

## IAD Conferences of the past 60 years

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Since the foundation of the International Association for Danube Research in the year 1956 a total of 42 conferences have been organized. They were hosted regularly and rotating in different countries within and even outside the Danube Basin (see map below). During the time when Europe was divided into two blocs, the IAD played a not negligible role of international understanding. Beyond the borders, scientists have been conducting intensive research on water purity, and the ecological development of fauna and flora as well as – at least in modern times – hydromorphology of Europe's second largest river.

The participation in the particular conference was, at least for IAD members from Eastern Europe, bound to the presentation of a short scientific topic. Initially, submitted presentations of participants from both sides of the Iron Curtain were always accepted as the motto was 'It's taking part that counts'. It was never in the interests of IAD to set up barriers to participation because nobody wanted to limit the character of international understanding of these conferences.

The submitted presentations were initially published in two proceedings of the respective conference; Volume 1 contained the scientific short presentations, volume 2 the commemorative speeches as well as the main presentations. At least the presentations of volume 2 were presented orally at the conference. Later on, everything was joined to one volume and split into the sections 'oral presentations' and 'poster sessions'. Over time, the poster sessions became more and more important especially for work reports and/or reports on student works.

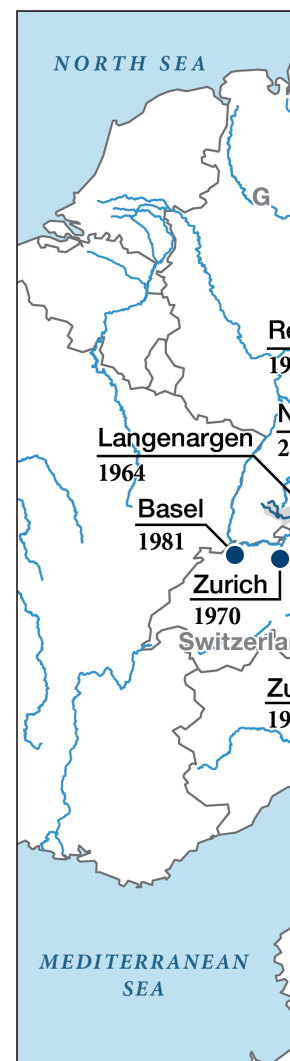
A change in the quality of the main presentations occurred after the introduction of an internal 'peer review' system in accordance with international standards. Presentations were and still are followed by the audience with great interest and are usually discussed intensively. However, the conference excursions were often more popular, especially in earlier times, and even more so before the opening of the Iron Curtain. The respective National Representatives, who at the time were the main responsible persons for the organization of the conferences, made huge efforts to organize the excursions as interesting and diversified as possible. During these field trips, the participants had the possibility to get in closer contact to each other and there often was a lively exchange of practical and scientific experiences. In addition, during the conference, but more often during the excursions, participants started to set up personal friendships, some of which have been lasting until

today. Thus, the scientific community of IAD has become more and more a large family in the recent years. This family was proudly celebrated at the 36<sup>th</sup> IAD Conference in Vienna in 2006, which was the anniversary of '50 years of IAD'. At this time, Prof. Tittizer looked back on a long IAD membership, while it was the first IAD conference for Prof. Cyffka. It should also be mentioned that Prof. Tittizer was the first to be appointed Honorary Member of IAD during this conference. This tribute fills him with happiness until today.

Features of the modern conferences, at least of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, were workshops and networking meetings of various kinds and topics. Next to the excursion, the 'Board Meeting' and the 'General Assembly of IAD' have become an inherent part of the conference. The President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary as well as all National Representatives and Expert Group Leaders participate in the Board Meetings. Everyone reports on the works in the respective countries and on the works of the Expert Groups during the past period. These reports are usually discussed in detail as they form the basis for the planning and future development of IAD in the member countries and in general. In a short form, all these findings and results are presented to the IAD General Assembly the following day. This procedure is valid until today.

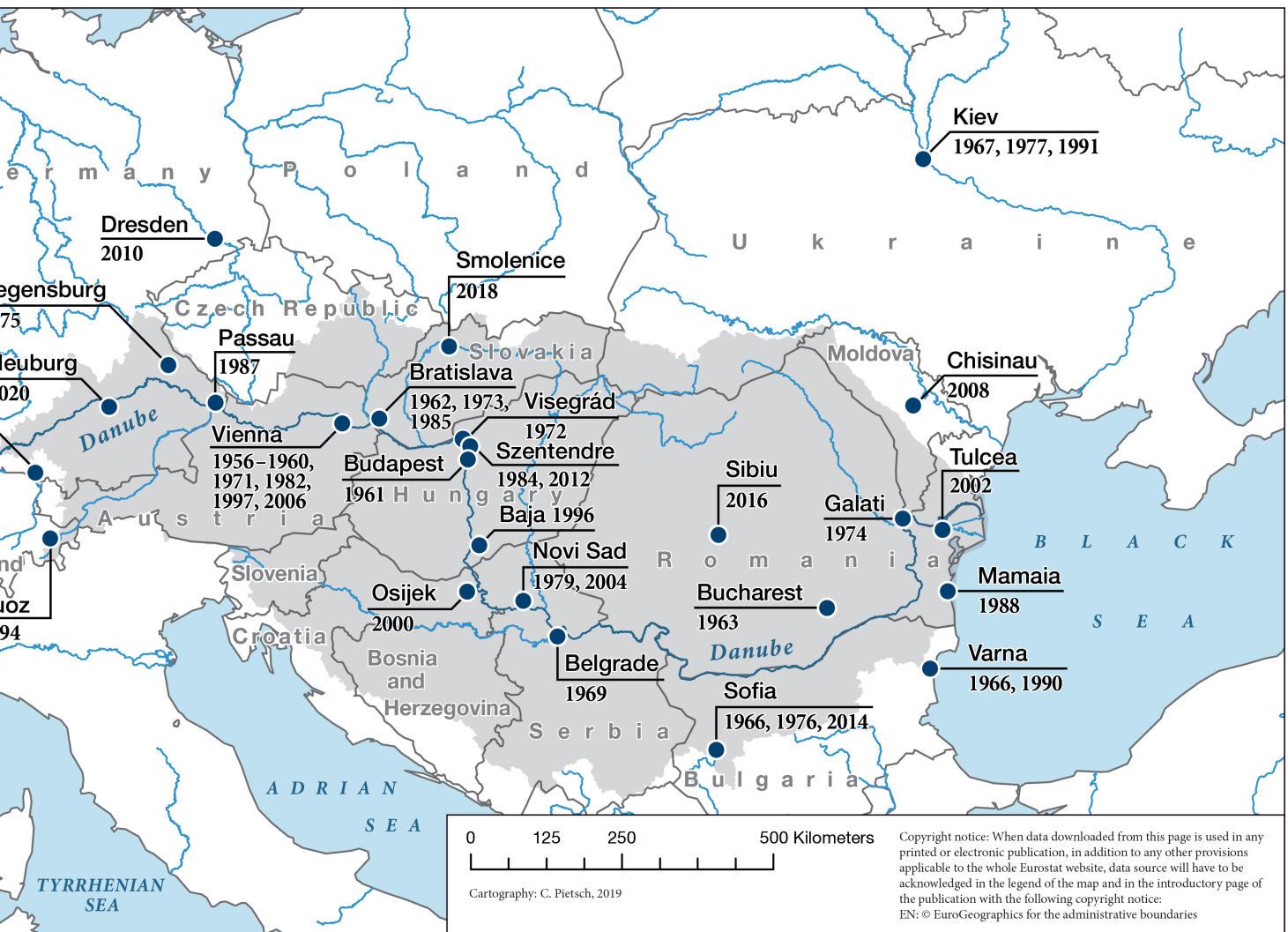
As mentioned, the preparation of the conferences was always carried out with the utmost care. Sometimes however, one had the impression that the organizers were in a real state of perfection: The upcoming event should always be a bit more perfect than the ones before, especially in former times. After the borders became more open, the possibilities generally changed for the better, and all this went hand in hand with the improvement of conference technology in modern years. From his many years of membership, Prof. Tittizer remembers well the 34<sup>th</sup> IAD Conference in Tulcea 2002. The Romanian National Representative of that time, Prof. Gheorghe Brezeanu, succeeded in winning the Romanian President Ion Iliescu as patron of the conference (cf. photo).

Among the conference excursions that are often regarded as the highlight of the event, the trip to the Danube Delta has to be mentioned. The participants had the opportunity to watch the catch of a two metre long 'starry sturgeon' (*Acipenser stellatus*) as well as to observe colonies of 'Dalmatian pelicans' (*Pelecanus crispus*) (cf. photos).





Impressions from IAD conferences and excursions and venues of the 42 IAD conferences. Photos: T. Tittizer







42<sup>nd</sup> IAD-conference in Smolenice, Slovakia. Photo: Teodora Trichkova.

## 43<sup>rd</sup> IAD Conference 2020

### Rivers and Floodplains in the Anthropocene – Upcoming Challenges in the Danube River Basin

**July 14–17, 2020**

Neuburg/Danube, Germany; Venue: Castle of Gruenau

#### Call for abstracts

Call for abstracts and registration are open from now. We are looking forward to receive your abstract! More information about registration and abstract submission are available online under [www.iad2020.ku.de](http://www.iad2020.ku.de).

#### Important Dates

Deadline for the submission of abstracts:	29.02.2020
Notification of acceptance	31.03.2020
Deadline for early bird payment:	15.04.2020
Deadline for late payment:	15.06.2020

#### Registration and Conference Fees

Please note that registration will not be possible anymore after June 15. Relevant is the date of payment receipt. Onsite registration will not be possible.

Payment is possible via bank transfer only. There is no possibility for onsite payment.



	Early Bird	Late Payment
<b>IAD-Member</b>	110 €	130 €
<b>Non-Members</b>	140 €	160 €
<b>Students</b>		40 €
<b>Non-member students</b>		60 €