

Early-career scientists discussed with peers and senior researchers the potentials and challenges of applying digital methods, especially Large Language Models like ChatGPT.

Laura Ganglgruber and Peter Lieberzeit (University of Vienna) opened the floor with insightful talks on how AI tools can be integrated responsibly into the academic workflow – raising important questions about the ethical and legal boundaries, which led to a lively and thoughtful discussion.

Further contributions by Johannes Kowal, Martin Tschikof, Katharina Bauer, and Diana Hatzenbühler (all either current or recent PhD researchers at BOKU or University of Vienna) showcased a wide range of research tools, including ecological network analysis, fuzzy cognitive mapping, participatory GIS, and working with R. These talks inspired lively breakout

sessions, being used by participants to discuss methods in more depth and for exchange on experiences.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us, shared their insights, and made this event such a great first workshop, and we're excited for what's next!

In summer 2025, a visit of the Simmering Waste Water Treatment Works was organized, as well as a workshop on academic publishing, and a summer picnic on the Danube island. More information and an opportunity to join the mailing list for updates on events can be found on the ÖK IAD website here <https://oek-iad.boku.ac.at/young-danube-research/> or by emailing youngdanube@gmail.com – we welcome anyone interested in joining us.

Katharina Bauer, Diana Hatzenbühler, Melissa Hiltl, Christoph Novotny, Samuel Roudbar.

46th IAD conference will take place from August 10–14, 2026



A Danube oxbow in Gemenc. Photo: Katrin Teubner

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the 46th IAD conference will take place from August 10–14, 2026 in Baja, Hungary. The conference's theme, which celebrates the IAD's 70th anniversary, is 'The Socio-Ecological Future of the Danube: Integrating Riverine and Terrestrial Systems for a Sustainable Danube.' Welcome to Baja!

Conference schedule:

- Three days are devoted to conference sessions
- One-day excursion to the Danube-Drava National Park
- One day will be dedicated to EU projects, including a half-day section and a half-day workshop.

The conference website will be available in early 2026.

The Faculty of Water Sciences of the Ludovika University of Public Service will host the 70th IAD conference (<https://en.uni-nke.hu/faculties/faculty-of-water-sciences/about>). The Faculty of Water Sciences began its operation in Baja 1 February 2017. Thanks to its predecessors, the Faculty has a heritage of over 60 years in water-related higher education. Water engineering education in Baja has nationwide significance and international appreciation. It currently offers three bachelor courses and a number of specialized courses, continuing the tradition of engineering-based water management. The long-term goal is to become a leading international research and education center in water management. In 2020, the faculty launched an international water policy and water diplomacy master program to prepare water specialists, diplomats, current and future government officials to address the challenges of international water co-operation. In 2024 a new master program was started under the title 'Water hazard management'. The aim of this program is to train professionals with state of the art technical, administrative, legal, and economic knowledge to be capable of performing complex damage prevention activities in the field of water management.

The faculty has six departments, one of which is the Department of Regional Water Management, which will host the conference.

Baja, a town of 35,000 inhabitants, is located on the left bank of the Danube River in Bács – Kiskun County. Situated 160 kilometers south of Budapest, it lies halfway along the river (flow kilometer 1479). It has been the most important southern crossing point on the Hungarian Danube for centuries. The National Public Port of Baja is the second most important port in Hungary on the Danube – Main – Rhine waterway system. For centuries, Baja played a leading role in regional trade, including crops, livestock, and wine. During the Ottoman Empire, Baja was the center of the 'nahiya' of the region, a significant fortress and port with hundreds of houses, mosques, and baths. However, by the end of the Turkish era, the settlement became abandoned. In the 17th century, Bosnians fleeing the Turks settled in the town, followed by Croats (Bunyevac and Sokac) and Serbians. In the 18th century, Germans (Swabians) and Hungarians also settled there. Baja is a beautiful, charming, green and blue town.

Obituary for Thomas Tittizer



On July 7, 2025, Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Thomas Tittizer passed away in Boppard at the age of 87, after a longer period of illness and amidst his large family. Hence, a rich life has been fulfilled. The International Association for Danube Research (IAD) loses a highly esteemed person and respected colleague, as well as an honorary member.

Thomas Tittizer was born on January 29, 1938, in Pânkota, Romania. His family originated from the Black Forest and settled, as part of the German-speaking community, in the Banat during the 19th century. In Romania, he studied biology between 1959 and 1964 at the University of Timisoara and Bucharest, specializing in hydrobiology with a focus on zoology, completing his studies with a diploma. He then worked for two years as a high school teacher in biology and chemistry and another two years as a biologist at the State Water Authority of the Banat and Transylvania Regions, focusing on water quality monitoring.

In 1969, he came to Germany as a Max Planck Society fellow and earned his doctorate in 1973 in the field of ecological chemistry at the Georg-August University of Göttingen. In 1974, he was employed by the Federal Institute of Hydrology in Koblenz (BfG). From the mid-1980s, Thomas Tittizer increasingly engaged with the impacts of hydraulic engineering measures on aquatic communities, establishing – amongst others – a standard method to monitor the macrozoobenthos independent of the flow.

Thomas Tittizer taught at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main, the Technical University of Darmstadt, the University of Bonn, and was an honorary professor at the State University of Pitesti/Romania. He supervised numerous diploma and doctoral theses. His main research areas were in applied limnology and the migration of neozoa, particularly in the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal. His great expertise in macrozoobenthos is reflected by his large publication record (see "thomas-tittizer.de") and by his cooperation with the ICPDR (EU-WFD).

Thomas Tittizer was a member of numerous national and international organizations and working groups. His activities in the IAD encompassed, amongst others, Country Representative of Germany (1988-2001), Expert Group Leader 'Zoo-benthos/Zooplankton' (1994-2001), and Editor of 'Donau Aktuell / Danube News' (1999-2005). As a leader, he was demanding as well as promoting, open and always keen to try new things. He had an enormous knowledge of IAD-history (see, e.g., his articles in DN-40, 2019 and DN-13/14, 2006). The IAD will keep fond memories of him.

Bernd Cyffka & Jürg Bloesch