

The new CEEPUS network in aquatic ecosystem research and management had started in 2016.

A new umbrella network within the CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies) program started in 2016/17. The CEEPUS program „EcoResNet - Aquatic ecosystem research: interdisciplinary challenges and management issues in inland waters and coastal environments and their catchments“, involves 14 universities and six additional academic partners from nine countries in educational activities in the field of interdisciplinary aquatic ecosystem research. The CEEPUS is built on existing networks for scientists like the IAD (International Association for Danube Research, www.iad.gs) as well as on the university network CASEE. Topics are well in line with targets of successfully established EUSDR flagship projects such as conservation of endangered species, exploring sustainable ecosystem service and sustainable development by enhanced interdisciplinary and participative cooperation, developing innovative research infrastructure to meet future challenges in the field. The majority of the states with partner universities in the Danube region already support a diversity of programs related to aquatic sciences and river basin management in the field of natural and engineering sciences as well as environmental humanities, in particular environmental history. Recent EU projects (EU FP7 project Dancers) identified major shortcomings in joint programs related to integrated river basin management for example. As pointed out in literature there is no coherent network related to training in aquatic sciences, water management and sustainable development in South East Europe. Progress in addressing the multi-layered environmental

challenges within the Danube River basin and adjacent regions, including issues related to floodplain management and research also in sites outside the Danube River basin requires further aligning of economic, environmental and educational policies, advancing the EU Bologna Process across the region, and the development of dedicated training programs that combine technical and relational skills and foster a broader cooperation between research and educational institutions.

CEEPUS Objectives in a nutshell

The CEEPUS network aims to address major challenges for inland and coastal waters and their management in East and South East Europe by an enhanced interdisciplinary cooperation of universities and research institutions in the frame of EUSDR initiatives and well-established scientific networks as well as intensified collaboration with various stakeholders regarding the key issues outlined in the Danube River Basin Management Plan as well as for other river basin of partners in the network, and to improve the scientific excellence in the region. A key aspect of the CEEPUS network will be to support activities and aims of several EUSDR flagship projects (Danube:Future, Danubius-RI, DREAM and Sturgeon2020).

More detail about the network and the mobility activities can be found at this link: <https://www.ceepus.info/public/network/network.aspx#nbb> (CIII-AT-1101-01-1617 Umbrella network EcoResNet). Coordinator: Thomas Hein at BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, Vienna, Austria

News and Notes

Ilse Schwarzwinger: Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria. e-mail: ilse.schwarzwinger@boku.ac.at

Thomas Hein: Institute of Hydrobiology and Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria. e-mail: thomas.hein@boku.ac.at

Following the decision of the Jury the Austrian Committee ‘Danube Research’ (AC-IAD) donated again the ‘Reinhard Liepolt Award for Danube Research’ (RLA). Laureates of the call 2015 (awarded: Sept. 2016):

- Aaron Lechner – Shoreline configurations affect dispersal patterns of fish larvae in a large river (Lechner et al. 2014, ICES Journal of Marine Science. Doi:10.1093/icesjms/fst139 [RLA]; (and other Danube related publications)
- Domenico Savio – Bacterial diversity along a 2600 km river continuum (Savio et al. 2015, Environmental microbiology 17, 4994-5007 [RLA];

Scientific Appreciation Award – Diploma/Master Theses [SAA-RLA]:

- Markus Anibas – Choriotope-Analyse an der Donau – Schotterbänke im Einflussbereich des Kraftwerks Freudenau – 15 Jahre nach dem Einstau

(Choriotope-Analysis at the Danube – Gravel banks influenced by the Hydro-Power Plant Freudenau 15 years after impoundment) [SAA-RLA];

- Nadine Ebm – The diet of *Neogobius melanostomus* (Pallas, 1814) in the area of hydropower plant Freudenau (Danube River) [SAA-RLA].

Special achievements award AC-IAD:

- Georg A. Janauer was awarded the ‘RLA in recognition of long-time special achievements in the field of limnological research of the Danube River’.

On behalf of the IAD Board Meeting held in Sibiu at the 41st IAD Conference

Two new country representatives have been approved during the IAD board meeting in Sibiu and are welcomed in the IAD board:

- **New Czech country representative:** Dr. Petr Paril, affiliated to the Masaryk University Brno, following Prof. Jan Helesic
- **New country representative of Romania:** Dr. Eng. Grigore Baboianu, present-day Governor of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, following Prof. Dr. Marian-Traian Gomoiu.