents and excellent researchers in the spotlight and promoting networking and exchange between scientists" said Minister of Education, Science and Research Prof. Heinz Faßmann in his message of greeting on the occasion of the virtual presentation of the prizes on 11. November 2021.

"2021 was and is a challenging year for all of us and especially for young researchers with great uncertainties about their future careers. However, I would like to encourage the awardees to stay in research, we need their talent to further develop the research area along the Danube and thus contribute to the prosperity of the region," Faßmann continued.

The "Danubius Award" was established in 2011 to honour people who have dealt with the Danube region in an outstanding way in their scientific work or activities. The prize is awarded annually on a rotational basis for achievements in the humanities, cultural and social sciences or in the life sciences (2021) and is endowed with € 5,000.

The "Danubius Mid-Career Award" is endowed with 2,200 euros and has been awarded since 2017 to researchers who are from 5 to a maximum of 15 years after their last formal scientific degree or have correspondingly equivalent scientific experience. The prize winners were selected by an independent jury of experts chaired by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Martin Gerzabek (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna).

Since 2014, special young talent awards, the "Danubius Young Scientist Awards" have also been awarded. The prize, which is open to all disciplines, highlights the scientific work and talent of young researchers and increases the visibility of the excellence of the research community in the Danube region. In this way, the prizes also contribute to the fact that young scientists deal with the river and the region in a variety of ways. The young talent prizes are endowed with € 1.350, - per award winner. The selection was made by an international jury of experts, whereby the candidates for the award were nominated by their respective scientific institutions.

Winners of the "Danubius Young Scientist Award":

Bosnia and Herzegovina	Raič Mirna
Bulgaria	Mihaylova Svilena
Germany	Corman Mihai-Razvan
Croatia	Kovač Tihomir
Montenegro	Čalasan Martin
Austria	Gusenbauer Claudia
Romania	Câmpu Andreea-Maria
Serbia	Salević Ana
Slovakia	Majzlíková Erika
Slovenia	Bezak Nejc
Czech Republic	Šedová Petra
Ukraine	Karabiniuk Mykola
Hungary	Szeghy-Gayer Veronika