

Dr. Albert Scrieciu, our new Country Representative in Romania



Albert Scrieciu is an environmental geologist, with a wider interest in the fields of geo-ecology, geography and environmental sciences, a PhD in Management, a proven ability to improve working environments and a commitment to employee welfare.

Albert has been working at GeoEcoMar for eleven years and since 2016 he is coordinating the “Interdisciplinary research of fluvial environment Department”. He is also a Partner coordinator in H2020 projects REXUS, RESET, MERLIN, Stars4Water, EcoDaLLi and Restore4Life and has experience in FP7, CBC and INTERREG research projects, working also

at the preparation of the ESFRI proposal for the International Centre for Advanced Studies for River-Delta-Sea systems – DANUBIUS-RI.

Albert has strengthened his ability to combine and look at problems from the perspectives of different disciplinary fields such as governance and policy at the national and European levels, water management, monitoring, ecology and simulation modelling, which he effectively combines to create sound scientific argumentations for managing and protecting natural areas.

He is analysing the interdependencies between the Water, Energy, Food and Navigation sectors, along the Danube River, in the context of continuously growing demand for resources considering the impact of climate change in order to move towards better coordination and utilisation of natural resources, taking into account existing trade-offs and progressing towards synergies.

His work experience helped Albert to gain the expertise and technical capacity to support a better understanding of the protected wetlands along the entire Danube River Basin while collaborating with relevant partners from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania in order to overcome the challenges and identify the best solutions.

Prof. Dr. Mateja Germ, our new Country Representative in Slovenia

Mateja Germ is employed at the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Biology, Chair of Ecology and Environment Conservation. About the faculty / Employees (uni-lj.si). Her main research fields are ecology and aquatic macrophytes. She is interested in the ecology of macrophytes, responses of macrophytes to environmental parameters, and assessment of the ecological status of rivers and lakes according to macrophytes. She is a member of IAD (International Association for Danube Research), and Member of the board of the LifeWatch-SI research infrastructure at UL, and Member of the Slovenian Society for Water Protection, and a Member of the Association of Watermen of Slovenia. She teaches Ecology of plants, Ecology, Environmental changes, and nature protection to students in First Cycle Study Programmes – Academic Study Programmes, and Ecology and Biodiversity Second Cycle Study Programmes – Master's Study Programmes, and Third Cycle Study Programmes – Doctoral Study Programme in Biosciences. M. Germ is a national expert for aquatic plants to implement the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EU). She leads the national monitoring of surface waters based on macrophytes at the Biotechnical Faculty. M. Germ performs monitoring of rivers and lakes and classifies them into one of five ecological quality classes based on the presence and abundance of macrophytes. She participated in the intercali-

bration of methods for determining the ecological quality classes of rivers and lakes in three different geographical intercalibration groups (MED GIG, EC GIG and Alpine GIG). M. Germ leads the field work with students and visits rivers, lakes, and wetlands with her master's students. She presents her results at international conferences and publishes them in important journals.



44th IAD Conference at Karl Landsteiner University Krems



Between February 6 and 9, 2023, the 44th Conference of the International Association for Danube Research (IAD) was held at Karl Landsteiner University Krems. It was dedicated to the topic 'Scientific cooperation in the Danube River Basin: Tackling present and future environmental challenges of a European riverscape'. A total of 101 registered participants from 12 countries of the Danube River Basin attended the four days of the conference. IAD was particularly happy to welcome five Ukrainian colleagues who participated in person at the conference as well as three colleagues from Ukraine who had sent video contributions for their topics. The participation of the Ukrainian colleagues was particularly gratifying, as the conference was originally planned in Kyiv, and due to the unacceptable war by Putin's Russia, it was taken over at short

notice by the Department of Water Quality and Health at Karl Landsteiner University (ICC Water and Health), supported by IAD and the Austrian Committee of IAD. The first day of the conference was themed 'Pollution, Global Impact & Health', to which ICC Water & Health researchers contributed extensively. The second day dealt with biodiversity and ecology and the fourth day was dedicated to river management and renaturation.

The great importance of transboundary cooperation among scientists in our common river basin was particularly highlighted and visible. All information about the conference as well as the extensive Conference-book with all abstracts can be found on the conference website of the Austrian Committee of the IAD (<https://www.oen-iad.org/congress2023/>).

