

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics

In October 1997 we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute for Mathematics and Informatics (IMI) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS).

In these fifty years of development the IMI has been one of the principal institutes of the BAS with a leading role in the country in the domain of mathematics and informatics and with considerable international recognition. The basis of this is the scientific staff of the Institute: its 21 sections, which comprise almost all of the most important areas of contemporary mathematics and computer science, employ 2 regular and 2 corresponding members of the BAS, 26 full professors, 75 associate professors and 72 research fellows. Some of the researchers of the IMI (about 30 people) are currently guest professors on long-term contracts in élite universities overseas, thereby also carrying out direct scientific cooperation.

Many of the researchers of the IMI are members of prestigious international organisations, and some of them are also bearers of international awards.

The theoretical and applied output of the Institute is of an exceptionally high level, as shown by some quantifiable data. In the last five years, 42 scientific monographs have been published, comprising 19 in the country and 23 by renowned overseas publishers. For the same period the number of scholarly articles is 1020, 334 of them in Bulgarian journals and 686 in international academic journals. There have been published 48 textbooks and workbooks for the institutions of higher education, as well as 46 popular scientific editions.

Work is performed in the Institute on 45 projects sponsored by the National Fund for Scientific Research.

The IMI participates actively in international scientific projects funded by the programmes of the European Union – 3 projects within COPERNICUS and 1 project within COST. Also in progress are 2 contracts with UNESCO, 1 with the National Science Foundation of the USA and 1 with the scientific fund of Volkswagen, Germany.

Work is done within direct inter-institutional contracts with Canada (1), Ireland (1), Russia (2), Switzerland (1), the USA (4), the Ukraine (1) etc.

Within the framework of equivalent exchange the Institute has bilateral cooperation with France (1 topics), Hungary (3), Italy (4), Poland (1), Romania (3), Russia (6), Sweden (2).

The IMI organises an average of 10 international conferences and congresses every year, including events of a European or global scope.

The IMI is extremely active in the field of education in mathematics and computer science in high schools and universities. The Institute is in close cooperation with more than 10 universities in the country, and over 5000 hours of lectures and 5000 hours of laboratories have been given in 1996. Our staff is also highly esteemed overseas, and guest professors from the Institute have given more than 1100 hours of lectures in renowned universities in Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, the USA etc.

The IMI takes an active part in the development of new scholars of the mathematical sciences. Most supervised undergraduate and postgraduate students of mathematics and computer science have outstanding researchers from the Institute as their thesis advisers.

For years teams from the IMI have been working with talented high school and college students, who have been winning prestigious awards at the International Olympiads in mathematics and computer science.

The IMI does a huge amount of expert and consulting work with practical connection to all fields of mathematics and computer science and their applications.

The IMI publishes *Serdica Mathematical Journal*, whose editorial board is composed of eminent scholars from many countries.

Some experts refer to the twenty-first century as the century of the Information Society. The IMI with its highly qualified staff is prepared to do its duty towards the integration of Bulgaria into this society.

Prof. N. Yanev,
Director of the IMI