

DRC NEWSLETTER
MAY
2021



DRC
Danube Rectors' Conference

Dear subscribers of the DRC Newsletter,

as summer is approaching and our holidays plans are slowly taking shape, the DRC newsletter has in store a bunch of activities to help you wait for the summer break, the great weather, and holidays.

First of all, the DRC wishes to share an excellent news: **Rector Ivanka Popović**, DRC Vice-President, was **elected as the new member of the European University Association board**. We congratulate Rector Popović to her new role and believe that this decision will strengthen the voice of the universities from the DRC region and beyond.

Moreover, we offer you a summarised look to a profusion of various activities that are taking place online across the region. In this way, you can access to some outstanding **webinars organised by the European University Association**, to

spread the word about the **OEAD summerschools** or about the new **Magna Charta Universitatum launch!**

Finally, we would like to bring your attention to **the extension of the deadline for the Call for nominations for the Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021**, designed for all the aspiring young scientists who are willing and ready to take up a challenge and join the competition.

To discover all the fresh news of this issue, scroll down and stay tuned!

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

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1. New member of the EUA board: Rector Ivanka Popović
 2. Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021 | Extension of the deadline of the Call
 3. Artist Thomas Perle won the Sharing Future Scholarship
 4. Extension of the deadline for OeAD Summer Schools
 5. Upcoming EUA webinars
 6. Launch of the Magna Charta Universitatum 2021
 7. 20th anniversary of the Tomas Bata University in Zlín
 8. 31th Anniversary of the Ovidius University of Constanța
 9. PASIFIC Fellowship Programme
 10. DRC Facebook Page
 11. EUA Affiliate Status and EUA Newsletter
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1. New member of the EUA board: Rector Ivanka Popović



The DRC wishes to congratulate **Rector Ivanka Popović**, who was **elected as the new member of the European University Association board**. The ceremony took place on the 30th of April 2021. Her term spreads over 2021-2025. Let's not forget that she is also currently **vice-president of the Danube Rectors Conference**.

The **European University Association (EUA)** is the **representative organisation for universities in 48 European countries**, bringing together more than 850 institutions. The EUA plays a major role in the Bologna Process and in the definition of the European Union's policies on higher education, research and innovation.

Since October 2018, Professor Ivanka Popović is **Rector of the University of Belgrade**. Currently, she is the **President of the Serbian Rectors' Conference** and the **Rectors' Forum of Southeast Europe and the Western Balkans**, **Vice-President of the Danube Rectors' Conference**, and now member of the board of

the European University Association.

The DRC is glad that **universities from Southeastern and Eastern Europe have now an opportunity to be better heard** in the European University Association thanks to Rector Ivanka Popović's two roles as member of the European University Association board and as Vice-president of the Danube Rectors Conference.

If you want to learn more about **Rector Ivanka Popović's** nomination as a board of the EUA, just click [here](#).

2. Danubius Young Scientist Award 2021 | Extension of the deadline of the Call



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) are honouring 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 new deadline for submitting nominations is **15th June 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](#).

3. Artist Thomas Perle won the Sharing Future Scholarship



We are happy that - for the third time - we can support young artists from the Danube Region with our **“Sharing Future” Artist in Residence Scholarship**, thanks to which **an artist has been granted the opportunity to spend one month in Ruse, Bulgaria!**

This year's scholarship goes to **Thomas Perle**, the **German-Romanian author and playwright**, who will realize his multilingual project **"donauwellen"** in September and October. During his stay, he will work on a piece around the Danube, a river rich in history, and collect voices from people living near the Danube.

The scholarship is aimed at **artists from all over Europe** and promotes **international dialogue, artistic exchange**, and offers an **insight into the artistic diversity** of the European continent. All artists performing alternative art are welcomed in the project. The **guiding principle** of the scholarship – Sharing Future – relates to participation in and **cooperation for a common Europe and a common future**.

The Sharing Future scholarship is foreseen for one month per year. During this time, the **scholarship holder can work artistically undisturbed and use the historic Canetti House**. Thanks to this experience, the scholarship holder can get to **know the local cultural scene in Ruse and Bulgaria** and to use and artistically implement the resulting synergies. Following the residency period, the scholarship holder will **present their work in a cultural event in the Canetti House**, in which the local public can participate.

More information on the **Sharing Future Scholarship** can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

If you want to know more about **Thomas Perle's work**, please visit his webpage [here](#).

4. Extension of the deadline for OeAD Summer Schools



The **GBS Summer University** is back online **from July 17 to August 08, 2021**, for its 11th edition! Here is an opportunity to get first-hand **ecological knowledge** and **engineering expertise** in a three-week program, hosted online from the capital of energy-efficient building, Vienna.

Participants will earn 7 ECTS university credits while learning about **sustainable buildings in an intercultural environment**. They will also benefit from the insight of experts from various background who will share the latest developments from research and practice in ecological building. Especially during these challenging times, we must develop knowledge on sustainable buildings, passive houses and renewable energies to an ever expanding international audience of students and professionals.

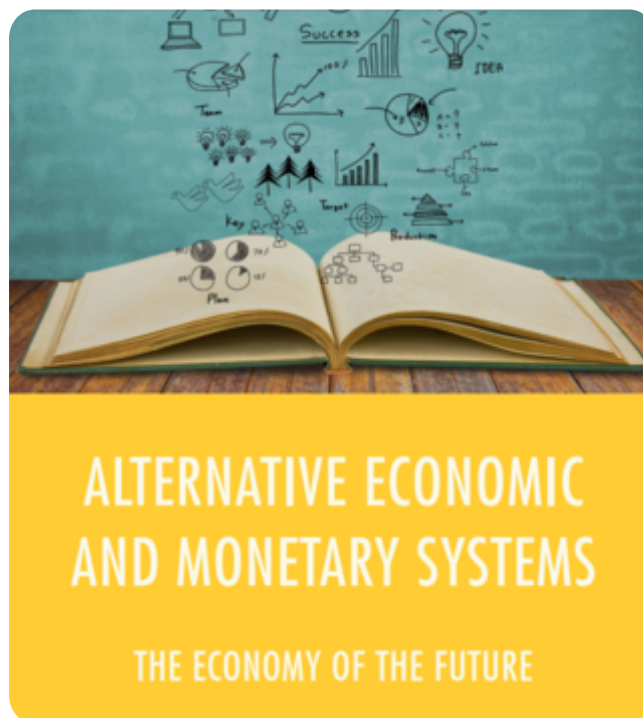
This year, the program includes:

- **Inspiring talks** about sustainable architecture, ecological building alternatives, passive house technologies, renewable energy production and integrated urban planning
- **Virtual onsite tours** demonstrating Vienna's best practices in low energy housing
- **Engaging building simulation** workshops
- **Interdisciplinary real life case study** project work in international groups with dedicated tutorship
- **Certificate showing 7 ECTS** and the modules of the curriculum after a successful completion

This summer university is carried out by the **OeAD student housing**, the **BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences**, and **TU Vienna**.

Applications for the scholarships now possible until June 1st, 2021.

Registration to the summer university can be done [here](#).



The OEAD is also hosting a unique online summer school on the economy of the future, the **Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems summer school, from July 19, 2021 to August 6, 2021.**

Do you want to explore different approaches and new ideas with regards to the current growth-based economy and unstable financial system? The AEMS will be back in an upgraded online version in 2021 to discuss alternative approaches! 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.

This year, the AEMS 2021 program will include exciting lectures and exchanges on:

- Financial markets serving the broader interests of society
- The solutions to the financial crisis triggered by COVID-19
- The alternatives to the current economic and monetary system
- The role of economic and financial systems in the global climate crisis

With this summer school, you can get an official certificate worth **5 ECTS from BOKU University** upon completion of the program. The summer school is organised by the **BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Economy for the Common Good**, and **OeAD student housing**.

Applications for the scholarships now possible until June 1st, 2021.

Registration can be done [here](#).

5. Upcoming EUA webinars: Scholarly publishing, University funding towards 2030, Greening in European higher education institutions



In the coming weeks, the **European University Association** will host several webinars on the topics of **scholarly publishing**, **university funding towards 2030** and **greening in European higher education institutions**. If you want to know more, just attend one or many of these online events.

From 18 May until 15 June, EUA will host the four-part webinar series “**Universities and the future of scholarly publishing**”. Each webinar will be held from 14.00 to 15.30 CEST.

18 May: [Webinar I](#) - **Into the unknown: most likely futures for Open Access publishing**

25 May: [Webinar II](#) - **Universities and the promises of scholar-led publishing**

8 June: [Webinar III](#) - **Quo vadis, transformative agreements?**

15 June: [Webinar IV](#) - **Let's get practical: aligning institutional action with Plan S** (this final webinar is reserved to EUA members upon invitation.)

EUA is offering this webinar series with the aim to raise awareness across universities about their role in developing an Open Access publishing system.

You can have more information about past and upcoming events [here](#) and watch past webinars [here](#)!

On Thursday, 27 May 2021 from 14.00 to 15.00 CEST, the EUA webinar “[University Funding towards 2030: increasing firepower in the post-pandemic phase](#)” took place and addressed the latest university funding trends in Europe, and offer an opportunity to discuss funding data gathered from across Europe in the EUA Public Funding Observatory.

Click on this [link](#) to know more and [here](#) to watch the event after the live-session!

Finally, from 31 May to 4 June, EUA is hosting the webinar series “**Greening in**

European higher education institutions” that to showcase the commitment of the higher education sector to environmental sustainability. Each webinar is held from 14.00 to 15.00 CEST. Findings of a recent EUA survey on greening frame the discussion with representatives from higher education institutions and the wider sector:

31 May: [Webinar I](#) - **Environmental sustainability and the future of mobility and internationalisation**

3 June: [Webinar II](#) - **The environmental sustainability of learning and teaching**

4 June: [Webinar III](#) - **University strategies and actions for environmental sustainability**

The topic of environmental sustainability will also be featured in a range of other EUA activities in parallel to the EU’s Green Week from 31 May to 4 June 2021.

Here is the [link](#) to have more information about those events!

All of the webinars mentioned here are **free of charge**. Registrations remain open until the start of the event. For any questions, please contact events@eua.eu.

6. Registration now open for the Launch of the MCU 2020



XXXII Anniversary of the Magna Charta Universitatum

**University values and responsibilities:
responding to the challenges of the future**

***Launch & Signature of the
MCU 2020***

**16-17 June 2021
on Zoom**

On **June 16th and 17th, 2021**, the [new Magna Charta Universitatum MCU 2020](#) will be launched in a special virtual signing ceremony and online conference! This event, named **“University values and responsibilities: responding to the challenges of the future”**, will explore how the values and responsibilities laid out in the MCU 2020 address challenges and pressures universities are facing today.

Conference speakers will discuss **global perspectives about the challenges and obligations facing universities today** and how the MCU 2020 responds to them. The revised Magna Charta reflects the original principles of autonomy and independence, and is expanded to incorporate values and responsibilities that are vital **to strengthen the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and promoting health, prosperity and enlightenment around the world**.

Featured presentations include:

- **“Environmental changes and the challenges of the future: a global perspective”** – Jamil Salmi, former World Bank Tertiary Education Coordinator, with a response from Michael Ignatieff, President & Rector – Central European University

- **“The new Magna Charta – how can it bring benefit to universities and to society”** – Patrick Deane, President MCO Governing Council and member MCU 2020 Drafting Group
- **“What the new MCU means for students”** – Tamires Gomes Sampaio, Member MCU 2020 Drafting Group

This is a **once in a generation event** that will **strengthen the role of universities** for the benefit of all!

Registration is free and open now. If you are interested in this event, just click [here](#) to proceed with registration.

This is an unparalleled event for university leaders, academics, students and higher education professionals across the globe to learn from each other and witness the launch of MCU 2020 that will enable universities to strengthen their role in society for the next generation. You can find more information [here](#)!

7. Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Tomas Bata University in Zlín



Tomas Bata University in Zlín is commemorating its **20th anniversary**. Since events cannot be held onsite because of the pandemic and the restrictions, the university came up with an online, interactive way to celebrate its second decade of existence.

Tomas Bata University was established on **1 January 2001** by detaching the Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Management and Economics and the Halls of Residence and Refectory from the Brno University of Technology. The Act on the Establishment of TBU was **signed by the erstwhile President Václav Havel** in November 2000. The inauguration ceremony of the University and its first Rector, Prof. Petr Sáha, was held on 16 May 2001.

The University was **named after the ingenious entrepreneur Tomáš Baťa**, who initiated the development of the shoe industry in Zlín and won worldwide fame. His son, the Canadian entrepreneur Tomáš Baťa Jr., headed the University Board of Governors as the first Chairperson in its history for many years and was also instrumental in establishing contacts abroad.

Tomas Bata University in Zlín has given itself an **unconventional gift to celebrate the twentieth anniversary** of the establishment of TBU – a **unique microsite** jenamdvacet.cz **describing the story of its development** and showing how this institution has changed the face of the town. What catches the eye at first is, above all, the design of the microsite. The **real-time 3D graphics used enables to depict the wider town centre** without the need for any installation. Thus, you will identify the landmarks of Zlín, in particular the TBU buildings, at a glance.

Although the university is young, so much has happened here over the twenty years, that it would be shame not to share this story just because the pandemic prevented onsite celebration.

If you are **interested in an interactive, 3D visit** of the Tomas Bata University in Zlín, just click [here](#)!

8. Events to celebrate the 31th Anniversary of Ovidius University of Constanța



Ovidius University of Constanța (UOC) is currently organising a series of event to celebrate the double anniversary of this year, **31 years since its establishment** and **60 years of higher education in Constanța**.

The first event was an **award ceremony** to congratulate the **teachers who obtained the best results** in the activity at the department. It was the **6th edition of the Gala Excellence in Education**. The gala took place in hybrid format, with the physical participation of the 16 laureates, in the Senate Hall, on Campus, together with the representatives of the university management and the Students' League. The Gala of Excellence in Education is a tradition of the university and award teaching staffs who have proven their abilities, quality and degree of performance.

On April 21 took place the **6th edition of the Gala of Excellence in Research**, during which **teachers involved in scientific research and artistic creation were rewarded for their contribution**. The Gala of Excellence in Research took place in hybrid format, in the hall of the festivities. It was attended by representatives of the university management, and the 19 laureates, while the academic community participated online. This was the second event in the series of events to celebrate the double anniversary of this year, 31 years of Ovidius University of Constanța and 60 years of higher education in Constanța.

If you want to know more about those two events, click [here](#) and [here](#).

9. 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](#).

10. 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



11. 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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