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Dear subscribers of the DRC Newsletter,

The June edition of our newsletter is here! As always, the newsletter provides the latest news on a variety of activities to brighten up your summer. We hope those events, webinars and other opportunities will be a way for you to connect with like-minded people from different countries!

Before you leave for a well-deserved vacation, we would like to highlight some topics for you. Save the date for the this year's **DRC Annual Meeting** taking place at the **Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine** on **11th -12th November 2021**.

We also would like to bring your attention to the recent appointment of **Ivanka Popović**, the DRC Vice-President, as a member to the **Association's Board of the European University Association (EUA)**.

Finally, you can rewatch the **Danube Salon at the Europa-Forum Wachau** that took place on 11th June 2021, where **Zdravko Kačič**, the DRC President, was one amongst distinguished speakers.

**Ivanka Popović as new Board member of the EUA**  
**Save the Date: DRC Annual Meeting**  
**Danube Salon at the Europa-Forum Wachau 2021**

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## 1. Ivanka Popović, the DRC Vice-President, elected as a member of the EUA Board



Three new members were elected to the **Association's Board of the European University Association** for the four-year term 2021-2025. The election took place on 30 April 2021, during the 23rd EUA General Assembly.

**Paul Boyle** from the University of Swansea in the United Kingdom was re-elected to a second term, while **Anne Lequy** from the Magdenburg-Stendal University of Applied Science in Germany and **Ivanka Popovic** from the University of Belgrade in Serbia were elected to a first term.

The DRC wishes to warmly congratulate **Ivanka Popovic**, the **Vice-president of the Danube Rectors' Conference**, and **Professors Paul Boyle and Sundli Tveit** for committing to the Association's Board of the European University Association.

To learn more about the **new members of the Association's Board of the European University Association**, click [here](#)!

EUA members also took advantage of the 23rd EUA General Assembly to discuss the **main EUA achievements in 2020** and priorities for 2021 and the **long-term**

## impact of COVID-19 on the university sector.

Moreover, **Tia Loukkola** was **promoted to Deputy Secretary General** on June 3, 2021. With this new position, she will **improve EUA's strategic and organizational development and external representation**, share the **strategic oversight of different aspects of EUA activities**, help implementing **EUA's new membership strategy**.

The DRC wishes **to congratulate Tia Loukkola** for her new position!

Click [here](#) to know more about her nomination.

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## 2. Save the Date: DRC Annual Meeting

We kindly invite you to our next **Annual Meeting** to be held at the **Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine, on 11-12 November 2021**.

This year's edition of the DRC Annual Meeting will have as a leading theme **'The role of University and its Resilience in the Age of Global Challenges'**.

A detailed programme including the registration form as well as further information will be published on the [DRC website](#) in the upcoming months closer to the date of the Annual Meeting.

**We look forward to seeing you in Uzhhorod!**

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## 3. Danube Salon at the Europa-Forum Wachau 2021



Zdravko Kačič, the DRC President, took part in the discussion during the Danube Salon at the Europa-Forum Wachau 2021.

Since its launch in 1995, the **Europa-Forum Wachau** and its salons offer participants the opportunity to **commit to the future of Europe** and to shape it through discussions on current challenges in a common and united Europe.

Between the **10th and 12th of June, 2021**, took place the the **2021 Europa-Forum Wachau**, along with the **Danube Salon** on the 11th of June, 2021. The intensive cooperation work in the Danube region was discussed in depth. The discussion revolves around the 10th anniversary of the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**, which is based on the promotion of the cross-border and transnational cooperation in the Danube Region.

Three DRC representatives gladly participated to the Danube Salon: **Zdravko Kačič**, Rector of the University of Maribor and DRC President, as a guest speaker, **Sebastian Schäffer**, IDM Managing Director and DRC Secretary General, who moderated the Salon and **Daniel Martinek**, Research Associate at IDM, who brought his input as the 2018 Danubius Young Scientist Award Winner.



Sebastian Schäffer, the DRC Secretary General, moderated the discussion during the Danube Salon at the Europa-Forum Wachau 2021.

You can find more information about the inspiring event and discussion at the [website](#) of the Europa-Forum Wachau 2021! You can also **rewatch the event** by clicking [here](#) or on the video below, and check **Daniel Martinek's video contribution for the Danubius Young Scientists Award** on this [link](#)!



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#### 4. DRC Summer School 2021 postponed to 2022



The **Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC)** organizes a **summer school each year**, hosted by one of the DRC member universities. The **17th edition** of the DRC Summer School on Regional Co-operation, entitled "**Sustainable development in the Danube Region. Where we are and how we tackle future challenges?**" was to be held in **Cluj-Napoca, Romania** this summer.

Considering the **ongoing health situation** and the current circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we regret to inform you that **we have decided to postpone the 17th edition of the DRC Summer School to 2022.**

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 2022!**

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#### 5. The Danube Day is around the corner



Each **29th of June**, the **Danube is celebrated** with the **Danube Day** by the 14 countries of the Danube River Basin. Don't miss this year's edition of the celebration organized by the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)**, the European Commission and its partners.

Citizens of the region or anyone bound to the Danube are invited to gather around the river to **celebrate the second-longest river in Europe**. This day of joyfulness and festivities will also be used as a **reminder that despite its strength and power**, the Danube River embodies **a vital ecosystem** whose wetlands and unique floodplains, and its singular cultures and languages **need to be protected, promoted and brought to the spotlight**.

The Danube is an incredibly **multicultural river**. Indeed, it finds its **source at the heart of the Black Forest town of Donaueschingen** and flows further for some 2,850 km until it reaches its **mouth on the Black Sea**. On the way, the Danube River navigates through **9 countries** and witnesses the life of the **81 million European Citizens** that live in the Danube region - a place they call home.



Here is **what you can expect of the 2021 festivities**, organised by the ICPDR, which will be run under the motto "Discover Danube": river festivals on the banks of the Danube river, Danube Art Competitions, Green Danube Partnership, public educational events to awareness building on "cleaner and safer rivers", thought-provoking debates on innovation, science and research, exhibitions displaying the rich river biodiversity, presentation of uplifting youth projects and spectacular inter-generational meetings.

**This year's Danube Day will be held online**, due to the pandemic situation. Nevertheless, the Danube Day 2021 is a fantastic opportunity for Danube citizens, river basin management experts, and stakeholders to get together and **#HaveTheirSay in the direction of the Danube River Basin** for the next 6 years. The event will be opened by **Johann Strauß's "Blue Danube Waltz"**, as it has been the case since the 10th anniversary of Danube Day in 2004.

It will also be a way to **celebrate European Integration**, since **EU policies and initiatives** to protect the Danube **affect the lives of the people in the 14 countries** and are **a global model of success for river protection**.

To know more about this event, you can visit the official website of the [Danube Day](#) and that of the [ICPDR](#) , the organizer of the event.

**JRC**, the [Joint Research Centre](#), as a partner of the DRC is actively **working to**

**support the Danube Strategy.** JRC has been very active and its work is recognised in the **4th Joint Danube Survey.** You will find information about the survey [here](#).

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## 6. Launch of MCU 2020 & 32nd Anniversary of the Magna Charta Universitatum



On **June 16 and 17, 2021** the **new Magna Charta (MCU 2020)** was signed for the first time. The event took place virtually in view of the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic. **All signatories of the 1988 MCU had been invited to sign the 2020 version.** After the signature, signatories were invited to a virtual celebration.

During the signature event, **global perspectives** from international speakers about the current and anticipated **future environments facing universities** were discussed. Furthermore, participants talked about how the MCU 2020 to strengthen **the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and promoting health, prosperity and enlightenment** around the world.

Let's not forget that **the first Magna Charta was issued in 1988.** 388 Rectors, mostly from European universities, met in Bologna to sign it. It was meant to **enshrine the essential principles of autonomy, academic freedom, knowledge, research, and teaching**, on which the concept of mobility and free international exchange for students, researchers and academics is based. In the last decade, the signatory base has expanded significantly, involving an increasing number of universities from all over the world.

The **revised version of the Magna Charta** was prepared to reflect the **perspectives of both leadership and the whole academic community** and explicitly includes concepts such as diversity, inclusion, social responsibility and university citizenship.

If you want to know more about the Magna Charta, click [here](#). To watch parts of the event, click [here](#).

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## 7. Workshop on (non)participation of the Danube Region countries in Horizon 2020



On 18 June 2021, the **Priority Area 7 coordinators** organized an event to **contribute to enhancing the participation of the Danube countries in the European Research Area**. More specifically, the Priority Area 7 coordination team wanted to **assess the participation of Danube region researchers in Horizon 2020**.

This assessment is part of the updated **EUSDR Action plan**. To do so, the **Priority Area 7** coordination team issued two types of online questionnaires in 2020 :

- One addressed policymakers, oriented on defining the strengths and gaps in terms of (non)participation of researchers from particular countries (regions) in Horizon 2020 and/or other European grant schemes
- One dedicated to national contact points, agencies and/or applicants/potential applicants/and participants and other relevant stakeholders, focusing on the motives and barriers to the (non)participation in the Horizon 2020 program.

As a tangible result, an **analysis “Participation of the Danube Region Countries in Horizon 2020” was published**, describing the **participation patterns in Horizon 2020** and the possible **causes for the lower participation of researchers from particular Danube region countries**. In light of the conclusions from the above-mentioned Analysis, the EUSDR Priority Area 7 coordinators organized the **Workshop on (non)participation of the Danube Region countries in Horizon 2020 on June 18, 2021**.

This workshop aims at :

1. Introducing the analysis “Participation of the Danube Region Countries in Horizon 2020”.
2. Presenting the possibilities for the Danube region researchers to support their participation in Horizon Europe.
3. Discussing the best practices of the Danube Region on participation in research programs implemented on national level.
4. Identifying upcoming challenges and opportunities related to Horizon Europe from the perspective of the Danube Region, which will be serving as inputs for concrete policy recommendations in order to enhance participation of the Danube region countries in Horizon Europe

To get more information, just click [here](#).

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## 8. Past and upcoming EUA webinars: Scholarly publishing and Greening in European higher education institutions



In the previous weeks, the **European University Association** hosted several webinars on **scholarly publishing, university funding towards 2030** and **greening in European higher education institutions**. If you want to know more, you can attend or rewatch these online events.

From 18 May until 15 June, EUA hosted 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](#)!

Finally, from 31 May to 4 June, EUA hosted 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 was featured in a range of other EUA activities in parallel to the EU’s Green Week from 31 May to 4 June 2021.

A recording of each of the webinars is available on our [EUA Youtube Channel](#)!

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## 9. Call for participation: LOTUS Leadership Development Programme in learning and teaching

The call for participation in the **Leadership Development Programme** is now open under the Erasmus+ funded **LOTUS (Leadership and Organisation for Teaching and Learning at European Universities)** project.

The LOTUS project aims to contribute to **capacity building and strategic change management for learning and teaching at higher education institutions across Europe** and to discuss the potential of various actors to support transformation and innovation in learning and teaching.

The Leadership Development Programme helps European higher education institutions address key challenges in learning and teaching, by fostering capacity building in implementing systematic approaches to enhancement.



Under the call, **20-30 selected European higher education institutions** will participate in **peer-learning activities**, based on their own institutional priorities in learning and teaching. The Leadership Development Programme will **kick off with an induction workshop on 4-5 October 2021** and will **last until June 2022**. Over this period, participating institutions will **work on implementation and change management plans for learning and teaching**, while **exchanging with peer institutions** in a problem-solving approach and gain a comparative view of solutions proposed by different institutions across Europe to similar problems and challenges.

Higher education institutions interested in participating in the Programme are invited to **fill in the [online application form](#)** before the deadline. The **deadline to apply to the Leadership Development Programme is 5 July 2021**. For further information, please contact [gohar.hovhannisyan@eua.eu](mailto:gohar.hovhannisyan@eua.eu) or visit this [page](#).

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## 10. CASEE Newsletter



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.

Among its many fascinating updates and opportunities displayed the newsletter,

CASEE is offering you the chance to participate to conferences such as one on “Life Sciences for Sustainable Development” in Romania or to summerschools such as the 2-weeks-long courses on natural sciences at Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences (UPWr).

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

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## 11. 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



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## 12. 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



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

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