



IFKT INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF KNITTING TECHNOLOGISTS
IFWS INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION VON WIRKEREI- UND STRICKEREI-FACHLEUTEN

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IFKT – between professional and spiritual accomplishment



No matter of age, style, gender, country or religion, we all want to belong to a social or professional group and to get the security feeling of being ourselves understood.

I personally became a member of IFKT in 1998, at Professor's W. Schach suggestion. I was that time hosted at Fachhochschule Reutlingen, as a DAAD doctoral researcher, under Prof. C. Iyer guidance. Coming from an old communist regime, the study in Germany was my real chance to get in contact with another world: of different mentalities, of communication, of novelties and personal development. So IFKT was my first organization that I attended to, and I had the first feeling of belonging to a group of common scientific interests. Since the beginning of my career at "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi, Romania, my professional life is turning around the 'knitting world' either is about teaching, research or consultancy.

Belonging to a professional organization offers to an individual an added professional identity. In the artistic world i.e. belonging to a literary can be a real consecration. A part of the actor's celebrity, it throws back to the other members of the group. In the scientific world, the sense of communion, of professional community gets high accents when this is officially confirmed by a professional association membership. Professional community signifies common ideas, interests, communication tools and language.

Technical and scientific language, which is above the linguistic one, get people closed and in the meantime makes them apart from other social and professional categories. The specific language is learned and practiced by each professional, in laboratory or classes, but it is going to be completed by lecturing with the occasion of international scientific events.

The international events represent an opportunity of scientific ideas exchange, for transfer of culture and specific geographical values. The people can meet each other from the books, from patents or articles but the real cognition is happening by the direct contact, during the presentations and discussions. A public presentation is more than a scientific text, which is characterized by academic rigor, precision and impersonal style. A public lecture personalizes the scientific text, bringing besides the scientific information, the image of the researcher and its creation together. Is there need of knowing the author of an article? We could be disappointed, of course. Is it recommendable to limit ourselves to a simple reception of the impersonal information? On the other hand, it is important for an author to identify himself with the scientific product, to become a whole not only in the research area, but also in public. This is essentially the meaning of participating to a congress or conference from a particular field.

The human contact comes after the professional one. The human interactions conduct to the ulterior professional collaborations. It might happen that we don't like a person with significant scientific activity and this is a real challenge, to overcome the personal opinion and to collaborate for the progress reason.

I assume, that I offered you enough and strong reasons about the role of an organization in the modelling of profession and personality.

I, personally, attended the editions of the IFKT Congress in Croatia, Bulgaria, Russia and Slovenia. There were nice and useful scientific and cultural experiences, besides the great friendships I made. I realized that the knitting technology itself cannot survive without the significant contribution of the raw materials developments, the finishing treatments and IT applications. I discovered that, we, the knitters must get in contact with the specialists from other strategic fields, in order to add the required value to the knitted products, and make them useful for a great variety of end uses. So, to interact with other people as much important as we are.

It is Romania's turn, of getting the honor of organizing the forthcoming 46th International Congress of IFKT. The IFKT Romanian branch was founded in 1974, at the Conference organized in Dornbirn, Austria, at Professor's Aristide Dodu initiative, with the support of the founders. After 1990, the changes in the Romanian law determined a great fluctuation in the number of members. It must be underlined that the Romanian branch was treated with great understanding and had all support from the IFTK administration board to which we are very grateful. The **Romanian IFKT section** actually counts 22 members, professors, engineers and doctoral students.

After the retirement of Prof. Dodu from the position of IFKT branch President, in 1990, the Romanian section was transferred in Iasi, at Faculty of Textiles, Leather and Industrial Management, where a young and energetic team improved the collaboration with IFTK members and branches.

The complete picture of the knitting branch in Romania has in top the **textile education** provided since 1952 by the study programs available at the Faculty, at all levels: bachelor, master and doctoral, and postgraduate at request.

The knitting industry as part of the whole, passed through significant changes, according to the society evolution. We could divide the periods: before and after 89' revolution, before and after attending the UE and all historical changes had a certain influence and consequences. Generally, we can outline some trends, like: decrease of the number of companies, number of employees, production volume and exports. Besides, the production changes, from traditional knitwear to technical destinations, from big orders to small orders of a high quality for exclusive markets. The companies decreased or gave up the Lohn system and developed their domestic brands, trying to penetrate the international trade.

One can conclude that, in such a dynamic world, we must be in contact, sharing experiences and good practices, gathering together and focusing on strong professional organizations, as a solution for surviving and progress.

Nowadays, the information technology facilitates the contact between scientists worldwide, in real time, in virtual environment. But it would be not a pity to meet, to talk, and to get the best from each other!?

How we would be, without our friends from different countries, met at Conferences? WE WOULD CERTAINLY BE POORER AND LONELIER!

This was the preface and the invitation to the 46th edition of the IFKT Congress, which will be organized by the IFKT Romanian section, in the city of Sinaia, during September the 6th – 8th, 2012.

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President of the 46th IFKT Congress, Romania, 2012

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