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Titel:

International Association for Danube Research (IAD): How our focus has changed over time.

Abstract:

The International Association for Danube Research (IAD) was founded in 1956 under Austrian law and is the longest existing international scientific network in the Danube Region. Our aim in IAD is to promote and coordinate activities in the fields of limnology, water management, water protection and sustainable development in the Danube River basin. The current structure and the contact are provided on our website <https://www.danube-iad.eu/>. IAD has Expert Groups in 12 topics covering major ecological and management fields: Water Quality, Biotic Processes, Microbiology, Phytoplankton & Phytobenthos, Macrophytes, Floodplain Ecology, LTSER & Environmental History, Fish Biology & Fishery, Invasive Alien Species, Ecotoxicology, Delta/Fore-Delta, and Sustainable Development & Public Participation (for detailed description see expert groups). Since 1998, IAD has a permanent observer status at the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR, www.icpdr.org). In the beginning of IAD history, an exchange of methodology behind research ideas and finally a harmonisation of scientific methods different in each Danube country was discussed. At that time most publications were written in native languages of each country. Later, joint studies describing various limnological characteristics including chemistry and biota (macrozoobenthos, algae, fish) became the research focus. Results of these surveys were published in English. At that time there was a growing awareness of the Danube River as a whole ecosystem - from the source to the mouth, from the river to the flood-plain. Finally, taking action for protection of nature and specific flag ship species (e.g., sturgeons) across country borders became of utmost interest among IAD people. So, the main aim of IAD is connecting scientific activities by people from Danubian countries – and thus connecting the many facets that the Danube River system is facing. The change of research focus can also be followed by the release of “Danube News” twice a year. The first volume, released in Sept 1999, was bilingual written (German and English) but turned to English only from July 2008 onwards. The corner-stones of history of IAD, main achievements and publications and how we in IAD support people and their research activities in the Danube Region are described in detail on the IAD website at “About Us” (https://www.danube-iad.eu/index.php?item=about_us).