

## In Memoriam



On 09 August 2024 our colleague, friend and long-time Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Cybernetics and Information Technologies”, Associate Professor Danail Dochev, passed away.

Danail Dochev was born on April 10, 1945 in the town of Karnobat. In 1968 he graduated from the Faculty of Radio-electronics of the Technical University, Sofia, where he received MSc degree in Electronics and Computers. From the same university, in 1983 he received a PhD degree in Computer Science. From 1968 till 1971 he worked at the Plant for Computing Technique, Sofia as an engineer responsible for computer installation and maintenance. From 1971 till his passing, the whole work of Danail Dochev was tightly connected with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In the period of 1971-1979 he worked as a Research Associate at the Institute of Mathematics, where he carried out research in the field of Cybernetics. From 1979 till 1990 he continued his research and development activities in the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics as a Research Associate and Associate Professor. During this period he was a leading scientist in the field of developing innovative control systems for industrial robots. His inventions in this field were rewarded with several national patents and were implemented in more than 200 control devices for industrial robots, produced at the Robot Factory in Stara Zagora. From 1990 till 1994 Dr. Dochev continued his research as a Head of Artificial Intelligence Department at the Institute of Informatics. On his supervision an original Bulgarian version of a logic programming language (Z-Prolog) was developed, as well as one of the first Bulgarian expert systems DIGS. From 1994 till 2010 Associate Professor Danail Dochev carried out research in the field of Knowledge-based

Systems and e-Learning Systems as a head of Artificial Intelligence Department of the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies, where he was later an Associate Professor. He is an author of two books and more than 110 papers, published in Bulgarian and foreign journals or conference proceedings. He was a site leader of 8 international research projects funded by the European Commission, as well as of several Bulgarian projects funded by Bulgarian Science Foundation. He was a lecturer in 5 Bulgarian universities, including Sofia University and Technical University of Sofia. During the period 2000-2010 Dr. Dochev was a chair of the Organization Committee of the biennial international conference “Artificial Intelligence: Methodology, Systems, Applications (AIMSA)”, as well as chair of the Bulgarian Artificial Intelligence Association (2010 – 2024). From 2001 till 2024 Assoc. Prof. Danail Dochev was an Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Cybernetics and Information Technologies”.

Assoc. Prof. Danail Dochev was a wonderful person. He was kind-hearted and he had the gift of resolving all disputes very carefully. We all felt his competence, responsibility, dedication and the best human qualities. Subtle, discreet, noble, Assoc. Prof. Dochev brought serenity, calmness and wisdom.

May his soul rest in peace.