



CEEPUS network - EcoManAqua - *Ecology and Management of aquatic ecosystems in Central, East and Southeast Europe*

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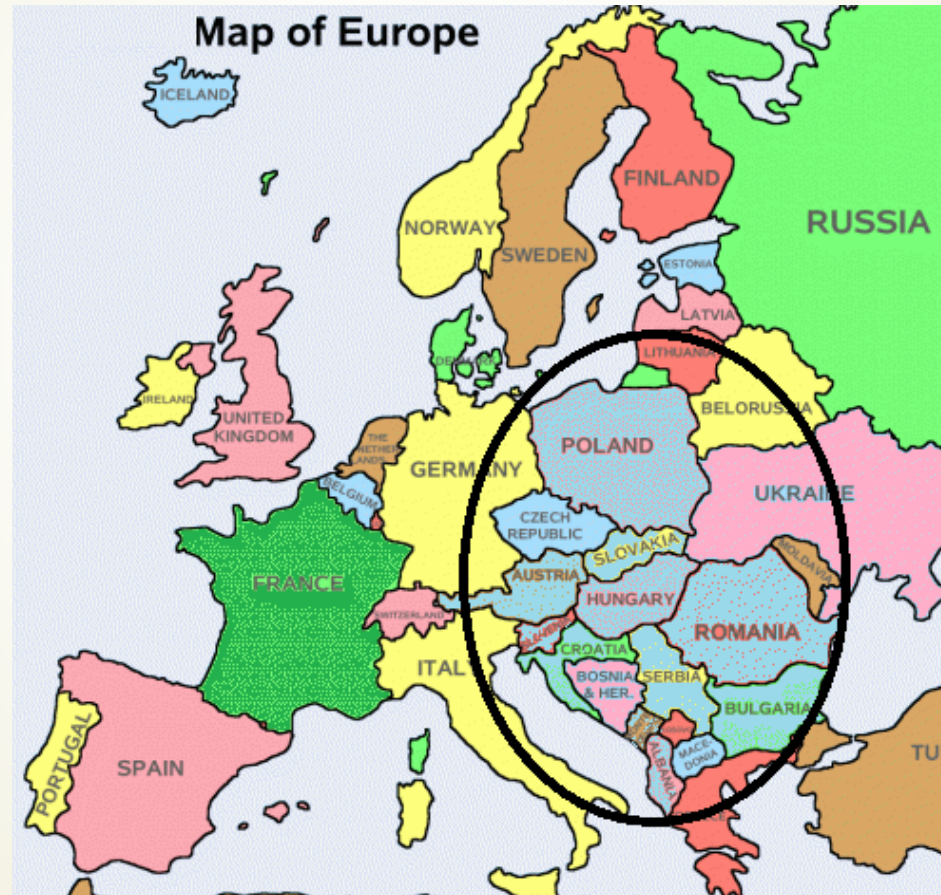
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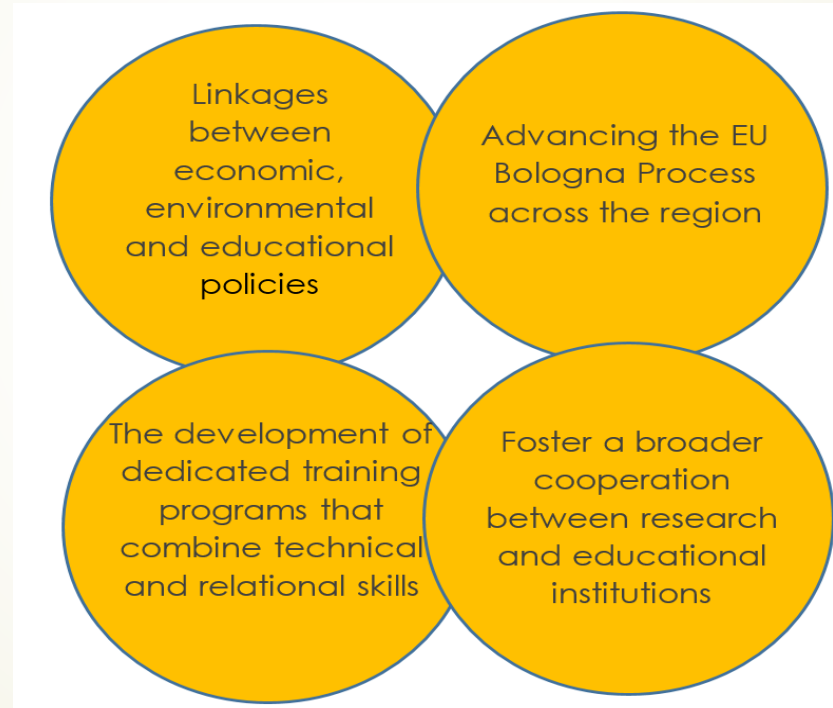
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CEEPUS = Central European Exchange Program for University Studies



The context

Progress in addressing the multi-layered environmental challenges within the Danube River basin requires:



No coherent network related to training in aquatic sciences, water management and sustainable development in South East Europe (Irvine et al. 2016)



Aim

- ▶ to address the major challenges for aquatic ecosystems
- ▶ their role as components of the socio-ecological systems and
- ▶ their management in Central, East and South East Europe
- ▶ to improve the scientific excellence in the region

by

- ▶ an enhanced interdisciplinary cooperation of universities and research institutions in educational activities



Motivation



- ▶ to address the major challenges related to the further alteration and modification of rivers, wetlands, lakes and coastal waters in the DRB
- ▶ to address the interplay with human society
- ▶ to provide means to improve the scientific excellence of all involved partners by intensified and focussed educational activities
- ▶ to extend current cooperation and develop more formal agreements in education




Core activities

- ▶ target identified major short comings in education in the Danube region
- ▶ are closely related to actions outlined in the EUSDR flagship projects and in large scale ESFRI actions
- ▶ are built on long term networks such as the IAD and CASEE
- ▶ targeted to give support to address more efficiently the major region wide challenges related to drivers of change
- ▶ exchange of staff and students
- ▶ target transfer of innovation and knowledge within the (joint) study programs (PhD)
- ▶ Develop new joint PhD programs



The EcoManAqua Network

- ▶ Covers a broad range of disciplines
 - ▶ Builds on theoretical concepts in aquatic sciences related to:
 - ▶ connectivity and fragmentation
 - ▶ resilience
 - ▶ integrated biogeochemical cycles
 - ▶ long-term socio-ecological evolution of the DRB
- 



The EcoManAqua Network

Addresses:

- ▶ biodiversity aspects,
- ▶ river management and environmental history of aquatic landscapes,
- ▶ ecosystem services

to achieve a more holistic interdisciplinary understanding of aquatic ecosystems and their multiple linkages within catchments and to society





The EcoManAqua Network

- ▶ involves 13 universities from 11 countries and 6 silent partners
 - ▶ the partner universities have already a diversity of programs related to aquatic sciences and river basin management in the field of natural, engineering sciences and environmental history
 - ▶ the silent partners provide further facilities for:
 - ▶ specific educational activities
 - ▶ links to stakeholders and key ecosystems
- allow to include new aspects in the educational programs of the universities

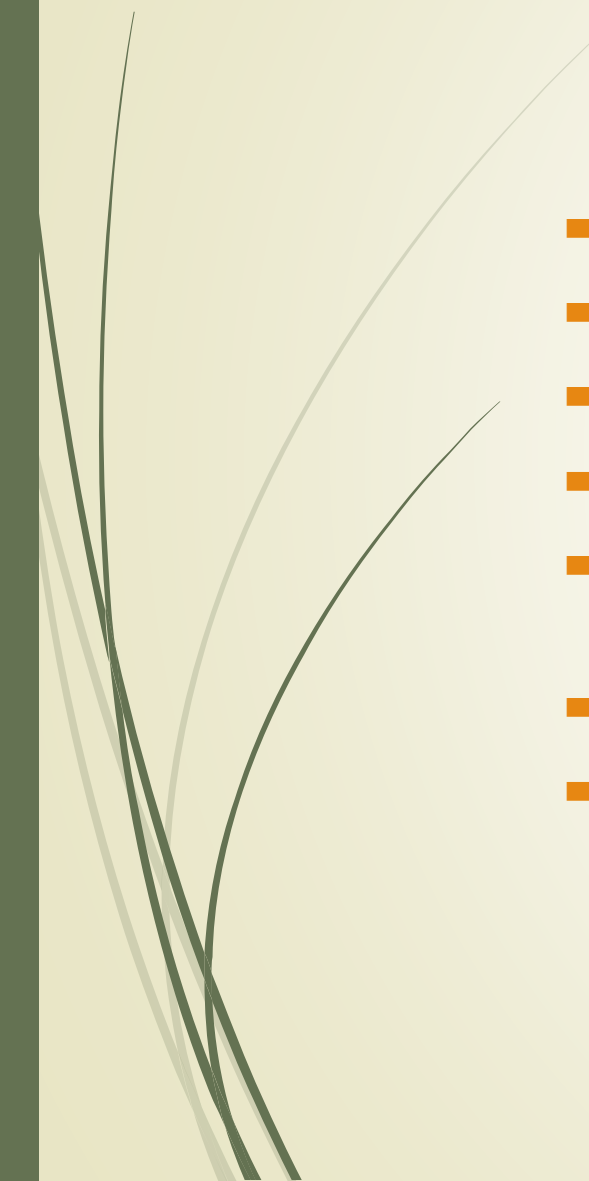
Partner Universities

- ▶ BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna – The coordinating university
- ▶ University of Tirana
- ▶ St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University
- ▶ University of Zagreb
- ▶ Strossmayer University in Osijek
- ▶ University of Montenegro
- ▶ State University of Tetovo
- ▶ Warsaw University of Life Sciences
- ▶ The University of Bucharest
- ▶ University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca
- ▶ University of Belgrade
- ▶ University of Ljubljana
- ▶ Charles University Prague






Silent partners

- ▶ Wasser Cluster Lunz (BOKU IHG)
 - ▶ Kopacki Rit Nature Park Public Institution, Croatia (UNIOS)
 - ▶ Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia (UNIZG)
 - ▶ Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (DDNIRD)
 - ▶ Romanian Center for Recirculating Aquaculture Systems' Modelling (University of Galati)
 - ▶ Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS
 - ▶ Slovenia and Czech
- 



Milestones for the network development

- ▶ Integrate student and teacher mobilities primarily in graduate programs of partner universities to achieve a constant exchange of students and teachers based on the complementary expertise of network partners to strengthen the individual educational programs
 - ▶ Develop team teaching approaches for joint teaching activities and develop a selected program of joint courses between multiple partners (e.g. summer schools)
 - ▶ Develop further individual joint programs at master and PhD level and explore the potential for joint degree programs with more partners
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Main outcomes of the Network

- ▶ A well-working active Network in the field of aquatic sciences and ecosystem management based on the common strategy of the network
- ▶ Higher number of students' and teachers' mobility and established joint activities
- ▶ Exchange of expertise to foster joint research activities within the region
- ▶ Develop further joint programs based on existing programs to guarantee long term cooperation between multiple partners
- ▶ Dissemination, promotion and publicity of EcoManAqua Network activities
- ▶ Improved level of mutual use of ICT communication and of communication tools of involved partners
- ▶ Built bridges to further EUSDR initiatives and intensified linkages to other existing networks and stakeholder groups
- ▶ Contribute to international conferences in the region