

## **FMI CELEBRATES 40 YEARS\***

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) is the first faculty in its own right in the half-a-century-old history of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". It is a well-established research and training centre specializing in Mathematics, Informatics and Information Technology. FMI has approximately 90 highly qualified members of the full-time academic staff, among them 11 Full Professors, 33 Associate Professors, 6 Doctors of Science and 46 PhD holders.

The scientific and academic activities at FMI are carried out in nine departments: Algebra, Geometry, Real Analysis, Complex Analysis and Differential Equations, Applied Mathematics and Modelling, Computer Informatics, Computer Technologies, Computer Systems, and Methodology of Mathematics and Informatics Education, as well as two units: English Language Teaching and Computer Facilities.

FMI staff have a multitude of: scientific publications in reputable journals with impact factor and MCQ; papers presented at recognized international congresses and conferences; involvements in national and European scientific projects; monographs published by renowned international publishers; quotations by Bulgarian and international scientists; involvements as reviewers in top international reviewed journals and memberships in international mathematical societies and academies.

The history of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics dates back to the autumn of 1961 when the Higher Teacher Training Institute of Natural and Mathematical Sciences was founded in Plovdiv to offer programs in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology and soon afterwards it was renamed Higher Teacher Training Institute. During the first ten years, the Mathematics program witnessed sustainable development and in 1970 it grew into a self-contained university faculty. It was then that the first two faculties were set up at the Institute: Faculty of Mathematics and Faculty of Natural Science (providing programs in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology). Two years later, pursuant to a Decree by the State Council of 12.01.1972, the Institute was to become Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", and in the beginning of 1990, the Faculty of Mathematics was conferred its current name: Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI).

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\* The full text of the article is available in Bulgarian on-line at the website of the conference <http://remia2010.fmi-plovdiv.org/papers/rahnev.pdf>

Every year, FMI trains near 2000 students pursuing Bachelor's or Master's degrees in various specialties in the professional streams of Mathematics, Informatics and Computer Science, and Pedagogy of Teaching Mathematics, Informatics and Information Technologies. In addition, FMI provides postgraduate training programs leading to the qualifications of Teacher of Mathematics and Teacher of Informatics and Information Technologies, respectively. A host of other courses are offered providing IT training to professionals who seek to improve their qualification under the life-long learning strategy.

FMI offers various doctoral training programs and there are currently about 50 active PhD students.

All streams and specialties at FMI are accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency and have been given the highest accreditation rating valid until 2014. Detailed information on the degree programmes, curricula, and admissions is available on the website of FMI: <http://fmi.uni-plovdiv.bg/>.

We at FMI are very proud of our alumni who are very successful in their careers, whether in Bulgaria or elsewhere in the world. They are accredited scientists and university lecturers, heads of departments, faculties and universities. Thousands of them are wonderful teachers, school directors, experts and managers in the field of education. A large number of them are top experts in various companies on the cutting edge of informatics and information technologies, in banks and insurance companies, in business and trade, or on R&D teams. Quite some of our alumni have become politicians or officials in the local and central governments: mayors, regional governors, Members of Parliament, ambassadors, deputy-ministers, ministers, and even vice prime ministers.

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