

Carmen Stadelhofer

Dear Speakers, honoured Guests,

In the name of Prof. Dr. Michael Weber, the President of Ulm University, I greet you at today's conference. Professor Weber regrets that he cannot be here personally and he asked me to read to you these words of welcome.

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Professor Weber, the President of Ulm University writes:

Over 20 years, Ulm University has been closely connected with the European activities of Carmen Stadelhofer and her circle of active senior students and other supporters on a European level through the work of the Centre for General Continuing Education (ZAWiW) of Ulm University, which she directed until the end of 2012, and through her work as the Chair of the affiliated institute of Ulm University, the Institute of Virtual and Face-to-face Learning in Adult Education (ILEU).

We welcome especially the founding of the education network Danube-Networkers for Europe e.V. and the Association DANET, which came to being upon the initiative of ZAWiW and ILEU and which, as a network, respectively umbrella organization, brings together and coordinates a large number of organisations and institutions and also numerous activities in the area of education in older age, intergenerational dialogue and social participation in the Danube countries.

Since its founding in 2008, thanks to the work of the Danube-Networkers and its partners, a large education network came to being, well-positioned and future-oriented, which with its education activities well complements the efforts of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the universities and the industry.

At a time, when numerous powers, problems and emotions have been having a rather divisive effect on Europe and the people of its countries, such uniting network is especially important. Because the better one orientates oneself in the various countries, ethnic groups, generations and on the various levels of the social and education backgrounds the more one appreciates them, and the more one is connected and makes friends, the easier joint handling of difficult situations becomes.

There is a reason, why Ulm calls itself *International Town* and also we, as a university, with a gratifying large share of students from other countries and continents, do everything to contribute to a fruitful dialogue and cooperation on scientific, cultural, political and personal level.

I am happy that I can greet here today many scientists and people in-charge from various education contexts in the Danube countries, quite a number of whom are in Ulm for the first time. We thank for the efforts put in the preparation of this event, and especially for your ardour and tenacity in your respective expert fields.

We hope to stay also in the future in close contact and cooperation and wish you a pleasant stay in the university town Ulm.

To that end, I wish you all many new findings and insights, lively discussions, good talks and last, but not the least, an enjoyable time at the conference of the international project *Tastes of Danube!*