

DATE: 20TH – 23ND OCTOBER, 2026.

VENUE: NOBEL ZIRA HOTEL BELGRADE
(RUZVELTOVA 35, 11000 BELGRADE)

AvH Kolleg 2026

“Enhancing Scientific Cooperation and Integration between the Western Balkans and the European Union”

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM – JULY 2026

Day 1, Tuesday, 20 th October		
TIME	ACTIVITY	HALL
14:00 – 15:00	Registration	
15:00 – 15:30	OPENING CEREMONY: ■ Serbian Humboldt Club alumni presentation: Humboldt club Serbia – Present, past and future perspectives Presenters: Dr Melita Vidaković, president of Humboldt Club Serbia (HKS), Prof. Dr. Ljuba Maksimović, former president and honourable member of HKS, Isabel Joswig, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation	Main hall
15:30 – 17:00	■ <i>German-Serbian Research Synergies</i> Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Belgrade	
	■ <i>Perspectives of the Serbian and Western Balkan Scientific Policies</i> Presenters: Representatives of the Ministry of Science, technological development and innovation, Republic of Serbia	
	■ <i>Alexander von Humboldt Research Opportunities</i> Presenters: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation representatives: Isabel Joswig, Sabine Meisel-Funk	
	■ <i>The German Research Foundation (DFG): International Research Funding Opportunities</i> Presenters: DFG representatives: Julia Ilina, Dr. Jörn Achterberg, Stephanie Lass	
	■ <i>DAAD German Academic Exchange Service</i> Presenter: DAAD representative: Danijela Esterman-Pavlica	
17:00 – 17:30	Coffee Break	
17:30 – 18:15	■ <i>Key note lecture</i> Prof. dr. Reinhard Genzel , Winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics (<i>remote</i>)	
18:15 – 19:00	■ <i>Key note lecture</i> <i>Noninvasive internal body temperature measurements using radio-frequency receivers</i> Prof. dr. Zoya Popovic , Humboldt Research Award for Senior U.S. Scientists	
19:00 –	Ice-breaking cocktail reception	

Day 2, Wednesday, 21 st October		
TIME	ACTIVITY	HALL
09:00 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 12:00	■ PARALLEL SESSIONS:	
	<u>Session A: Metabolism and Lifespan Regulation (Chairperson: Aleksandra Mitrović)</u> Milos Filipović: Entering a new phase of metabolic regulation and lifespan extension Dejana Mokranjac: Biogenesis and quality control of mitochondria Luca Ruggiero: From mice to humans to giants: the limits of explosive strength in nature Djordje Miljković: Serendipity and science	Main hall
	<u>Session B: Climate Change, Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services & Decision Support (Chairperson: Dominik Sperlich)</u> Marc Hanewinkel: Economic impacts of Climate Change on European Forests Dominik Sperlich: A robust decision-making framework for forestry under deep uncertainty - A case study for oak from Serbia and Germany Marko Lovrić: Assessing Forest ecosystem services from multiple data types Dženan Bećirović: Assessment and valuation of forest ecosystem services – current application in Western Balkans Amila Brajić Kezija: Integrating OECMs into biodiversity conservation and protection policy and practice in the Western Balkans: Insights from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Andrea Burfeid Castellanos: Biogeography of diatoms in intermittent rivers and Streams	Hall A
	<u>Session C: Materials for Energy, Electronics and Sustainable Engineering (Chairperson: Mirko Komatina)</u> Schneider Dorothea: Refractory materials in recycling of spent lithium-ion batteries Srecko Stopic: Titanium – critical metal for sustainable development of modern life Moumita Rana: Promise of Silicon-Based Monolithic Materials as Anodes for Lithium-Ion Batteries Gojko Joksimović: Advancements in Electrical Machines Dalibor Stanković: Nanomaterials in electrocatalysis Ivana Cvijović-Alagić: Next-Generation Hard-Tissue Replacements: New Approach to Engineering Durable Implant Materials	Hall B
12:00 – 14:00	Group photo & Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	■ PARALLEL SESSIONS:	
	<u>Session A: Bone, Regeneration and Precision Medicine (Chairperson: Melita Vidaković)</u> Björn Busse: New insights into bone adaptation from multiscale assessment of human and animal bone Petar Milovanović: Bones at the intersection of humanities, natural sciences, and medicine Nenad Filipović: Applied AI in cardiovascular disease Svetlana Butulija: Advanced hydrogels for diabetic wound healing Björn Tampe: ANCA-associated vasculitides: From system therapy to precision medicine Maja Životić: Banff classification beyond transplantation: Insights from IgA nephropathy in native kidneys	Main hall
	<u>Session B: Chemical Sciences Across Borders (Chairperson: Snežana Zarić)</u>	Hall A

	Marilena Ferbinteanu Cimpoesu: Structural chemistry, an inclusive topic, binding different disciplines, teams and peoples, across the borders. Jean-Pierre Djukic: Understanding Chemical Bonding and Reactivity from Weak Electron Density Sharing Domains Walter Knapp: Problems entering a new field in science, view of an old guy Jan Schwarzbauer: AGRIPLAST and ENVCHEM - experiences from two international project collaborations joining Serbia and EU/German partners Sonja Zrilić: CαH/O hydrogen bonds of coordinated glycine - are they relevant?	
	<i>Session C: Higher Education and Scientific Cooperation Across Borders (Chairperson: Marija Gavrovic Jankulovic)</i> Zoran Hadzi-Velkov: Space Technologies in Higher Education: Building the Next Generation of Engineers Haifa Debouk: Bridging the Gap: The Graduate School as a Connector Between PhD Students and Supervisors Branimir Jovančičević: Serbian Chemistry and European Cooperation - a Century-Long Tradition Goran Vladisavljevic: Experiences of scientific collaboration with German Universities as a Western Balkans scientist Walter Knapp: Serbian Chemistry and European Cooperation - a Century-Long Tradition Ivana Ivančev-Tumbas: Studies of Chemistry and Environmental Protection at Faculty of Sciences, Novi Sad after TEMPUS and ERASMUS project grants	Hall B
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
	■ PARALLEL SESSIONS:	
	<i>Session A: Digital Astronomy: AI, Big Data and Collaborative Research (Chairperson: Luka Popović)</i> Jochen Liske: The Integrative Power of Science: the Case of Astronomy Nemanja Rakić: From Telescopes to Algorithms: How AI Is Transforming Astronomy Dragana Ilic: Artificial Intelligence and Big Data for Astronomy Research Andjelka Kovacevic: AI-Driven Time-Domain Astronomy of Active Galactic Nuclei in the Era of Large Sky Surveys Nina Owschimikow: Digitalization of education as a cooperative effort: An open platform for education in data analysis	Main hall
16:30 – 18:00	<i>Session B: Transformations of Society, Governance and Law in Contemporary Europe (Chairperson: Đuro Đurić)</i> Schulz, Dorothea: Investigating postsocialist and postcolonial societies from an anthropological perspective: commonalities and differences Gerald Schneider: Who pays for war? Evidence from a multi-country survey analysis Blanca Rodríguez Ruiz: From the Bottom Up: Intimate citizenship as a driving force for democracy in the EU Stephan Madaus: Insolvency and restructuring law trends in Europe	Hall A
	<i>Session C: Forest Bioeconomy, Innovation & Societal Transitions (Chairperson: Vladimir Stojanovski)</i> Alex Giurca: Many Voices, One Agenda: Co-creating the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for European Forests and Forestry Ivana Živojinović: Forest forward: Pathways toward a thriving forest-based bioeconomy Sandra Lupien: Can State Implementation of EU Construction Products Regulation and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Increase Wood Construction? Barbara Öllerer: Diversity and Gender Equality in the Austrian Forestry Sector: Organisational Perspectives	Hall B

	Haifa Debouk: Experiences in providing support for PhDs with targeted workshops, peer coaching and counseling Petra Palátová: Bioeconomy as a tool to support the forest-based sector	
19:00	End of day 2	
Day 3, Thursday, 22nd October		
TIME	ACTIVITY	HALL
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 10:00	■ POSTER SESSION	TBD
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 – 12:00	■ PARALLEL SESSIONS:	
	<u><i>Session A: Frontiers in Immunology and Molecular Therapeutics (Chairperson: Đorđe Miljković)</i></u> Alexander Flügel: Role of the lung in CNS autoimmunity Thomas Holzhauser: Identification and fine characterisation of IgE epitopes as an approach for novel diagnostics and therapeutics for legume allergies Marija Gavrović-Jankulović: New methodologies in allergenicity assessment of novel foods Jessica Oyie Sousa Onyeisi: Molecular Functions of Syndecan-4 in Breast Cancer Pathophysiology Simone Carneiro: Lipid Nanoparticle Mediated Pulmonary Gene Editing of KRAS G12S in a Lung Cancer Model Ljiljana Gojković Bukarica: Building the network for tackling antimicrobial resistance in the Western Balkans and the European Union	Main hall
	<u><i>Session B: Forest Policy, Governance, Research & Regional Cooperation (Chairperson: Jelena Nedeljković)</i></u> Liviu Nichiforel – Science-policy interface: Forest law analysis in selected European countries in the frame of the EU forest strategy Špela Pezdevšek Malovrh: Can Slovenia Achieve the EU Biodiversity and Forest Strategy Targets by 2030? Insights from Forest Owners and Managers Marko Marinković – The role and importance of applied research in forestry and the contribution to the positioning of sectoral policy in making high-level political decisions Mersudin Avdibegović – The FOPER project as a driver of regional scientific cooperation and capacity building of women in forest science in the Western Balkans Makedonka Stojanovska – Research and innovation in forestry: Can Western Balkan follow the EU directions? Vlatko Stojanovski – Forests, Sustainability, and Knowledge Exchange: Strengthening Regional Cooperation between the Western Balkans and the EU – A Macedonian Perspective Bruno Marić – Strengthening biodiversity finance and policy integration in the Western Balkans: The case of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hall A
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:30	■ PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	<u><i>Session A: Advanced Functional and Nanostructured Materials: Design, Synthesis and Properties (Chairperson: Ana Kostić)</i></u> Zaklina Burghard: Bioinspired and Sustainable Nanostructured Materials: Design Principles and Functional Applications Emilija Nidžović: High-entropy spinel oxides: Next-generation materials with tunable properties	Main hall

	Branko Matovic: Compositionally Complex Ceramics – The Next Frontier in Material Design Borrmann, Horst: Precision and accuracy with lattice parameters of semiconductors and nanoparticles Vladimir Srdic: Solution deposition LSMO/BSTO epitaxial structure for ferroelectric field effect transistors Saskia Schimmel: Exploration of the Mechanisms of Ammonothermal Crystal Growth of Nitride Semiconductors via In Situ Monitoring and Numerical Simulations Richard Schneider: Synthesis of metals using aluminothermic reduction	
	<u>Session B: Cultural and Linguistic Entanglements in European Intellectual History (Chairperson: Ljuba Maksimović)</u> Mihailo Antovic: Language, Music, and Meaning: A Humboldt (Success?) Story Dragana Grbic: Serbian Enlightenment and German intellectual circles of the 18th century Ivan P. Petrov: Further on Some Germanic Linguistic Entanglements in the Early Slavic Christian Language Ruxandra Cosma: The Language of Reconciliation. A Comparative Linguistic Study Lena Magnone: Saputnici (1913) by Isidora Sekulić: Between the Serbian Literary Avant-Garde and Transnational Female Modernism	Hall A
16:30 – 18:30	Belgrade city tour	
20:00 -	Conference gala dinner	
Day 4, Friday, 23rd October		
TIME	ACTIVITY	HALL
10:00 – 11:00	■ PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	<u>Session A: Exploring the Universe: Innovation and Collaboration in Modern Astronomy (Chairperson: Dragana Ilić)</u> Wolfram Kollatschny: What are Active Galactic Nuclei? Martin W. Ochmann: From Nearby to Distant: Advancing Astrophysics Through Collaboration Malte A. Probst: The complex signature in velocity-resolved reverberation mapping in WPVS 48 Natale de Bonis: Data Challenges for Big Data research in Astrophysics Tijana Prodanović: Innovations in Science Communication	Main hall
	<u>Session B: Rights, Identity and Cross-Border Cooperation in Contemporary Europe (Chairperson: Danijela Vidaković)</u> Ajla Škrbić: TBD Kostadin Karavasilev: Disability and LGBTQIA+ rights activism and advocacy in Bulgaria Oltea Daniela Joja: Approaching Alternatives for a Cooperation in Psychology and Psychotherapy between Romania and Serbia	Hall A
	<u>Session C: Sustainable Development, Recycling and Scientific Perspectives on Materials (Chairperson: Ivana Ivančev-Tumbas)</u> Valentin Mirceski: Toward an Epistemology of Reality: Perspectives from the Natural Sciences Petre Badica: The needs of the materials recycling industry: opportunities and challenges for interregional integration Dragi Antonijevic: Biofiber-Based Thermal Insulation Materials: Towards Sustainable and Durable Solutions	Hall B
11:00 – 12:30	■ POSTER SESSION	TBD
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

13:30 – 14:30	ROUND TABLE “Building a common research area: Practical steps to integrate Western Balkan science with EU frameworks” <u>Moderator: Dragana Ilić (Department of Astronomy Faculty of Mathematics University of Belgrade)</u> <u>Participants: Julia Iliina (DFG), Gojko Joksimović (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Montenegro), Rakić Nemanja (University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Science, BIH) Zoran Hadži Velkov (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University), Danijela Vidaković (IHTM, University of Belgrade, Serbia).</u>	Main hall
14:30 – 14:45	■ Closing ceremony	Main hall

Poster session:

Jovana Ajdačić: Diastereomeric Fullerene Composites for High-Performance Perovskite Solar Cells

Snežana Bošković: TBD

Djuro Djuric: Recent development of the insolvency law in Europe

Ana Kostov: Reduction of some polluting metals in contaminated mining land

Denis Kučević: Food self sufficiency rate Serbia vs Europe and Future

Milica Lazarević: TBD

Zlatko Levkov: Diatom flora, biogeography and ecology

Aleksandra Mitrović: PET- Fullerene derivatives for electron transport in photovoltaics

Jelena Nedeljković: Developing a Gender-Responsive National Action Plan for Forestry Education and Career Development in Serbia: Science, Policy and Practice toward EU Integration

Marina Nonić: TBD

Dragan Nonić: TBD

Aleksa Obradović: TBD

Luka C. Popović: TBD

Vojislava Postic: Chromophore-Functionalized Fullerene Derivatives for Materials Applications

Kristina Petrović: Applications of Third-Generation Sequencing in Biomonitoring

Ana Sarić: Epigenetic editing in triple negative breast cancer treatment

Elena Shablovinskaia: Jetted and non-jetted accreting supermassive black holes in optical and mm regimes

Goran Stegnjaić: TBD

Danijela Vidaković: Assessment of Diatom Communities in Serbian Lakes and Rivers Using eDNA

Ljubica Vlaović: Diatom communities in freshwater lakes in Serbia using DNA metabarcoding

Snezana Zaric: Scientific cooperation on Noncovalent interactions

Ivana Živojinović: Building an Integrated Vision of the Forest-Based Sector within a Bioeconomy