

DRC NEWSLETTER
MARCH
2021



Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

as spring is approaching and the universities started their summer semesters, we bring you within the new issue of the DRC newsletter many interesting and exciting information and opportunities.

First of all, on the occasion of the **20th anniversary of the European University Association**, the DRC Presidency congratulates the EUA for the remarkable achievements and the continuous commitment in promoting and fostering the institutional cooperation among universities across Europe during the last two decades.

Moreover, we would like to highlight that the call for the **Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021** is still open! The deadline for the submission is set on 30th of April 2021.

Finally, **Daniel Martinek** has presented the Danubius Young Scientist Award during the Youth Dialogue session of the **2nd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week**.

Scroll down and stay tuned!

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

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1. DRC Presidency congratulates EUA on its 20th Anniversary



The **DRC Presidency**, on behalf of the **Danube Rectors' Conference**, would like to express the most sincere congratulations to the European University Association (EUA) for the 20th Anniversary from the year when the two rectors' conferences of that time, the European Rectors' Conference and the European Union Rectors' Conference, merged to the present European University Association.

As an associated member, the Danube Rectors' Conference is especially interested to discuss co-relations between regional and European wide topics and to assure the holistic approach to our common challenges, as regional and local topics constantly become European wide issues sooner or later.

We see the most value of EUA to be a place for the exchange of views and discussion, a link of individual topics and common larger scaled issues, a union of higher education institutions and their national or regional representations for the realisation of the Magna Charta Universitatum.

In this connection, Danube Rectors' Conference shares EUA values regarding UN SDGs with emphasis on knowledge-based society, respect for regional diversity and inclusion.

We believe that EUA shall continue to defend and foster these values and be the voice of its members in front of not only EU policymakers, but also globally towards other higher education areas, where these values might be considered differently or might even not be in the foreground. The actual topics of resilience, digital transformation, and especially foresight of the future challenges for the EHEA and ERA will be very welcome. In this aspect, we are also interested to see how in the future EU Programmes, macro-regional topics may be integrated into central EU Programmes to a certain extent. Especially cohesion policy is challenged, as in the past, differences between regions have increased, not decreased as was hoped for.

For the 20th anniversary of EUA, we therefore wish for prosperity and deepening of the relations among the members and, of course, health to all of us.

DRC Presidency

2. EUA General Assembly and board members election



23rd EUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Friday 30 April 2021
10:00-12:15 CEST

The **23rd Annual EUA General Assembly** (GA) will take place online on **Friday 30 April, 10:00-12:15 CEST**.

During the meeting the anticipated election of the EUA board will be conducted. Among the candidates are the DRC Vice-President **Rector Ivanka Popović**, Rector of the University of Belgrade, nominated by the Slovenian national rectors' conference and Universities Austria (UNIKO) as well as **Rector Damir Boras**, Rector of the University of Zagreb, nominated by the Croatian national rectors' conference. Full list of the candidates is available on the [EUA official website](#).

The election is aimed to fill the three vacant positions within the EUA board for the period 2021-2025 and running candidates will each briefly address the GA at the start of the meeting, before online voting is opened to eligible participants; election results will be announced before the meeting closes.

An updated meeting agenda will be circulated to members, together with access to related documents, on **Friday 16 April**, on the same day the registrations for EUA Members via the [Zoom meeting platform](#) close.

3. Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021 | Call for nominations

Call for nominations

Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021

APPLY NOW!

www.idm.at



Institute for the
Danube Region
and Central Europe

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

In 2021, for the eighth time, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) honour young researchers with extraordinary achievements in their scientific activity and output in relation to the Danube Region with the

Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021

This award will be granted to **14 young scientists** - one from each country (citizenship is crucial) that is part of the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine).

The award will be **endowed with 1.350 EUR for each winner** of the Danubius Young Scientist Award.

It is expected that the award ceremony will take place **in October/November 2021**. The details will be announced in due time.

Moreover, thanks to the ongoing kind support by the JRC, the awardees will be

invited by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to visit the **JRC in Ispra**, Italy in 2022.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **Friday, 30th April 2021 at 23:59**.

More information on the award criteria, submission of documents as well as selection process can be found on the [IDM website](#).

4. IDM CEE Podcast Series

The experts of the **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)** - in line with the slogan **European perspectives — Regional actions. Cooperation and expertise since 1953**, follow a pro-European approach in order to implement regional actions. The aim is to enhance cross-border cooperation, dialogue and knowledge exchange in the region and beyond. Their work is based on the principles of liberal democracy and shared values, goals and visions with neighbours.

With this **IDM Podcast Series**, they expand their formats in providing our knowledge and expertise to a wider audience. You can expect high quality discussions about recent topics concerning the **Danube Region, Central and South East Europe**.



The new IDM Podcast series CEE analyses the current challenges in the EU agenda and their influence in Central Europe. **In each episode an interview with an expert will offer a glimpse and prompt the discussion about a particular topic.** From the internal strategic relations among the Visegrad countries, the process of integration within the EU, and the road to the membership of the countries part of Central Europe. Moreover, great attention has been put on the role the external actors such as United States, Russian Federation and China play in the dynamics of the region.

The **IDM Podcast CEE** comprises 20 episodes and its final episode that will be published on **Wednesday, 31. March, features EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn.**

The podcast is available on **[Acast](#)** and on your favourite **Podcast App** (Apple, Spotify, Google, Deezer, Amazon, etc.)

To discover more about the IDM Podcast check the [IDM website](#) or the [Acast platform](#).

5. The DRC included in the Youth Dialogue during EU MRS Week



The **2nd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week (EU MRS Week)** took place online from the 1st to the 5th of March, and it highlighted the developments and the challenges of the macroregional strategies in Europe. The panels included a session **"Youth Dialogue"** where young people had the opportunity to present and promote the initiatives and the projects they carry out in the framework of the different strategies.

In regards to our region and more specifically the **EU Strategy for the Danube**

Region (EUSDR), Daniel Martinek introduced and promoted the **Danubius Young Scientist Award**. The initiative organised by the **Austrian Federal Ministry** and **IDM** in collaboration with the **Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC)** and the **JRC** aims to support young talents and researchers in the region.

In case you missed the event, you can rewatch it in the [EU MSR Facebook page](#), the contribution starts at min. 5:18.48!

6. 2021 EUA Annual Conference



The **2021 EUA Annual Conference “Universities 2030: From vision to reality”** will take place online on **22-23 April**. Against the backdrop of the ongoing climate crisis, fundamental technological advances, labour market changes and the pressure Europe’s political systems are currently experiencing, an honest and ambitious debate is needed about the path universities must take to remain resilient and relevant.

"In EUA’s vision for this path, outlined in the publication **“Universities without walls – A vision for 2030”**, Europe’s universities are open learning communities engaged

in the creation of a sustainable global society, as well as autonomous and accountable entities striving for continuous improvement. Universities' core missions – learning and teaching, research, innovation and contribution to culture – will play an instrumental role in universities' efforts to realise this vision".

In this perspective the 2021 EUA Annual Conference will feature sessions of various formats, including interactive audience participation, encouraging a rich exchange of experiences and good practices. The exclusive conference is open to EUA members as well as non-EUA members, details on fees and registration procedure are available on the [EUA website!](#)

Discover more about the [Annual Conference](#) programme [here!](#)

For registration click the button below!

[Register now](#)

7. EURASHE 30th Annual Conference on Higher Education and Sustainable Development

Five Pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:



PEOPLE



PLANET



PROSPERITY



PARTNERSHIP



PEACE



EURASHE 30th Annual Conference

**Professional Higher Education and sustainable development:
creating a change that endures**

20-21 May 2021 | Online

#EURASHE30

EURASHE is organising the 30th Annual Conference held fully online about **"Professional Higher Education for Sustainable Development: Creating a Change that Endures"** on **20-21 May 2021** together with its members the Portuguese Polytechnics Coordinating Council (CCISP), the Polytechnic Institute of Porto and with the support of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

All universities of applied sciences' leaders, the entire community of professional higher education, European businesses and public institutions and European students' representatives to attend the Annual Conference to share their experience and learn about trends, models and inspiring practices. The conference will be structured along the five pillars of Agenda 2030: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

It is amply acknowledged that the achievement of the SDGs will not be possible without education, and not the latest Professional Higher education (hereafter – PHE), significant involvement in the cause. Thus, five years after the setting out of Agenda 2030, it is important to analyse the experience accumulated and to draw the way forward. For this reason, the purpose of the conference is to build up a set of Specific Recommendations and discuss a potential Action Plan for their implementation by professional higher education and its stakeholders over the next years.

Early birds registrations for non members are open from **March the 22nd to April the 4th**, access by clicking the button below.

Register

8. European Countryside Journal: CALL FOR INTERESTS



The [European Countryside](#) is a reviewed **International Scientific On-Line Journal** in the field of rural research. The Executive Board has decided to prepare a special issue of the Journal on the topic "**Rural development and state in the countries of former Austro-Hungarian monarchy after 1918**".

The issue is intended as the 4th number of the 13th volume of the journal (December 2021).

The papers should be related e.g. with the following problems:

- Changes of agriculture, forestry and elaboration of local sources
- Development of rural settlements and their networks

- Changes in social system, education level, way of rural way, social capital
- Central-European rural space as a tourist area
- Impact of the new integration within EU
- and others

The **deadline regarding the expression of interest** (authors, the title of the paper and 2-3 sentences of the content) by **April 30, 2021**, while the deadline for the complete manuscript with all enclosures by **August 31, 2021**.

9. Putting Science into Standards (PSIS) initiative



Since 2013, the **Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC)** and the **European Standardization Organizations CEN** and **CENELEC** have carried out an annual joint 'foresight on standardization' action under the **Putting Science**

into Standards (PSIS) initiative. The PSIS initiative aims to facilitate the identification of **emerging science and technology areas that could benefit from standardization** activities to enable innovation and promote industrial competitiveness.

The **2021 PSIS edition** will be focusing on **Organ-on-Chip (OoC)** or Micro Physiological Systems (MPS), innovative devices that emulate human/animal biology and can reproduce one or more aspects of an organ's functionality. Among other benefits, they can lead to better testing of drugs and adapted treatments to genetic diversity, ethnicity, sex and age; reduce the cost of clinical trials and replace animal testing for cosmetic products, banned in Europe since 2013.

This event aims to facilitate the exchange of views on the future development of this technology, its application areas and stakeholder needs in order to identify **how European standardization can support its safe, widescale deployment.** Researchers, innovators, industries, standardizers and policy makers are welcome to join the discussion.

Day 1: 28th April 2021 (14:00-17:00 CET)

Day 2: 29th April 2021 (09:00-16:00 CET)

The event will take place online and the participation is free of charge, but registration is obligatory before the **20th April 2021**

Register

10. JRC Recruitment of 2-years post-doc position within the Exploratory Research programme



The JRC offers a vacancy for a **Contract Agent within the Exploratory Research Project “Policy Mix and Behavioural Spillovers” (PoliSpill)**. The JRC Exploratory Research Programme (ER) is a strategic initiative characterised by ideas that might lead to novel results and qualitatively enrich current JRC scientific work. The vacancy is within the Directorate for Energy, Transport and Climate. The directorate supports the relevant policy DGs with independent, technical and scientific evidence in the areas of Energy, Transport and Climate.

The 2 years post-doc position regards the **Exploratory Research programme REUSE (Novel Modular and Reusable Panels for Safe & Carbon-Free Buildings)** and the operational scientific research will take place in the Energy Efficiency and Renewables unit.

Deadline for applications: **14. April 2021**

More information about the **recruitment criteria** are available [here](#).

11. PASIFIC Fellowship Programme



The **PASIFIC Fellowship Programme** is a unique opportunity for researchers who want to pursue a research programme in a dynamic environment. It will enable scholars of all nationalities and across all scientific disciplines to establish their **scientific independence** and conduct **ground-breaking research**.

The 2-years-long fellowship will take place at the **Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS)**, which is one of the most prestigious research institutions in Poland. The selected participants will have the **freedom to choose their research area**, research supervisor, host institute as well as secondment organisations best suited for their research and career development.

The programme consist of a **monthly allowance of approx. €2,500 net**. Those, who decide to come to Poland together with their families, may be entitled to an additional family allowance. In addition, they will be granted a **research budget of up to €93,000 per project**.

Only 50 outstanding candidates will be selected for this years' edition. The **first call**, in which 35 PASIFIC fellows will be recruited, **will be open from the 15th of March 2021 to the 30th of June 2021**. Selected researchers will be informed about evaluation results after approx. six months. **They will be expected to come to Poland between January 2022 and March 2022**.

For further information regarding the conditions of participation and the selection criteria, check out the **Polish Academy of Sciences' [official website](#)**.

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



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](#).



Email



Website



Facebook

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

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