



Prof Dr Vladimir Vava Jorga
(1939–2024)

On 15 August this year, the sad news about the sudden death of Prof Vladimir Jorga, echoed painfully worldwide. The world is mourning the loss of a scientist, professor, athlete, humanist – a great man.

He distinguished himself already as a student of medicine at the Medical Faculty in Belgrade, with his excellent academic performance. He was declared the student of the year in 1963 and 1964. After graduating from the Medical Faculty he left to Rochester (USA) for specialisation. He finalized his post-graduate studies in Hygiene of Sports in 1975, and he obtained his PhD in Sports Medicine at the Medical Faculty in Belgrade in 1987. He has been employed at the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade since 1968, where he spent his entire working life – until 2006.

Professor Jorga's professional and sporting rise has been noticed all over the world. He has been engaged by numerous faculties and institutions in the world as a guest professor and lecturer, and he has been a member of the Scientific and Research Commission of the Institute for Experimental Medicine of the Military Medical Academy (in Belgrade). Since 1970, he has participated in important international projects, primarily in the USA and Yugoslavia, such as the "Comparative Study of Rehabilitation of Stroke Patients" and "Psychophysical and Biochemical Aspects of Fatigue in Top Athletes" projects.

He was a teaching professor on the subject of Hygiene with Medical Ecology, and later a full professor and head of the Department of Sports Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade. He made an exceptional contribution to the development of the field of Sports Medicine, especially since 1990, when as a full professor and member of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade, he initiated a number of scientific research projects. In the period from 1998 to 2002, he was the head of the Center for Water, of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", and since 2011 he held the position of the president of the Health Commission of the Sports Association of Belgrade. Since 2000, he has been the dean of the University for Peace and Development, established under the auspices of the United Nations.

Professor Jorga was a pioneer of karate in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the founder of the Karate Association of Yugoslavia of the Yugoslav traditional karate, and the first karate instructor in our country. As an elite athlete in karate, he won championship titles in Yugoslavia (1968–1972), and at the same time he won numerous international awards. The title of karate master - black belt 1st dan-rank he obtained already in 1968, and in 2019 he got the title of karate master - black belt 10th dan-rank. He was active in karate for 60 years as an athlete in competitions, expert, official, president of the first University Karate Club in Yugoslavia, president of the European Traditional Karate Federation, General Secretary of the World Karate Union, president of the World Traditional Karate Federation, as well as holding office in numerous other karate associations.

He has been the author and he co-authored a large number of publications on karate. He has received numerous awards, decorations, medals, plaques from international and domestic associations, institutes, clubs (Japan, USA, Canada...).

Let's also mention his contribution to the organization of international scientific and professional conferences, such as the last one held in April 2024 under the name "Health-oriented physical activity - HEPA S" in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut".

The commemoration on the occasion of the death of Prof. Dr Vladimir Jorga was held in the hall of the Crown Plaza Hotel in Belgrade, where several hundreds of his friends, associates, sports officials and admirers of his work from thirty countries gathered to pay their last respect.

We thank our dear professor for all his work and for the legacy he entrusted to us!