Constantin Gaindric – 80th anniversary

On September 11, 2021 Prof. Constantin Gaindric turns 80! This age does not track in any way with this person when you look at him.

Always fit, neat, impetuous, smart, vigorous, decisive, attentive, curious, with a smile on his face, ready to explain, suggest, discuss, tell an interesting story from his busy life, a lover of good music and literature – it's all about one person.
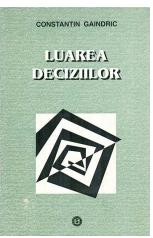
Doctor habilitatus, Full Professor, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, National Prize Laureate of Moldova, Editor-in-Chief of the "Computer Science Journal of Moldova", Member of the Mathematical Society of the Republic of Moldova, Member of the Romanian Society of Mathematical Modeling, Member of the Balkan Union for Fuzzy Systems – these are several, but by no means all items from the large list that may characterize the same one person.

Constantin Gaindric published his first scientific paper being still a student at the Pedagogical Institute in Bălți. As a co-author, there was the name of Professor Israel Gohberg, a name that will soon become notorious in the world of functional analysis and operator theory. Then
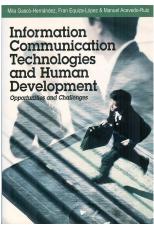
none of them assumed that they will become colleagues at the Institute of Mathematics of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. Later the words "and Computer Science" were added to the Institute title thanks to the insistence of Professor Gaindric, who was already the director of this institute. It was here that he fully manifested his talent as a mathematician, computer scientist, but also as a leader and manager. He had a rather difficult mandate, in a period of disintegration of the USSR and the formation of the independent state of the Republic of Moldova. The transition was not easy at all: half-year overdue salaries, unheated offices in winter, disconnected telephones. The great merit of director Gaindric was the preservation of the staff, which survived even in those harsh conditions. Moreover, at that time he initiated publication of the Computer Science Journal of Moldova, concluded the first collaboration agreements with research institutions abroad. And when a representative of an organization, one of those that was well funded at any time, proposed to "buy" the institute, offering funding in exchange for hiring the entire staff that worked on the issue related to its profile, he replied firmly: "The institute is not for sale".

He hesitated a lot when he was proposed to head the Supreme Attestation Commission (SAC), which was in charge of organizing the doctoral theses defenses and conferring the respective titles. He accepted the challenge and carried out a radical reform of this field, abandoning the Soviet model and establishing the one close to that of European countries. Specifically, there were abandoned the specialized scientific councils of 20 people and more, of which there were two or three members who understood what the thesis was about. Instead of this, a flexible mechanism was adopted, with a commission of 5-7

people, specialists in that subject. Moreover, the theses began to be posted on the SAC website. This was the first step in the direction of Open Science, which is now talked about a lot; in the Republic of Moldova it was done 20 years ago. These things seem natural now, but 20 years ago Prof. Gaindric had to overcome the harsh resistance of people rooted in the old system, who could not imagine how a doctoral commission could work without having a permanent chair for all theses' defenses in the field, or how the text of a thesis can be displayed for public access.

Always young even at this anniversary time, energetic, full of new ideas, he remains one of the most active members of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the most devoted researchers of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics. Happy birthday, dear colleague!

We wish you health, energy, creative success, and a good mood!

The Editorial Board of Computer Science Journal of Moldova and the staff of the Vladimir Andrunachievici Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science