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IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR KOLOMAN IVANIČKA

In August 2014 our dear colleague, Prof. **Koloman Ivanička** passed away. During his rich professional journey through life, spanning the beautiful and impressive 85 years, he developed from studying the secrets and regularities of the complex of geographical science to a profile of the leading scientist with the interdisciplinary focus. He also did a pioneering work in a field of synergetics, globalistics, regionalism and International Relations. He cooperated with economists and experts with technical specialisation.

He successfully represented Slovak Republic on the international scene. He was rightfully included in the prestigious publication „*Who's who in the World*“. **Koloman** was the member of several scientific commissions, including the *International Geographical Union*. Several times he became the Section Head in the *global geographic congresses*: New Delhi, Moscow, Tokyo, Budapest. His active work in a research team of **Elinor Ostrom**, Nobel Prize winner for Economics in 2009, is widely recognised. His active participation in the successful mission of the representatives of the parliamentary committee for currency and budget in Brettonwood and US institutions in Washington in summer 1992, before the formation of independent Slovak Republic, is also famous.

He represented the Slovak science in 1997 when he participated in the preparation of the publication *United Nations Universities*, which was released in Washington in four major languages as the *Millenium Project - State of the Future*. He was also a member of the *National Convention on EU*. In 2002, he was awarded the *Medal of Milan Rastislav Štefánik* by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for his contribution in the field of European integration. *Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic* in a cooperation with the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* and *International Environment Centre* gave him a special award for the contribution in the implementation of sustainable development in Slovakia.

Koloman Ivanička is widely recognised as one of the preminent scholars in the Slovak academic and scientific area. **Prof. RNDr. Koloman Ivanička, DrSc.** was for us, in particular, one of the founding fathers of the *Faculty of Political Science and International Relations in Banská Bystrica*. Probably that crucial one. He was chairman of habilitation and inauguration committees – he appointed eleven professors and associate professors at the Faculty of Political

Science and International Relations. Important part of his role was the preparation and chairing of the doctoral committee. He was appointed a member of the *Scientific Council of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations* and a member of the *Scientific Council of Matej Bel University* in Banská Bystrica. We will remember him as a head of the *Department of Synergetics and Prognostic*, later as a head of the *Department of World Politics*, as a head of *Academic Senate of the Faculty*, as a member of *Academic Senate of the University* and also as a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal *Political Science*, journal concentrated on topics from Political Science, International Relations, modern history and Security Studies, and also as a founder of new study programme „*European Studies*“. The result of his initiative was the fact that the faculty proceeded to the publication of series of the scientific papers, *Scientific script*, in English language.

Prof. RNDr. Koloman Ivanička, DrSc. was responsible for training an uncountable number of graduate students. He trained the whole generation of scientific researchers in Slovakia, who work nowadays as managing elites at the universities, ministries, foreign and international institutions.

Apart from his extraordinary scholarly achievements, **Koloman Ivanička** was also an inspiring and accomplished teacher. We were extraordinarily fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from him, and the study of political geography is much the richer for his remarkable contributions. He will stay forever in our memories as a deliberate, remarkably wise and in same time modest man, with a special gift to communicate, argue and persuade. We will remember him as tolerant, affable, generous, tenacious, strong, and successful person.

University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica considers itself as an integral part of Slovak academic community. Therefore, we are justifiably proud of what we build in a metropolis of central Slovakia under Koloman's leadership and in cooperation with him.

Honour his memory!

Editorial Board of Journal Politické vedy (Political Sciences)