

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 (UWK).

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	
16:30 – 18:00	Cultural programme – Guided Tour Medieval KREMS (optional)	Steiner Tor, KREMS
18:00	Informal dinner (optional)	Hofbräu am Steinertor, Südtirolerplatz 2, KREMS

Day 2 – Annual Conference Thursday, 14 November 2024		Venue
08:15 – 9:00	Welcome coffee IMPORTANT: All following parts of the conference are held at the UWK, unless otherwise indicated	Audimax room, UWK, Dr. Karl Dorrek Street, No. 30, 3500 Krens an der Donau
08:15 – 9:00	Registration	
09:00 - 9:30	Opening Friedrich Faulhammer , DRC President and Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krens Peter Molnar , Mayor of the City of Krens Elmar Pichl , Director General, Section IV, Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria	
09:30 – 10:30	Session I – Keynote “Wars, Pandemics, Climate Change: Addressing Uncertainty at Universities” Prof. Shalini Randeria , President and Rector of the Central European University (CEU), Vienna	
10:30 – 11:30	Session II – Impacts on Universities from EUSDR Presidencies Ass. Prof. Pal Danyi , Chair of the Board, Danube Cup Network, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary Midhat Džemić , EUSDR National Coordinator Bosnia and Herzegovina Gerhard Eisl , Head of Unit, EU macro-regional strategies, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs Viktor Nedovic , Coordinator PA7, Serbia Moderation: Prof. Attila Pausits , Department for Higher Education Research, University for Continuing Education Krens	
11:30 – 11:45	Group photo	
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee break	
12:00 – 13:00	Session III – Leadership Challenges in Teaching and Research Introduction: Corinna Geppert , Department for Higher Education Research, University for Continuing Education Krens Iris Rauskala , Rector, University of Applied Sciences Ludwigsburg Daniel Breaz , Rector, University of Alba Iulia	

	Moderation: Corinna Geppert , Department for Higher Education Research, University for Continuing Education Krens	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
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, Prof. Nena Rončević, University of Rijeka</p> <p>Gabriele Kotsis, Full Professor and Head of the Department of Telecooperation, Johannes Kepler University in Linz</p> <p>Dr. Sina Westa, MSc, Marie Curie Alumna, Senior Scientist - Center for Higher Education Governance and Transformation - Department for Higher Education Research, Austria</p> <p>Danubius Young Scientist Award 2024 winner (tba)</p> <p>Danubius Young Scientist Award 2024 winner (tba)</p> <p>Moderation: Prof. Nena Rončević, University of Rijeka</p>	
15:30 – 16:00	<p>Closing</p> <p>Friedrich Faulhammer, DRC President and Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krens</p>	
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 18:30	<p>Danubius Awards 2024 Ceremony</p> <p>Moderation: IDM</p>	UWK, Hybrid
18:30 – 21:00	Evening reception	

Day 3 – General Assembly Friday, 15 November 2024		Venue
08:30 – 09:00	<p>Welcome coffee</p> <p>IMPORTANT: All following parts of the conference are held at the UWK, unless otherwise indicated</p>	Audimax room, UWK, Dr. Karl Dorrek Street, No. 30, 3500 Krens an der Donau
09:00 – 10:30	General Assembly	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:00	General Assembly	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30	Free programme / Departures	