

Editorial

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Dear readers,

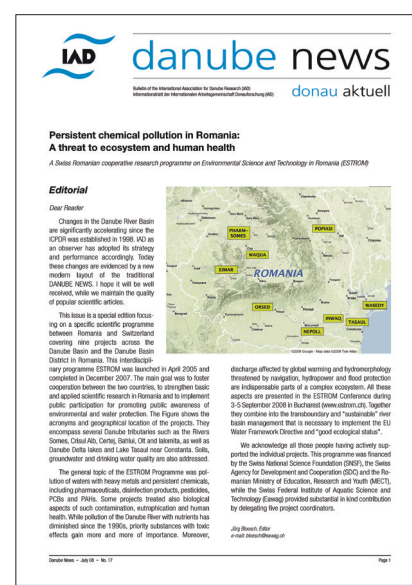
As responsible editors we invite you to enjoy reading the 40th issue of Danube News. This official bulletin of the International Association for Danube Research was launched for the first time in September 1999, 20 years ago. Jürg Bloesch, at that time president of IAD, took this important and finally long-lasting initiative. He conceptualized, improved and successfully edited Danube News for 13 years until October 2012. When we took over from his successor Georg Janauer in spring 2017, we were in the lucky position to step into a well-established and professionally managed task. Everyone connected to IAD knows Danube News and appreciates it as an outlet offering the opportunity to make scholars and the interested public familiar with research on the Danube or simply likes to read it. All issues of Danube News are available on the IAD-webpage and our dedicated current general secretary, Katrin Teubner, is regularly posting individual articles on the webpage.

We took this Danube News 'jubilee' as an opportunity to look back to the history of IAD and to reflect on perspectives for the future. Over the almost 65 years of its existence, IAD has passed turbulent times. Jürg Bloesch details in his contribution how IAD evolved and changed since 1956. He refers among others to the collapse of the communist regime and how it affected IAD and the cooperation of its scholars. But the hydrobiologists and limnologists, who investigated the Danube in the past decades found also a drastically changing ecological system. In the second half of the 20th century, human interventions into this European lifeline increased at an unprecedented speed. Pollution is an everlasting topic with many new substances harmful for the aquatic life but also for humans. IAD had to adapt to these alterations. As

the contribution of Georg Janauer and Gertrud Haidvogel summarizes, this is reflected in the scientific topics and programmes of the association. IAD conferences were since the beginning an important platform of exchange, not only of the latest scientific findings but also of social interaction. Thomas Tittizer offered a personal view of 42 IAD conferences over time, and Bernd Cyffka mapped the places. Finally, Uli Schwarz presents an overview on hydromorphological investigations during the Joint Danube Surveys to which IAD contributed substantially.

Looking back to history requires almost automatically to think about the future, in particular to which circumstances IAD will have to react and adapt in the coming years. Cristina Sandu, Thomas Hein and Katrin Teubner, the current IAD presidium, present their visions and especially major tasks to keep IAD as a lively association which tackles challenges of the Danube river basin. Teodora Trichkova writes from the perspective of an expert group leader, while Dušanka Cvijanović offers the expectations of a post doc. Finally, we are happy, that ICPDR as a main cooperation partner of IAD accepted our request to contribute its point of view and prospects.

We hearty thank all authors for their efforts and contributions to this particular issue!



Coverpages of Danube News 1 (1999; left) and 17 (2008). Since 2008, Danube News is published in English only with the new layout. Danube News issues are available online at https://www.danube-iad.eu/index.php?item=danube_news

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Hydrological catchment of the River Danube



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