

EIM'S MESSAGE: Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA – 25 years of development (2001–2026)

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Abstract— In the last twenty-five years, the INFOTEH-JAHORINA Symposium has evolved from a small gathering into a significant scientific forum. Initially, it attracted a small group of researchers, but today it draws hundreds of participants from various disciplines. Throughout the years, the conference has kept up with scientific trends and provided a space for the exchange of ideas between academia and industry. It has especially contributed to the creation of a network of cooperation between institutions and individuals, not only in the Balkan region but also throughout Europe and the world. Each new decade has brought progress in both the quality of published papers and the organization of symposiums. Publications resulting from the conference have become references in many works. The organizers continuously invested in improving the program by introducing plenary lectures, workshops, and panel discussions. The conference also provided an opportunity for young researchers to present their first works. The 25th anniversary confirms the conference's importance and lasting value in the scientific community. A personal review of this period reveals that the conference did more than just follow the course of education and scientific research; it shaped it.

Keywords— Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA

I. SYMPOSIUM INFOTEH-JAHORINA – 25 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT (2001–2026)

After the successful renewal of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering (ETF) in Serbian Sarajevo (SS) following the wars of the 1990s, the faculty management team, led by Prof. Dr. Veljko Vuletić (on the left side on Fig. 1), set out to renew the conference on information technologies held on Mount Jahorina [1]. Professor Vuletić believed that a successful faculty must have three components: educational, scientific, and economic. The idea was to revitalize these components through the INFOTEH-Jahorina symposium. Despite the ongoing consequences of the war, all ETF employees in SS, visiting professors from Serbia and Montenegro, and business entities with which the ETF collaborated accepted the idea. Due to the small number of employees at the ETF in the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the ETF in Belgrade assisted with the organization of the conference. In addition to organizational assistance, almost all faculties from Serbia and Montenegro that had visiting professors at the ETF in the Serbian Academy of Sciences also provided financial assistance for the first symposium. The political

circumstances in Serbia were unfavorable, so primarily professors from the ETF in Belgrade participated in the symposium. However, thanks to the determination and solidarity of all the Serbian professors, along with Professor Vuletić's ability to handle difficult situations with ease, the symposium was successfully organized. There was a clear vision that this would not be a short-term renewal of the former Jahorina conference's mission, but rather the creation of a long-term strategy for organizing symposia with their own unique characteristics and recognizability. These characteristics are reflected primarily in the hospitality of the ETF employees and the hotel staff who organized the symposium.



Figure 1 – Prof. Dr. Veljko Vuletić (left) and Prof. Dr. Stevan Stankovski at the Programme Committee meeting of the Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA in 2009.

The first decade of the symposium was characterized by a family atmosphere because most participants knew each other. This was a huge advantage because all current problems were solved with minimal stress and tension. There were particularly emotional moments when the bus arrived from Serbia with the symposium participants and when it returned them to Serbia after the symposium. Over the years, the teaching staff transitioned from ETF to SS, who took over the complete organization of the symposium. Prof. Dr. Slobodan Milojković occupied a special place as president of the program committee. He took care of the quality of the papers published at the symposium, led the sections, chose thematic areas and introductory lectures,

and, above all, introduced young staff to the symposium system.

Political circumstances brought about changes, beginning with Srpsko Sarajevo becoming Istočno Sarajevo (IS) and the ministries of Republika Srpska becoming sponsors of the symposium. Most notably, the symposium began publishing papers from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region, and other European countries.

Prof. Dr. Veljko Vuletić organized the symposium as president of the organizing committee, and this effort continued with Prof. Dr. Božidar Krstajić and Prof. Dr. Zoran Ljuboja. Together with Prof. Dr. Slobodan Milojković, they were also part of the pre-war teaching staff. This experience gave them the energy to create systems for the ETF in IS and the symposium itself that would be important not only locally.

As it enters its second decade, the symposium has received support from the IEEE and other international associations, contributing to its recognition and quality. The number of plenary lectures and roundtable discussions has increased, and new thematic areas and special student sessions have been introduced. The papers have also been indexed in significant scientific databases, strengthening the symposium's impact on the landscape of scientific conferences. It should also be noted that selected papers may be published in international scientific journals.

Prof. Dr. Božidar Popović's arrival at the head of the organizing committee brings a new level of professionalism aimed at expanding the symposium's and the ETF's importance to the entire scientific community, not only in the Republic of Srpska but also in the region. The intention is to make the symposium recognizable throughout Europe. Prof. Dr. Slobodan Lubura continues to successfully lead the symposium program committee, maintaining its quality despite the increased number of papers submitted for publication. Professors Danijel Mijić and Natasa Popović continue to contribute greatly to the organization of the symposium and the publication of papers in indexed scientific databases and international journals.

This symposium's greatest value lies in connecting the academic community with industry and creating a network of collaborators who presented projects from nearly all areas related to electrical engineering and computing. Looking back, one can see the continuity from its modest beginnings with about fifty papers to today's well-recognized gathering with hundreds of participants. The INFOTEH-JAHORINA symposium has become synonymous with quality, multidisciplinary, and openness to new ideas.

As a participant in all previous symposia, I am proud to have contributed to the development of this event (Fig. 2). Participating in the symposium has been a professional task and part of my legacy from the beginning.



Figure 2 – Participants of the Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA in 2009.

It is my legacy to the people from whom I learned and received support, to those I mentored, and to my family, who are as connected to the symposium, the ETF in IS, and Mount Jahorina as I am.

REFERENCES

- [1] <https://infoteh.etf.ues.rs.ba>, accessed March 1, 2026.