

Editorial

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Dear readers,

An extraordinary year will end soon. We hope that you have so far passed all the turbulences caused by COVID-19 in good health. Nine months ago, nobody would have thought how fast we would be able to train our skills in home office, video conferencing and distance learning. While this way, working life could at least function halfway indoors, fieldwork was at least complicated, if not stopped at all due to contact restrictions. The IAD conference, which should have taken place in July 2020, was finally postponed to June 2021 to increase the chances for a much-requested meeting with physical presence of the participants.

We are delighted that so many colleagues have agreed to provide insights into their research activities in our association bulletin "Danube News" during this troubled time. The Tisza, the longest tributary of the Danube, is the focus of the first article in Danube News 42. Dávid Béla Vizi and Tamás Právetz investigated options for improving the river's discharge capacity by restoring flood plains in a section of the Middle Tisza. Their work was part of the EU-funded project Danube "Floodplain". The contribution of Barbara Stammel and her colleagues also originates from a project funded by the Transnational Danube Programme: "Improving Water Quality in the Danube and its tributaries through Integrated Floodplain Management based on Ecosystem Services" (IDES) aims to improve water quality management in the Danube and to identify synergies in the provision of ecosystem services. A short overview of



The Ottheinrichbach, a bypass river of the Bergheim hydropower dam on the Upper Danube in Bavaria, in winter.

investigations of microbial water quality in Serbian rivers is the main topic of the manuscript by Stoimir Kolarević and his colleagues. Finally, Héléne Masliak-Gilkarov presents the WePass project, which represents another milestone in the long-standing efforts to make the hydroelectric dams of the Iron Gates passable for aquatic fish and especially for the Danube sturgeon.

Many aquatic biologists mourn for Elsa Leonore Kusel-Fetzmann. The obituary in our News and Notes section honours her immense oeuvre in hydrobotany. Finally yet importantly, we advertise on our own behalf: On the initiative of IAD President Cristina Sandu, a children's book about Danube sturgeons was created as part of a project. "The Adventures of Starry, the Brave Sturgeon" is available in English, but also in nine different languages spoken in the Danube region.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of Danube News. We wish our readers all the best and health for the coming months.

The possibilities of improving the conveyance capacity with restoration measures along the Hungarian Middle Tisza River section, based on a pilot area

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Abstract

Over the past decades, several extraordinary floods have occurred from rivers in the Danube River Basin. Each of the

flooding levels that emerged were one of the centennial flood that caused significant human and economic damage in the affected countries. To handle increasing flood risks within the European Union, the No. 2007/60/EC Directive requires almost all river basin districts to identify areas where there is a significant potential flood risk. The identified flood risks are needed to be reduced as much as

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Hydrological catchment of the River Danube



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