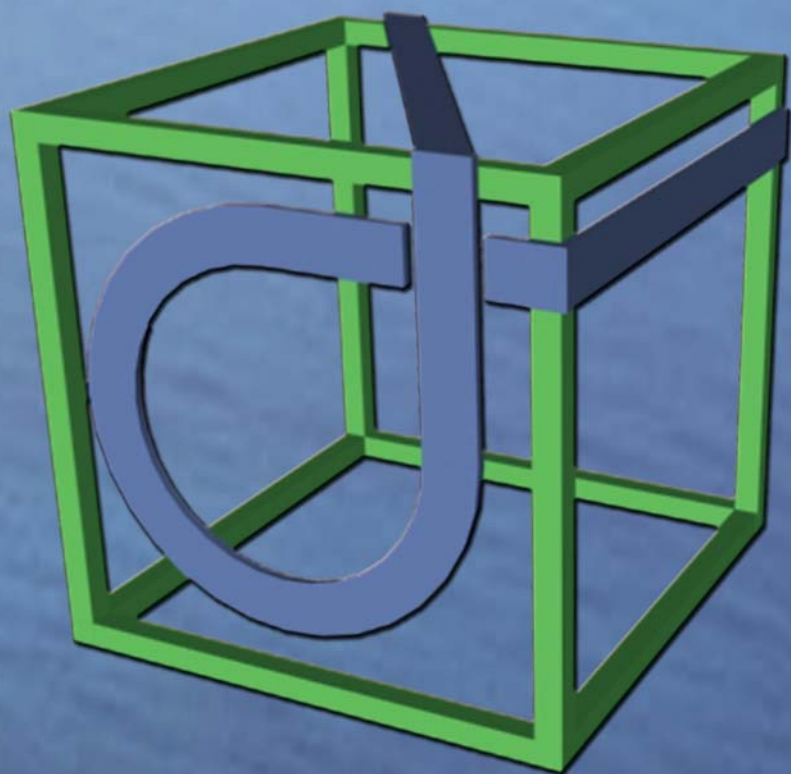


International Scientific Forum

“Danube – River of Cooperation”



Belgrade, 2012

ISF“DRC” is an interdisciplinary association of experts and researchers devoted to international cooperation in the field of sustainable transport and tourism on the Danube, consisting of members professionally engaged in the disciplines which are also important for the projects initiated by our partners.

Some of the opinions of international participants:

Your efforts have produced marvellous results over the years that have led to fruitful partnerships between researchers, experts, local governments and NGOs. Yours is a life dedicated to service that you can be truly proud of. Your determination, patience and hard labour have brought about untold gains for life in the Danube region, which though small and silent, have led to long lasting benefits. I consider it a privilege to have one like you as my colleague.

Dr. Vera Mehta, UN Political Affairs Officer, in the letter to Edita Stojić-Karanović, the Founder of ISF “DRC”

We long for calm and peace, for human life, for an environment on a human scale. But the world, unfortunately, is moving in another direction. The money-driven economy, the financial speculative sphere has broken away from real sphere and ticking like a time bomb over the world economy.

What is the solution? Is there one at all? If there is, we must find it together. That is the reason why I appreciate very much the efforts of the colleagues of the International Scientific Forum “Danube – River of Cooperation” to create a scientific base for fruitful cooperation.

Professor Judit Balazs, president of the European Peace Research Association (EuPRA)

“Danube – River of Cooperation” Conferences

Short overview

1. Belgrade, Novi Sad and Djerdap – September 28 – October 2, 1989

From the Declaration: “We came to the conclusion that the intensification of the Danubian cooperation covering different areas would promote closer links among the Europeans on national and regional levels. The Danube might become a reliable tie yielding to obvious advantages, economic benefits and to the strengthening of common human values in international relations. Scientists may contribute to this in a general way towards systems approach in an interdisciplinary step to integrate ecological factors too. Within this new framework of decision-making cultural relations and tourism could emerge as integrating network along the Danube-basin countries.”

2. Belgrade, September 22, 1990

From the Declaration: “In the main topics of this year’s conference we stress the need for an integrated development of tourism in the Danubian region. It should be considered as a single tourist region. We are confident that the results of this Conference will, inter alia, contribute to the further valuation of the Danube as a multi-system transport route in view of great possibilities of its utilization. At the same time such a development should not harm the environment of the Danube.”

3. Belgrade, September 20-21, 1991

From the Declaration: “The present stage of European development requires the search of new ways of cooperation on all European and regional levels. Over the passed period – more than four decades – the significance of the Danube as a transport artery has considerably increased. But undoubted achievements do not remove the issue of a corresponding level of cooperation to the present-day demands and prospects. The efforts of the Danubean countries for the development of the regional cooperation are urgently needed.”

4. Belgrade, September 17-20, 1992

From the Declaration: “We, the participants of the Fourth International Scientific Conference “Danube – the River of Cooperation”, organized by the Center for Neighboring Countries and Regional Cooperation at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, DECLARE – that international cooperation, confidence, tolerance and flexibility are the only ways to improve the presently unfavorable general situation in the Danubian region, caused by the tragic consequences of the war and destructions in former Yugoslavia. Having in mind a real danger that on Yugoslav crisis could effect Danubian multilateralism which we considered to be important for the region and Europe in general we decided to repeat the Appeal for Peace of the Center for Neighboring Countries and Regional Cooperation issued on May 12, 1992. The Conference stresses the necessity for further efforts to find – as soon as possible – just solutions for the Yugoslav crisis based on international law within the on-going process of negotiations in the United Nations and relevant European regional organizations.”

5. Subotica, October 7-8, 1993

From the Declaration: “Worse from the drastic fall of standard of living is only the fact that the senselessly started war and the devaluation of the human life itself at the Yugoslav space is in continuation. Skillfully instigated tensions on the basis of national varieties, writes the most obscure pages in the history of this nations. International cooperation meet with its negation. Many connections are broken, not only the business ones, in sphere of culture and

science, but those humans, too... According to this, the ISF "DRC" have to continue its orientation toward the affirmation of the idea of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and cooperation among the people of Danube-region and especially on the Yugoslav geographic space. Therefore we insist: first of all upon the immediate stopping of all war actions, while all moot points and disputes have to be resolved exclusively by negotiations; secondly, the medias of mass communication have to re-orient themselves toward the promotion of reestablishing the broken ties in the region, especially on the Yugoslav geographic space; to eliminate all the barriers and restrictions of the free circulation of the people, ideas, goods and capital in the whole Danube-region, especially on the Yugoslav geographic space"...

6. Belgrade and Kladovo, September 21–25, 1994.

From the Declaration: "Besides indispensability to have the Danube region countries turn, with no delay, to the progress of international regional cooperation, practical interaction with other existing regional components should be developed in the areas covering the Balkans, Adriatic, Mediterranean, Black Sea. The development of cooperation with those neighboring regions will be aiming at relaxation of the present political, inter-ethnic and other tensions in the Danube-region and its areas, as well as aiming at the acceleration of economy and cultural development of the peoples living in this Region."

7. Belgrade, Smederevo and Vršac, September 28th – October 3rd extended with its art exhibition under the title "RIVER ART" to October 31st, 1995.

From the Declaration: "The basic aim of the ISF "DRC", affirming the idea of peaceful mutual life-paths, tolerance and cooperation among peoples in the Danube-region took a step forward. The possibilities of solving mutual problems of the Danube-region-countries in the fields of economy, culture and environment were discussed. The art project accompanying the 7th Conference, the exhibition "River Art" from September 28th to October 31st had 10.000 visitors."

8. Belgrade, Pećinci and Grocka, September 26th to September 29th 1996

From the Declaration: "The possibilities of solving mutual problems of the Danube-region-countries in the fields of economy, culture and environment were discussed among 67 foreign and domestic participants... The protection and promotion of sustainable development and trade along the Danube utilizing the opportunities created by the Rhine-Main link to support the economic integration from the Black to the North Sea are in the interest of all nations in the region, as well as their partners from other parts of the world. More radical economic and social reforms are needed in the eastern part of the region in order to include those countries more intensively in the courses of modernization."

9. October 23rd to October 26th 1997, in Belgrade, held under the title "DANUBE: 1997–2000"

From the Declaration: "The Seminary on international cooperation "Universitas Danubiana" which was started on the basis of the Declarations adopted at earlier conferences of the International Scientific Forum "Danube – the River of cooperation" had a successfully start in the academic year 1996/1997. It should continue its work in the period from November 1997 to May 1998. Lecturers, as in previous year were, should be again eminent Yugoslav and international academicians, university-professors, prominent business men and other experts."

10. September 19, 1998, under the title

“DANUBE ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW MILLENIUM”

From the Declaration: “Once again we repeat our appeal against the use of force in human relations and in relations to the nature. Destructive damages of armed clashes do not recognize state frontiers. The consequences are: loss of peoples' lives, worsening of health, brutal offenses of human rights, as well as destroying of created goods and nature. Armed clashes are the greatest polluter of the environment. Because of all that - we reject armed clashes. We plead for peace and stability as they mean prerequisite for the progress of human society. In addition, peace and stability can exist only in the system of international cooperation, based on mutual dependence.”

11. November 17-19, 2000 in Belgrade, under the title

“REVITALISATION PROSPECTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OF THE RIVER DANUBE AND THE DANUBE REGION”

From the Declaration: “We are deeply concerned about the present state of damage to environment (natural and man made) of the whole Danube region as a result of the obsolete technology, legal and illegal waste storing, coming mainly from developed countries, and coupled up with lack of consciousness of difficulties of the situation additionally worsened by the war. We are convinced that only a swift and co-ordinated international co-operation of all the countries of the region can change this rather catastrophic situation.”

12. Belgrade, Grocka and Smederevo, 11-13 October 2001

From the Declaration: “Serious tensions are still present in the international life, both at the global and regional levels. They result from the old ideologies and aggressive nature of international relations in the past. But, we are convinced that prospects for creation of a new life in the Danube basin have opened and international relations in this region will be based on peaceful co-existence of nations. It will involve mutual understanding, tolerance and co-operation to be directed towards sustainable use of natural resources and the Danube at the first place. The objective is to achieve economically and culturally better life for all people in the region.”

13. Kladovo, from October 18-20, 2002.

From the Declaration: “The Conference was attended by 199 registered participants - 61 from abroad and 138 local ones... An exchange of views of the representatives of the local authorities from the FRY, Romania and Bulgaria was organised as a parallel activity within the framework of this Conference, with a view to addressing the issue of promoting cross-border cooperation and the initiative of the lord mayors of Kladovo and Turnu Severin for establishing the “Euro-region Iron Gate – Middle Danube”. Considering the features of the Iron Gate and Middle Danube region, where the economy is comparatively lagging behind.

14. Belgrade, Grocka-Kovin, November 13-15, 2003, held under the title:

“CROSS-BORDER AND REGIONAL COOPERATION ON THE MIDDLE DANUBE”

From the Declaration: “During the elaboration of the Programme of the Basic Waterway Network of Danube region for recreational craft through Serbia and in agreement with the

mission of the ISF DRC aimed at promoting international regional cooperation, it was concluded that it is necessary to develop the system of international projects in connection with the main tributaries of the Danube (the rivers Drava, Sava, Tisa, Morava, and the Danube- Tisa-Danube canal), following the guidelines proposed under the Standards for Use of Inland Waterways by Recreational Craft. This international project in the region is provisionally named: Middle Danube Nautical Tourist Region."

15. Belgrade – Novi Sad – Smederevo, October 27th – 31st 2004, held under the title: "TOURISM AS THE BASIS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION, GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION"

From the Declaration: The conference confirmed that the 15-year long work of the International Scientific Forum "Danube – River of Cooperation" directed toward the improvement of all forms of regional cooperation in the Danube Region, with focus on the close cooperation between the Danube countries in transition, was reasonable and successful despite all unfavorable conditions for international cooperation in the bigger part of that 15-year long period. The International Scientific Forum "Danube – River of Cooperation" made its way and inspired many new non-governmental organizations which specialized in certain fields from the treasury of the Danube themes. This brought success despite the fact that many problems – economic, ecological and other were still present. However, solving those problems belongs to the state sector while non-governmental organizations like the International Scientific Forum "Danube – River of Cooperation" can only point out the necessity of solving them and offer projects which may help."

16. Pančevo, Kovin and Bela Crkva, September 30. to October 2. 2005, under the title: RESOURCES OF THE MIDDLE DANUBE REGION FOR DEVELOPING OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND THE STIMULATIVE PROGRAMS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

From the Declaration: "With the 16th Conference, the International Scientific Forum "Danube – River of Cooperation", in its action of bringing the attention of state administration and organizations to the problems of sustainable use of natural resources in the Danube Region, got further closer to the local administrations, who bear the greatest responsibility to ensure the sustainability of development on the territories of their municipalities. It remains the duty of the International Scientific Forum "Danube – River of Cooperation" to continue developing the partnership of the governmental and non-governmental sectors with the aim to resolve more successfully the problems of sustainable use of natural resources and to realise sustainable development more quickly in all of the countries in the region."

17. Belgrade, Smederevo, Golubac and Donji Milanovac, November 2nd to 5th 2006, under the title: "DANUBE – THE CORRIDOR OF CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM"

From the Declaration: "The Seventeenth Conference gave support in principle to all projects and project proposals presented at the Conference, namely (in order of presentation at the Conference): Initiative for forming the Euro-region Upper Danube; "Study of the marina

network in Vojvodina”; “Potentials for developing nautical tourism in the region of river Tisa”; Belgrade – City of the future in Southern Europe; „Danube odyssey” photo-monograph; Project ideas about the sustainable use of resources in Belgrade for tourism development; Project of mythological tourism; Research “Comparative sociological analysis of attitudes and values of the populations of relocated villages in the Đerdap gorge”; “Rajko’s cave” as a sustainable tourist product; Project proposal “On the routes of the Old Saxon miners”; Development strategy for tourism on the territory of Golubac municipality, with the most important project proposals in this field, and as the most urgent one, the construction of a vertical pier, that would allow for a larger number of passenger ships with tourists to accost.”

**18. Belgrade, September 17th – 19th, 2007, under the title
 „EUROPEAN HISTORY ON THE DANUBE – FOR SUSTAINABLE
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIA“**

From the Declaration: The International Scientific Forum “Danube – River of Cooperation” in cooperation with the Institute of International Politics and Economics will be from now on more engaged in popularizing the recognition of the public interest in heritage-related elements, giving due attention and recognition of the value of cultural heritage through the identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation; will promote the protection of heritage as a central factor in achieving goals of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity, endeavor to act without discrimination of all cultural heritages, in the whole area of the Danube region, South-East Europe and the Balkans, regardless of its origin.”

**19. Belgrade – Požarevac, October 24th – 25th, 2008, under the title:
 “WATER AND CULTURE, DANUBE IN THE INTERNATIONAL
 DECADE „WATER FOR LIFE” AND IN THE YEAR
 OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”**

From the Declaration: “The challenge of the Decade is to focus attention on action-oriented activities and policies that ensure the long-term sustainable management of water resources, in terms of both quantity and quality, and include measures to improve sanitation. Achieving the goals of the ‘Water for Life’ Decade requires sustained commitment, cooperation and investment on the part of all stakeholders from 2005 to 2015 and far beyond. We also support the main objectives of The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue: Raising awareness of the European citizens on the importance of intercultural dialogue; Promoting better mutual understanding between new and old Member States; Facilitating dialogue between religious or ethnic communities; Fighting against racism, xenophobia and discrimination.”

**20. Belgrade - Veliko Gradište, September 24 – 27. 2009, under the title:
 “THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE DANUBE AND ITS
 TRIBUTARIES IN CROSS-BORDER AND REGIONAL COOPERATION
 IN THE MIDDLE-DANUBE BASIN”**

From the Declaration: “Today, when the necessity of adopting a strategy for the Danube as a natural resource is recognized in the European Union, especially for its potential as the sustainable transport spine and the collaboration capacity of cities and settlements of large parts of the continent, which requires the sustainable use of multiple-layered international cooperation at all levels of government and stakeholders, International Scientific Forum

"Danube – River of Cooperation" celebrates its 20th anniversary of advocating the same goals. Such confirmation of the initial and unchanged objectives of this organization is the biggest moral recognition for its existence and firm action in the past two decades...

**21. Belgrade, October 21, 2010, under the title
"THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN PROMOTION OF THE
DANUBE BASIN POTENTIAL IN THE LIGHT OF THE EU STRATEGY
FOR DANUBE REGION"**

From the Declaration: "DECLARE our greatest satisfaction that European Union started a macro regional development strategy – the European Union Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR) – for the territory of the Danube river basin, including countries regardless of their membership in the EU. We are especially pleased that goals of the EUSDR are the same objectives that the members of the ISF "DRC" were advocating and lobbying for, more then 20 years. Now, with the intensification of the Danubian cooperation through the proposal and adaptation of the EUSDR in the fields of economy, tourism, traffic, energetics, as well as in ecology and culture, we hope these goals will finally get the needed support. We stress however the need for an integrated development of the Danube region. It should be considered as a single development region, should have integrated multi-system transport routes in view of great possibilities of its utilization. At the same time such a development should not harm the environment of the Danube region. These topics should become an important feature of contemporary international relations giving birth to new forms of regional project-cooperation in all fields mentioned in EUSDR. By that we suggest to give precedence to the ecological factors. The cooperation of the Danubian countries will promote sustainable future, solving the needs of mankind by protecting nature and all living beings. Therefore special emphasis should be given to the projects of sustainable development and climate changes. For achieving all those goals it is necessary to connect and cooperate with organizations of the civil society in neighboring and other countries of the Danube region and in neighboring regions. Therefore we support the ideas of networking among the NGOs of the countries in the Danube region and we recommend entering into the network DanubeNet for NGOs and DaNet Project."

**22. Belgrade, September 22nd , 2011, under the title:
"ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE DANUBE STRATEGY
ACTION PLAN WITH MARKING WORLD RIVERS DAY**

From the Declaration: "We support the European Commission's White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change, that says: Ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, flood protection and protection against soil erosion are directly linked to climate change and healthy ecosystems are an essential defense against some its most extreme impacts. A comprehensive and integrated approach towards the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems and the goods and services they provide is needed."

**23. To be held in Belgrade, September 23rd - 24th, 2012, under the title:
"ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE DANUBE STRATEGY - THE ROLE
OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY"**