

Collaboration with a real and close friend

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I was shocked when I heard just before Christmas, that my friend Vassilis was in a very severe health situation and he was in the intensive care of the hospital. However I hoped that he would be back with his family soon. I could not believe, when Andreas Vlissidis informed me, that Vassili left us forever.

We met last during my last visit to the TEI in May 2011. Vassilis had invited me the last years since my first stay to have a seminar about "Digital Broadcasting Techniques" to the students of the TEI. This seminar is one part of the intense cooperations between the University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf and the TEI of Crete, Vassilis was responsible for it.

More than 10 years ago, we had a lot of students from the TEI coming to Düsseldorf as Erasmus students and on the other side students from Düsseldorf stayed for 1 semester at the TEI. So I decided not only to send students but also to send a professor, me, to come to the TEI and to have some lectures there. This was the first time when I met Vassili, who arranged in short time everything for my 3 month stay in Crete and continued to support me with everything I needed.

During my next stay in Crete, Vassilis had the idea to strengthen the cooperation with Düsseldorf with the development of a joined master program between the Department of Electrical Engineering, the De-



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partment of Media Technology in Düsseldorf and the Department of Applied Informatics and Multimedia of the TEI. An agreement of cooperation was signed between the institutions, in the following years we developed together a Joint Master Program of Telecommunication and Multimedia, study program, examination regulations, lecturers in Düsseldorf and Heraklion, everything was ready, the

with lectures from different European Universities. We started with a one week summerschool with lecturers from Düsseldorf and the TEI in 2005. In the following years this summerschool developed to a 2 week IP Sokrates summerschool program which is financed by the EU and which is continued this year.

In all the years my wife and I found a real and close friendship with Vassili and his



Επίσκεψη στο Fachhochshule του Duesseldorf. Διακρίνονται στο μέσον ο Βασίλης Ζαχαρόπουλος και ο Axel Schnell

accreditation documents were prepared so that the start of the program was planned for the winter period 2007/2008. Unfortunately the program could not start due to problems with the Greek legislation concerning postgraduate Master's Programs.

Another idea Vassilis and Andreas Vlisidis had, was to start with a summer-school for Greek and foreign students,

family. His big heart, his friendship, the hospitality of him and his family, the genius of his ideas in education, this is a big loss for me and everybody who had relation with him.

I will miss Vassili sadly when I visit the TEI next time.