

## A sustainable future for the Danube River Basin as a challenge for interdisciplinary humanities

### *PROJECT REGULATIONS*

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## Art. 1 - Danube:Future project

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1. “Danube:Future - a sustainable future for the Danube river basin as a challenge for interdisciplinary humanities“ is a project endorsed by Alps Adriatic Rectors’ Conference (AARC) and the Danube Rectors’ Conference (DRC) . The Danube:Future was approved as Network Flagship Project by the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region - Priority Area n. 7, Knowledge Society, in Ulm (Germany) on September 24th 2013.
2. Danube:Future is not a funding programme: each activity has to be funded by partners with their own project resources, EU funds, national or regional funds, private funds.
3. The Core Partners are responsible for the Core activities/module of the Danube:Future.

## Art. 2 - Project structure

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1. Danube:Future is aimed at developing interdisciplinary research and education and disseminating knowledge about and within the Danube River Basin through project work and networking, by covering all aspects relevant to the sustainable development of the Danube Region.
2. The Danube:Future is divided into the following modules:
  - a. Core module, aimed to offer support to members and partners of Danube:Future, through different tools;
  - b. Capacity building module, aimed to enable and empower young academics and scholars working in extra-university contexts to gain experience in interdisciplinary research and foster the integration of their expertise into international projects;
  - c. Research module, aimed to contribute to the sustainable development of the Danube Region, with particular emphasis on the roles of cultural and natural heritage and contributions from humanities and social sciences.
3. Future projects will be integrated in one or more modules.

## Art. 3 - Partners

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1. The Core Partnership is responsible for the implementation of the project. The Management Committee defines the Rules in the Annex II of the regulation.
2. The Alps Adriatic Rectors’ Conference (AARC) and the Danube Rectors’ Conference (DRC) are Endorsing Partners.

3. An Institution supporting the project by offering financial or administrative resources or contributing to promote the Project, e.g. via publishing project information on it's webpage, is a Supporting Partner. This is not valid for regular funding bodies and programs unless something different is agreed.
4. An institution contributing substantially to any of the modules under art. 2,2 - e.g. via linking a project to Danube Future - is a Contributing Partner.

## Art. 4 - Project Coordinator

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1. The Project Coordinator is the Scientific Director of the Danube:Future.
2. The Project Coordinator shall have a casting vote in the Management Committee in case of tie.
3. The Project Coordinator suggests to the Management Committee the International Advisory Board members.
4. The Project Coordinator delegates one member of the Management Committee as Vice-Coordinator.

## Art. 5 - Management Committee

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1. The Management Committee is composed of at least 5 and not more than 10 members.
2. The Project Coordinator chairs and represents the Management Committee.
3. The Management Committee approves unanimously the entry of new members.
4. The Alps Adriatic Rectors' Conference can suggest the name of a representative to become Management Committee member.
5. The Danube Rectors' Conference can suggest the name of a representative to become Management Committee member.
6. The EU Commission or its representative, or the Coordinators of the EUSDR - PA 7 (Knowledge society) can participate in the meeting of the Management Committee without voting right.
7. The meeting can make binding decisions if at least 50%+1 of the members are present.
8. The majority of votes of members present is necessary unless otherwise specified.
9. Meetings can also be held online, and electronic vote is allowed.
10. If quorum is not reached during a meeting, non-attending members can vote later. The Project Coordinator defines the voting period following a meeting during which votes will be accepted on a case to case basis, the voting period shall be between 7 and 21 working days.

## Art. 6 - Project Administrator

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1. The Project Administrator offers essential administrative support in all aspects facilitating the Danube:Future: scheduling meeting times and locations, taking meeting minutes and developing presentations. In addition, the project administrator participates in budget administration, providing analysis, keeping records, and forecasting financial performance.

## Art. 7 - International Advisory Board

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1. The Management Committee defines the Rules in the Annex I of this Regulations.
2. The Management Committee approves or rejects the suggestions made by the Project Coordinator.

## Art. 8 - Activities linked to Danube:Future

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1. In order to pursue the project objectives, experts working on different fields of knowledge are encouraged to collaborate and share ideas through the Danube:Future network.
2. Working Groups will be established: each of them will be focused on a specific topic linked to one or more ICPDR, Europa 2020 or Horizon 2020 themes. The Working Groups should develop new project ideas.
3. An ideal project idea is in line with article 2 and is connected with one or more of the Europe 2020 societal challenges and/or the challenges for the Danube River as formulated by ICPDR and forms a contribution to the goals of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The Core Partners may apply for funds for technical assistance, when available from EUSDR, to help the Working Groups develop their project ideas.
4. Relevant projects in the framework of the sustainable development of the Danube River Basin are welcome to become part of Danube:Future, according to art. 2,2. Projects are mentioned on the Website, and their results are promoted via the Danube:Future tools, such as e.g. the Knowledge base or the WIKI. The budget of these projects can be calculated as part of the Danube:Future total budget. There is no budget transfer to Danube:Future incurred. The state of the art of the projects become part of the periodic or annual report.
5. The Management Committee, as part of its contribution to Priority Area 7 - *Knowledge Society* of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, can issue a Letter of Support to the Working Group preparing a project proposal. The Letter of Support may be submitted to the funding Authority to certify that the project is part of the Danube:Future EUSDR Flagship project.
6. Projects will enjoy priority access to the common knowledge base of the Danube:Future. The results will also be presented at workshops and conferences of the Danube:Future.

the Danube Rector's Conference, the Alps Adriatic Rectors' Conference and EUSDR events.

7. The Management Committee defines the eligibility criteria, the support and the procedures for working under the framework of Danube:Future project. A specific Regulation contains the Eligibility Rules.
8. The Core Partners are not responsible for managing the projects mentioned in this article unless they apply for such projects.

## Art. 9 - Website

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1. The official website is: [www.danubefuture.eu](http://www.danubefuture.eu)
2. The website is used:
  - a. to give general information on Danube:Future;
  - b. to disseminate information connected with the Danube:Future;
  - c. to link the projects connected with Danube:Future;
  - d. by the people working for the Danube:Future;
  - e. as a Reference Point for the International Schools;
  - f. as a point of information for/about the Danube:Future partners;
  - g. any other content deemed useful by the Management Committee in the future.

## Art. 10 - Reporting

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1. Every 3 months, the Project Administrator issues a general report of the activities of the project, together with the state of the art and the budget spent.
2. Every year, by February, the Project Administrator issues the general report; it is sent to EUSDR-PA7, DRC and AARC.
3. The Management Committee approves the reports.

## Art. 11 - Amendments to Regulation

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1. Amendments have to be approved by a two-third majority of all Management Committee members.
2. Amendments to one or more articles or paragraphs of this Regulations may be proposed by the Partners, the International Advisory Board members or the Management Committee members.
3. The Regulations and its amendments are published on the Website.

## ANNEXES

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### ANNEX I - RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

*(ref ART. 7, 1)*

1. The International Advisory Board is composed of experts, who are not members of the Management Committee, with varied experiences and of different nationalities. Its role is to offer advice on matters of development of Danube:Future, increase the international visibility of Danube:Future and allow it to benefit from the experience of a high-ranking interdisciplinary group. Having outstanding scholars representing different specialisations and involved in different networks assisting in the development of Danube:Future as a major initiative in interdisciplinary environmental humanities is of great value for the project.
2. The International Advisory Board is composed of at least 3 and no more than 15 members, appointed by the Management Committee.
3. The International Advisory Board members are invited to comment on matters regarding the International School Programs, making suggestions for readings for the students and bringing outstanding teachers to attention of the Organizers which should be included in the schools.
4. International Advisory Board members are invited on a case-by-case basis to act as additional reviewers for WIKI contributions within their own area of expertise.
5. The International Advisory Board will be actively involved in the preparation of the Workshops/Meetings, during which the contours of the application to funding programmes, such as Horizon 2020, will be determined and in any other future research activities.
6. Tasks of the International Advisory Board shall be jointly developed over the course of the project as need arises. Those tasks shall be agreed upon by Management Committee and International Advisory Board.
7. The International Advisory Board meets at least once a year in the presence of the project Coordinator and the Project Administrator. Management Committee members are welcome to attend. Meetings can be held in person or via the web. Travel expenses for the International Advisory Board members to attend the scheduled meetings will be covered by the Danube:Future, based on the availability of funds.

## ANNEX II - CORE PARTNERSHIP

(ref ART. 3, 1)

1. The Core Partnership of Danube:Future consists of up to 8 partners. Universities which belong to AARC and/or DRC can become Core Partners.
2. A Cooperation Agreement between the Partners details the respective obligations. It may contain the following information:
  - a) the list of the main activities to be performed during the project's duration by each Partner (ie. networking, dissemination of knowledge, organization of scientific events, etc);
  - b) the roles of the Partners, human resources and the financial regulations for visiting staff;
  - c) approached to apply for funding;
  - d) any other rules (ie. confidentiality of information, dispute resolution, etc).
3. Amendments to the Cooperation Agreement must be signed by the legal representatives of each Partner.
4. Each Core Partner has 1 vote in the MC, and shall appoint at least one, and up to two delegates as candidate member/s to the Management Committee of the Project, within the limits of Art. 5, 1.
5. When a University formally applies for becoming a Core Partner, the Management Committee approves the Core Partner according to Art. 11, 1. The new Partner signs an Addendum to the Cooperation Agreement. Thereafter, the Partner can appoint its delegate/s to the Management Committee.
6. In case one Partner revokes its role in the project, a new partner may take over.



## TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Approval of Project Regulation      | November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013  |
| Approval of Annex II and Annex III  | March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2014     |
| Art. 4,4 and Annex II, item 3       | April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2014     |
| Art. 2, 3, 8 and Annexes II and III | February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015  |
| Art. 3 and Annex II                 | September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 |