

DRC NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER
2020



DRC
Danube Rectors' Conference

Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

we do hope you are doing well despite the current circumstances related to the corona pandemic.

The year 2020 has brought unexpected challenges and opportunities into the everyday lives of all of us and the education sector particularly became one of the most affected areas. Not only all DRC member universities in the Danube region had to take appropriate measures, the DRC Secretariat had to adapt to the new situation as well.

That is why we are pleased to announce that we do not have to give up the planned events completely, but only move their venue to the virtual world. Today, we would like to cordially invite you to our upcoming events:

- **DRC General Assembly 2020** | November 6, 2020, 10:00 CET
- **Danubius Awards 2020 Ceremony** | November 6, 2020 13:00 CET

More details including the connection information can be found in the newsletter.

We are looking forward to welcome you during these two events!

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

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1. DRC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

Dear Rectors of the DRC member universities,

we would like to cordially invite you to the **DRC General Assembly 2020** taking place on Friday, **6th of November 2020**, at **10:00-12:00 CET** via ZOOM.

**Please register with your full name and/or institution
by clicking on the button below.**

DRC General Assembly 2020

Agenda of the DRC General Assembly 2020

1. Opening
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 University of Applied Sciences
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

We look forward to seeing you during DRC General Assembly 2020!

2. DANUBIUS AWARDS 2020 CEREMONY



Award Ceremony
Danubius Awards 2020
November 6, 2020
13:00 - 14:30
www.idm.at

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

 Institute for the
Danube Region
and Central Europe

 European
Commission
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) are pleased to invite you to join the **Danubius Awards 2020 Virtual Ceremony** taking place on **6th of November 2020 at 13:00** via YouTube livestream.

You can follow the Danubius Awards 2020 Ceremony by clicking on the YouTube link below.



More information on the Award Ceremony can be found on the [IDM website](https://www.idm.at).

3. Young Generations Take over the Danube Region





The European Week of Regions and Cities is the perfect framework to bring the Danube Region Strategy closer to the people.

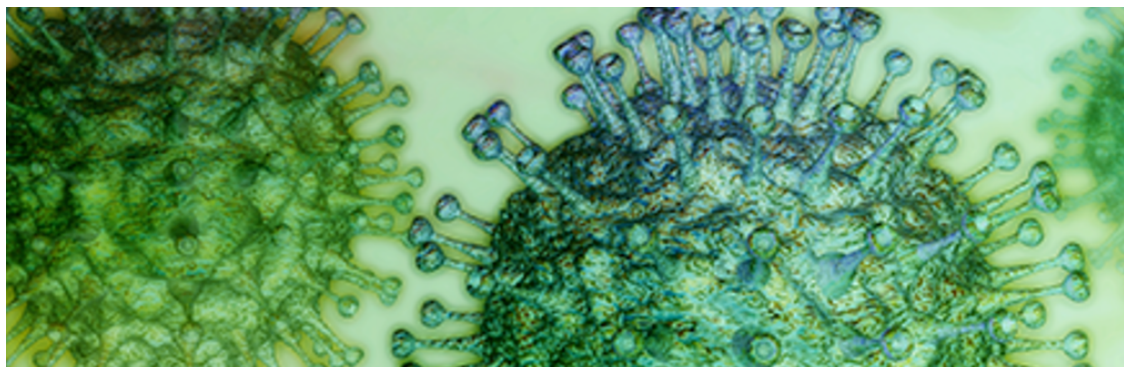
On this occasion and in the framework of the session called "**Young Generations Take over the Danube Region**", Daniel Martínek (DRC Permanent Secretariat) introduced to the broader public DRC's initiatives that empower and support young people, particularly young scientists, in the Danube Region.

Have a look on the **short video** presented during the event organised by the Danube Strategy Point - City of Vienna on 13th of October 2020.



DRC's initiatives empowering young people in the Danube Region

4. COVID-19 Measures at the Universities



We are recovering from difficult times we experienced in the past months. Although the intensity of COVID-19 is waning in Europe, we need to learn from our experiences and be prepared for potential second wave of the virus.

We also express our gratitude to all our member universities and their students as well as to all other educational institutions in the region for showing immense solidarity throughout the crisis. In the future, the universities should continue to be the driving force for innovation and research in the region and beyond, and thus contribute to contain the fallout of the corona crises both in health and socio-economic terms.

Currently the economies are opening up, however, the universities are yet to operate normally. The introduction of different forms of **distance learning** was an unprecedented and in many ways challenging situation for most universities in the region. In order to use the gained experiences efficiently we need to exchange the lessons learned regarding the distance learning.

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 referred 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.

For more details on how some DRC member 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!

5. JRC | New call for Open Access to the JRC Nanobiotechnology Laboratory



We are glad to announce the [launch of a call to access the Nanobiotechnology Laboratory](#) at the Joint Research Centre ([JRC](#)) of the European Commission in [Ispra](#).

The JRC facilitates the access to the Nanobiotechnology Laboratory by waiving the access costs and in particular by providing travel and subsistence to users visiting the JRC from institutions from [countries eligible](#) for the [Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation Action](#).

The [Nanobiotechnology Laboratory](#) features state-of-the-art equipped facilities designed to foster interdisciplinary studies. A special emphasis lies on characterisation of nanomaterials, micro(nano)plastics, nanomedicines, advanced materials and their interactions with biological systems, as well as on the detection, identification and characterisation of nanomaterials in food and consumer products.



Priority topics of the [call](#):

- Nanomaterial characterisation including their interactions with biological systems (culture media, proteins, etc.)
- Detection of nanomaterials and nano(micro)plastics in complex matrices
- Surface chemical analysis of macro and nanomaterials. Surface modification and nano-fabrication
- Biomolecular interaction studies, characterisation of antibodies and antigens, bio-interfaces characterisation
- Advanced material characterisation for non-bio-applications (energy, transport, circular economy, environment etc.).

You can find all relevant information here:

- [Call](#)
- [JRC Nanobiotechnology Laboratory: video](#) and [360° Virtual Tour](#)
- [Open Access of the JRC Research Infrastructures](#)

6. EUSDR PA 7 - Questionnaires

The EUSDR Priority Area 7 Coordinator Office has asked the Secretariat of the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) for the support in answering of **two questionnaires** related to the challenges the universities in the Danube Region are facing regarding the **e-education opportunities** and participation in the **Horizon 2020 program**.

We would very much appreciate the **dissemination of the information at your university and the support in filling in the questionnaires** which you can find below.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The first [questionnaire](#) is focused on finding the **best practice** among Danube universities, which could serve as an inspiration to the other stakeholders in the region (and beyond) in developing **alternative innovative e-education opportunities** in the context with the COVID-19 crisis.

The second [questionnaire](#) was prepared to determine the motives and barriers of the researchers from the Danube macroregion to their participation or non-participation in the **Horizon 2020 program**.

7. 7th Danube Participation Day



Daniel Martínek participated for the DRC at the **7th Danube Participation Day - Youth in the EU Danube Strategy. Towards a common vision** that took place on **21 October 2020**.

In addition to discussing the first draft of the **Guidance Paper for Youth Participation in the Danube Region** and the possible ways of boosting **cooperation and participation of young people and youth initiatives**, Martínek took part in the workshop session "Boosting youth in the EUSDR Governance: Low Hanging Fruits" focusing on the involvement of young people in the decision-making process within the EUSDR.

More information about the Danube Participation Day 2020 can be found [here](#).

8. Danube University Krems - 25th Anniversary



Donau-Universität Krems
Universität für Weiterbildung

The DRC congratulates the **Danube University Krems** to its 25th anniversary which was celebrated in the frame of the festive event on October 2, 2020.

As one of the most important universities of continuing education in Europe and beyond, the Danube University Krems and its 8 000 students represents a significant research pool and education institution of scientific excellence both in Austria and Europe.

**We wish the Danube University Krems
another many successful years to come!**

You can watch the recorded livestream of the anniversary celebration by clicking on the button below.

25 years of Danube University Krems

9. 8th International Danube Conference on Culture



Please find below the link to the **8th International Danube Conference on Culture**, which provides an overview of the latest interesting and exciting **cultural projects from the Danube region** and an outlook on the forthcoming **EU-funding programmes**.

The bilingual (German and English) livestream starts this Friday, **30 October 2020, 10:30 a.m. (CET)**. Please follow the link for the English Version of the 8th International Danube Conference on Culture:

[Click here for the livestream](#)

10. EUA webinar - European support for researchers at risk

On the occasion of the launch of the report “Researchers at Risk: Mapping Europe’s Response”, we kindly invite you to a [dedicated EUA webinar](#) on **3 November 2020 from 14:00 to 15:00 CET**.

As part of the [Inspireurope project](#), EUA has conducted a mapping to identify the support structures and measures available to researchers at risk, both at European higher education institutions and other host organisations, as well as at the national and European level. The mapping also identifies specific challenges faced by researchers at risk, and by the organisations that host and support them.

During the webinar, senior representatives from higher education institutions and organisations supporting researchers at risk will discuss the key findings of the report.

Participation is free of charge and registrations are open until the start of the webinar.

For any questions, please contact events@eua.eu.

[Register for EUA webinar](#)

11. PRO SCIENTIA 2021/22 Scholarship

Wenn einer es weiß, weiß es keiner.
Ludwig Wittgenstein

ÖSTERREICHISCHES STUDIENFÖRDERUNGSWERK

PRO SCIENTIA

The Austrian student funding organisation **PRO SCIENTIA** is looking for **young scientists under 30** enrolled at the education institutions in Austria. It offers:

- One-week interdisciplinary summer academy
- Events (lectures, discussions, etc.) at the university locations
- “Book and education money” for scholar literature and advanced training
- Interdisciplinary networking

More information on the Scholarship including the submission criteria can be found [here](#) (in German).

12. DRC Facebook Page



We are trying to improve the circulation of information within our network.
We kindly ask you to also connect with us via [Facebook](#) and visit the [DRC webpage](#).

Thank you very much and best regards from Vienna



DRC - Danube Rectors' Conference

13. 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

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