

**DRC Newsletter**

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**July/August 2019**

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**DRC**  
Danube Rectors' Conference

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Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

the summer edition of our newsletter is here! As always, the newsletter provides information on a variety of opportunities to connect with like-minded people from different European countries.

First and foremost, registration for our **Annual Meeting** to be held at the **University Politehnica of Bucharest**, Romania on **6th - 8th of November 2019** is now possible. You will find recommended hotels and the draft programme on our [website](#).

This time we would like to highlight the university course of the **Interdisciplinary Balkan Studies**, offered by the Danube University Krems in cooperation with the IDM. During this **two year program** it is possible to get deep knowledge about the **Balkan states** as well as their relation with the **European Union** and other **neighbouring countries**.

At the beginning of July the **16th DRC Summer School** took place at the University of Zagreb. As in previous years, it was a successful one-week programme full of lectures, workshops and discovering of Croatian culture.

We would also like to remind you that the new **Magna Charta Universitatum** is going to be signed in the McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada on 17th of October 2019.

Enjoy the read!

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

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### 1. Interdisciplinary Balkan Studies - university course

The Danube University Krems in Cooperation with the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) offers two-year university course "Interdisciplinary Balkan Studies".



The "**Interdisciplinary Balkan Studies**" course offers a well-founded, practical and up-to-date interdisciplinary education with the aim of gaining a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the Balkans. **The focus is in the history and culture** of the Balkan region, the social structure, social change or the media and education in Southeastern Europe.

Another key area is the **political systems** of the Balkan states as well as the European Union and its relationship with the countries of Southeastern Europe. Special attention is also paid to the **development of the economy** and companies in the Balkans, including the role of foreign investment and investor protection. In addition, modules on the legal systems as well as the state and development of democracy, the rule of law and human rights in the Balkans belong to the priorities of the course.



**Target group:** Graduates of universities and polytechnics of any field of study, in particular from the fields of political, humanities, law, social and economic sciences as well as persons in professional life, who are primarily active in the media, interest groups, international organizations, in business, in political consulting, as interpreters or in the field of culture.

**Language:** German (some lessons can be held in English)

**You can find more information and application conditions (in German) on the [website of the course](#).**

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**2. 16th DRC Summer School 2019**





The **16th DRC Summer School** with the title “Falling Walls - Moving Borders - Common House Europe?” was hosted by the University of Zagreb. The main goal was to understand the current changes the Danube region is facing and how to adapt to them and at the same time aiming to strengthen the ties among the countries of the region through the cooperation of young researchers.

The Summer School started with the honorable opening speech from Prof. Ivanka Popović, DRC President and Rector of the University of Belgrade and from Prof. Damir Boras, Rector of the University of Zagreb. Also Prof. Katarina Milković, representing the city of Zagreb, wished participants of the Summer School fruitful discussions and a nice week in Zagreb.

During the lecture sessions the participants had the opportunity to hear among others about the role of the EU and the NATO within the EU Neighbourhood countries, about the Rule of Law or Food Safety in the EU, or about development of migration in the CEE countries.



In the workshop sessions the participants joined the working groups and developed **thirty recommendations for the Danube region by 2030**. This required participants' considerations how the region will become in the future when it comes to the politics, economy, society, environment or demography.

In all these areas it was necessary to define the **most burning issues**, to analyze them and then offer improvements that would have a **positive impact** on the countries of the **Danube region**, making them a strong European area and better place to live within more than ten years.

These recommendations will not only be annexed to the DRC edition of the IDM scientific journal "**Der Donauraum**", but have also been discussed during tasteful dinner at the invitation of Hanns-Seidel-Foundation. Aleksandra Markić Boban, Head of the office in Zagreb, presented to the participants the activities of Hanns-Seidel-Foundation in Croatia regarding the political foundations, democracy promotion and European dialogue.

You can find more information about the 16th DRC Summer School [here](#).



We would like to thank to all supporters and sponsors who made the Summer School possible: University of Zagreb, Land Niederösterreich, Land Oberösterreich, Stadt Wien, Erste Group Bank AG, Österreichische Nationalbank, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and Erasmus+ programme.

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### 3. DRC Annual Meeting 2019



We kindly invite you to our next **Annual Meeting** to be held at the **University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania** on **6th - 8th of November 2019**:

**"Consolidating the Role of Universities in Innovation Ecosystems: Challenges and Future Developments"**

You can now find the **registration form** and **recommendations on the accommodation** in Bucharest as well as the **draft programme** on our [website](#).

We will also send out the draft agenda for the Presidency Meeting, the Permanent Committee Meeting as well as the General Assembly in September.

We look forward to seeing you in Bucharest!

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#### 4. Magna Charta Annual Conference



The **Magna Charta Universitatum** is a document that was signed by 388 rectors and heads of universities from all over Europe and beyond on **18 September 1988**, the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna.

It contains principles of **academic freedom and institutional autonomy** as a guideline for good governance and self-understanding of universities in the future.

The 2019 conference and ceremony take place on **16 and 17 October 2019** in **Hamilton, Canada**, at the McMaster University.

**Professor Sigal Ben-Porath**, Professor of Education, Political Science and Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania will give a Keynote Address at the Magna Charta Observatory's annual conference at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The title of her speech will be **"Free Speech on Campus: A Way Forward"**

Free speech has become the focal point for political and cultural forces impacting college campuses. Universities are charged with the mandate to expand the boundaries of knowledge. But, should all speech be protected in the name of free inquiry at the university? Recent speech controversies on college campuses around

the globe expose the difficulty in carving a response in this polarized time. Partly these controversies are another demonstration of the pressures created by movements that test the limits of democratic tolerance, and partly they are the result of changes in youth and campus culture.

You can register [here](#).

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## 5. EU4TECH Western Balkans Conference



The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is inviting you to the conference on **"Unveiling Serbia's Smart Specialisation Strategy and exploring the role of incubators, accelerators and S&T Parks in delivering sector specific support in the Western Balkans and South East Europe"** taking place on 15th to 16th of October 2019 in the Science Technology Park in Belgrade, Serbia.

You can find more information and programme of the conference [here](#).

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## 6. proESOF Call for Proposals



# ESOF2020

EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM

# TRIESTE

This call for proposals, launched by the [TESI Local Programme Committee](#), aims to collect ideas and to support the development of initiatives which will enhance dissemination, education, networking and training from now until ESOF 2020. In particular the call collects and evaluates three distinct groups of initiatives:

- **proESOF events 2018-2020** preferentially in the North-East of Italy and Central and Eastern European areas;
- **Science in the City Festival**, Trieste ESOF 2020 (three weeks from June 27 to July 18, 2020)
- **Draft proposals for the official call of ESOF 2020 Trieste** (Call in January 2019).

The proposals may be related to the following areas:

**Science to Science:** focused on current and future path-breaking science, it provides for keynote speeches and events, plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables and debates. It encompasses social sciences and humanities as well as physical and life sciences, engineering and medicine.

**Science to Business:** a unique platform in Europe to exchange ideas and good practices on research-driven business models, public private partnerships, the economic developments resulting from technological innovation, future careers and future “new jobs” opportunities.

**Science to Policy:** stakeholders, governments, scientists, industry and the public in the Triveneto region and in the South East European countries, will be asked to cooperate in a joint effort to ensure reliable, evidence-based policy-making for the benefit of the society as a whole. Possible discussion subjects include the ethical

use of scientific knowledge in addressing the grand challenges of humankind, integrity of science, science diplomacy to build peace and cohesion.

**Science to Citizens:** it aims to create a scientific citizenship for all and to promote the idea of science as fundamental to problem-solving. All activities and events organized in this frame will inspire passion and a collaborative attitude in people, from the very young to the elderly, in order to build a sense of identity and ownership within the field of science.

**Science to Communicators:** aimed at building a solid network of science communicators active in different fields (from journalism to events organizing, from publishing to communication corporate) across Europe, with a special focus on the Triveneto region and the South East European countries.

You can find more information on the website: [www.proesof2020.eu/CallProEsof](http://www.proesof2020.eu/CallProEsof)

**The call will stay open from February 2018 to March 2020.**

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## **7. CASEE Newsletter July 2019**

CASEE was founded in 2010 upon the initiative of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and involves Life Science Universities in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine and Austria. in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine and Austria. It aims to support the development of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region to strengthen research, education and University Development in this region and to develop joint research, educational and other projects. To open the latest newsletter, click [here](#).

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## **8. DRC Facebook Page**





We are recently trying to improve the circulation of information within our network. As you are a member of the DRC, we kindly ask you to also connect with us via Facebook and please follow or DRC page in this [link](#).

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](#).



Email



Website



Facebook

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

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