



**Institute for the
Danube Region
and Central Europe**

EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES, REGIONAL ACTIONS – COOPERATION AND EXPERTISE SINCE 1953

The Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) is a non-university research institute and regional think tank on an association basis that deals with current issues of the Danube Region, Central and South-Eastern Europe. The Vienna-based Institute's focal points include the future of the European Union and relations with its (South) Eastern neighbouring states. Since its founding in 1953, the IDM has promoted cross-border dialogue and regional cooperation through research and outreach projects, a wide range of publications, events and various educational programmes.

QUICKLINKS

Events: https://www.idm.at/en/activities/events_english/

Publications: <https://www.idm.at/en/activities/publikationen/>

Projects: <https://www.idm.at/en/activities/projects/>

Podcast: <https://www.idm.at/en/activities/podcast-2/>

Seminars: <https://www.idm.at/en/activities/seminars/>

Promotion of young talents/awards: <https://www.idm.at/en/activities/awards/>

WHAT DRIVES US?

Regions are the future of Europe. Democracy, freedom, equality, the rule of law, and human rights as universal European values thrive through dialogue and discourse. Therefore, cooperation and communication across borders are the keys to a democratic, peaceful, and sustainable European future. The IDM offers a platform of in-depth knowledge and a variety of expert views on the significant challenges of our time. We look beyond clichés and prejudices, create sustainable cooperation across borders and barriers, and promote free and open discussion and peaceful solutions. In this way, the Institute serves as a multilateral hub for a democratic and resilient Europe.

THE FACES BEHIND THE LOGO

The structure of the IDM includes the Association Board, chaired by Mag. Friedrich Faulhammer since 2022, the Management Board, and the scientific and administrative team. The members of the International Council furthermore provide quality assurance. This assembles renowned persons from politics, economy, science, art, culture, and civil society, which the Board elects under their office, their activity, or their proven commitment to the purpose of the Institute (purpose of the Association). The International Council supports the Board of Directors.

Current board members: <https://www.idm.at/en/about-us/vorstand/>

Current members of the International Council: https://www.idm.at/en/about-us/international_council/

The current IDM team: <https://www.idm.at/en/about-us/team/>

HISTORY & FOCUS: OVERCOMING BORDERS - SINCE 1953

The Institute was founded in 1953 as the "Research Institute for the Issues of the Danube Region" in Salzburg, outside the Soviet occupation zone - with the aim of working for the "reconciliation of nationalities". Not long after the end of the occupation, the Institute moved to Vienna. But it was a long way to Europe as we know it today. **For over thirty years, the Institute was the only scientific institution in Austria dedicated to the study of this region.** In 1995, Vice-Chancellor (ret.) Dr. Erhard Busek (1941-2022) took over the chairmanship of the association and set new impulses, which had a lasting impact on the further orientation of the IDM. Under the changed name "Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe", the regional focus was extended further to Central and South-East European countries and partly to the Black Sea region. **Today, the IDM is a modern regional think tank that aligns its focus based on the following questions:**

- How can we strengthen and guarantee a democratic, peaceful, and resilient future for (Central) Europe?
- What policies improve EU enlargement processes and drive greater integration?
- What concrete measures promote cross-border cooperation in the region?

More about the history: <https://www.idm.at/en/about-us/history/>

FINANCING & NETWORKS: AT HOME IN VIENNA - AT HOME IN EUROPE

The IDM operates on an association basis and is financed by public funds, membership fees, and EU project funding. Exact details on funding and all institute activities are published in the annual activity report. From 2011-2021, the IDM was a strategic cooperation partner of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna. **A cooperation agreement with the University of Continuing Education Krems (UWK) has been in place since 2022.** The IDM maintains close contacts with numerous universities in its target countries and works closely with the local Austrian embassies and embassies, cultural institutes, and trade representations of those countries in Austria. In addition, several cross-border networks are located at the Institute, including the Permanent Secretariat of **the Danube Rectors Conference (DRC)** and the Infopoint of **ARGE Donauländer**.

Current cooperations: <https://www.idm.at/en/cooperations/>

Activity reports: <https://www.idm.at/en/newsroom/annual-reports/>

Do you have questions about our institute and our work? We look forward to hearing from you!

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<https://www.idm.at/newsroom/newsletter/>