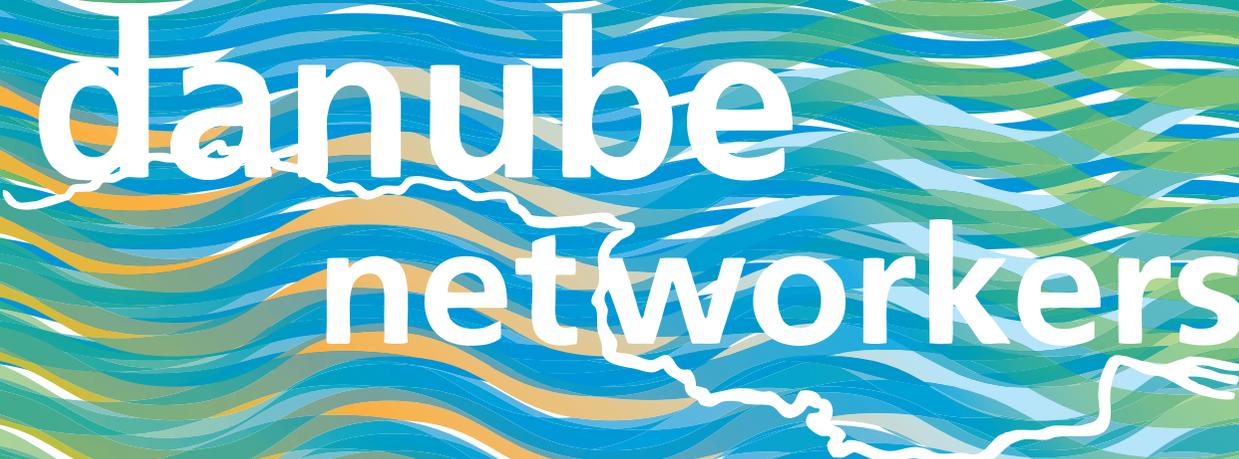


# Danube projects by, with and for people in the Danube countries

An international network of education:  
the Danube-Networkers 2008 - 2019

A stylized map of the Danube river basin, rendered in white lines, is overlaid on a background of wavy, multi-colored lines in shades of blue, green, and orange. The map shows the course of the Danube river from its source in the north to its delta in the south, with several tributaries branching off.

danube  
networkers



Germany



Serbia



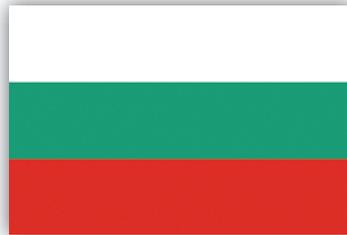
Austria



Romania



Slovakia



Bulgaria



Hungary



Moldavia



Croatia



Ukraine

**We Danube-Networkers,** are an informal educational network with more than 100 civil society organizations working in the field of education, culture, social affairs and environment as well as a number of Universities and schools.

**In 2008** this network was founded on the occasion of the International Danube-Festival in Ulm/ Neu-Ulm. It developed out of an initiative of senior students of the working group European Contacts at ZAWIW, the Centre for Adult Education at Ulm University. Since 1995, the members of this group, under the direction of Carmen Stadelhofer, Director of ZAWIW, have committed themselves to meetings and cooperation with seniors from other European countries.

**In 2014** the international association of Danube-Networkers for Europe (DANET e.V.) was founded.

Since 2013 the Institute for virtual and face-to-face learning in adult education at Ulm University (ILEU e.V.) has been the administrative office of the Danube-Networkers and the Association DANET. There is a close cooperation between ILEU and the working group Danube- Networkers at ZAWIW, supported also by numerous volunteers.



## Our aims:

Through personal meetings and joint projects in the Danube countries we want to

- promote international understanding between people
- strengthen civil society
- create sustainable networks in the Danube Region.

Because international understanding needs communication among equal partners

learning together  
working together  
helping together  
celebrating together

Below we will provide a short insight into our extensive activities since 2008.



Official opening of the event Breakfast on the Danube at the Danube Festival in 2016 by Gunter Czisch, the Mayor of Ulm.



The Danube-Networkers started out on the occasion of the Danube Festival in July 2008.

Exchange, personal meetings and qualification are the essential components of our projects:

We build bridges between people from different countries, ethnic groups and cultures, between the generations and social groups.



The so-called Danube Boxes help getting to know each other and working together.

learning together

Innovative methods of adult education help us to bring people from the Danube countries interested in education to meet and to work together on projects.

Some impressions of our work



The final resolution of the foundation meeting in 2008





Through new methods, we want to activate and empower older and younger citizens to take part in the social developments in the Danube Region.

In the online lecture series Danube Lectures, students and senior students from five countries were able to gain know-how and to exchange ideas on relevant social topics such as demographic change, migration or climate change (DALEC), 2011 + 2013.

There is no common language in the Danube countries, so English is the language of communication of those in charge of the network's activities. As many adults never had the chance to learn English, relevant topics are translated into the respective mother tongues. Therefore, translators working on an honorary basis are needed.



2012: An online conference with Prof. Dr. Reinhard Johler is held at the University of Tübingen.

learning together

In the project Danube-Networkers (DANET), 2011 to 2012, each partner group in Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania organized four citizens panels on the key topics of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. To start with, the panels took place locally in the national languages. The results were summarized in English and then analyzed, compared and discussed on the Internet and in transnational seminars in Sibenik, Croatia, and in Wiesneck, Germany, as well as being documented in a CD. Based on the results, a resolution was written and presented to members of the European Parliament in a conference.



Discussion in the final meeting in Wiesneck /Freiburg 2012



In 2012 the project DANET was officially concluded in Wiesneck/Freiburg, Germany.



Personal guided tours by senior persons for foreign visitors.



An ancient baking oven in Seißen, Blaubeuren.

We initiate learning partnerships with groups of older and younger people from various Danube countries, in which the participants work together on certain topics for a period of mainly two years.

In the learning partnership **Personal Town Tours**, for example, six seniors' groups from six different countries took part.

The result were personal guided town tours of 60 - 90 minutes in the groups' localities, which were presented to the visiting members of the partner groups and to interested locals.

The exchange beyond national borders provided all the participants with knowledge about the language, the culture and the history of the other countries and also presented them with new perspectives for their own environments.

At the present time, in the project **Bread Connects**, several groups in various Danube countries make research into the history and traditions of making bread e.g., bread festivals, public bread ovens, etc.

learning together

In the project Open Doors for Danube Countries for All (ODDA 1 and ODDA 2) we developed and evaluated methods aiding communication and cooperation in international meetings.

The absence of a common language is no obstacle.

In this context the game Danube Excursions was developed. It is a game for young and old, a sort of memory game with quiz questions about the history and culture of the Danube countries. There are two types of the game: a card game and an online game



Students tested the game Danube-Excursions in the Haus der Begegnung, Ulm.



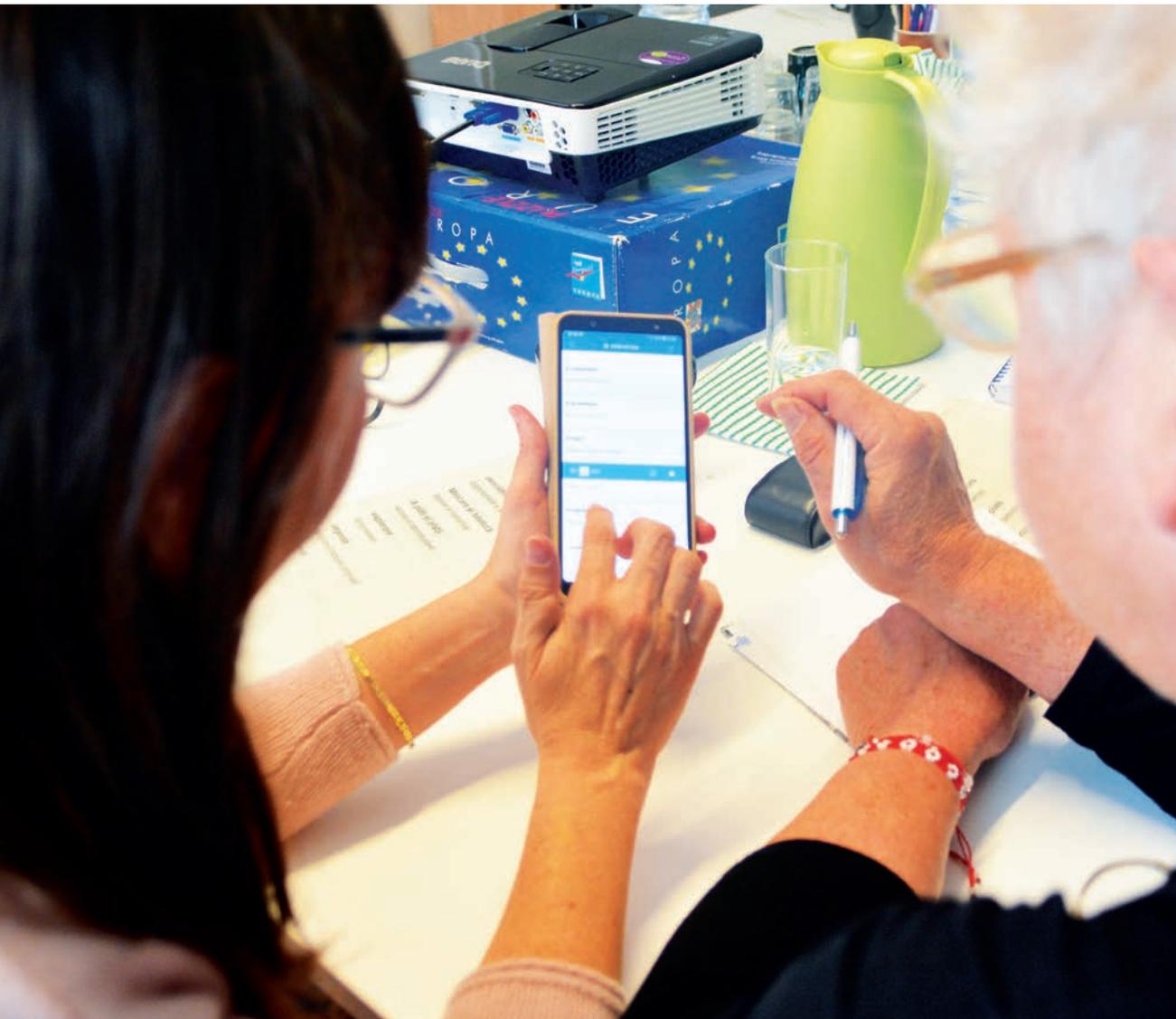
In the old people's home in Backa Palanka, Serbia.

[odda.eu](http://odda.eu)  
[danube-excursions.eu](http://danube-excursions.eu)



Open Doors  
for Danube Countries  
for ALL

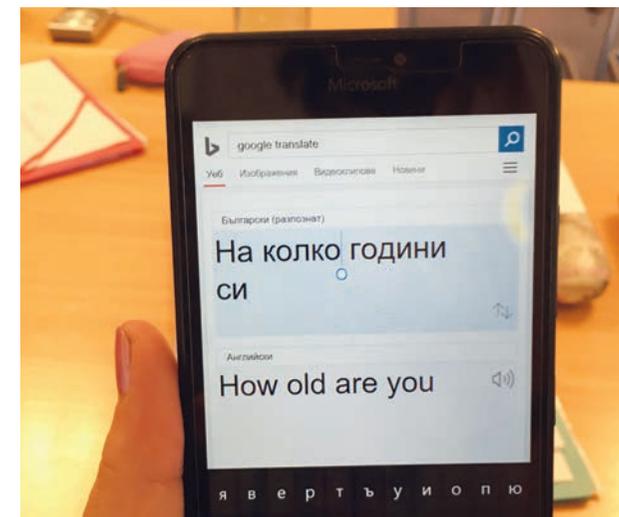
**DANUBE-**  
**EXCURSIONS**



Within the context of ODDA we have developed the App ODDA Simple Conversation Tool (SCT).

It enables simple conversations between the partners from different Danube countries, even if they do not speak the same language, e.g. German- Bulgarian, Romanian-Bulgarian, Croatian-German. This App will soon be available also offline, for all common Android-based mobiles, tablets and PCs. [odda-sct.org](http://odda-sct.org)

[odda-sct.org](http://odda-sct.org)



learning together

## We build bridges between the generations of the Danube countries,

be it in the form of correspondence with pen friends, time witness work or shared research work - young and old understand each other quickly. The new media offer new ways of communication.



Skype meetings in a German online project between students of a German-speaking school in Ruse and their German partners.



Correspondence with pen friends between primary school children in Ruse and in Ulm and Neu-Ulm.



**Bread connects –**  
*Give a sign of friendship*  
*until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018!*

**1000 photos wanted!**  
Join the digital photo campaign.

<http://bread-connects.tastes-of-danube.eu>



**In the project Tastes of Danube - Bread Connects, various activities motivate people in all Danube countries to work together.**

For example, in 2018, people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and social classes were asked to have their pictures taken with the project flyer and a loaf of bread as a gesture of friendship. Over 3000 people from 11 countries took part with 1.027 photos.

[bread-connects.tastes-of-danube.eu](http://bread-connects.tastes-of-danube.eu)

**working together**

It is about discovering bread as shared cultural heritage - bread is a staple food and in all cultures and religions in the Danube Region it is also a symbol of community, sharing and taking responsibility for others.

79 exhibits from 7 Danube countries were sent in for the competition Create and Bake your Europe. From these, 28 were shown in an exhibition, and all of them were published in a book.





[thewanteddanube.eu](http://thewanteddanube.eu)

Intercultural, intergenerational and inclusive. Such projects led to extraordinary results: over 6.000 people from 8 Danube countries participated in the project The Wanted Danube. They crocheted a band of friendship, almost 1500 km long.

From this band of friendship, the very engaged knitting women and men produced 3.847 individual “Danube pieces”.



working together

On July 13th 2014 the “Danube pieces” were then put together in front of the Ulmer Münster to form a multi-colored Danube river landscape, with the names of the countries and the pieces’ places of origin.

Among the numerous visitors were not only the participants from Ulm and Neu-Ulm, but also people from other parts of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, and of course guests from the Danube countries.

On this day and in various actions later, the “Danube pieces” were handed over to interested people in exchange for donations, which were used to support several social projects in the Danube countries.





## Qualification.

In regular intervals we organize 5-day-workshops to qualify teachers and disseminators from the Danube countries, in cooperation with ZAWiW of Ulm University, the Centre for Political Education of Baden-Württemberg and other institutions.

The topics are for example the European funding programs and how to use them, methods in senior education, or the use of social media.

Furthermore, Service Learning was tested successfully with students of the University of Neu-Ulm.



Service Learning zum Donau-Brücken-Fest 2016, Studierende der Hochschule Neu-Ulm, Herdbrücke April 2016

working together





## Our charity projects

To finance various social projects the Ulm Danube - Networkers organize numerous charity events, e.g. selling bread and cakes at festivals, music events and other activities.

The action “Danube Pieces” in exchange for donations, etc

e.g. after the floods in 2014, we funded new classroom furniture and teaching materials for a primary school in Jamena, a small village on the river Sava in Serbia.

The money came from the donations for the “Danube pieces” of the Wanted Danube.



## learning together

In 2019 we organized the transport of decommissioned, good preserved hospital beds of the hospice in Ulm to the hospice of Chisinau, Moldavia. The transport was financed also by donations from charity activities.





Breakfast on the Danube Bridge

How successful the encounters and communication across borders can be was also demonstrated on the occasion of the International Danube Festival Ulm/Neu-Ulm in 2016 and 2018.

Over 2000 people of different ages and ethnic background participated in the Breakfast on the Danube Bridge. 28 civil society organizations from Ulm and Neu-Ulm as well as delegations from the Danube countries offered on their “partner-tables” bread snacks from all parts of the Danube Region. The central question was: Who are our Danubian neighbors?



At the Breakfast on the Danube Bridge



## Our commitment on the political level:

Since 2011, within the context of the Danube Strategy of the European Commission, we stand up for the civil society in the Danube Region in various committees, e.g. in the Danube Civil Society Forum and at the annual international Participation Day taking place each year in a different country, as well as in the working group for Danube Strategy, Baden-Württemberg.

Our partners in Zagreb, Croatia, Novi Sad, Serbia and in the district of Ruse, Bulgaria, had the opportunity to present their work to the delegation from the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg.



In the spring of 2017 a delegation of the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, led by the Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann, travelled to Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia, here: Minister-President Kretschmann with the Danube-Networkers in Vukovar, Croatia.



Another delegation of the State Ministry, led by Minister Gisela Erler, travelled to Bulgaria, here a visit in Slivo Pole, District Ruse, in the autumn of 2017.

## What we do and what we want to achieve:

- foster exchange and cooperation between people in the Danube countries
- reduce prejudices
- promote European consciousness

In numerous projects and events Thousands of people have meanwhile participated in the activities of the Danube-Networkers.

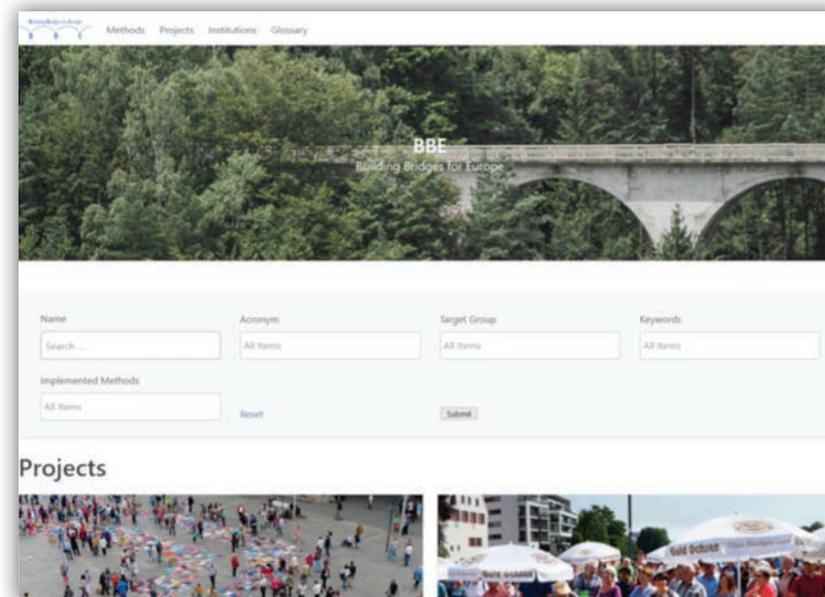
ILEU e.V. and DANET e.V. are non-profit organizations without own resources, projects are only possible by financial aid from other sources.

Furthermore, in all countries many people work as volunteers. Without them, many projects would never have been realized.

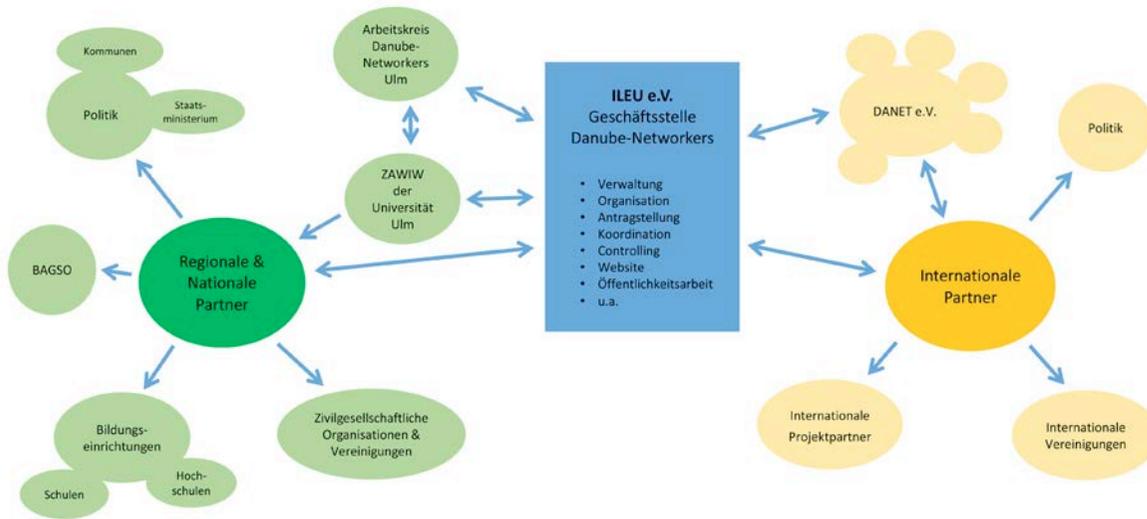
Through their work and cooperation across the borders, the Danube-Networkers give an important signal for the strengthening of a peaceful and social Europe.

In the project Building Bridges for Europe (BBE, 2017-2019) the ILEU team together with 9 partners from 6 Danube countries and Italy developed an online method-toolbox in which examples of European best practice projects were presented. They should contribute to overcoming clichés and prejudices about people who are “different” in the own country as well as those beyond the borders, and to strengthen European consciousness and identity. Described are new and creative methods of learning and knowledge transfer, for extension of competences and community building, as well as their concrete application in practice.

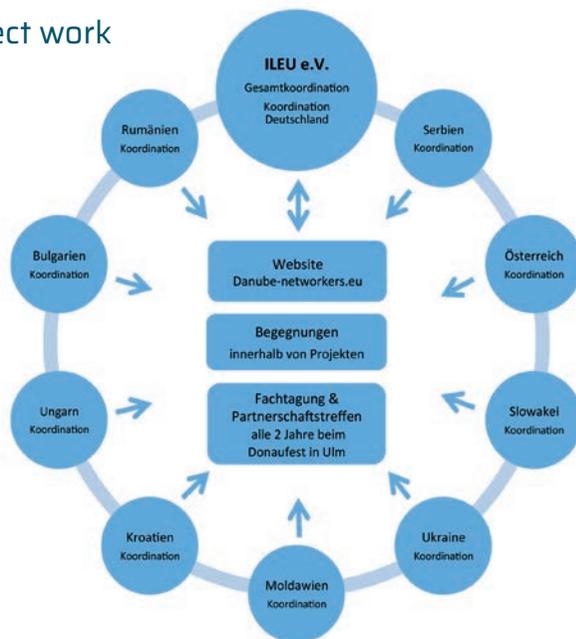
[bbe-toolbox.eu](http://bbe-toolbox.eu)



## Cooperation within the educational Network Danube-Workers



## Structure of the project work



## Danube projects (selection of):

- 2017 - 2019** Building Bridges for Europe
- 2017 - 2019** Bread Connects
- 2017 - 2019** Open Doors for all Danube Countries (ODDA 1, ODDA 2)
- 2016 - 2017** Tastes of Danube: Bread, Wine, Herbs
- 2013 - 2015** The wanted Danube - die gewollte Donau
- 2012 - 2014** Personal Town Tours
- 2011 - 2013** Danube Lectures (DALEC)
- 2011 - 2012** Danube Networkers-Neighbors at Work (DANET)
- 2010 - 2011** Danube Seniors' University (DASUN)
- 2010 - 2012** Danube Stories
- 2009 - 2011** Senior Volunteer Exchange
- 2008 - 2010** Danube Networkers
- 2008** Founding seminar:

## Conferences and meetings of partner groups

every 2 years during the international Danube Festival Ulm/ Neu-Ulm

- Qualification seminars
- International meetings
- Encounter travel

## Awards and prizes e.g.

For our work we received various international awards.



The first prize of the EESC competition presented by the President of the EESC, Luca Jahier to Carmen Stadelhofer, President of DANET e.V., Ulm and Professor Emilia Velikova, Vice-President, Ruse, on December 13th, 2018 in les.

**2018:** Civil Society Award by the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) on the topic Identities, European Values and Cultural Heritage in Europe.

**2018:** EAEA-Grundtvig Award (European Association for the Education of Adults) for excellence in adult education.

**2015:** The prize Europa-Lilie (Lily of Europe) of the Europa-Union Germany awarded in the category Civic Engagement.

**2015:** European Citizen's Prize 2015 of the European Parliament

Several projects were awarded the label "Star Project" by the European Union.





Working group Danube-Networkers, Ulm

## Working group Danube-Networkers, Ulm

Since 2008 a large number of people from Ulm, Neu-Ulm and the area of Alb-Donau-Kreis have committed themselves to the activities of the association.

Without them the development of the network would not have been possible.

In addition, there are many people who actively help and support the Danube- Networkers during the visits of the “Danube-guests” and in other ways, and have become important disseminators of the Danube-Networkers’ concerns. They all are, and remain the central element of civic engagement in the Danube Region.



Members of Danube-Networkers Ulm

## Contact:

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## International partners of the Danube-Networkers and others



## German partners of the Danube-Networkers and others



## Project promoters of the Danube-Networkers e.g. the City of Ulm



## Sponsors needed!

We are looking for sponsors for long-term financing of the administration office. A guaranteed funding is needed for the continuation of the education network Danube-Workers and its projects.

In addition, the education network required funding for the implementation of its transnational projects.

Many volunteers and people working on honorary basis already participate in our work, but we will be very happy to have other honorary workers.

Let us talk about how to strengthen together the European idea!!

I look forward to hear from you,  
Carmen Stadelhofer  
Coordinator of the education network  
Danube-Workers and President of  
the associations ILEU e.V. and DANET  
e.V.



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[danube-networkers.eu](http://danube-networkers.eu)  
[tastes-of-danube.eu](http://tastes-of-danube.eu)  
[ileu.net](http://ileu.net)

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