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**DRC NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY  
2022**



**DRC**  
Danube Rectors' Conference

**WE STAND WITH UKRAINE**



**DRC**  
Danube Rectors' Conference

The DRC Presidency stands with Ukraine.

Russia's aggression is not just a completely unjustified attack on Ukraine. It is an attack on all of us. While we fear for the safety of our friends and partners at the universities across Ukraine, particularly our members Uzhhorod National University and Odessa National I. I. Mechnikov University, we ask our network for any support in these dark times.

We will continue our efforts and engagement with Ukraine throughout our several formats like the Danubius Awards, the DRC Summer School and the EUSDR.

Dear subscribers of the DRC Newsletter,

We are excited to provide you with the **February issue** of the Newsletter where we keep you up-to-date with the current developments in our organisation and inform you about many upcoming **funding possibilities and various initiatives**.

Each year a group of **14 young researchers** across the scientific fields, whose work contributes to the better understanding and a deeper exploration of the Danube region, is

awarded the unique **Danube Young Scientist Award**. We have the pleasure to announce this year's call for applications and invite respective institutions, that may be interested in nominating these exceptional individuals, to do so by the end of April.

Moreover, the students pursuing their doctorate are also invited to apply by the end of March with their projects for **DRC Initiative Fund**. As a part of a wider European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), this initiative, funded by the **Danube Rector's Conference** (DRC) and coordinated by the **University of Maribor**, will cover projects from three target areas and offer financial means up to 5.000 Euro per project!

Finally, other initiatives which can be of your interest - such as **JRC Calls** or **OeAD summer universities** - are included in this issue.

We wish you a nice dive into the newsletter!

And as you well know, we always [welcome](#) your feedback and comments, as in this way we grow!

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**DRC Initiative Fund**  
**Danubius Young Scientist Award 2022**  
**Call for Photos: "Life along the Danube"**  
**EUSDR Hackathon**  
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## 1. DRC Initiative Fund

We would also like to announce the project funded by the **Danube Rectors' Conference** and coordinated by the **University of Maribor**: the **DRC Initiative Fund!**

As a part of a wider framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube

Region (EUSDR), especially in the field of the priority area "Knowledge society", The Danube Rectors' Conference offers **students of doctoral study programmes at DRC member universities** the possibility to obtain **financial means for developing applicants' projects, solutions, prototypes.**

**In the focus of this project are three targets of the EUSDR**

- 1. Increase the number of innovations, official inventions of EPO and PCT patent applications**
- 2. Increase cooperation and mobility in the field of research and education**
- 3. Increase the number of joint publications on research results.**

We are prepared to support outstanding students and young scholars' projects which can have a positive impact in the region, in line with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), by financing the following activities:

- Material costs - needed to prove or develop an applicative aspect of knowledge or technology
- Cost of use of research equipment at other DRC member institutions
- Service costs
- Travel costs and costs of stay for the students and their family members

The available financial means for projects is 50,000 EUR, and it is envisioned that no more than 25 applications will be accepted for funding, or a maximum of 5,000 EUR may be granted per application. Furthermore, whereas candidates applying for the target area one and three (innovation and joint publication) may receive financial resources up to 2,000 EUR, for the target area two (cooperation and mobility) the maximum amount of financial support is 1,000 EUR. If projects apply to all three target areas, the maximum attainable amount is 5,000 EUR.

More information on evaluation criteria may be found on this [link](#)

In case you need additional information and support, please feel free to contact us: [info@drc-danube.eu](mailto:info@drc-danube.eu)

The deadline for the applications is **31st March 2022** and the candidates will be informed about the results by the end of April.

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## **2. Danubius Young Scientist Award 2022**



We are excited to announce a Call for nominations  
for **Danubius Young Scientist Award 2022!**

**The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science, and Research (BMBFW) and Institute for Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)** will grant the award to **14 young researchers** - one from each signatory party 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 Ukraine.

Since 2011 this prize has been awarded to honour individuals with extraordinary achievements in their scientific activity connected with the Danube region! This award comprises **1.350 Euro** as well as the opportunity to be a part of the organized visit of the facilities in Ispra, Italy, in 2023, made possible by the kind support of the European Commission. Research Centre - **JRC**.

Scholars from all fields may be nominated by their **hosting institution** (university, academy of sciences, research organizations). Each institution may nominate up to **five researchers**, who may be a part of the different organizational units (faculties, departments, or research groups). In case of more applications, those candidates proposed by the rectorate or management of the organization will be given preference.

More information on the selection process, award criteria and the requirements of the document submission are available on this [link](#).

An award ceremony is planned for October/November 2022, and more details on this event will be announced timely.

The deadline for application is **30th April 2022**.

### 3. Call for Photos: "Life along the Danube"

**We are excited to learn about the Danube from your perspective!  
Create an exhibition with us!**

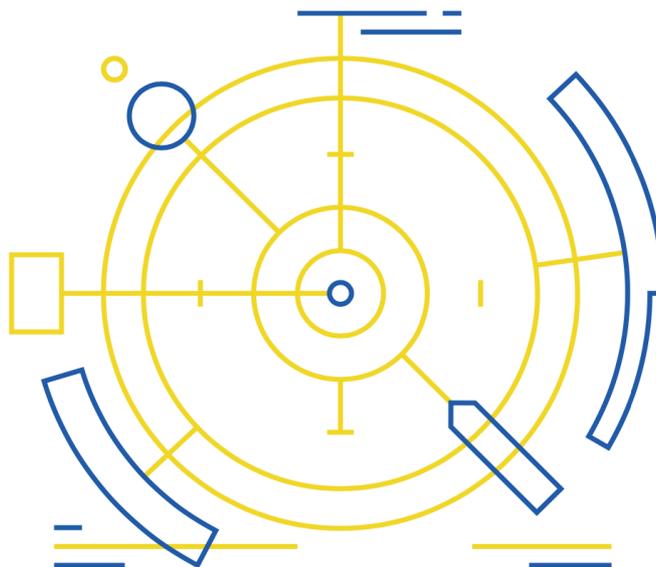


The Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Volkshochschule Landstraße (Vienna), Wiener Fotohochschule and OeAD Cooperation Office Lviv invite you to send **pictures portraying various aspects of life along the Danube**. We aim at showing the Viennese audience the cultural and natural diversity and heritage of the second longest river in Europe along its banks.

For more Information visit the [IDM Website](http://www.idm.at).

### 4. EUSDR Hackathon





As part of **Ukraine's presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**, the Transnational Hackathon of Sustainable Development of the Danube Region for Students and Youth will take place. The workshop will present the initiatives of Ukraine's presidency in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the conditions for participation in the Transnational Hackathon of Sustainable Development of the Danube Region for Students and Youth.

Please register for the workshop "**HACKATHON EUSDR as the partnership platform for sustainable development in the Danube area**" taking place on **March 11th, 2022**, [here](#).

More information on the hackathon regulations can be found [here](#).

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## 5. JRC Calls - Nuclear research infrastructure



The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and its Actinide user Laboratory of the Joint Research Centre launched **three calls** to access its nuclear facilities to researchers and scientists from the EU Member States and to countries associated with the Euratom Research Programme (the UK\* and Ukraine). As a part of a larger strategy to enhance the dissemination of scientific knowledge, boost competitiveness, bridge the gap between the research and industry and contribute to training and capacity building the researchers will have the opportunity to work in the following fields: **nuclear safety and security, chemistry, biosciences, physical sciences, ICT, foresight.**

### **1. Properties of Actinide Materials under Extreme Conditions - PAMEC (ActUsLab)**

The PAMEC facility consists of an ensemble of state-of-the-art installations designed for basic research on the preparation of materials for energy and non-energy applications, on behaviour and properties of actinide materials under extreme conditions of temperature, pressure, external magnetic field and chemical environment. The facility includes devices for measurements of crystallographic, magnetic, electrical transport, and thermodynamic properties as well as facilities for Np-237 Mössbauer spectroscopy, and a modular surface science spectroscopy station allowing photoemission, atomic force microscopy and electron scattering measurements.

#### **Priority topics of PAMEC:**

1. Preparation of actinide compounds and complexes in various forms (Thin films, bulk polycrystals, single crystals) and small quantities, suitable for physical measurements.

2. Characterization of actinide materials by X-ray diffraction
3. Measurements of their Physical Properties by a large array of microscopic and macroscopic techniques under extreme conditions of temperature, magnetic field and pressure.
4. Preparation of samples for external measurements in large facilities (synchrotron, neutron sources, accelerators)
5. Fundamental research on materials and methods related to nuclear safety.

**More information on eligibility and selection criteria as well as the instructions for application are available at this [link](#)**

## **2. Hot Cell Laboratory - HC-KA (ActUsLab)**

The Hot Cell Laboratory (HC-KA) consists of 24 shielded hot cells where highly radioactive materials (including full-length light water reactor pins) can be received, handled, examined and returned to their owners.

### **Priority topics of HC-KA**

1. Applied research on materials and methods related to the spent fuel nuclear safety
2. Spent fuel long term mechanistic release process of interest for geological disposal
3. R&I activities for the characterisation of radioactive waste, including new waste forms.
4. R&D on the stability and safe conditioning of damaged fuel - "corium"

**More information on eligibility and selection criteria and instructions for application are available at this [link](#).**

## **3. Fuels and Materials Research - FMR (ActUsLab)**

The Fuels and Materials Research (FMR) laboratory is situated at the Joint Research Centre of Karlsruhe in Germany. The Nuclear Fuel Safety Unit provides the scientific basis for the objective assessment and modelling of the safety-related behaviour of nuclear material, with emphasis on the authorities, as well as academic and research organisations. The main activities covered by the FMR laboratory involve the synthesis and characterisation of actinide-containing materials (including plutonium and minor actinides).

### **Priority topics of FMR:**

1. Synthesis and characterisation of actinide-containing materials relevant for the assessment of nuclear safety standards (oxides, ceramics)
2. Safety-related characterisation of new forms of nuclear fuels, including molten salts.
3. Laboratory simulation of nuclear power plant severe accident conditions.
4. Advanced methods for the synthesis of nuclear material assemblies, for Generation IV nuclear power plants, including transmutation targets, or for space applications.
5. Exploratory research for the development of new scientific concepts, testing of new equipment or materials.

**More information on eligibility and selection criteria as well as the instructions for application are available at this [link](#)**

The deadline for all three calls for applications is **28th February 2022**

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## **6. OeAD Summer Universities - Call for Applications**

The **OeAD Student Housing Call for Applications for Summer University 2022 is now open!**

Every year, the OeAD organizes two academic summer universities dealing with the topic of **sustainability** - both in the construction and building sector, as well as at the level of our economic and financial system.

Both programs will be held in an in-person format in Vienna, the working language is English.

**The deadline for applications is June 30th, 2022.**



Idea by Günther Jedliczka

# Green. Building. Solutions.

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UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

→ **Summer University Vienna  
July 16 - August 7, 2022**

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](http://www.summer-university.net)

QR code

Images: A modern building with large windows, a group of people in a meeting, a close-up of green leaves, and a wind turbine next to solar panels.

## Green Building Solutions (GBS) Summer University:

- Vienna - July 18th to August 7, 2022;
- The GBS Summer School aims at increasing knowledge of and raising awareness for sustainability in the field of building, construction and urban planning;
- It targets **international students** and **professionals in the field of architecture, building design, urban planning, engineering sciences, construction, property development, energy management**
- To find out more about what you will learn at the GBS, check out the [Program](#)
- [Apply](#) until June 30th, 2022



**ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS**  
 THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

→ **STOP CLIMATE CHANGE NOW!**

**Summer University**  
 Vienna, July 18 - August 5, 2022

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.

[www.summer-university.net](http://www.summer-university.net)

Logo of the Institute for Applied Economics and Statistics (IAES) of the University of Applied Sciences (FH) of Austria.

QR code linking to the event.

### Economic and Monetary Systems (AEMS) Summer University:

- Vienna - from July 18th to August 5th, 2022;
- The AEMS is an interdisciplinary summer school focusing on alternatives to the economic status quo providing innovative insights to tackle climate change at its core, finding new approaches for our economic and social systems.
- AEMS is open to students and professionals from all fields
- To find out more about what you will learn at the GBS, check the [Program](#)

## 7. The European University Association - Annual Conference



#EUA2022AnnualConf

  EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

**2022 EUA Annual Conference**  
 University values: what, why and how?

🕒 28-29 April 2022  
 📍 Budapest, Hungary

Background image showing a conference setting with people and a table of materials.

The European University Association is pleased to invite the higher education Community to the **2022 EUA Annual Conference "University values: what, why and how?"** at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Hungary on **28-29 April 2022**.

The 2022 EUA Conference will provide **a platform to discuss which values shape the missions and strategic objectives of Europe's universities**, and how these values help to guide their activities. Through **plenary and breakout sessions** of various formats, including audience participation, the conference will also provide **insights into the measures universities can take to ensure that their values are understood and lived individually and collectively**.

The **early registration deadline** is **15 March 2022**.

The **overall deadline** for registration is **13 April 2022**.

For more detailed information on the program, as well as on the registration, accommodation and Covid-19 rules in place, check the [dedicated page on the EUA Website](#).

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## 8. 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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## 9. 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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Email



Website



Facebook

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

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