



**We would be happy to get to know something about your academic career and it would be nice if you could describe your academic work in a few words.**

I received my B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in physics at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia, in 1986, 1990 and 1992. From 1986 I have been employee of the Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI) in Zagreb, Croatia. I was Alexander von Humbolt post-doctoral researcher at the University of Würzburg (1994- 1996) and visiting scientist at the University of Trento (2000-2001). In 2005 I was promoted to Senior Scientist at RBI. I have been working on 12 scientific projects, including a technological project "Implementation and development of the LPCVD process", where new techniques in synthesis of nanocrystalline silicon thin films for sensors and thermoelectrics were developed. As responsible head of the organizing committee, I was the organizer of the International conference "2nd Adriatic School of Nanoscience" held in Dubrovnik in 2012. At that period, I was the Main Coordinator for the organization and building of Croatian Center for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology. I have published more than 170 papers in journals and conference proceedings in the area of structure and vibrational dynamics of semiconductor and oxide nanostructures and on new techniques of Raman spectroscopy. Currently, I am the head of the Laboratory of Molecular Physics where I lead the research project: "Physics and applications of nanostructures and bulk matter," financed by the Croatian Ministry of Science.

**How do you see yourself in your role as a citizen of the EU?**

I see European Union as family of countries/nations with joint history and cultures that have to work synergistically toward the cultural exchange and economic development of EU. Such cultural and academic exchanges have to inspire novel initiatives among EU countries which could affect science, technology, enculturation and economy development. This is a big challenge, but also a great responsibility for every citizen of EU. My responsibility is to involve my best knowledge and working habits in order to use this opportunity on the benefit of my country as well as the whole EU.

**What is your personal opinion regarding the most important challenges and reasons regarding a participation in the European Union as a nation?**

In this year my country became a member of the European Union. Throughout the centuries, the Croatian history and culture has been shared with Europe, thus entering into this community of nation we consider as returning to our natural environment. The vision of the EU as a community of nations, where there are no borders and customs, has been mainly achieved. The implementation of structural and cohesion programs of EU are still in the process, focused to the realization of vision of balanced development of all EU Member States. For the successful functioning of Croatia in European Union, we still need to resolve a number of issues originate from the last century, related to the adoption of organizational, business and ethical standards of the European Union. In this process, we need the support of the European Union. By intensifying processes of academic cooperation, the economic development of all Member States could accelerate. It should be emphasized that, in sense of the development of modern science and technology in the new Member States, of great importance are various bilateral projects. The development of science and technology in the new Member States is also a way for fostering the economic development of all

participants in the process, which should enhance the positioning of the European Union in the modern globalized world.

**What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academic and economical exchange?**

Research activities in the laboratory of Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kiefer, for all the young scientists were precious experience. Participating in professional activities and informal daily meetings, I felt like a member of a family of scientists. The Alumni community provides us an opportunity for reunion, what is for each of us a precious personal experience. Furthermore, the Alumni give an opportunity of providing us a common platform for encouraging mutual discussions, which might result in developing of collaborative research projects. I look forward to our reunion.