

ACADEMIA DANUBIANA

-The Statute -

1 Who we are

Academia Danubiana is a self-interest network integrating Danube area members of the socio-economic, ecological and administrative community in the broad sense – local authorities, students, teachers and non-government organizations active in the field of promoting higher degree of territorial integration within accession countries in this area. Each member is represented by its delegated persons. The Academia Danubiana focuses on a scientific and educational network within various disciplines and paradigms in planning and systems design.

2 Vision

Our vision is to be a network with transnational, trans-regional and cross-border dimensions. This is achieved through partnerships member organizations in Danube area. The aim of this program is about the working out of visionary concepts and **projects**, offering postgraduate **study programs** and **seminars** to promote mutual learning within a dialogue between municipalities, universities, concerned industries, business, non governmental organizations and the society. The results should be communicated to the political-administrative system and the universities in the Danube region.

3 Mission

Our mission is to ensure sustainable development on the Danube region by providing research results to policy-makers, scientists and the interested public. It can contribute significantly to improving the quality of life, to enhancing the protection and management of Danube area cultural and natural heritage. Transnational cooperation is an indispensable precondition for mobilizing Europe's potential for research and practical application in the field of sustainable spatial development. To encourage links between the accession countries, science and society, different thematic areas will be covered with the following **objectives**:

- preserve the ecosystem and protect biodiversity within the Danube region by developing models of integrated land utilization,
- elaborate spatial integration studies for integrating sustainable transport systems which respects natural areas (biocorridors) to minimize their impact on the environment,
- to promote sustainable technology demonstration centres for developing local and regional policies
- to develop new theoretical, methodological, scientific and professional approaches in research and planning
- to develop partnership relations between research institutes in the Danube area
- to exchange information on research programmes and ongoing research projects of European importance
- to exchange information on major political developments with spatial relevance
- to define common interests in the field of European research policy and to represent these interests jointly at the Danube area level
- to identify research issues of key importance for the sustainable spatial development of the Danube area
- to devise and conduct joint research projects.

The **themes** for projects, seminars and study programs will reflect the policies on sustainable land use management and planning from various perspectives, and the protection of habitats and natural resources. Interrelation with transport planning, soil protection, architecture, renewable energy systems, city planning and spatial development, but also agricultural policies will be explored. The project Academia Danubiana could act very well as a model of European significance.

4 Organization

The members of Academia Danubiana constitute the Executive Committee. This body meets at least annually, usually in the framework of workshops or conferences. Member institutes are represented in the Executive Committee by their representatives who elect the Executive Committee members for the period of two years.

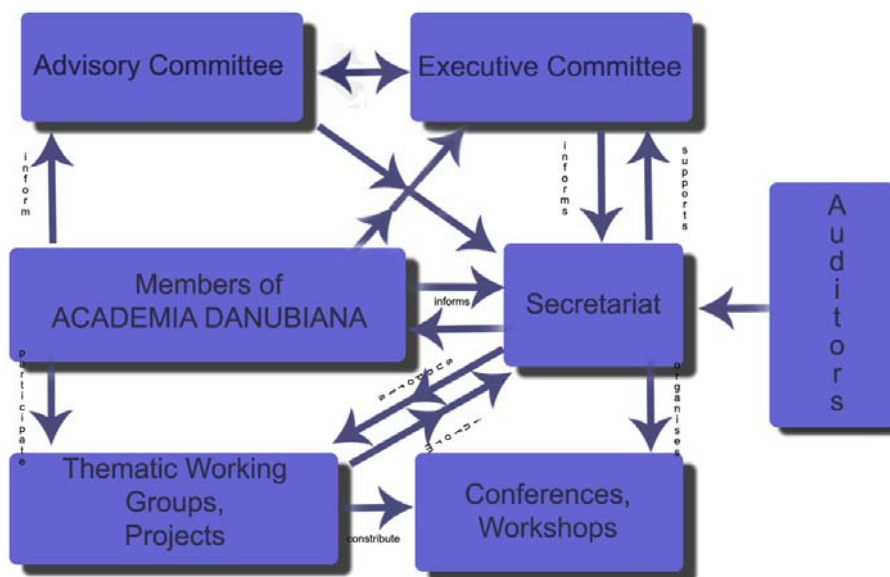
The Executive committee elects its president and deputy president for a period of two years. They are in charge of the external representation of the network and stay in close contact with each other to coordinate activities.

The Executive Committee designates one person to function as the network secretary for a period of two years. The secretary is responsible for the day-to-day management of the network.

Part of the members of Academia Danubiana constitutes Advisory Committee and elects two auditors as well. The Advisory Committee consists of 5 representatives whose communication is based on electronic medias but also periodical meetings and conferences. Advisory Committee meets at least once per year.

The member institutes provide the secretary with information about their research activities and their professional and political environment. Likewise the secretary informs the member institutes regularly about the activities of Academia Danubiana.

The network operates through events (workshops, conferences etc.), thematic working groups and projects. The thematic working groups are open to representatives from all member organizations. The working groups are given organizational support from the secretariat and may use the network's internet site for communication purposes. The working groups and projects shall contribute to network conferences/workshops and inform the network secretary of their work.



5 Membership

Organizations who wish to become members of Academia Danubiana and to follow the goals and principles laid down in the Academia Danubiana charter are required to submit an informal application and a questionnaire with overall information to the secretariat. The Executive Committee decides on the admission of new members by simple majority vote at its annual meetings.

All members are expected to participate actively in joint Academia Danubiana research projects, to share mutual knowledge and to disseminate the mission and vision of the network. They are expected to take an active part in regular Academia Danubiana meetings and to collaborate in achieving the scientific goals of the network.

Each member is authorized to access the mutually generated knowledge of the Academia Danubiana network, to participate in joint research projects and to communicate its membership toward external partners.

If a member fails to follow the rules laid down in this charter, the Executive Committee decides on measures to be taken.

In case of any unclear or unforeseen decisions, the Executive Committee is authorized to undertake the necessary steps.

6 Ethical Code

6.1 Preamble

The processes of know-how creation and dissemination involve a number of potential ethical obstacles. Therefore it is necessary to anticipate any situations that might lead to an infringement of the rights of participating parties.

6.2 Scientific and Research Activities

All Academia Danubiana members attempt to maintain the principles of professional integrity and respect for facts. They support well-established standards for procedures and methods, while remaining open to new developments or methods. When expressing scientific conclusions or judgments they are obliged to adopt the latest scientific procedures/methods and utilize clear and proper forms.

Academia Danubiana members should state the precise goal of their research, as well as the conditions necessary for realization and target group relevant to this research. They must ensure that research results shall not be misused for the individual interests of any associated group or persons (thereby losing general scientific value and validity).

6.3 Publishing Activities

All results of research should be presented or published as accurately and clearly as possible to avoid the possibility of any misinterpretation. All theories, methods or research procedures shall be described in full.

The Academia Danubiana members are obliged to ensure public access to the results of their scientific and research activities. At the same time care should be taken to prevent the infringement of intellectual property rights or access to personal data.

The members of the Academia Danubiana are obliged to declare all persons or data which have assisted in research. The ranking of submitted sources should reflect the contribution of particular authors and resources to successful research work.

All data or material from external sources shall be clearly specified. If ideas developed by other authors are used by the Academia Danubiana co-operators then the original source must be indicated.

All publications edited or co-edited by Academia Danubiana co-operators should allow for the inclusion of critical arguments and always maintain a plurality of opinion, in concordance with general standards of scientific discourse.

6.4 Approach towards Students, Colleagues and the General Public

The Academia Danubiana members participate in the dissemination of knowledge. They follow the principal goal of this process, namely the democratic and open transmission of knowledge and skills.

Academia Danubiana members maintain the highest standards when providing references and expert opinion and must act fairly and impartially to all participants in the network. No participant should suffer discrimination because of age, sex, physical disability, social or regional background, ethnicity, nationality or political views.

Academia Danubiana members shall not misuse the results of other authors for their own pedagogical or specialist activities.

Academia Danubiana members shall not misuse data acquired from researchers, professionals, students, colleagues or other external partners during the research or other specialist work.