



Professor Zdzisław Hellwig (1925-2013)

The professor's professional life was intrinsically linked to Wrocław University of Economics – he worked there for over 50 years (from 1949 to 2005). Over this period, he occupied many positions of responsibility: in the period 1962-1995 he was the head of the Statistics and Economic Cybernetics Research Group, for many years he was the head of the Institute of Economic Cybernetics. He initiated the creation of the Department of Management and Computer Science and was a co-author of its research and teaching profile. He also spent three cadencies as the Assistant Chancellor for Research. Prof. Zdzisław Hellwig is recognized as an innovator in interdisciplinary research at the common boundaries of statistics, econometrics and cybernetics, as well as being a leading figure in the field of economic informatics. He was awarded honorary doctorates by two universities: Cracow University of Economics (1985) and Prague School of Economics (1994). His academic career developed rapidly, by 1967 he had already obtained the title of professor.

The professor also played a very public role: for example, he was a UNESCO expert in Paris from 1968 to 1974, and was very active in the Polish and international academic communities: he lectured in Nigeria at Ibadan University in the academic year 1965/1966 and at Tohoku University in Japan in 1997, he was also a member of the Central Qualifications Board for Academic Personnel.

Prof. Zdzisław Hellwig had a hugely significant impact on both students and his co-workers. He was the supervisor of 34 doctoral students, of whom around half later became professors. The professor was awarded numerous Ministry of Education prizes for training academic personnel. In 1996, he obtained the prestigious Academic Prize of the President of the Board of Ministers.

The professor is the author of several hundred publications and academic articles; the following are some of the most important: *Elementy rachunku prawdopodobieństwa i statystyki matematycznej (Elements of probability theory and mathematical statistics)*, *Regresja liniowa i jej zastosowania w ekonomii (Linear regression and its applications in economics)*, *Aproksymacja stochastyczna (Stochastic approximation)*.

Prof. Zdzisław Hellwig worked actively to integrate the academic community in Wrocław. For example, he was the initiator and co-creator of the national academic journal „Badania Operacyjne i Decyzje”, which was founded on the base of the national academic journal „Prace Naukoznawcze i Prognostyczne” published by Wrocław University of Technology (the Prognosis Research Group). This quarterly has appeared since 1991, when it was the first journal with such a profile (since 2010 it has appeared in English under the title „Operations Research and Decisions”). The professor also supported the academic development of the Department of Computer Science and Management at Wrocław University of Technology. Thanks to his help and support, many academics working in this department gained their habilitation and title of professor via Wrocław University of Economics, in the field of Economics and the discipline of Management.

The professor was awarded many prizes and distinctions, including the Cavalier’s Cross (Krzyż Kawalerski) and Commander’s and Officer’s Order of the Rebirth of Poland (Oficerski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski). Wrocław University of Economics awarded Prof. Zdzisław Hellwig the Crystal Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement as a sign of respect for the professor’s long-term research and teaching achievements, his personal involvement in university administration and work on the behalf of national and international organizations.