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Dear subscribers of the DRC Newsletter,

We are excited to provide you with the **May issue** of the Newsletter where we keep you up-to-date with the current developments in our organisation and inform you about many upcoming **opportunities to spend your summer and various initiatives to apply for**.

Let's start this newsletter with exciting news: After a two-year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the **17th DRC Summer School** will be taking place from **10th to 16th July**,

2022 in the beautiful City of Vienna. **Scroll down to discover more about the topics discussed!**

We are also thrilled to inform you about other interesting formats, such as the **FIFUDEM Final Conference** or **Young Bled Strategic Forum**. If you are a young forward-looking scholar, then the **Danubius Young Scientist Award 2022 Call** or the **Call for Papers regarding the 30th Anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty** may be of great interest for you. And if you are more into youth empowerment and citizen participation, then the **Danube Youth Council** is a great opportunity to contribute to the future of the Danube Region.

Last, but not least, we encourage you as well to support a **Student Survey on Academic Freedom!**

We wish you a pleasant dive into the newsletter!

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

DRC Summer School 2022 - Call for Applications
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1. DRC Summer School 2022 - Call for Applications



We are thrilled to announce that the [Call for Applications for the DRC Summer School](#) is **now open**! The 17th edition of the DRC Summer School, titled "**Shaping Tomorrow's Research: What Future for Academia in the Danube Region?**", will be held in **Vienna** from **10th to 16th of July 2022**.

The **general topics** tackled during the event include:

1. Youth in academia – passive listeners or drivers for change?
2. University autonomy and academic freedom – Regional perspective
3. Education for a brighter future – the role of research in policy-making
4. Learning and mobility in the shadow of the war – considerations and challenges

We warmly encourage **university students, early-stage researchers and young scientists** to contribute to shaping the **Future of Academia in the Danube Region** by applying for the School!

By participating in the DRC Summer School, you will be able to:

- Discuss the most up-to-date issues with leading experts in the beautiful city of Vienna
- Publish your research in the IDM scientific journal “Der Donauraum”
- Be part of the IDM podcast production
- Connect with the participants of the DRC Strategic Foresight Project
- Join our cultural programme!

The project is financed by the DRC and coordinated and implemented by the **Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)**. **Participation in the project is entirely free of charge**, accommodation expenses are covered by

the DRC. The selected participants will be responsible for covering the travel expenses. For more detailed information on the School, as well as its contents, please consult the [Call](#) and apply by filling out the [online application form](#)!

We are looking forward to all the applications coming from your Universities!

2. Danubius Young Scientist Award 2022 - Extended Deadline



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 Joint 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 **15th June 2022**.

3. EUA Annual Conference



Together with **DRC Vice-President and EUA board member Ivanka Popović** and **DRC Vice-President Friedrich Faulhammer**, Rector of the University of Continuing Education Krems (UWK), the IDM Managing Director and **DRC Secretary General Sebastian Schäffer** attended the **Annual conference of the European University Association (EUA)**.

From **April 28th to 29th, 2022**, various expert presentations were given on the general topic "University values: what, why and how?" at the University of Technology and Economics Budapest. Together with the Head of Communications, Faulhammer presented the strategic further development of the **UWK as a "best practice"** model in the breakout session "Strategic Framework instead of Strategy - an institution-wide approach to drive values into reality". The "Spotlight on Ukraine" was particularly impressive, not only because of the effects of the war on educational and research institutions, but also because of the personal involvement of a

professor who had to flee her academic institution for the second time after 2014.

4. Save the Date: FIFUDEM Final Conference

We are happy to invite our network to save the date for the **FIFUDEM Final Conference**, which is going to be held on the the **13th of July in Vienna!**

The Conference will mark the closing of the Jean Monnet project "[*From Fictional to Functioning Democracy: Developing Concepts and Strategies for an Inclusive and Participatory Europe \(FIFUDEM\)*](#)". The project is financed by the Erasmus+ Programme and implemented by the Institute for the Danube Region ([IDM](#)) in cooperation with the Danube Rectors Conference with the goals to:

1. Scrutinize the contexts and causes of illiberal, respectively fictional democracy
2. Develop concepts and strategies for strengthening liberal, respectively functioning democracy and its functioning political communication as well as active citizenship in an inclusive and participatory EU
3. Disseminate the project's findings through awareness-raising activities, events and publications for different target groups on the local, regional, national, international and EU levels.

We warmly invite the public to join the Conference in the premises of the **Springer Schössl Seminar Hotel** on the **13th of July from 12:00 AM to 6:00 PM!**

5. Call for Papers: The 30th Anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty

[Studio Europa Maastricht](#) and the [Maastricht University](#) are pleased to invite you to participate in the **interdisciplinary academic conference making the 30th Anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty!**

The Conference will be held in Maastricht from the **27th to 29th of September 2022** and it is aimed to discuss the **Past, Present, and Future of European Integration** from a European socioeconomic perspective.

To facilitate critical and constructive academic dialogue on the event's subject, the organizing institutions welcome **contributions from forward-looking scholars from all backgrounds**. Particularly welcome are contributions from the fields of **economics, history, legal studies and political science**. The abstract submission will be open until **June 01, 2022**. Applicants should send the abstract (up

to 300 words) to the application process coordinator: i.rubinic@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Participation in the conference is free of charge. For more information on the call for papers and on the application process, visit the [dedicated website](#).

6. Young Bled Strategic Forum - Call for Applications



The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia** and the **Centre for European Perspective** kindly invite you to **join the [Young Bled Strategic Forum \(Young BSF\)](#)** devoted to young leaders between 18 and 35 years. It takes place in Ljubljana and Bled, Slovenia, from **August 26th until August 28th 2022** - and **[application](#)** is now open until **June 5th 2022**.

As the Young BSF is organised back to back with the activities of the international **[Bled Strategic Forum \(BSF\)](#)**, it is giving the opportunity to network and to discuss ideas with various decision-makers, representatives of international organisations, media, academia as well as the private sector. Therefore, selected participants will continue their engagement within the BSF organised from **29th August to 30th August 2022**.

The **general topics** tackled in this intensive capacity building, training and networking opportunity include:

- mobility, education and vocational training
- involvement of youth in decision making on global challenges (sustainability)

and green transformation, foreign policy, geopolitics, security, cross-border cooperation)

If you are still curious about what to expect from the YBSF, we recommend watching the [Video from 2021](#).

For additional information regarding the programme activities and eligibility of travel costs please contact Mr Jernej Grahor (BSF Project Manager) at young@bledstrategicforum.org.

7. Danube Youth Council - Call for Applications

We encourage you to be part of the very first **Danube Youth Council** (DYC) within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) - the [Call for Applications for the DYC 2022](#) is now open!

The DYC aims at **improving capacity building, communication and cooperation for young people** in the Danube Region and advises high-level politicians from EUSDR states and regions on topics such as environmental protection, mobility or education.

The deadline for applications is August 15th, 2022.



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Apply for the Danube Youth Council if you...

- Are between 18 and 28 years old;
- Are a permanent resident of one of the 14 participating states/regions of the EUSDR;
- Are ready to commit yourself for a one-year mandate starting September 2022;

- Have a good command of English;
- To find out more about the role of the DYC, check out the [Flyer](#);
- [Apply](#) until August 15th, 2022. All selected candidates will be contacted by August 25th, 2022.

8. Student Survey on Academic Freedom

The [European Students' Union](#) (ESU) is conducting a [survey](#) about the students perception of **academic freedom, institutional autonomy and academic integrity**.

We encourage you to take part in the online survey and to help enriching the discussions within the Working Group on Fundamental Values of the Bologna Follow Up Group, which is working on defining and setting indicators for these concepts!

9. 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



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

DRC Secretariat

operated by IDM

Hahngasse 6/24

1090 Wien

Austria

Secretary General:

Mag. Sebastian Schäffer, MA

E-mail: info@drc-danube.org

Tel +43-(1) 319 72 58-20

DRC Secretariat:

Mag. Daniel Martinek

E-mail: info@drc-danube.org

Tel +43-(1) 319 72 58-17

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Our mailing address is:

Danube Rectors' Conference
Institut für den Donauraum und Mitteleuropa
Hahngasse 6/24
Vienna 1090
Austria

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