

DRC Newsletter

April 2020

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Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

First of all, let us express our utmost support to all of you during these extraordinary times. With complete disruption of lifestyles all over the world, we are confident that like all major catastrophes that humanity faced, we will evolve and our universities at its core competences has been crucial to continue research and learning along with cooperating with governments to continue lock-down measures and social distancing to mitigate the effect of malicious Covid-19.

We are committed to continue our work with minimum interference and we are open to support our member universities within our capacity during these difficult times. Please read the first point of the newsletter to find out more!

Although all university students are currently staying home and are fully dependent on distance learning, they can still connect via digital communication with us and to be nominated for **the Danubius Young Scientist Award 2020**. Check the Award criteria and nominate your colleague!

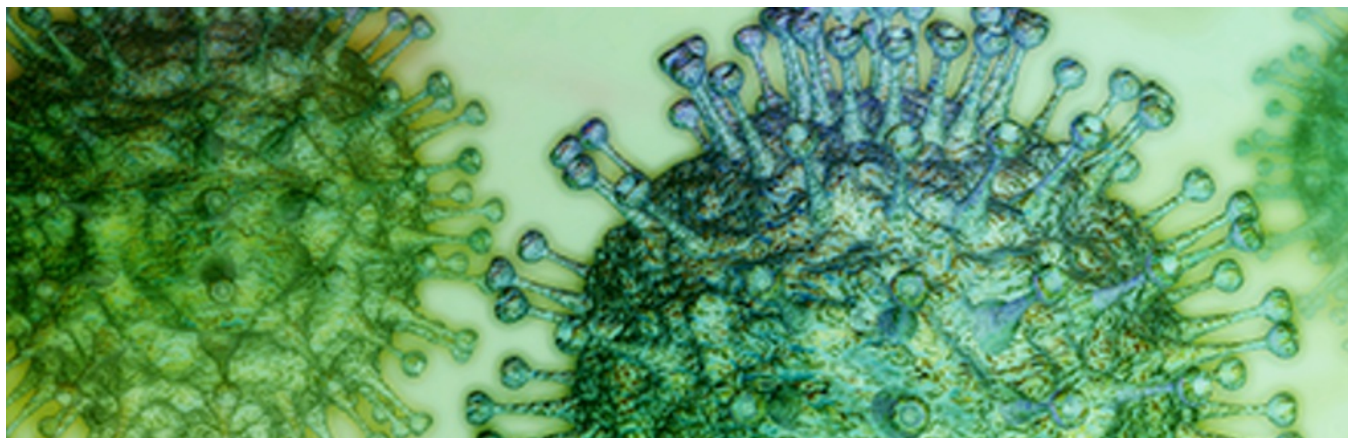
During quarantine, there is possibility to continue their academic pursuit and write for our journal "Der Donaumaum" for our thematic issue bringing up the problem of **fictional democracy** - a new form of façade democracy that produces **illiberal fictions of democracy**. The contributions will be published within the framework of our [Jean-Monnet-Project](#).

Finally, they can also find the time to prepare the necessary documents for their applications for the **7th Young Scholars Forum on Central and South East Europe** taking place in Vienna on December 2-6, 2020, under the title of **"European narratives - in search for common diversity"**.

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

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1. COVID-19 MEASURES AT THE UNIVERSITIES



We are experiencing extraordinary and difficult times. All European countries and their institutions, including universities, are currently tackling with the spread of the Covid-19 disease.

Although the disease has already spread across the continent, the greatest impact of the crisis on the countries in our target region - Central and South-Eastern Europe - is still ahead. Individual governments have already introduced emergency measures to ensure the consequences of the pandemic have been as much as possible minimized. By nature, these measures also deeply affect the functioning of universities and other educational institutions. The introduction of different forms of **distance learning** is an unprecedented and in many ways challenging situation for most universities in the region.

Therefore, we decided to explore how university associations such as DRC could contribute to alleviating the impact of government measures on universities, whereas **our focus primarily refers to various forms of the distance learning (E-learning)**. The collected information on the possibilities of the distance contact could consequently also be used during our DRC Annual conference taking place in November this year.

Regarding the emergency measures due to COVID-19, **Danube University Krems** has switched to pure E-Learning. Similarly, **University of Trieste** has moved to using Microsoft teams, not only for lectures but also for internal meetings. At the moment 99% of the courses are regularly delivered online. Likewise on the 28th February, **Eötvös Loránd University** has established the Epidemiological Operative Coordinating Body consisting of 7 members and an epidemiologist advisor to coordinate the tasks in connection with the new coronavirus epidemics. Also **University of Ruse** has its own learning management system, called e-Learning Shell, on which most of the lecturers had published their web-based courses. Similarly, **University of Maribor** has focused on correctness of the work on distance learning informing staff and students on the use of the tools and use of copyright content. For more details on how universities are coping with the current challenging situation, click [here](#).

Also DRC President and Rector of the University of Belgrade **Ivanka Popović** has, amongst others, addressed the measures introduced at the University of Belgrade following the government regulations. To watch the IDMonSite discussion with Ivanka Popović, click [here](#).

We would like to ask you to share your ideas and recommendations for our activity during these times of crisis and to share with us your experience, know-how and good practices in order to face the current situation.

Please contact us via our e-mail address info@drc-danube.org

We wish you every success in coping with the emergency measures and take care of yourself!

2. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS | DANUBIUS YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD



 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research



THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE NOMINATIONS WAS EXTENDED UNTIL MAY, 29, 2020!

The Danubius Award was 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. The Award

In 2020, this award will be complemented for the seventh time, with a specific price for young scientists – the „Danubius Young Scientist Award“. This award will be granted to **14 young scientists** - one in each country that is part of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region [**Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Romania and the Ukraine**]. The award seeks to highlight the scientific work and talent of young researchers and enhance the visibility of the scientific community in the region: Moreover, the award encourages young scientists to engage in the scientific examination of the multifaceted issues and questions specifically related to the Danube Region.

The award will be endowed with **1,200 Euros** for each winner of the Danubius Young Scientist Award.

AWARD Criteria

- Scientific excellence and innovative approach of the academic work
- Thematic relevance of the scientific work for issues/problems of the Danube region
- Relevance of the scientific work beyond the national borders
- Potential of the candidate (for example: integration in international networks, participation in scientific projects, publication history, experience in teaching etc.)
- No formal age limit – BUT Limitation to participants that have received their Master/PhD max. 5 years ago (= after 1st of January 2015)
- Submissions of candidates holding only a bachelor degree will not be accepted

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, **29th May 2020 at 23:59**.

You can find detailed information including the **document submission** and **selection process** on the [IDM webpage](#).

3. CALL FOR PAPERS | FIFUEM

CALL FOR PAPERS

Thematic issue of the regional journal "Der Donauraum":
From Fictional to Functioning Democracy.
Developing Concepts and Strategies for an Inclusive and Participatory Europe

Submission Deadline: May 31, 2020

Liberal democracy appears to be at risk – both in Europe and abroad. New forms of **populist democracies** spread, framed by biased political communication through ideological misinformation, hate speech and tribalism. Authoritarian politicians try to turn Europe into an arena, where metaphorically speaking leaders of tribes are fighting each other by any tools to cement their own positions. In parallel with the **rise of xenophobia, populism and radicalisation**, liberal democratic principles such as checks and balances are gradually eroding. Moreover, the lack of a common public sphere is challenging European integration processes. **Decreasing press freedom** and **increasing mistrust in traditional media** pave the way for populists that rely on oligarchic media networks and use the effects of so-called 'filter bubbles' and 'echo chambers' on social media. Biased (social) media thus creates but a mere **individual fiction**, the façade of a homogeneous world corresponding to the viewers' perceptions.

As part of the [Jean Monnet Project titled "From Fictional to Functioning Democracy \(FIFUDEM\)"](#), carried out by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) and Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC), the thematic issue of the journal "Der Donauraum" brings up the **problem of fictional democracy** - a new form of façade democracy that produces illiberal fictions of democracy. With this publication, we aim to collect practical visions and scientific approaches for actively committed citizenship in a functioning democracy, embedded in a common and inclusive European Union. Below we present a list of potential (not limited) topics for the thematic issue:

- **Use of Education for Democratic Participation**
- **Ways of Political Responsibility for Functioning Democracy**
- **Concepts for Interrelations of Civic Engagement and Liberal Democracy**
- **New Democratic Forms of (Social) Media Communication**

With this Call for Papers we are seeking both **junior and senior scholars and practitioners** from various disciplines who would like to present their research results on this topic in the upcoming issue. In addition to invited authors, including the panelists of the projects' kick-off conference in January 2020, Vienna, the editors particularly encourage authors from Central East and South East Europe to complement the conference proceedings with their perspectives and ideas.

Further information on the **guidelines for authors** can be found [here](#).

Please submit your paper (between **20.000-40.000 characters**, spaces included) till latest **May 31, 2020**.

More information on submission conditions can be found [here](#). For more information on the project, please visit the [IDM website](#).

4. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS | IDM YOUNG SCHOLARS FORUM



02 – 06 December 2020, Vienna, Austria

Europeans face Europeans. The national policies of the states making up the old continent continue to shape Europe's future at the expense of Europe as whole. The divisions among the countries are deepening, very often in a way that creates a crisis both internally and in a global context. The constant search of common narratives – as the basis for a common identity-based policy – seems to be increasingly difficult in the face of fragmented political spectrum and ever-more differing policy approaches in Europe. The purpose of the Forum is to provide space for young scientists to find what is common to all Europeans.

As part of the 3-day event, 20 young researchers from all over Europe are invited to present and discuss their research work related to the topic of the Forum, as well as to network among themselves. The conference will take place on the first two days under the direction of experts within four thematically different panels:

- Europe as an area of peace and stability
- Europe as a space of cultural diversity
- Europe as a global actor
- If not the EU, is there/has there been an alternative?

The third day is designated for further exchange among participants during a thematically appropriate social programme in Vienna and Lower Austria.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking a maximum of **20 young scholars** working on Central and South Eastern Europe in the fields of peace research and security policy, cultural studies, political sciences, economy, geography, sociology, media studies and history to contribute with their research to the analysis of the afore-mentioned issues and to find a common narrative that would held the future Europe together.

Aims of the Forum

- Promoting and encouraging young scholars to engage with Central and South East Europe
- Presentation of research by young scholars to a wider public
- Exchange among young and more advanced researchers on topics, methods, sources and results
- Networking
- Furthering mobility within the region
- Publication of contributions and results

More information on the programme and the submission process can be found on the [IDM website](#).

5. 17th DRC Summer School to be postponed

The Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) organizes a summer school every year, hosted by one of the DRC member universities. Recently, the Danube:Future project has been integrated into the DRC structure, and it has been agreed that the summer school will be organized alternately between DRC and Danube:Future. This year the Danube:Future Summer School, for the first time under the auspices of the DRC, was about to take place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

All the more we regret to announce that, given the current situation regarding measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 disease, **we are forced to postpone the 17th edition of the DRC Summer School “Sustainable development in the Danube Region. Where we are and how we tackle future challenges?”**, scheduled to take place 6-12 July 2020 to 2021. We will announce a new date in due time.

We are fully aware of the complexity of the challenges faced by universities at present, and therefore we have decided to take this step to save the additional efforts of all people involved. We very much regret this decision, since the DRC Summer Schools represent a long record of successful cooperation among young promising scientists from the Danube Region. However, we believe that the positive track of the DRC Summer Schools will be followed up next year when the situation is settled.

We thank you for your understanding and are looking forward to the 17th DRC Summer School in 2021!

6. EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Action Plan



The [European Union Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)](#) intends to develop coordinated policies and actions in the area of the river basin, reinforcing the commitments of Europe 2020 strategy towards the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth based on four pillars and twelve priority areas. These shall tackle key issues as mobility, energy, biodiversity, socio-economic development or safety.

In line with the goals of territorial cooperation objective, the Strategy is not focusing on funding, but rather on enhancing closer cooperation within the concerned territory. A key element of the strategy is coordination, by encouraging the increase in the level and quality of network activities, strengthening the existing regional and interregional cooperation but also fostering new cooperation.

Here, you find the new action plan of the **European Union Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR)**, with whom DRC has been actively involved in the revision of this document and is mentioned in the "Action 3: To strengthen cooperation among universities, research organisations and SMEs in the Danube Region" (page Nr. 57).

Given also current circumstances related to the corona pandemic and the resulting crisis, the Action 6, in which the DRC plays a significant role, is also becoming more important and relevant:

ACTION 6: To promote horizontal cooperation in science and technology across all PAs and other MRS
Description: This action will be focused on participation in joint activities across PAs, support of crossfertilisation activities among macro-regions, promotion of best practices and capitalisation activities between projects. It will help to fill knowledge-gaps by linking actors with complementary thematic specialisation, experiences, and methodological approaches from across sectors.

To access the action plan, please click [here](#).

7. CASEE Newsletter - April 2020



The “ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe” (CASEE) is a network of Central and South Eastern European Higher Education Institutions linking Life Science disciplines in the region ranging from natural resources, environment, food, agriculture, biotechnology and natural resources.

Besides fascinating updates and opportunities in this newsletter, CASEE prepared a COVID-19 corner informing about challenges at the educational institutions related to the current pandemic situation.

Check CASEE's Newsletter of April [here!](#)

8. Green.Building.Solutions.Summer University Vienna

In 2020, the DRC is again funding two scholarships for students of the DRC member universities to attend the **Green.Building.Solutions.Summer University 2020.**

Application for the programs via summer-university.net is still possible.







Green. Building. Solutions.

Summer University Vienna
July 18 - August 9, 2020

First-hand ecological knowledge and engineering expertise bundled in a three-week program in the capital of energy-efficient building, Vienna. Think sustainable, take care of your future - now!

www.summer-university.net




- **Benefits**
Earn 7 ECTS university credits while learning about the cutting edge in sustainable buildings within an interdisciplinary and cultural exchange. Theory is combined with practical exercises and a hands-on approach.
- **Learn from the best**
International experts from universities, research institutions, and companies share latest developments from research and practice.
- **Best practice at hand**
Buildings in Vienna showing the application of sustainable theories are presented as part of the course.
- **Try it yourself**
Enjoy Vienna while living in a passive house.
- **Organizers**
The **OeAD student housing**, winner of the 2013 Austrian Climate Protection Award, offers passive houses for active students and accommodates 2,500 international guests annually in innovative and energy-efficient student dormitories.
The **BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna** teaches sustainable use of natural resources by connecting natural, engineering and economic sciences.
The **TU Vienna** focuses on the relationship of energy to the environment in architecture, urban planning, as well as natural and engineering sciences.



9. Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems. Summer University Vienna

In 2020, the DRC is once again funding two scholarships for students of the DRC member universities to attend the **Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems. Summer University Vienna 2020**.

Application for the programs via summer-university.net is still possible.



ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS

THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

→ STOP CLIMATE CHANGE NOW!

Summer University Vienna

July 20 - August 7, 2020



There is no planet B!

We have to act now in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. AEMS focuses on ways to restructure economic systems to embody sustainable use of resources and a more collaborative society overall.

At AEMS you learn about:

→ Ecological sustainability, population growth and the long-term management of natural resources and energy.

→ The variety of alternative economic and monetary systems that are already in practice worldwide.

→ Business ethics, consumerism, solidarity and the common good: The need for a new philosophy.

ORGANIZERS

BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences contributes to a sustainable use of natural resources by connecting natural sciences, engineering and economic sciences.

Economy for the Common Good offers an answer to current ecological, social and economic problems. As of 2019, more than 2,000 companies have committed themselves to the initiative.

Each year, OeAD student housing accommodates over 2,500 students in energy-efficient dormitories. It also won the 2013 Austrian Climate Protection Award.

APPLY NOW!

www.summer-university.net



10. Call for applications | Young Bled Strategic Forum 2020



The call for the empowerment of young leaders through the active involvement at **Bled Strategic Forum 2020** is open!

For the past decade, the Young Bled Strategic Forum (Young BSF) has been bringing together young leaders from all over the world to engage in lively discussion and develop innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global issues. It has become a unique meeting place for a diverse array of young leaders,

entrepreneurs, influencers, thinkers and social activists, offering them a platform to share their visions, exchange ideas and connect.

The 2020 Young BSF will focus on **reinventing the role of youth** in society, which is indispensable in creating a resilient and sustainable global environment capable of responding to the challenges of the 21st century through the reinvention of our societies. In today's rapidly changing world, it is crucial to take the youth on board when addressing the challenges of the future.

A special focus of the Young BSF shall be devoted to cross-regional cooperation and macro-regional strategies. A new generation of leaders will demonstrate that such collaboration is not only necessary but also inevitable for positive next steps in democratisation, the advancement of human rights, sustainable development, women's empowerment, counter-terrorism and the fight against climate change. To achieve all this, young leaders need to learn from their peers from different regions, sharing their knowledge, ideas and know-how.

Interested participants from EUSDR and EUSAIR are eligible for financial support.

Please apply at <https://bit.ly/38FUnPw>.

You can find additional information on the Forum [here](#).

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organizers at young@bledstrategicforum.org.

11. ELTE Business Economics Summer University

ELTE BESU, a part of the **ELTE Budapest Summer University**, offers six one-week courses on **13-18 July, 2020** for undergraduate and graduate students of business and economics. The courses involve 25 hours of instruction, and students completing them successfully will get a transcript they may use to obtain ECTS credit from their home institutions.

Courses offered:

- Managerial Accounting: Information in Business Decision-making
- Business Communication Skills
- International Business Networks
- Corporate Financial Analysis – An Integrated Approach
- Strategic Brand Management
- Informal Logic for Business

Application deadline: 30 June 2020, early bird fee is available until 30 April

Course fee: 350 EUR; early bird fee: 280 EUR

E-mail: sumuni@gti.elte.hu

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ELTE BUSINESS ECONOMICS
SUMMER UNIVERSITY | BUDAPEST

Date:
13-18 July, 2020



Courses:

- » Managerial Accounting: Information in Business Decision-making
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Application deadline: 30 June 2020, early bird fee is available until 30 April

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Contact:

E-mail: sumuni@gti.elte.hu

Website: <https://gti.elte.hu/sumuni>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eltebesu/>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/elte.besu/

12. EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel's initiatives related to the outbreak of COVID-19

The EU Commissioner of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel has launched new initiatives in this extraordinary challenging times where she and her team want to make sure EU citizens and other stakeholders stay informed on the latest developments in the sector of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.

Commissioner's monthly update

April 2020



Therefore, they launched [new newsletter](#) series with which you will stay up-to-date on the Commissioner's portfolio.

Also a [new website](#) that will be updated regularly with the latest information on coronavirus research and funding opportunities was recently launched.

Finally, a [new webpage](#) providing information on online learning resources is now available.

13. JRC | Science and Knowledge in a Time of Crisis

From the preparation of guidelines and control materials for testing and better characterisation of the pandemic, to the detailed analysis of epidemiologic and economic impacts, the **European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)** is evaluating and anticipating the evolution of this crisis so that it can be managed effectively.

Security remains a top priority and the JRC is involved in monitoring and early detection of risk signals.

Social aspects and the environmental perspective cannot be forgotten – the JRC is carefully monitoring the situation from the citizens' perspective. Understanding their fears and concerns will allow national and international institutions to better manage the crisis.

This document supplements information contained in "[Solidarity with Europe – JRC science to tackle the coronavirus crisis](#)"

You can find the JRC document [here](#).

14. 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.



15. 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](#).



Email



Website



Facebook

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

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