

danube connects

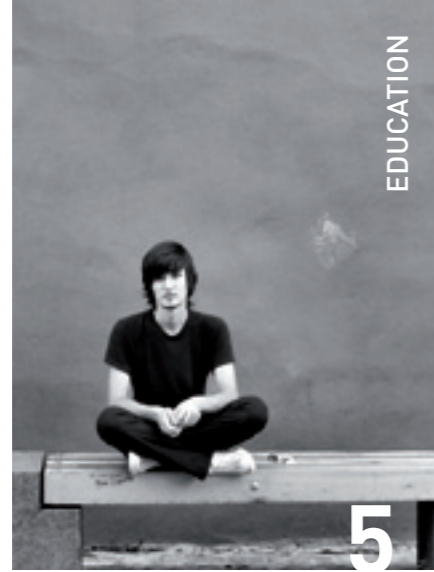
A Voice for the
New Generation: **YCDN**



Stream of Knowledge
Studies along the Danube

Room for Young Minds
offered by the Danube-Kolleg
for Cultural Management in Ulm

And after your studies?
A survey in Serbia



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Dear readers,

Those who do not have any future prospects, go to where they see opportunities abundant. In this way, students migrate in large numbers from the Danubian countries. Students like those with whom we talked and who participated in our survey. Their main destination is Western Europe. By now it has become evident that the exodus of young and highly skilled people will be a problem for the Danube Area.



In order to counteract this trend, the European Danube Academy has initiated the transnational postgraduates' course of studies "Master of Danube Studies" - a novelty in the Danube Area and a beacon as such. But also in Germany, the skilled workers shortage becomes ever more severe.

That is why the IHK Ulm has started a project in conjunction with its member companies to strengthen the ties with East European countries and to support the next generation of skilled workers.

More and more universities, organisations and institutions along the Danube bank on transnational networks, such as the Danube Rectors Conference, the ulmkolleg and the Young Citizens Danube Network. Read about their goals in this issue of danube connects. And what about the media? They are instrumental in making these developments and ideas, these procedures and structures transparent for the citizens. Yet another reason for us to promote freedom of press and a system of public relations that transcends borders.

*Sincerely,
Andrea Toll & Sabine Geller
Editors in chief and initiators
danube connects*



Forum for Journalists

You work in the media sector and are concerned with the Danube Strategy? Then we warmly welcome you to our forum for media representatives from the Danube Area, which will take place 11th and 12th July 2012 during the Danube Festival in Ulm.

The main focus will be freedom of the press in Southeast Europe and the involvement of civil society via the media in the implementation of the EU Danube Strategy. Concrete approaches are to be found and cooperation is to be encouraged and intensified.

The meeting is organised by danube connects, the European Danube Academy and the Südwest-Presse, Ulm.

We are looking forward to your application.

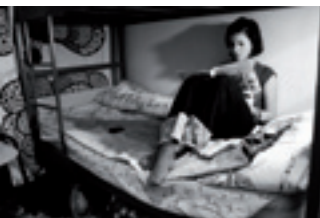


das magazin für die donauländer

Tel. +49 / (0)731 / 153 75 05
Fax +49 / (0)731 / 153 75 06
info@danube-connects.eu
www.danube-connects.eu

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ECONOMY

Wishes, hopes and reality

“I want to live in the suburbs, go barefoot to grab the paper in the morning, watch the grass grow, the usual.”

Ionuț Bărbieru, 23 years old,
University of Bucharest, Faculty Geography

Why did you decide to study in Bucharest?

I grew up in a town two hours away from Bucharest and since it is the most prestigious university in Romania, my choice was easy.

Do you plan on going abroad?

It's quite likely, mainly to earn some money.

If so, where?

Wherever I may have the opportunity. If I were to choose a few places that I would enjoy, it would be Australia or USA, but I wouldn't say no to Western Europe neither.

Which professional opportunities do you see in your home country?

Due to the economic problems and the restructuring of the budgetary, the Ministry of Environment and The Ministry of Education are no longer hiring, so there are not many options remaining. However, I am now working as a consultant for accessing European funds for agriculture.

What do Serbian students think about Serbia's accession to the EU? Do their choices of studies depend on the financial means of their parents? Where do they go to after graduation? Those are issues that Armin and Jasmina Wagner tried to clarify for danube connects.

50 students from eight different departments were questioned anonymously, eight of which denied participation. Aside from the students, their representation, the students' parliament of Belgrade University, was also called in. This institution is in charge of the representation of students' rights, the defence of their interests and is also the students' most important mouthpiece. The students' parliament's prorector, Milan Popović, therefore answered the same

questions. In the face of the University's approximately 89.500 students in 39 departments, the survey cannot be called representative, but serves much more to display a trend. The survey's results show that the accession of Serbia to the EU is of great importance to the students. Exactly 50 per cent of the students questioned declare Serbia's accession to the EU to be good or very good. Only 3 per cent did not have an opinion on this topic.

Many students from Danubian countries are drawn abroad after their graduation. This was evident in our survey in Belgrade and also became clear in conversations held with students in Bucharest and Novi Sad. On the other hand, more and more young people from Western Europe are attracted by the opportunity to study in Southeast Europe. Students like Karolin, who has completed her preliminary medical examination in Pécs.

“By day I was at the university and in the evening I studied.”

Milan Popović expressed the following opinion with regards to the EU membership of Serbia: “A speedy entry into the European Union can only be beneficial and especially the already existing international cooperation among universities would benefit from it.” In response to the question of whether or not there would be change taking place after the accession, 38 per cent answered No, which can be considered proof for the general loss of trust in politics. Nevertheless, they hope that there will be greater quality in teaching (21%) and additional opportunities for education in general (14%) due to the accession. A further 14 per cent hope for significant improvement with regards to international cooperation and students' exchange programmes. Milan Popović attaches concrete changes for both students and universities to the country's accession to the EU:

- A general improvement in framework conditions
- Financial support via EU funding
- Greater mobility
- Greater possibilities for students' exchanges and a transfer in know-how
- More foreign students in Serbia



Karolin, 22 years old, a student of medicine in Pécs until December 2011, came back to a German university after her preliminary medical examination.

Why did you choose to study in Pécs?

I definitely wanted to study medicine, but my Abitur was not good enough. They still picked me immediately at Pécs University. But that is not so simple any more: There are but 200 places for 2000 applicants.

How is studying in Hungary different from studying in Germany?

It is a lot harder. By day I was at the university and evenings I studied. Every four weeks, there would be exams. Unlike in Germany, there were numerous practical exercises and we worked a lot in small groups. I thought that was very nice.

Were you in touch with your Hungarian colleagues?

Barely, I'm afraid. For one, there was the problem that there was so much to learn and therefore we hardly had the time. On weekends, when there would have been the chance to meet, most Hungarians went home to their families.

Where would you like to work after your graduation?

Maybe in Switzerland. As a medical specialist, I would earn more and only have to work half as much.

High tuition fees for courses of studies high in demand

The vast majority of those asked (67%) considers the free choice of course of studies as a privilege that, according to students (47%), depends on the parents' financial means. The students' parliament's prorektor did not confirm the assessment that studying in Serbia was a privilege. He did, however, point out that courses of studies in high demand must usually be paid for with high tuition fees, which indirectly translates into a system of privilege.

Here, the importance of access to EU funding for students in Serbia becomes evident.

In addition to this, students as well as the students' parliament's prorektor were asked what other factors may be important for the desired course of studies. At the moment, 15 per cent think the official in charge who handles the application to be decisive for admission into the branch of study. The prorektor's opinion is, however, that it is merely the prequalification (entrance diploma) that is crucial. Financial me-

ans may be important, but not decisive. Every prospective student may find a place at university, since there are many undersubscribed departments that do also compete for students with low tuition fees.



“Unfortunately, there are not many professional opportunities in Romania.”

Why did you decide to study in Bucharest?

Because Bucharest has the biggest number of universities the student life can be more enjoyable. Also, there are opportunities for internships or research studies and the cultural diversity specific to an European capital gives to this city a positive dynamic.

Do you plan on going abroad?

I am planning to apply for a master programme in another foreign country, most probably in Europe. I strongly believe that this exchange study programmes represent a great opportunity for personal development, multicultural networking and wider theoretical perspective.

Steliana Mazilu, 21 years old studying in the field of Political Sciences



Why did you decide to study in Bucharest?
It's the most renowned university, therefore if you have the grades required, it's the best choice for everyone.

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It's the most renowned university, therefore if you have the grades required, it's the best choice for everyone.

Do you plan on going abroad?

Yes, if I have the chance I would like to go to Belgium. Seems like a nice place to live, with its coastal plains, the thickly forested hills and plateaus of the Ardennes, the mussels and last but not least, the beer.

Which professional opportunities do you see in your home country?

It's quite hard to get a job here in my area of specialty. I see self-employment as the main alternative.

“I want to have my own cottage and take up the tourism business.”

Edward Georgian Ghiță, 23 years old, University of Bucharest, Faculty Geography

“I’ve always dreamt about theatre and film art”

Stefan Isaković, 23 years old,
Academy of art in Novi Sad, group dramaturgy.

Why did you decide to study in Novi Sad?

I’ve always dreamt about theatre and film art. Academy of Arts in Novi Sad was my natural choice, and studies of drama writing were a challenge for me, because I was least aware of my knowledge in drama writing.

Do you plan on going abroad?

Yes, that is in my plans. I would like to go to Prague, Moscow or any other major European city that has good programs concerning movies and drama.

Which professional opportunities do you see in your home country?

There are professional opportunities in my country, but those are hard to get, concerning the levels of corruption, even in theatre and movie jobs. Situation in whole Europe isn’t great for the youth, so I believe it wouldn’t be much easier for me abroad also. Desire for work and action is most important, and I believe that everyone could do something, even in this kind of situation, nowadays.

Most graduates go abroad

Questions regarding the possibility of finding a desirable job in Serbia and whether or not the quality of the education has an impact on one’s final position were also asked. 52 per cent of the respondents do not think that they will find their favoured job in Serbia, whereas 83 per cent do not hold the education’s quality responsible, but the personal relationship with the potential employer. “After successfully graduating from university, most people have to accept long waits (several years) that also depend on the demand for their branch of study. Most graduates cannot bridge this long time financially and go abroad, with the migration countries of their parents being favoured”, the pro-rector knows from experience. He confirmed that payment offered in Serbia often does not correspond to graduates’ qualifications.

In consequence, 81 per cent of the students questioned hope to find a right job abroad, while 29 per cent would be content with a salary between 1000€ and 2000€. Their major destinations are

Germany (29%) and Austria (17 %), the traditional direction for migration of their parents and relatives from former Yugoslavia.

A long way to go

Students that hope for a Serbian future in the EU have come a little closer to the fulfilment of their goals. At the beginning of March, the EU decided to grant to Serbia the status of EU candidate. But there is still a long way to go towards full membership. Reforms must be carried out and obstacles must be overcome – at universities and elsewhere alike.

The Interviews were conducted by Andrea Toll (Ulm), Armin Wagner (Belgrade), Daniela Stojkovich (Novi Sad) and Andreea Miron (Bucharest)

New opportunities for students and universities

The Danube Rectors Conference (DRC), which has gained in importance due to the Danube strategy of the EU, has already existed for 20 years. We learn what goals it pursues in our discussion with Prof. Dr. Miroslav Veskovik of Novi Sad University.

dc: Who are the members of the Danube Rectors Conference and how is it structured?

Veskovik: During the past two years, I was the elected president of this institution. 2012 onwards, Prof. Dr. Martin H. Gerbazek from the Vienna University for Soil Culture will hold this position. 54 universities in the Danube Area, with the exception of Moldavia, are amongst its members.

What are the DRC’s goals and tasks?

Veskovik: It is our goal to intensify cooperation in the Danube Area within the framework of the EUSDR. Scientific projects are jointly conducted, by which we use research facilities more effectively and further exchange among students. We hope to accomplish that a total of 20 percent of the three million students in Europe commute in the Danube Area and this not only from the Southeastern to the Western parts of Europe, but equally so from West to East. Until now, we reached a student exchange of about 30000 students, which amounts to approximately 10 percent. Another important goal, which we set for ourselves at the last General Assembly in Vienna, is the improvement of visibility of universities in the Danube Area. In this respect, the central theme is “Research and Teaching in the Danube Area 2020”.

dc: What exactly does this include?

Veskovik: University profiles, their research facilities and their research focuses are presented and made transparent, in order to conduct joint projects. Topics stem from, for instance, bioeconomy. To be more exact, one of them is

called “Renewable resources as material, energy sources and food”. But also topics from the areas of energy, health and climate are addressed. All topics will not only be discussed technically, but also interdisciplinary.

dc: How can this be achieved?

Veskovik: First of all, it is necessary to compile the so far loose cooperation amongst universities into a legally coherent association, in order to better use the existing development plan provided by the EU. Unfortunately, universities in countries that are not yet members of the EU or do not yet have a formal accession status are at a disadvantage in terms of the usage of EU funding. For example, the ERASMUS programme cannot be used by students from Serbia yet. Aside from the legally cohesive framework, we wish to provide instructions, so that both students and universities can learn how to write applications for funding successfully.

dc: Are there already concrete results of the DRC cooperation?

Veskovik: Yes, especially in two areas, cooperation already works well. For one, we conduct a so-called summer school in Novi Sad every year. This school is, for instance, about the regional development in the Danube Area and the European integration process. For another, there is a cooperative programme between the universities of Zagreb and Novi Sad, through which 50 PhD students were already able to exchange ideas. A similar project is in place with Riega. These projects serve to support regional cooperation and to dismantle barriers. Also, the DRC-coo-

peration provides fair chances for the integration of the Roma, 80 percent of which live in the Danube Area in Southeastern Europe. 250 Roma students have already participated in the programmes.

dc: Does the multilateral DRC-cooperation replace the bilateral cooperation among universities?

Veskovik: Certainly not! As I have already illustrated in the example of Zagreb University, the bilateral cooperation is always the basis, respectively the starting point for follow-up multilateral cooperation.

dc: Which universities are especially active in the cooperative projects with Novi Sad University?

Veskovik: Budapest, Vienna soil culture, Krems, Zagreb, Maribor, Cluj, Timisoara, Rousse, Regensburg and Ulm are all very active participants. There is still a lot to be done, however, to integrate other universities more closely in the DRC cooperation network. However, the current results show us that this can be done.

The interview was conducted by Wolfgang Limbert, Journalist danube connects, SOE

Up-and-coming engineers: Danube to transport knowledge



The “War for Talent” becomes more and more aggressive. Among others, The Ulm area is influenced by this development. Software and electronic engineers are missing even today, but there will be a scarcity of skilled personnel of around 1.500 people by 2015. This is a worrying number in an area, in which the success of so many companies is based on the know-how of their engineers. This projection has led to the initiation of a special project: The IHK Ulm, in conjunction with its member companies, wants to strengthen its ties with

East Europe. An exchange of knowledge and experience is to be established that will focus particularly on the promotion of young scientists. The geographic course of the Danube will be the deciding factor for the selection of partner states for the project in the East. At the same time, the old trade route shall renew its importance as a route for the transport of knowledge. But first, companies and universities in the Ulm area that are interested in participating in this venture are needed.

There is a fair chance for mutual gain, emphasises Joachim Lang, one of the project managers. He is owner and manager of the Ulmer consens group, which is specialised in the mediation of engineers and personnel consultancy. He is also Member of the Advisory Board of the Nutzfahrzeuge Schwaben cluster, as well as first chairman of the Pro-Hochschule Ulm society for alumni and patrons („Förderforum Hochschule Ulm e.V.“). Therefore, Lang is familiar not only with the local industry, but also with the opinions of students and the university. “Graduates from East European universities appreciate the opportunity for professional training in Germany. In addition to this, the majority of them are highly qualified and motivated”, he knows from experience. The industry rewards such extended professional experience as well, since specialists of this qualification give fresh impetus and contribute actively to economic growth. According to Lang, German companies could profit equally by expanding relations with East Euro-

pe. For whether it is a new supplier agreement or standard options: The conditions are ideal. For German students, building contacts with the fast-growing regions in Eastern Europe is particularly promising.

A regular exchange of students is part of the IHK Ulm’s project. Knowledge and experience are to be gained in their entirety via internships, summer jobs, diploma theses and trainee ships. A basic professional knowledge as well as fundamental linguistic and cultural proficiency is the only prerequisite for students. In return, they receive additional professional qualifications, gain methodological knowledge in areas such as project management and self-organisation and learn about the usage of norms and established software-solutions in practice. “From our point of view, the gain in cultural experience is especially important, for aside from the opening of new prospects, acceptance and tolerance must be created,” according to Lang. In his opinion, there is

nothing to prevent a future expansion of the project after its initial successes. The initiators do emphasise, however, that the exchange is always limited in time. “We assume that the borders in Europe will disappear even more in the future. Because of this, we want to establish a close cooperation in the long run,” says Lang. In legal and political terms, the extension of freedom to provide services in the European Union as well as the EU Danube Strategy, passed in May 2011, can be understood as first, pioneering steps.

Ulm industry on the lookout for cooperation with East European countries

In general, cooperation with East European countries seems only natural, for already there are extensive economic ties in this direction. Also, historically and culturally spoken, there is a certain closeness so that social integration is potentially more easily achieved. Finally, the international competitiveness of German businesses is acknowledged, as opposed to that in neighbour countries.

“Most important for us is transregional operational networking. Because, even in Germany, the industrial area Ulm is in competition with agglomerations such as Munich, Stuttgart or Hamburg”, explains Joachim Lang.

Representatives of the Houses have signalled willingness for collaboration, and so have the mayor and other relevant policymakers. Universities, for instance the German University in Hermannstadt, wish to contribute in large numbers, especially those in Romania. The official kick-off will take place in summer. At the same time, higher education institutions and

we want to launch the pilot project.

More information concerning this project provides Joachim Lang, Tel.: +49 731 1408499-0, E-Mail: joachim.lang@consens-group.com

Anne Zozo

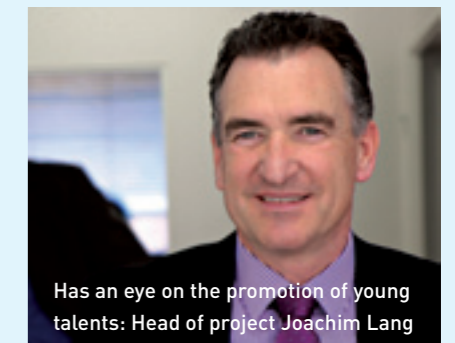
Increasing skilled worker shortage in Germany

In 2008, the skilled worker shortage in Germany was still relatively low. But then there was the economic crisis. Ever since then, the situation has changed dramatically and according to statistics, the demand for high skilled labour will only increase. Numerous factors contribute to this trend. Especially the demographic change must be considered, for along with a decrease in the birth rate comes an increase in general life expectancy and thus the number of citizens above the age of 60 will grow. Therefore, fewer and fewer people will have to take care of a majority of the population in the future. This trend can also be seen in the decreasing number of

school leavers. In addition, more and more qualified young professionals have a global orientation and strive to have a job in overseas.

The international competitiveness of German business is an important factor in this equation. The project managers of the IHK Ulm and their partners have therefore decided to have keen attention on the enhancement of regional attractiveness. There are further possible approaches especially with respect to engineers that may be taken for securing competence in the future. Firstly, more students could be convinced to take interest in the natural sciences. Secondly, women are still underrepresented in the areas of machine-building, mechatronics, software and electronic engineering

and should therefore be promoted at an early stage. And thirdly, there is the challenge to reduce the amount of university drop-outs in the engineering sciences.



Has an eye on the promotion of young talents: Head of project Joachim Lang

Looking for partners

The initiators have been working towards the launch of the project for two years. Numerous explanatory discussions were held, among others with the international fraternity AIESEC and the Arbeitsagentur Ulm. Those talks were about, for instance, clarifications with regard to the organisational framework, such as questions concerning integration. There is great interest in concrete cooperation:

companies in the Ulm area are actively approached. “We will approach our personal contacts and pursue a mailing strategy first,” explains Joachim Lang. “The businesses should take interest in exchange with professionals and offer tasks for engineers, specialised in areas such as machine-building, mechatronics, software and electronic engineering. Besides that, the prerequisites for supervision in the summer semester 2012 must be met – Because this is the time at which

It is mostly men of adult age that enjoy a trip with the Ulmer Schachtel on the Danube. The journey is its own reward, the passengers feel self-sufficient. But what if aboard the ship there were not only passengers, but knowledge as well? What if, instead of a Schachtel steeped in history, a modern solar boat would make its way from Ulm to the Black Sea, a swimming academy and ambassador for the international course of studies "Renewable Energies"?



By The Beautiful Blue Danube Summer-Academy on the Danube as ambassador for the international course of studies "Renewable Energies"

Presented during a scientific workshop in 2005, this vision became ever more concrete and may finally become a reality in 2012: a swimming academy, a conference venue as well as a community centre for 20 and up to 30 people on the Danube. The advertising and attention-grabbing effect alone is worth the effort. "In 2005 already, the Ulm University discovered the true nature of the Danube strategy," says Achim Bubenzer, president of the university, "there are few things that connect people more intensely than a shared riverside."

At that time, the Ulm University organised a symposium with 14 universities from 7 different countries, centred on the topic of renewable energies. This symposium continues to have an effect until today: The idea to initiate a transnational course of studies "Renewable Energies" was born. Thus encouraged, head of the project Professor Gerd Heilscher (Ulm University) submitted another grant application at the Federal Mi-

nistry for Research and Science in July 2011 along with Hungarian partner universities in Budapest and Győr – and successfully this time! A scientific network for renewable energies and efficient use of energy is more topical than ever - it must only be built, reinforced and made publicly aware. Scientific research aside, marketing is necessary to advertise the "Location for Innovation Danube" in Middle and Eastern Europe.

Research and Teaching across borders

One of the driving forces is most certainly Ulm University, which banks on the connective forces of the Danube on the one hand, and whose aim it is on the other hand to focus the public's attention on the urging topics of renewable energies and the most economical use of energy possible. "In this respect, she [Ulm University] initiated the project "Danube University Ulm", a thematic network of universities, other institutes of higher education, but also partici-

pants from the industry, who strive to make their contribution towards a sustainable use of energy in the Danube Area that is fit for the future," explains president of the University Bubenzer. To develop research and teaching across borders, to bring together students from universities along the Danube – that is how the Danube University plans to stimulate technical synergies. Yet far on the horizon, the new shape of the Danube Area can be vaguely seen, the Area that may yet establish itself as the centre and driving force of renewable energies and sustainable use of energy. A new profile, brought about by authority.

Professors and students are needed to bring life to this concept step by step. Mutual exchange of ideas, internships and guest lectures are among the usual methods. Furthermore, high-speed data connections make laboratory simulations and thus working on shared research projects possible via the internet. Especially those universities in Eastern Europe who lack the funding



Noiseless and powered by the Sun. The Solar Boat of the Solarstiftung of Ulm/Neu-Ulm has proven itself with tours on the Danube

for expensive, modern laboratories will benefit from this.

This form of cooperation already takes concrete shape among the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, the Szecheny University in Győr and the Ulm University: These universities presented themselves with a shared stand at the Renexpo in Budapest in 2011, one of the leading trade fairs for renewable energies and energy-efficient construction and renovation in Europe. Jointly, German and Hungarian scientists participated in a symposium in Győr, followed by mutual visits to laboratories for electromobility. And finally, there was the spontaneous idea to develop a modern e-bike – two hours before goodbyes at the train station. Time and again, it is coincidence that plays into the participants' hands. For instance, when Ulm University took part in a conference in Balatonfüred with several lectures, and then met representatives of the Hungarian energy agency – an impulse for further bilateral research projects.

High expectations

Expectations are high among the partners in the Danube countries, as is confirmed by Prof. Dr. Ferenc Lezsóvits from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics: "A next step for the partners could be to begin joint research and development projects, for example the dissemination of such highly advanced technologies as the fuel cell, one of the key issues in the Ulm Area."

Since interest in the international course of studies "Renewable Energies" is great, teaching is to be furthered alongside with research. The preparation phase is well under way and there is confidence at Ulm University that the topic, so far broadly defined in terms of content, can be concretised in the next ten years. Then the Danube University could begin giving lectures.

Manifold personal contacts that must form the basis of a viable network aside, good publicity is needed in order to keep alive and strengthen the interest in the new course of studies at the Danube University. A "Summer School Renewable Energies" on the Danube, for Professors and Students alike, should do just that. There are still unanswered questions concerning the funding. But at some point, the motto will be: The-

re will be a ship By The Beautiful Blue Danube, the stream of knowledge of the future.

Thomas Zehender, Journalist Ulm

First “Master of Science” for physiotherapists in Germany

Since 2009, for the first time a course of studies in “Physiotherapy” has been made available to master students in Germany. This course of studies is the product of a cooperation of the Danube University Krems and the Ulmkolleg, and enables the students to be granted the Master’s degree without having gained the Bachelor’s degree before. The place of study is Ulm; Krems is to be contacted for applications, it supplies training staff, study plans and is supportive in the assessment of the Master’s thesis. The first graduates will finish their studies after five semesters in spring 2012.

“The response to our offer is enormous”, says Florian Schneider, who has been head of the Ulmkolleg ever since 2000. “In the future, it will be virtually impossible to reach certain positions without having studied the respective subject. Financially and, of course also internationally, this course of studies will increase participants’ chances. And all this with a manageable expenditure of time”, explains the physiotherapist born in Allgau. It was his idea to create the Master’s course of studies “Physiotherapy”, while he himself was studying Health Management in Krems.

In Austria, the academization of medical professions in the context of the Bologna process is mostly complete, whereas the same process is rather slow and inconsistent in Germany. Krems was Schneider’s first choice as a partner, since the Danube University is specialised in postgraduate studies, which is the university education of the professionally experienced. Today, 60 students, aged between 20 and 50 make use of the offer given by the ulmkolleg/ Danube University Krems. It is, however, impossible to gain a doctorate. Physiotherapists who do not own a university of applied sciences degree attend a module, in which they are prepared for the following course of studies. This module begins around half a year before the actual studies and encompasses two mandatory phases of attendance, as well as assignments in correspondence courses. One of the main focuses in this module is Medical English, because a good comprehension of specialised literature is absolutely necessary in the MSc.

On equal footing with physicians and scientists

For Lotte Kraus, speaker of the first university course of studies “Physiotherapy”, it was especially important for physiotherapy to be taken serious in society and that university physiotherapists be represented in all areas of public health – for instance in politics, research, in companies and medical engineering: “It was among my main concerns that we would be able to discuss on equal footing with physicians, researchers, politicians, insurers, but also with journalists in a solution-oriented manner.”

In the course of this postgraduate study, which takes place extra occupationally, twelve compulsory as well as two elective modules are to be completed. The three modules, in which attendance is mandatory, take place at the Oberberghof in Ulm. Participants intensify their knowledge in the areas of scientific working, International Classification of Functioning (ICF), central and musculoskeletal movement disorder, vitality and sports physiotherapy. Furthermore, an improvement in all areas of clinicopractical treatment with respect to physiotherapy is to be reached. Also on the agenda are managerial competence



Collaborative learning for the master’s degree at the ulmkolleg.

in business administration, marketing, rhetoric, coaching, medical devices and physiotherapy.

“My favourite subjects now are statistics and balance sheet analysis. Had somebody told me that before my studies, I would have laughed at him”, explains Lotte Kraus. “Everything loses its horror, once one seriously addresses it. And in the end, one discovers new interests that one would have never hit upon in everyday working life”. Even during her very student days, Lotte Kraus has found work at a company that develops solutions for mechanical motion analysis. Nevertheless, she still works in the department for physiotherapeutic assistance in sports in order to not lose touch with practical experience and to retain her practical skills: “Maybe it is not a direct result of my studies that I am now able to illustrate projects at conferences for sports medicine or that I do now publish articles in specialist journals. But without the knowledge and the skills gained here, I would not have thought myself capable at all.”

Ulrike Hübsch, Journalist, Ulm



Ausbildung / Studium

Ausbildung Physiotherapie

3 Jahre, Beginn jeweils Oktober

Bachelor of Science

ausbildungsbegleitend zur Physiotherapieausbildung

Master of Science Physiotherapie

postgradualer Universitätslehrgang in Kooperation mit der Donau-Universität Krems

Ausbildung Massage

2 Jahre, Beginn jeweils April

Ausbildung Podologie

2 Jahre, Beginn jeweils September



ulmkolleg

Oberberghof 5, 89081 Ulm
Telefon: 0731-95451-0
www.ulmkolleg.de



The Donauhochschule in Krems is cooperating with the ulmkolleg.



“We would have greater chances and opportunities, if only the governments of the European national states would think and act less national, and more European.”

Being a young person in Eastern Europe is both challenging and promising. I only realised the potential of a new, a transnational Europe, when I became a student of “Master of European Journalism” at the Institute de Hautes Études des Communications Sociales (IHECS) in Brussels. A new Europe that, despite the lack of European politicians that would honour the traditions of the founding fathers, despite even the lack of farsighted and courageous men like those that brought about the European Union in the Golden Decade of 1985-95; a new Europe that, despite these lacks, offers a framework of opportunities that enables young people to shape their future more easily. We would have greater chances and opportunities, if only the governments of the European national states would think and act less national, and more European.

On the occasion of the 49th International Congress of the European Journalist Association – the communication network that took place last year in Timisoara under the motto “Hope for Europe – young people looking for new ways into the future” – I was given the task to conduct a public survey. We wanted to know about young people’s opinions, mainly those of students, concerning the EU institutions and their expectations for the future. The results can be summarised in two words: Unfulfilled hope. Hope for what? Hope for new, free and democratic states after the fall of the communist regimes; hope for a new Europe that would be based on solidarity, on fair and open cooperation. Of course, the result was not only bad and it would be wrong to label everything negative. Nevertheless, the majority of those asked expressed their disappointment in the fact that – especially in Romania – a government is in charge that appears to have greater interest in securing its own privileges than it has in furthering a public good. Thus, the final result was the realisation that there is no space for the future of the young people on the agenda of the old.

The Spirit of the Founding Fathers lost

And what about Europe, our Europe? A Europe that is in the hearts of young men and women, but that is rarely so in the hearts of those representatives we sent to Brussels and Strasbourg. There is reason enough for pride and happiness, due to a political achievement that brought decades of peace to a continent that, for centuries, only knew bloodshed which culminated in the carnage that was World War II. But to our great misfortune, we have replaced the spirit of the founding fathers with egotism all too often. Alcide de Gasperi, one of those great founding fathers, used to say that there is much more to be destroyed than there is to be built if one wants to create a unified Europe. Egotism and prejudice were among those things that needed to be destroyed. There is still a lot of work to be done in this respect.

I am conscious of the fact that the overwhelming majority does not know nearly enough about the process of European Integration, nor do they understand the operating mechanisms of the EU institutions: What are they here for, what do they do? And how is it possible that people are not aware of the fact that more than 70% of their everyday life is influenced directly or indirectly via European regulations? Europe is our daily bread and we do not even know it. A situation so paradox demands remedy. Journalism plays a major role as a mediator between the activities of the European Union and the people. That is why I decided to continue my studies in Brussels, after having been in Timisoara for one year as a “Master of European Journalism”. I wanted to be closer to the EU institutions, in order to get to know them better and to understand how they work. I have come to the conclusion that it is the responsibility of the EU member states to do so

“Journalism plays a major role as a mediator between the activities of the European Union and the people.”

much more, if Europe is to be brought closer to the people. They should do so according to the principles that were laid down by the European Commission in its communication “Communicating Europe in cooperation” in 2007. We must tread new paths, if we wish to establish a closer connection between Europe and its people.

Lately, in defiance of negative attitudes towards the EU, we were witness to numerous events, whose aim it was to promote the process of European Integration and create public awareness for such projects. Groups both large and little dedicate themselves to creative ideas, spend time and energy to create and encourage initiatives that further the ideal that is the European Integration. “danube connects” is such an initiative.

Gaining the Support of the People

I think that the European institutions should attach serious value to these people, because they can be decisive for the attainment of the European Goals; the European Commission must lead the way. Apart from the traditional appeal to hand in suggestions, the EU should develop forms more flexible to further the effort of the people. In recent years, initiatives were supported by the EU whose idea was good, whose execution was nevertheless found lacking. Such was the case in the “Barcelona Process” in the Mediterranean Area. A greater involvement of civil society, combined with serious dedication on both the national and the supranational level could have led to better results.

We find ourselves in the beginning stage of the execution of the EU Danube Strategy. This is an endeavour unprecedented in its historical, social, political and economic scale. But even the best aims and intentions could falter and fail, if they are not combined with a meaningful strategy of communication, and the dedicated effort to gain the support of the people.

*Corina Fornade,
Student at the Master on European Journalism,
IHECS, Brussels*

Room for Young Minds



Young cultural managers from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine have applied for the Donau-Kolleg for Cultural Management in Ulm, in order to exchange ideas and extend their professional knowledge

How does an idea turn into a concrete cultural project? What are the foundations of cultural marketing, cultural financing and European cultural work? The Donau-Kolleg for Cultural Management in Ulm invites young cultural managers from countries along the Danube to exchange ideas from 24th June to 8th July. They will be able to extend their professional knowledge and create a network along the Danube in the long run. "It would be great if new cultural, maybe even transnational projects for the Danube Area could be created in the Donau-Kolleg", emphasises Iris Mann, head of the cultural department that arranges the Donau-Kolleg in cooperation with the Donaubüro Ulm/Neu-Ulm and supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

In order to participate, applicants have to hand in an idea for a cultural project of their own that is then to be developed further under the guidance of lecturers and tutors during the two-week Kolleg. There is a very broad range of topics: For instance, Hungarian-Polish theatre projects as well as an internatio-

nal touring exhibition of contemporary art along the Danube are to be realised. "Even though the application period is already over, applications may still be handed in and we may consider them in the move-up procedure," explains Mann.

Unfortunately, not all applications can be considered. "I'm afraid we had to send back some applications in the preliminary stages due to the fact that the potential applicants did not come from the Danube Area but from Turkey or Thailand", says Iris Mann. "Nevertheless, we are very happy with the interest people take in our Donau-Kolleg for Cultural Management, since it shows that the underlying idea meets a broad and positive response."

The selection of applicants was ultimately decided by a jury. Content management of the Donau-Kolleg for Cultural Management lies in the hands of Prof. Dr. Armin Klein from Ludwigsburg and Dr. Patrick S. Föhl from Berlin, both of whom are renowned experts for cultural management.

Aside from the extensive seminars, whose primary objective is to impart the tools of the trade and hands-on examples of project management, cultural financing, marketing and European cultural work, participants will also find a supporting programme rich in diversity. Visits to several cultural institutions will provide the participants with the opportunity to get to know the cultural scene of Ulm and to experience professional knowledge at first hand. In small groups and guided by lecturers and tutors, the participants polish their project ideas, some of which will then be presented in the Haus der Donau on 7th July.

Further information under:
www.donaubüro.de/arts-management

Emergence into a new learning culture

Educational reforms in Southeast Europe's Danubian countries are defining signposts for the process of democratisation, social justice, health and prosperity. The results of international comparative education performance studies like PISA and TIMSS show that the crucial aspect of this process is a new learning culture, in which the learners are of primary, the learning content of merely secondary importance. Not only the Danube Area, but all of Europe has a lot of catching-up to do in this respect.

An overview of the challenges and the current state of learning culture in Bulgaria, Croatia, Austria, Romania and Serbia is given in the Educational Area Danube booklet.



European Danube Academy (ed.):
Educational Area Danube - Inquiries
into the current state and challenges
Ed. 1: Ulm 2011, 72pages, 12,80€,
ISBN 978-3-86281-019-2
www.donauakademie.eu

Events 2012

- 27.1-15.4.** "We used to live in Véménd",
A multi-ethnic village, exhibition in the
Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum, Ulm
- 15.3.** **Municipal Partnerships and the
EU Danube Strategy**, Waiblingen adminis-
trative district office, Rems-Murr-District
- 12.05** **Danube Symposium**, Stadthaus Ulm
"1712-2012: A renewal along the Danube"
- March/April** **A man, a river.** Sofia
Painting in the Danube basin
- 24.06.-8.7.** **Danube-Kolleg for Cultural Management**, Ulm
- 29.06.** International **Danube Day**
- 06.-15.07.** **International Danube Festival**, Ulm/Neu-Ulm
- 09.-10.07** **1st Danube Health Conference**, Ulm
Opportunity and Prospect for the Danube Area
- 11.-12.07** **Forum for Journalists**, Ulm
- 12.-15.07.** **Exit Festival**, Novi Sad
- 24.-25.09.** **6th European Conference for
Towns and Regions along the Danube**, Vienna

Events 2012

Discovering and Admiring the Beauty of the Danube

From 2008 to 2010, Carsten Schmidt followed the course of the Danube – as a motorised paraglider. The fascinating impressions of his approximately 50 flights all along the course of the stream, from its spring to its mouth, are presented by the geographer and photographer in his illustrated book "Donauwelten". Schmidt's photos give an insight into the diversity of European culture as well as the beauty of the river landscapes.

His photography is complemented by scientific information, anecdotes and philosophical inquiries. The author draws the reader's attention to the little things and takes him along into the microcosm of our earthly endeavours. "Nature presents – the photographer guides –but the reader must see for himself", says Schmidt in the introduction. For this, the book provides a fascinating spectrum.



Donauwelten. Photographic impressions of 10 countries.
Hardcover edition: 96p., 19,99€
Language: German, Publisher: Schmidt, Carsten
ISBN-10: 3000331581, ISBN-13: 978-3000331589



A voice for the new generation

In 2009, Juliane Gierach (26) and Johann-Jakob Wulf (28), both students at the Andrassy University in Budapest, had the idea to found a network that would unite students all along the Danube. Their thoughts were followed by action: In 2010, the Young Citizens Danube Network (YCDN) was brought to life. danube connects talked to Juliane Gierach about the network.

dc: Why did you think it necessary to found a network for the younger generation?

Gierach: In 2009, during the annual excursion to Brussels, provided by the Andrassy University in Budapest, Johann-Jakob Wulf and I had the idea to attend to the youth in the Danube Area. At this time, the Danube strategy of the EU was introduced and after four days we asked ourselves: What

about the young people? In our initial exchange of ideas, we wanted to create a university cluster in the Danube Area; networking, meeting and awareness were to be the main topics. With this plan in mind we travelled to the Danube Future Leaders' Conference in Novi Sad in July 2010 and there we founded the Young Citizens Danube Network (YCDN) with other young people from Romania, Slovenia and Serbia. .

dc: The European slogan "United in Diversity" has also inspired the youth network. What are the goals of this organisation?

Gierach: The YCDN wants to be a voice for the new generation in the Danube Area. Of course we are not the first youth forum in Europe with this goal in mind. The following aspects were important at the foundation: Independence, a multitude of topics, the

Danube and the Danube Area as the joining element. In September of last year, we met at Andrassy University and developed a strategy based on five goals. Personally, I think the furthering of the exchange among students and other young people, as well as the strengthening of the civil society to be most important.

dc: Last summer, you organised an international conference at Andrassy University. Was this conference a mere exchange of opinions or were there concrete results??

Gierach: The European Danube strategy was adopted during the EU Council Presidency of Hungary in April 2011. Therefore, in December 2010, only five months after its foundation, the YCDN had set itself the ambitious goal to organise a youth conference during said EU Council Presidency, titled "The new generation in the Danube Area as a key to the European integration process". The assembly of young people from almost all fourteen countries along the Danube already was a great success in itself. During the three days of the conference, the youths did not only have the possibility to get to know each other, they were also given the task to comment on and provide propositions of solutions for topics such as "national identities", "protection of the environment", "the financial crisis" and "human trafficking", for which they were organised in separate workshops. Their ideas and solutions were summarised in a declaration, which can still be found at our website.

dc: In the meantime, the network has 30 regular members and hundreds of other interested people. How is it possible to stay in contact with people from Hungary or Romania, while being all the way in Germany?

Gierach: Most of the networking takes place on the internet. It is virtually im-

possible to stay in close contact with people from fourteen different countries. Our website is therefore our main device of communication. Also, our newsletter is sent to almost a thousand addresses. On Facebook, our group has almost 400 "likes". We are very happy when interested young people from the Danube Area contact us because they want to be part of the YCDN. Therefore, everyone can be a member who has an idea, shows commitment and wants to realise one or the other project in the Danube Area. Gladly, we mediate contact or help with the realisation.

dc: At the moment, the Ulm-based European Danube Academy is in the process of developing a course of studies for postgraduates. The "Master of Danube Studies" is supposed to instruct young researchers to realise development projects in the Danube Area. How can the Danube network actively participate in this?

Gierach: This is a joint project of the Danube institute of Andrassy University in Budapest, the institute for the Danube Area and Central Europe (IDM) in Vienna, the European Danube Academy, the Novi Sad University (Serbia), the Angel Kanchev Ruse University (Bulgaria) and the World Trade Institute in Bukarest. Since we are strongly affiliated with the Danube Institute in Budapest or, to be more precise, since we originate in it, the YCDN will contribute rather indirectly.

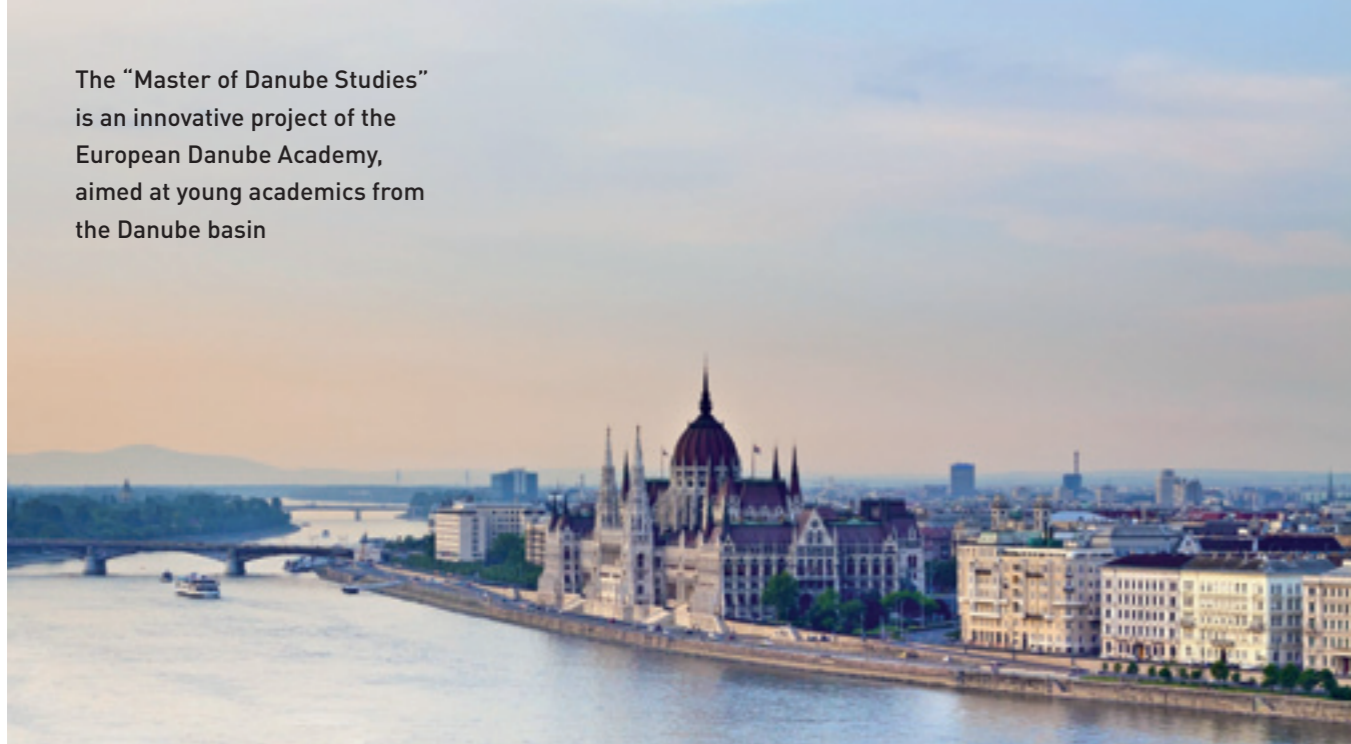
dc: The youth organisation is very active. There is a new programme almost every month. What are your plans for the future?

Gierach: In spring, a web campaign on the topic of human trafficking will be next up on the agenda. We invite all interested people to a two-day workshop in Dusseldorf to join us in this. Furthermore, workshops for the sensitization of minority rights, a booklet on current topics ("What's up in the Danube Area?") and an event on the current state of the educational area that is the Danube are planned. Also, we are in the process of compiling a database of all organisations that are relevant to young people; A digital network for the youth in the Danube area, accessible to everybody everywhere. It is our goal for the idea of a youth network in the Danube area to get attention in the EU plan of action.

The interview was conducted by Barbara Pehi TV, Budapest

In the course of the contest "Creating Europe – Civic Education in Action", ran by the Federal Agency for Civic Education, a YCDN-member organises a WEB2.0 prevention campaign on human trafficking. Members from Central and Eastern Europe are requested to promote the campaign in their home countries and thereby take action on-site. Further information under www.ycdn.eu

The “Master of Danube Studies” is an innovative project of the European Danube Academy, aimed at young academics from the Danube basin



A novelty in the Danube Area

The project's aim is the development of a postgraduates' course of studies called “Master of Danube Studies” in cooperation with universities in the Danube Area. Furthermore, the aim is to provide young graduates with an additional master's programme, centred in both theory and practice around the Danubian region. “This is about generating an endogenous managerial competence in the Danubian countries, so that the social transformation process can be achieved on site and with regional specialists”, explains Professor Ulrich Klemm, coordinator of the project. In addition to this, managerial competences as well as knowledge about the politico-societal structures and regional cultural distinctions are to be gained in several disciplines and for several professions. Students in this master course will learn to create a network between politics, administration, industry and the EU Danube Strategy on site. “This extensive range of expertise will enable them to develop a multitude of projects and to coordinate them successfully”, Ulrich Klemm elaborates. Finally, opportunities for career advancement in their home coun-

tries are shown to the students from the Danube Area, in order to counteract the outflow of the academic elite. The programme's concept is transnational and thereby a novelty in the Southeast European Danube basin. It is guided by the European standards of the Bologna Accords for universities and institutions of higher education.

Partner Universities along the Danube

The programme takes place in several locations. The main project partner will be the Angel Kanchev University in Bulgarian Ruse. Ruse University is divided into seven departments and internationally acclaimed due to projects and activities furthered by the European Union. The institute maintains close contact with several foreign universities. The Bulgarian-Romanian Interuniversity European Centre (BRIE) was initiated by the end of 2000 by the German Rectors' Conference as a project in the framework of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe. BRIE consolidates the dedication of Bulgarian and Romanian institutions of higher education, together with that of their German and

international partners. Further candidates for the project are Andrassy University in Budapest, Novi Sad University as well as the Neu-Ulm College. The winter semester 2013/14 is the date for the expected start of the programme.

Ulrich Klemm
European Danube Academy

The European Danube Academy (EDA), founded in 2008 and headquartered in Ulm, advocates cooperation in the Danubian region in the departments of politics, culture and science. Scientific and cultural events, readings, symposia, lectures and publications are among the activities of this non-profit association. Equally so the development of the course of studies “Master of Danube Studies”, which is headed by Csilla Csapo and coordinated internationally by Peter Langer.

Results of the “Danube-Networkers – Neighbours at Work” Project

“The elderly act as a mediator between the past, present and future and thereby ensure the continuity of our culture.” Such was the conclusion reached by seniors from six different Danubian countries at the final meeting of the “Danube Networkers – Neighbours at Work” project.

Fifty representatives of all project partners came together from the 6th to the 11th November 2011 in the House of Studies Wiesneck bei Freiburg for the final meeting of the project, which was organised in cooperation with the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg. During this meeting, they got to know the decision-making process of the EU in a simulation game. They also discussed topics which had already been addressed in local citizens' forums and which are relevant for the Danube Strategy of the European Commission:

- Active Aging in Europe and solidarity amongst generations
- Migration as a challenge and minorities as an opportunity
- Sustainability of cultural heritage as well as national and European identity
- Ecology and Environment

Based on these debates, a resolution was composed concerning the role of lifelong learning for active aging and social participation of the elderly in the Danube Area. The resolution was presented and discussed with Euro-MPs Elisabeth Jeggle, Michael Theurer (Germany) and Silvia-Adriana Ticau (Romania) during a live-stream conference at the Freiburg University of Education. At the moment, the resolution is spread to additional policymakers on both the national and the European level.

Concrete Results

DANET resulted in intense and successful cooperation in citizens' forums on a local scale and amongst the project partners. But also on site, concrete and significant results were brought about. At Craiova University (Romania), for instance, a group of researchers decided to concern themselves with questions regarding seniors' education. And in Ruse (Bulgaria), a centre of education is being created by the University in cooperation with several senior associations. The project partners of the European educational network “Danube-Networkers”, in conjunction with other institutions of seniors' education in the Danubian region, will continue to improve opportunities for education in this area. In July 2012 proponents of seniors' education from all over Europe will meet in Ulm/Neu-Ulm for a conference termed “Active Aging and intergenerational dialogue – a challenge for the Danubian countries in a unified Europe”. The Danube-Networkers heartily welcome those interested and allied campaigners.

Carmen Stadelhofer, Meike Westerhaus
ZAWiW, Ulm university



The DANET resolution and further information can be found at:
www.danet-at-work.eu

An overview over all projects and activities of the educational network “Danube-Networkers” is available at:
www.danube-networkers.eu

Contact: info-europa@zawiw.de



DANET-final meeting in Wiesneck/Freiburg