

In memoriam

Zoran Jakšić passed away on January 31, 2025, leaving a deep mark on the scientific community at both the national and international levels.

Zoran Jakšić was born on April 14, 1960, in Pančevo, where he completed his primary and secondary education. He graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Department of Technical Physics. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Department of Physical Electronics.

He spent his scientific and research career in Serbia. From 1983 to 1987, he worked in the development department of the "Utva" aircraft factory in Pančevo. In 1987, he moved to the Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade, where he worked at the Center for Microelectronic Technologies. He was the coordinator for science and deputy head of the Center for Microelectronic Technologies (2011-2018). He significantly contributed to the Center's accreditation as a national Center of Excellence in 2014.

Zoran Jakšić founded and taught several courses at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade. He was the supervisor of several doctoral dissertations, master's and diploma theses.

He selflessly supported and helped the scientific work of younger colleagues continuously, from doctoral studies to senior positions.

Since 1991 he was a member of the International Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and in 2002 he became IEEE Senior Member. He was a member of the Optical Society of America (OSA) and one of the founders, a member of the initial board and the elected president (President Elect) of the Optical Society of Serbia. He was also a member of the Council of the Association for Microwave Techniques, Technology and Systems of Serbia.

For more than two decades, he was involved in the organization of conferences of the ETRAN Society, where he was a member of the three-member Collegium, Chairman of the Program Committee, and Editor-in-Chief of the annual Proceedings of the ETRAN Conference. He was also Chairman of the Micro- and Optoelectronics (MO) Section. In addition, he was involved in organizing several national and international conferences.

His scientific work was dedicated to research in the engineering and technological sciences, particularly microelectronic, microsystem, and nanosystem sensors and detectors at the microchip level. He made a special contribution to research in the fields of photonic crystals, plasmonics, metamaterials and their applications in sensors and detectors. He was a pioneer of this research in Serbia and the founder of the first Serbian research group for plasmonics and metamaterials.

He has published more than 300 scientific papers, including a book (Springer Verlag) and over 75 articles in international scientific journals. He was involved as a leader or participant in 12 international scientific projects, including three EU FP7 projects, as well as 12 national projects.

In addition to his scientific achievements and pedagogical and organizational contributions, Zoran Jakšić leaves us a legacy of several books in the science fiction genre and an unsurpassed Serbian translation of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by D. Adams. Many of us read them with pleasure and pride and recommend them to younger generations.

We remember Zoran Jakšić as a dedicated scientist, an excellent lecturer, and a colleague who was very supportive of his associates and members of the community. We will miss him for a long time, but his expertise, friendly attitude, and modesty will remain in our memories and serve as a role model.