

SPECIAL ISSUE – Selected results of Joint Danube Survey 4

Editorial

*Thomas Hein, Leaving Deputy President of IAD
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Institute
of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, Vienna, Austria,
email: Thomas.hein@boku.ac.at*



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Dear Reader,

For a period of more than ten years, I had the pleasure to shape work and the profile of the International Association for Danube Research together with my colleagues of the presidency and many other motivated members. Many highlights happened during this time. I am particularly grateful that international

cooperation in Danube related research has intensified. This was possible for example within the frame of the European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), for which we developed transnational and interdisciplinary flagship projects such as Sturgeon 2020 or Danube:Future and IAD people were founding members of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF). Also, IAD members coordinated or contributed to several projects within Interreg addressing Danube countries, most specifically to the Danube Transnational Program, which started in 2014. IAD advanced scientific research of the Danube River Basin. It took a leading and coordinating role in sturgeon research as well as in investigating Invasive Alien Species. Many of these projects support achieving healthy and lively rivers in the Danube basin and have an important societal bearing. Another major initiative addresses the river-sea-nexus via the contribution of IAD to the European Research Infrastructure 'International Centre for Advanced Studies on River-Sea Systems' DANUBIUS-RI.

As the EUSDR acknowledges, education is one of the major topics in Danube countries. The network 'Ecology and Management of aquatic ecosystems in Central, East and Southeast Europe' (EcoManAqua) funded by the

Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS) supports mobility of students and teachers and has a strong focus on the Danube area. All these activities helped to strengthen our IAD family and will certainly do so in the future. Due to the COVID19-pandemic since 2020, we faced losses and limitations in networking. Nevertheless, IAD remained active and organized the IAD conference, scientific contributions, was observer at ICPDR meetings and continued to issue the Danube News. At this point, I would like to thank all IAD members and especially the current IAD president und the general secretary of IAD for their cooperation, their friendship and support!

Introducing this issue of Danube News will be one of my last activities as member of the IAD-Presidency. The issue is dedicated to Joint Danube Survey 4 to which 13 countries and hundreds of experts from 140 laboratories and institutes contributed. The key objective of this largest and most comprehensive river survey of the world was to provide comparable and reliable information on a multitude of water quality elements. JDS4 followed a new monitoring concept. While before transnational core teams were responsible for sampling over the whole river lengths, national teams took now a leading role in their respective countries. Core teams mainly coordinated and observed the whole activities. This strategy offered a valuable opportunity of exchange among national experts during the training workshops organized for each quality element. The results of JDS 4 helped closing information gaps for the Danube River Basin Management Plan Update 2021.

In this issue of Danube News, we asked experts of selected biological quality elements to share their results with the IAD community. This is of course just a small fraction of the many surveys, which were done during JDS4. If you want to get a comprehensive picture, please visit <http://www.danubesurvey.org/jds4/about>. We would like to thank the authors for their efforts to contribute to DN 44.

Enjoy reading!

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Hydrological catchment of the River Danube

General Secretary:

International Association for Danube Research (IAD)
 (Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauforschung)
 PD Dr. Katrin Teubner
 Dept. Functional & Evolutionary Ecology
 Faculty of Life Sciences
 University of Vienna
 Djerassiplatz 3, 1030 Vienna
 katrin.teubner@univie.ac.at

Editors:

Prof. Dr. Bernd Cyffka
 CU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
 bernd.cyffka@ku.de
 PD Dr. Gertrud Haidvogel
 BOKU Vienna
 gertrud.haidvogel@boku.ac.at

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 info@diener-graphics.ch

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