

Dear Rector, Dean, Authorities of the University of Zilina,  
Dear Colleagues and students

It is my pleasure to be here in Zilina, not only because it is my first visit in Slovakia, but also because in this way I have the opportunity to know the Slovak people from close.

Therefore, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the local Authorities for their participation in organizing this course on “Embedded techniques and services for wireless communication networks” here at the University of Zilina and their generous hospitality. Further, I would like to thank my colleagues and partners for supporting the idea to establish and finally realize this important course. Last but not least a lot of thanks should be addressed to the Greek National Agency of Erasmus for giving us the opportunity to organize this course at three different places in three different countries by providing the necessary funding.

This course on “Embedded techniques and services for wireless communication networks” involves 3 countries, 4 universities, 18 students, more than 20 teachers, more than 80 hours of intensive learning and training; but there is though one target: Erasmus. Today, have gathered here in the beautiful city of Zilina students from different nations to learn more about our common scientific interests, to work together in scientific groups, and to get experience in new cultural aspects.

This intensive course looks like a common summer school. But it is not. The difference is that the objective of the course is not of general interest. This intensive programme is oriented to specific target groups (those of students and teachers from Slovakia, Austria and Greece). As I mentioned above the course takes place at three different places (Zilina, Graz and Patras) and is financially supported by the European Union by 75%.

The story behind the organization of this course is the following. One year ago, some colleagues from the universities of the participating

countries had the idea to submit a proposal to the Greek National Agency of Erasmus for funding an intensive programme within the subject area of Telecommunications. The aim of the proposal was to bring together students, teaching staff and experts in order to work on “*Embedded Techniques and Services for Wireless Communication Networks*”. In the last decade, telecommunications have moved from a background role to a competitive field with advantages in business, increased productivity in public services, and economic development. The key issue in the evolution of telecommunications in that proposal was focused on the terrestrial and satellite wireless communication systems and networks and more specifically to the new methods and techniques. This modern knowledge has been included in the material of the course to be delivered in the next days. Therefore, you the students, who have been desired and been selected to attend the course, must feel proud that you will get the state-of-the-art knowledge in the field of wireless telecommunications. On the other hand, we the teachers, who have had this idea, are proud of seeing this idea being transformed in reality with an audience from 3 different countries.

As Coordinator of the programme, I would like to address to you a very warm VITAJ TE, WILLKOMMEN, ΚΑΛΩΣ ΗΡΘΑΤΕ

I am sure that you and we, will enjoy our stay here. For the organization of the course all factors contributing to its success need to be congratulated. Finally, I wish good luck to all of us in our common effort.