



ICA Excellence Award 2023 - Citation

Martin H H Gerzabek

Professor Martin Gerzabek has strongly shaped the development of ICA and its standing committee for “The ICA Regional Organisation for Central and South Eastern Europe” (hereinafter – CASEE) during his terms as a Rector of BOKU (2010 – 2018). His imprint on ICA and CASEE was not only present during his active involvement in their boards, but he continued activities and support for both organisations afterwards. He has been a true “founding father” of CASEE, thereby strengthening the roles, networking and visibility of Life Science universities in the Danube Region and stimulating the development of sustainable circular bioeconomy in Central and South-Eastern Europe and beyond. In his personality, the three university pillars: research, education and third mission, merge by providing excellent leadership in all aspects of his activity. Martin has outstanding achievements in all four selection criteria relevant to the ICA Excellence Award. This is also demonstrated by many leading positions and awards in international scientific associations.

His research focus deals with factors and processes of soil formation and examines the impact of soil development and management on ecological soil functions. He pioneered the investigation of soils of the Galápagos archipelago and their development over geological time scales, in different climatic zones and under agricultural land use.

Selected achievements of the nominee are exemplified by:

- Leading numerous (> 35) projects, incl. several EU projects and large cooperative projects (EUR 3.5 mio funding);
- More than 500 scientific publications, including 265 internationally peer-reviewed articles, almost 60 book chapters and 4 edited books;
- Leadership in initiating the development of the Austrian bioeconomy strategy and inspiring the academic community in the Danube Region towards strategic initiatives in Bioeconomy. Founding president of ICA-CASEE and Austrian networks highly relevant to bioeconomy (BIOS Science Austria) and management of natural disasters (DCNA);
- Leading positions in national and international scientific associations, research funding bodies and Academies;
- Since 2019 President of the Christian Doppler Research Association.

-Throughout his career Martin Gerzabek has continued his teaching activities in soil sciences, contributing to several Bachelor and Master curricula at BOKU in the fields of agricultural,

forestry and environmental sciences. Prof. Gerzabek supervised 37 PhD theses, 15 Masters theses and 5 habilitations, with high scientific outputs, supporting the career of young scientists, which demonstrates his very high commitment to university education in fields relevant to ICA as well as to a sustainable bioeconomy.

Prof. Gerzabek is continuously active in third mission activities by knowledge transfer to practitioners as well as the interested public, thus creating awareness and social impact through e.g. publications in popular scientific journals or magazines in the fields of soil sciences, bioeconomy, but also sustainable game management and hunting.