

Editorial

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Dear Readers,

Currently there is a decisive phase as first calls of Danube specific programmes have been launched, EUSDR flagship projects get into the phase of implementation and the update of the Danube River Basin management Plan has been widely discussed. IAD members have been in the centre of some of these activities and are active in various other fields and topics. In this issue we would like to inform you about selected current activities of IAD such as the IAD summer camp, the initiative to establish a network for more concerted research on invasive species in the Danube River basin (DIAS). First information about the coming IAD conference introduces the conference topic and the conference location in Sibiu, Romania. Furthermore, aspects of historical and social sciences for a sustainable development are presented, highlighting the importance for an intensified interdisciplinary cooperation to safeguard our ecosystems and provide a basis for their future use in a sustainable manner. In line with these topics the White paper on sustainable development, a result of the EUSDR flagship project DanubeFuture is discussed as a major outcome of the first project phase in this issue.

While these activities demonstrate a few examples of current involvement of IAD and introduce coming actions, we



Thomas Hein, President of IAD

have to inform you that we lost two long term members who passed away in the last months, Miklós Puky and Rüdiger Schmid. Both have been outstanding scientists and valuable members of IAD. We will remember them as colleagues, friends and part of our IAD family.

Regarding activities of the Austrian Committee for Danube Research at present 79% of the national members are also members of IAD. They form the basis of 'multipliers' transmitting information on IAD to a greater public, including representatives of the public service on international and national level, as well as students and private persons. In return the Austrian members receive information about the life within IAD, and Danube News (DN) is one of the ways IAD can reach out into the society. At this point we take the opportunity to thank all our authors and contributors of manuscripts, diagrams, graphs and pictures who assist us in making DN a source of interesting and new information on many aspects with regard to the Danube, mirroring the wide scope of Expert Groups and contacts with national and international organisations dealing with this Large River.

Current activities in the Danube Basin

The Transylvanian Water Tower through history, and an invitation to a much-needed conference

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Just a short glance on the Romanian geographical map is more than enough to reveal the fact that Transylvania is bordered like a proud fortress by the Carpathian Mountains,

over seven million native people looking around to this huge amphitheatre to the numerous and dense ongoing flowing streams and rivers, Danube tributaries of different order.

Water is priceless now as it was throughout the history of this unique region. The ancestors of the Romanians, within the Sarmizegetusa Regia capital of Dacian Kingdom, located in Transylvania, were defeated finally by the Roman Empire

International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

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Hydrological catchment of the River Danube

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