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**Name:** *Dr. Gabriela Costea*

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### **Positions in the International Association for Danube Research (IAD):**

4/2025 – Expert Group Leader “Danube River education”

Dr. Gabriela Costea is a research associate at the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) in Berlin, specializing in aquatic ecology and the ecosystem services of rivers and floodplains. She has previously worked for 16 years as a curator at the Natural Science Museum Complex in Galati, Romania, where she developed exhibitions and environmental education programs that made scientific knowledge about the Danube's biodiversity accessible to the public. Her work bridges science, education, and community engagement, focusing on ecosystem services of rivers and floodplains, stakeholder involvement, participatory processes, and creative outreach tools such as a children's book, exhibitions and educational programs. She co-leads the Danube Nature Guides project, promoting intergenerational learning and emotional connections to the river, and is currently active in two EU Horizon projects — Restore4Life and Danube4all — also developing innovative educational packages and tools for wetland conservation. Her interdisciplinary background combines scientific expertise with a passion for communication and awareness-raising in support of sustainable river management.

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