



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.

Having graduated the University of Technology (KPI) in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1969, I worked until 1972 at the University of Technology (VGTU) in Vilnius, doing research in Applied Mechanics. In 1972 I moved to Warsaw, Poland and started my employment at the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research (IPPT PAN). This institute belongs to the Polish Academy of Sciences. It has similar status as Max-Planck institutes in Germany. Applied Mechanics remained my domain of interest until 1986, when I changed it for Robotics. Since January 2013 I am retired.

During the last decade I developed software controlling autonomous mobile robots. This subdomain of Robotics develops very fast nowadays. Everybody may notice it when buying a new car. Most of them are now equipped with navigation systems, radars and cameras that help to drive safely. The roots of these systems can be traced back towards research on Mobile Robotics. It is also worth mentioning that in the future social robots may at least partially reduce the shortage of man power that will take care of elderly and disabled people.

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

I am proud of being member of this community. We Europeans have much more in common than we notice under common life. Once I spend longer time in one of Asian countries. One day I came to my hotel and saw at the reception desk somebody resembling a person from Europe. It turned out indeed that it is true. We found immediately common language and spend the evening sipping beer in the bar. It was not important whether that person came from France, Germany or Norway — it was simply pleasant to meet a European.

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

If I understand properly, this question concerns the feelings of Polish people towards the EU. At present the vast majority of Poles likes the Union. Some politicians try to raise negative emotions speaking about the decrease in the independence of our country after the access. However, these arguments find rather limited support.

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

In my opinion, Alumni Clubs play very positive role. German participants become an opportunity to learn more about neighboring countries. Foreign members have a chance to understand better German culture and customs. All together enjoy pleasant atmosphere and embrace warm person-to-person contacts.