



Staying Strong Together 9th International Danube Conference on Culture May 8-10, 2022, Ulm, Germany

- Mission -

Nine years ago – in 2013 – the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Arts, in cooperation with the European Danube Academy, launched the International Danube Culture Conference series with the first edition in Ulm to intensify the cultural-political dialogue and strengthen international networks of representatives of the cultural scene in the Danube region. The main objective of the conferences is to view the Danube region as a unique but extremely diverse cultural area and to offer a platform for exchange that creates new collaborations between artists, cultural institutions and political decision-makers. The conferences have become a well-known platform for presenting interesting projects, discussing cultural-political issues and promoting our region's chances of great cultural diversity through transnational cooperation.

After stops in Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria, the **9th International Danube Conference on Culture** took place again **in Ulm from May 8 to 10, 2022**. The conference brought together more than 100 hundred creatives, experts, and decision-makers from eleven countries and the entire Danube region to network the diverse international cultural sector and demonstrate the solidarity with our friends in Ukraine: **Let's stay strong together!** The aim was to enhance the discourse about freedom and culture, to establish contacts, present projects and inform about developments and opportunities in the cultural sector in the Danube region. Solidarity and resilience building were treated as horizontal themes. Three central fields were addressed in workshops:

1. **"Cities of culture in the Danube region"**
2. **"Financing instruments for cultural projects in the Danube region"**
3. **"New European Bauhaus on the Danube"**

Framework programs such as the European Capital of Culture Program, the new INTERREG DTP or the New Bauhaus Initiative and concrete best practices from the Danube region were presented and critically discussed in speeches, panels and workshops at interesting venues such as the Stadthaus Ulm, the Hochschule für Gestaltung (HfG) Ulm and the Haus der Donau. In addition, the conference served as a presentation forum for a new international fund for small cultural initiatives in the Danube region – the DANUBE SMALL PROJECT FUND. The 2nd Call were launched during the event in Ulm.

(Peter Langer)

