

Jan Zofka



Jan Zofka, the internationally known expert on hypernuclei, died unexpectedly last May in Prague at the age of 48. Zofka graduated in 1966 from the Czech Technical Faculty of Nuclear Physics and entered the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Rez near Prague, where he worked until his death. He started as a student of Professor Trlifaj and after a six month visit to the Service de Physique at CEN Saclay, France, he completed, in 1971 in Prague, his Ph.D. on the Hartree-Fock theory applied to nuclear shapes.

He started working on hypernuclei in 1976, a subject that earned him an international reputation in spite of very difficult working conditions. Zofka was forbidden

for 11 years to travel to the West. After 1982 when he could travel again he was frequently invited to Japan, to Brookhaven in the USA, to TRIUMF in Canada, to Darmstadt and Jülich in Germany, and to Orsay and Saclay in France. He became a close friend and collaborator of the late Professor Bandō of Japan, to whom the article on hypernuclei on page 115 by R. Bertini from CEN Saclay is also dedicated.

Only in 1989, when Czecho-Slovakia was finally freed from over 40 years of communist rule, was Zofka entrusted with the responsibilities he really deserved. He became Head of the Theoretical Department of the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Rez in 1990, and was elected President of the Physical Section of the Union of Czecho-Slovak Academy of Sciences. He also became a Delegate to EPS Council.

All who knew Jan remember his continuous smile and good mood. He was a tireless worker and, during the last two years, he devoted considerable time and energy to his colleagues, helping them to establish useful contacts with laboratories abroad. His fluent English, French, German, and Russian, his exceptionally congenial manner and his absolute honesty made Zofka one of the best known and loved Czech physicists. He leaves a wife and three children.

Georges Ripka
Saclay, France

Letter to the Editor Professional Qualifications

The note "Obligations on professional qualifications not yet honoured" (*Europhysics News* 22 (1991) 92) highlights a new development and additional comment is necessary.

The concept of professional qualifications, the award of which involves assessment beyond educational qualifications so as to include proven competence in professional activity, has hitherto been more widely accepted in the UK than in the remainder of Europe. This is certainly the case for the physics community although the IOP, because its membership is not confined to UK nationals, has on its register Chartered Physicists in other EC countries. The EC Directive on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications gives formal recognition to the professional designation *CPhys* and places it in a wider European context.

Some points in the published note on this matter require further clarification so as to avoid any misunderstanding. There has been no necessity for any bilateral agreement between the UK and Ireland in relation to the recognition of the title *Chartered Physicist* because implementing regulations in the UK now ensure its recognition throughout the EC. Those who

are already entitled to do so can continue to use the title without further formality provided they remain paid up members of the IOP. However, the new Directive is complex especially when qualifying bodies for the same profession do not exist in other Member States and the IOP, which has published guidance notes for individual applicants on the implementation of the Directive for physics, has welcomed the initiative of the EPS to establish a Working Group to consider implications arising from the Directive and ways in which some difficulties might be resolved.

Although as yet in an early phase of its work, the EPS Working Group has agreed to extend its activity so as to consider circumstances in which physicists, particularly when working in conjunction with other professionals, require or could benefit from some means of formal professional identity. Co-operation and information will be sought from individual national societies so as to assist the Working Group to ascertain the nature and extent of the problems.

D. Jefferies

Chairman, EPS Working Group on Professional Qualifications



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Balkan Meetings Activities Launched



Professors K.G. Akdeniz (on the left) and K.C. Makropoulos, Presidents of the Turkish Physical Society and the Hellenic Physical Society, respectively, enjoying a viewing point above Zürich during the EPS Council Meeting last month. Professor Akdeniz is the President of the Balkan Physical Union founded in 1985 which has physical societies in Albania, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia as members. The Union holds its first General Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 26-28 September 1991 and the first Balkan School of Physics (titled "Accelerator Physics Research and Applications") in Istanbul, Turkey on 2-13 September 1991.