

Editorial



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Dear Readers,

The year 2022 was connected with our hope of overcoming the Covid pandemic, if not completely, then at least a bit more than in the past two years, so that contacts and our network in the Danube basin could once again become as personal and face-to-face as in the years before. But now we are additionally confronted with the war in Ukraine, a Danube Basin country. As a scientific NGO, we would like to express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine in these times. Every death is one too many and in the meantime, there are far too many victims to mourn, so that our sincere hope is that the fighting will end soon and a dialogue for a long-lasting peace can begin. This will also bring back our network to its previous activities and beyond.

As the new president of the IAD, I would like to promote and strengthen this inter- and transnational cooperation in order to bring us scientists and water managers closer together and to make improvements in the field of

our rivers in the entire Danube basin. Through this, and through actions such as the International Danube Day, the people of the Danube basin will come closer and ultimately understand each other better. Let us work together for this vision!

Due to the war in Ukraine, it will not be possible to carry out the 44th IAD Conference in Kiev, as scheduled. In agreement with the Ukrainian colleagues, the IAD Presidium has decided to hold the conference in Krems/Austria in February next year – thanks to the organizers in advance! Detailed announcements can be found in the corresponding emails and on the IAD homepage in due course. An IAD conference in Ukraine is not cancelled, only postponed! It will be held there at a later date!

The problems in the Danube basin need collaboration of all countries and should be inter- and transdisciplinary. The EU projects of the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) show how successful such a kind of cooperation can be. The MEASURES project (see report in this issue) was designed to create ecological corridors for migratory species along the Danube and its tributaries. This issue also presents results of investigations on sediments in the Danube and its tributaries, mainly based on the DTP project Danube Sediment. Both articles are the start of a short series of reports on EU projects. In the next issue, the Danube Floodplain project will follow. This project was funded in order to create a win-win situation of flood protection and floodplain biodiversity. All these projects, and there are more to come, would not be possible without international cooperation.

Furthermore, there are reports on the problems of hydropower and on the progress made regarding dam removal in this issue as well as a report on ecological research of Lake Neusiedl.

Sadly, our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of two outstanding and long-term members of IAD who passed away in 2021: Prof. Dr. Roumen Kalchev (Bulgaria) and Prof. Dr. Marian Traian Gomoiu (Romania).

Let us hope for a future in peace and health! Enjoy reading this issue and stay well!

International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

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Hydrological catchment of the River Danube

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