

## DRC Annual Conference 2024

**13–15 November 2024 | University for Continuing Education KREMS**

### University Leadership in Times of Uncertainty: Governing Universities in the Danube Region Through Multiple Crises

Governing universities in the Danube Region through multiple crises is a complex challenge that requires leadership, strategic decision-making and resilience which is the focus of the DRC Annual Conference 2024 at the University for Continuing Education KREMS.

Analyzing the multiple crises - political, economic, environmental and health - that have affected universities in the Danube Region is an important starting point. Identifying innovative practices and adaptive strategies used by universities to address emerging challenges and focus on opportunities is key to solutions. Robust solutions can be developed through an inter- and transdisciplinary approach, combining different scientific disciplines with societal perspectives and practices. This approach can be particularly strengthened through cooperation and exchange of knowledge. The outcome should be insights and solutions for universities and university governance, especially in the Danube region.

Universities can actively contribute to addressing the challenging ambiguities and growing uncertainties of the present and the future. In doing so, they create a strong societal impact that ensures future preparedness. In this context, research and reflection on university governance can contribute to a deeper understanding and strengthening of the role of universities. Universities are not only a source of inspiration, they also have much to learn from each other in terms of best practices that can feed into the policy discourse and contribute to the development of more effective, resilient and adaptable higher education systems in the Danube region.

### Programme

Day 1 – Arrivals & Cultural Programme Wednesday, 13 November 2024		Venue
All day	Arrivals	
16:00 – 18:30	Cultural programme – Guided Tour Medieval KREMS (optional)	Steiner Tor, KREMS
18:30	Informal dinner (optional)	Hofbräu am Steinertor, Südtirolerplatz 2, KREMS

Day 2 – Annual Conference Thursday, 14 November 2024		Venue
08:15 – 9:00	Welcome coffee	UWK
08:30 – 9:00	Registration	UWK
09:00 - 9:30	<p>Opening</p> <p><b>Friedrich Faulhammer</b>, DRC President and Rector of the University for Continuing Education KREMS</p> <p><b>Peter Molnar</b>, Mayor of the City of Krems</p> <p>NN, Representative of the Government of Lower Austria (tbc)</p> <p><b>Prof. Martin Polaschek</b>, Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research, Austria (tbc)</p>	UWK
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session I – Keynote</p> <p>Society in Uncertainty – Role of Higher Education</p> <p><b>Prof. Shalini Randeria</b>, President and Rector of Central European University (CEU), Vienna</p>	UWK
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Session II – Impacts on Universities from EUSDR Presidencies</p> <p><b>Harald Stranzl</b>, EUSDR National Coordinator Austria</p> <p><b>NN</b>, EUSDR National Coordinator Bosnia Herzegovina</p> <p><b>Ljubica Pitlova</b> (tbc), Coordinator PA7, Slovakia</p> <p><b>Viktor Nedovic</b> (tbc), Coordinator PA7, Serbia</p> <p>Moderation: <b>Prof. Attila Pausits</b>, Department for Higher Education Research, University for Continuing Education KREMS</p>	UWK
11:30 – 11:45	Group photo	UWK
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee break	UWK
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Session III – Leadership Challenges in Teaching and Research</p> <p>Introduction: Academic's view on institutional leadership and teaching activities in selected DRC countries, <b>Alenka Flander</b>, Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS), Ljubljana</p> <p>(tba)</p> <p>(tba)</p> <p>(tba)</p> <p>Moderation: <b>Alenka Flander</b>, Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes</p>	UWK

	(CMEPIUS), Ljubljana	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	UWK
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Session IV –Leadership Challenges in Staff Career Development <i>(involving winners of the Danubius Young Scientist Award 2024)</i></p> <p>Introduction: Leadership perspective on whole-institution approach towards sustainability, <b>Prof. Nena Rončević</b>, University of Rijeka (tba) (tba) (tba)</p> <p>Moderation: <b>Prof. Nena Rončević</b>, University of Rijeka</p>	UWK
15:30 – 16:00	<p>Closing</p> <p><b>Friedrich Faulhammer</b>, DRC President and Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krens</p>	UWK
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	UWK
16:30 – 18:30	<p>Danubius Awards 2024 Ceremony</p> <p>Moderation: <b>IDM</b></p>	UWK, Hybrid
18:30 – 21:00	Evening reception	UWK

Day 3 – General Assembly Friday, 15 November 2024		Venue
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome coffee	UWK
09:00 – 10:30	General Assembly	UWK
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	UWK
10:45 – 12:00	General Assembly	UWK
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	UWK
13:30	Free programme / Departures	