

Editorial

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Dear readers,

Our association is continuously developing. A change in the General Secretary of IAD took place leading to new and strengthening already established activities. Also, IAD members have been very active, as shown in this issue presenting results from ongoing projects and an outlook on starting projects related to IAD activities on invasive alien species and Danube sturgeons. Beginning of 2018, Doru Bănăduc informed us that he has to step back from his position as general secretary of IAD as he was offered a new position in the US. Being permanently outside the Danube River Basin, we fully understand that Doru will have to concentrate on his new challenges. Nevertheless, we regret to lose his support for IAD and we would like to thank him for his efforts as general secretary, not to forget the successful organization of the IAD conference in Sibiu in 2016. We wish him all the best and success for his new tasks and we hope to meet him during one or the other IAD conference in the future. At the IAD-General Assembly in July 2018, Katrin Teubner, University of Vienna, was elected as new General Secretary. Katrin joined IAD in 2008 and as a specialist for algae, she was particularly active as leader of the expert group on phytoplankton and phytobenthos. We are pleased to welcome a dedicated and active new general secretary. In the few months of her new position, Katrin initiated a relaunch of the IAD-webpage (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Association_for_Danube_Research), she started to support activities of the association and she has proven her motivation to enlarge the IAD-network addressing especially young scholars.

From July 2–6, 2018, the 42nd IAD-conference took place in Smolenice, Slovakia, in the beautiful castle of the town. Altogether, 26 talks discussed different aspects dedicated to the overall conference theme «Danube – A lifeline governed by multiple uses, pressures and a multitude of ecosystem services». Katrin Teubner offered a seminar on freshwaters as sentinels for tracking global environmental change and Andrea Funk from BOKU Vienna organized a workshop on «Impact of hydromorphological alteration and restoration in

the light of biodiversity and ecosystem services – exploring synergies for the WFD» in the frame of the EU H2020 project AquaCross. On Friday, July 6, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Váh River and the Danube at Gabčíkovo. Milan Lehotsky and the local organizing committee made this conference a memorable event. We thank him, the organizing committee, the Institute of Geography, Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the Slovak Limnological Society.

New General Secretary – Katrin Teubner CV

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Katrin Teubner, born in Leipzig 1964, East-Germany, is a freshwater ecologist mainly focussing on algae in lakes. She received her PhD in ecology from Humboldt University Berlin in 1996 (Germany), and did her habilitation degree (Privatdozent, PD) as a university lecturer in limnology at the University of Vienna, Austria, in 2004. Katrin Teubner was involved in several national and international projects about restoration and climate change in Austria and neighbouring countries. She has been a member of the IAD since 2008 and contributed as a member of the expert group leaders on the field of algal ecology, phytoplankton and phytobenthos. Katrin Teubner is experienced in international science collaboration, merging ideas with colleagues on fresh-water ecology.

My personal mission statement

Rivers connect freshwaters around the globe, and I believe that connecting people that are involved in river

science is the only way to contribute to a better ecological understanding of running waters along a long river journey over huge distances from its source to its mouth. I am convinced that both nature and people benefit from exchanging ideas from their expertise about field surveys, nature conservation, ecosystem health assessment, sustainable ecosystem service management, landscape planning or implementation of environmental policy rules.

IAD has a long tradition in scientific collaboration between 14 countries of the Danube River Basin. The mission of IAD is to serve as a platform for a better understanding for saving this second largest river in Europe. This mission reflects a still ongoing attempt in today's changing world. From this perspective, I would like to support the Danube Research collaboration by contributing as general secretary of the IAD.

No doubt about it – the Danube River Ecosystem is changing

When I first joined an IAD meeting, which was held in Bratislava, in my function as expert group leader for algae, another expert group leader said that he would soon retire from his job in the south of Germany, Bavaria, and he continued by saying that something had happened to the Bavarian stretch of the Danube River over time. What had happened, we wanted to know – he didn't look amused and told us that he had had a look at the list of fish species in recent days. He realised that no single fish species, which was recorded in the year when he started with his work on the Bavarian stretch of the Danube River about 30 years ago could now be found in the recent species list. All the previous fish species he had found have been lost?! Lost forever there? Are there more such stories about the Danube River? I am not a good story teller but what I realized then is that there is a silent vanishing of impressions and species I have had in my mind from childhood or as young researcher – and I was thinking: is this really all gone or is it because I have just changed my perspective in observing my environment?

We are experienced in advanced methods for monitoring the environment – so far the knowledge is much larger than that in the years before – but is this satisfying, is this enough? To reclaim Stephen Covey's saying adjusted to Danube Science: to learn about the Danube system but not

to act is really not to learn! IAD has a 63-years tradition. Its foundation relied on the wish from people in the Danube riparian countries to study the Danube river not country by country but along the whole stretch and to build standard methods and exchange ideas after Danube surveys. Many things have changed meanwhile – lots of countries linked to about two thirds of the length of the Danube River have remarkably changed their policy – now we are all together on a round table, can openly and knowledgeably discuss the recent environmental issues for the whole Danube River Basin. This may sound good but the recent awareness about habitats in and around the Danube River together with a new critical understanding of nature conservation, sustainable ecosystem management and use of ecosystem services in recent days brings us again together on a round discussion table. The strongest arguments for IAD can be derived from its statutes, being a scientific network observing the Danube River and its main tributaries. I thank the presidium and the members for their confidence to vote for me as general secretary in June 2018. In this function, I will help to support the manifold activities of the IAD-presidium, of the IAD-expert group leaders and also of the IAD-members in the IAD-countries – so that we learn and accordingly also act – as there is no doubt – the Danube River Ecosystem is changing.

Katrin Teubner

Comparison between long-term monitoring data and «snap-shot» data from investigative monitoring of Joint Danube Surveys – Case study for nutrient forms along the Romanian stretch of the Danube River

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Abstract

Assessment of nutrient forms in the Danube River has a well-known and long-term history at the basin-wide level, especially in view of the link between the nutrient loads of the Danube and the eutrophication of the Black Sea. According to the Water Framework Directive (WFD), investigative monitoring is primarily a national task, but at the basin-wide level,

ICPDR launched the concept of Joint Danube Surveys (JDS), carried out every six years, starting from 2001. One of the specific objectives of the investigative monitoring surveys is to increase the comparability between a homogenous data set produced by a single sampling procedure and laboratory analysis (JDS measurements) and data generated by long-term surveillance type of monitoring (Trans-National Monitoring Network/TNMN data) carried out by the basin-wide network of TNMN laboratories from each Danube country. In this paper, we provide a comparative view of nutrient levels along the Romanian stretch of Danube River. The analysis showed similar spatial and temporal nutrient dynamics