

## DRC Newsletter

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December 2019



Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

with this edition we would like to share with you good news. The DRC became the main project partner of 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 (FIFUEM)**". Within this 3-year project the DRC represents the main project partner as well as the main tool of dissemination of the project's results.

We would also like to express once again the most sincere gratitude to those who attended the **DRC Annual Conference** from 6th to 8th of November 2019 at the University Politehnica of Bucharest (UPB), Romania. To all of you who attended both the Presidency and Permanent Committee Meeting and the General Assembly. Many thanks also belong to the team at the UPB for the perfect organization of the whole event.

Once again, we present also this year's winners of the **Danubius Awards 2019**! The Danubius Awards official ceremony was held as part of the DRC Annual Conference and we congratulate to all 2019 awardees!

You can find more information on both events in this newsletter as well as on our [website](#).

Enjoy the reading and remember, feedback and comments are always [welcome](#)!

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**We wish all representatives of the DRC member universities  
Happy Holidays and successful start to 2020!**

**Thank you very much to all of you for cooperation in 2019  
and we are very much looking forward to new opportunities next year!**

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- 1. FIFUDEM - DRC as the main project partner**
  - 2. SAVE THE DATE: Democracy Is (No!) Fiction | Developing Concepts and Strategies For an Inclusive and Participatory Europe**
  - 3. DRC Annual Meeting 2019**
  - 4. Danubius Awards 2019**
  - 5. Elias Canetti "Sharing Future" Scholarship 2019**
  - 6. proESOF Call for Proposals**
  - 7. DRC Facebook Page**
  - 8. EUA Affiliate Status and EUA Newsletter**
- 

#### **1. FIFUDEM - DRC as the main project partner**

The Danube Rectors' Conference Secretariat is operated by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM). The IDM has received 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 will be conducted at the IDM in the period from 2019 to 2022 and within this framework, DRC represents the **main project partner** as well as the main tool of dissemination of the project's results.



With the support of the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

The key points of this IDM project are 1) to scrutinize the contexts and causes of illiberal, respectively fictional democracy, 2) to develop concepts and strategies of strengthening liberal, respectively functioning democracy and its functioning political communication as well as active citizenship in an inclusive and participatory EU, and 3) to disseminate the project's findings through awareness raising activities, events and publications for different targets groups on the local, regional, national, international and EU level. The rationale behind this proposal comes from the worrying erosion tendencies of liberal democracy as well as from the increase of populism, extremism and religious radicalisation in the Danube Region and Central Europe.

We will regularly update the project [website!](#)



Institute for the  
Danube Region  
and Central Europe



**DRC**  
Danube Rectors' Conference

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**2. SAVE THE DATE: Democracy Is (No!) Fiction | Developing Concepts and Strategies For an Inclusive and Participatory Europe**

**13 January 2020**

## Haus der Europäischen Union, Vienna, Austria

Kick-off Event of the Jean Monnet Project "From Fictional to Functioning Democracy Developing Concepts and Strategies for an Inclusive and Participatory Europe" (FIFUDEM).

**Keynote speech: Ivan KRASTEV**, Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia

As part of the IDM and DRC Jean Monnet Project "From Fictional to Functioning Democracy (FIFUDEM)", the conference brings up the problem of fictional democracy - a new form of façade democracy that produces illiberal fictions of democracy. It aims at creating new visions for actively committed citizenship in a functioning democracy, embedded in a common and inclusive European Union. In order to achieve this, academics and researchers specialised in EU matters, as well as civil society activists, stakeholders and practitioners and EU representatives are invited to develop strategies of strengthening active and participatory citizenship and functioning political communication methodologies.

**Confirmed attendees include amongst others Ivan KRASTEV, Gertraud ILLMEIER** (Interkulturelles Zentrum, Vienna), **Ulrike LUNACEK** (Former Vice-President of the European Parliament, Vienna), **Katarína MATHERNOVÁ** (Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission, Brussels), **Hedvig MORVAI** (Erste Foundation, Vienna), **Ivanka POPOVIC** (Rector of the University of Belgrade, President of the Danube Rectors' Conference), **Wojciech PRZYBYLSKI** (Editor-in-chief of Visegrad Insight and chairman of Res Publica Foundation in Warsaw), **Martin SELMAYR** (Representative of the European Commission in Austria), **Mihai Răzvan UNGUREANU** (University of Bucharest, former Foreign Minister, former Prime Minister, Romania), **Kristina VOKO** (Country Director Albania at Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), Tirana), **Vuk VELEBIT** (Political analyst (Talas.rs) & civic activist, Belgrade) and **Erhard BUSEK** (IDM).

You can find more information as well as the detailed programme [here](#).

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### 3. DRC Annual Meeting 2019

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The Danube Rectors' Conference **Annual Meeting** was successfully held at the **University Politehnica of Bucharest**, Romania on **6th - 8th of November 2019**:

**"Consolidating the Role of Universities in Innovation Ecosystems: Challenges and Future Developments"**

During the Annual Conference the Presidency and Permanent Committee Meeting and the General Assembly were held.

Further documents (Agendas, Minutes) are now available on our [DRC intranet](#) (for members only).

You can find more information, the programme as well as event photos on our [website](#).

We would like to thank all the participants for their highly valuable inputs and contributions to the discussions!

Many thanks also to the University Politehnica of Bucharest for hosting us for the whole event and for the perfect organization.







#### 4. Danubius Awards 2019

In the context of the DRC Annual Meeting 2019  
the Danubius Award ceremony took place on 7th November 2019.

**We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Danubius Awards:**

##### **Danubius Award 2019**

Prof. Ing. Jiří Balík, CSc., dr.h.c. (Czech Republic)



##### **Danubius Mid-Career Award 2019**

Dr. Silvija Krajter Ostoić





### Danubius Young Scientist Award 2019

#### **Austria**

Katharina Prochazka

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Omer Kovčić

#### **Bulgaria**

Kristijan Lukanov

#### **Croatia**

Kristina Mastanjević

#### **Czech Republic**

Martin Klečacký

#### **Germany**

Tobias Spöri

#### **Hungary**

Katalin Sulyok

#### **Republic of Moldova**

Mariana Rosca

#### **Montenegro**

Ethem Mandić

#### **Romania**

Ana Bianca Pavel

#### **Serbia**

Aleksandra Cvetanovic

#### **Slovak Republic**

Viktoria Miklosova

#### **Slovenia**

Gregor Harih

#### **Ukraine**

Tereziia Popovych



**Congratulations to all the winners!**

**Thank you for your scientific contribution for the Danube Region and  
we wish you all the best for your career!**

The Danubius Awards were created in 2011 by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) with the intention to honor persons with extraordinary achievements in their scientific activity and output in relation to the Danube Region.

 **Federal Ministry**  
Education, Science  
and Research



**Institute for the  
Danube Region  
and Central Europe**

##### **5. Elias Canetti "Sharing Future" residency scholarship 2019**

An "Artist-in-residence" scholarship has been provided to the Elias Canetti Society in

Ruse, Bulgaria.

One-month stay of **Zora Kreuzer**, a German artist from Berlin and renowned painter specialising in Minimal and Concrete Art, in Ruse was financially supported by DRC. Kreuzer used the Canetti House as the object of her artwork, where she applied different options of lighting thus creating a fascinating and multifarious ambience.



The scholarship enabled her to be also involved in cooperation with other local artists and the official final event had a strong impact on the local population and brought intercultural exchange among participants.



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## 6. proESOF Call for Proposals



This call for proposals, launched by the [TESI Local Programme Committee](#), aims to collect ideas and to support the development of initiatives which will enhance

dissemination, education, networking and training from now until ESOF 2020. In particular the call collects and evaluates three distinct groups of initiatives:

- **proESOF events 2018-2020** preferentially in the North-East of Italy and Central and Eastern European areas;
- **Science in the City Festival**, Trieste ESOF 2020 (three weeks from June 27 to July 18, 2020)
- **Draft proposals for the official call of ESOF 2020 Trieste** (Call in January 2019).

The proposals may be related to the following areas:

**Science to Science:** focused on current and future path-breaking science, it provides for keynote speeches and events, plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables and debates. It encompasses social sciences and humanities as well as physical and life sciences, engineering and medicine.

**Science to Business:** a unique platform in Europe to exchange ideas and good practices on research-driven business models, public private partnerships, the economic developments resulting from technological innovation, future careers and future “new jobs” opportunities.

**Science to Policy:** stakeholders, governments, scientists, industry and the public in the Triveneto region and in the South East European countries, will be asked to cooperate in a joint effort to ensure reliable, evidence-based policy-making for the benefit of the society as a whole. Possible discussion subjects include the ethical use of scientific knowledge in addressing the grand challenges of humankind, integrity of science, science diplomacy to build peace and cohesion.

**Science to Citizens:** it aims to create a scientific citizenship for all and to promote the idea of science as fundamental to problem-solving. All activities and events organized in this frame will inspire passion and a collaborative attitude in people, from the very young to the elderly, in order to build a sense of identity and ownership within the field of science.

**Science to Communicators:** aimed at building a solid network of science communicators active in different fields (from journalism to events organizing, from publishing to communication corporate) across Europe, with a special focus on the Triveneto region and the South East European countries.



You can find more information on the website: [www.proesof2020.eu/CallProEsof](http://www.proesof2020.eu/CallProEsof)

**The call will stay open from February 2018 to March 2020.**

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## **7. DRC Facebook Page**



We are recently trying to improve the circulation of information within our network.  
As you are a member of the DRC, we kindly ask you to also connect with us via  
Facebook and please follow or DRC page in this [link](#).

Thank you very much and best regards from Vienna.



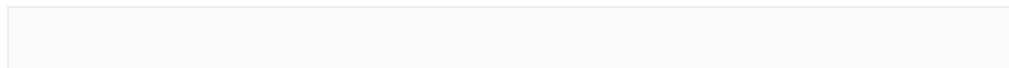
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## **8. EUA Affiliate Status and EUA Newsletter**

We are continuously strengthening and expanding our network. Since November 2015, the DRC is affiliate member of the [European University Association](#).

If you are interested in their news and activities, please follow the [link](#).

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Website



Facebook

Danube Rectors' Conference i.v.z.w.

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