

**Jochen Harant** was born in 1954 in Stadtilm, Germany. He is married and he has one son. In 1980 he graduated at the Technical University in Ilmenau receiving the Master of Science in Mathematics. In 1982 he obtained his PhD degree under

the supervision of Hansjoachim Walther at the same university. His academic career continued at the Technical University in Ilmenau, where he worked in sequel as a scientific assistant and a senior assistant. In 1992 he obtained a full professor position. In the years 2001-2003 he was the chair of the Council of the Technical University of Ilmenau. From 2005 to 2007 he served as the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science.

Professor Harant is an outstanding and internationally recognised scientist in the field of discrete mathematics. He is an excellent university teacher and mathematician dealing with various graph theory topics including hamiltonicity, polyhedral graphs, domination, independence and colourings. His extensive lecture's activities have resulted in an application of linear algebra and probabilistic methods in discrete mathematics research. He published about 70 scientific papers in renowned scientific journals and gave a number of talks as an invited speaker at international conferences. Since mathematics is an integral part of his professional and private life, in 2005 he was designated as a head of Society of Friends of Mathematics at the Technical University in Ilmenau. In 2013 he was awarded by the Technical University in Ilmenau for exceptional lecturing activities and tutorship of mathematically gifted students.

The intensive relationship between Professor Harant and graph theorists of the Faculty of Science of Pavol Šafárik University in Košice was established almost 25 years ago. The first contacts between Ilmenau and Košice graph theory groups dates back to 1960 and they were initiated by Prof. Sachs and Prof. Jucovič. After the political changes in both countries in 1989, they became really intensive. At that time research groups led by Prof. Walther and Prof. Harant (Ilmenau) and Prof. Jendrol' (Košice) have realised that they share research topics. It provides a starting point and a base for an intensive collaboration, preparation of common scientific projects, exchange of researchers, and common supervision of PhD thesis and publications of co-authored papers. Probably the most important fruit of this cooperation is the workshop "Cycles and Colourings" that is regularly organised since 1992. During years it has hosted hundreds of great and distinguished mathematicians

and helped to spread the knowledge about Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and Slovak science all over the world.

Prof. Harant is one of the most important persons of the cooperation that continuously supports common activities with new ideas and energy. He is well-known for his modesty, fairness and team approach in any situation. He brought to the Organising Committee of the workshop German precision and exactness. On the other hand, Slovak colleagues had many opportunities to benefit from his “Slavic” hospitality and selflessness during their numerous stays in Germany. In the course of his many visits to Slovakia, Prof. Harant has developed a passion for our country, especially the High Tatras mountains and the Slovenský raj mountains. Due to his long-term collaboration, in 2003 he was awarded Gold Medal of the Faculty of Science of Pavol Šafárik University in Košice.