

BIOGRAPHY

Željko Hećimović was born in 1962 in Zagreb, Republic of Croatia. He finished primary and secondary geodetic school in Zagreb, graduating with honors. He entered the Faculty of Geodesy at the University of Zagreb in 1982 and graduated with honors in 1987. In 1988, he was employed as an assistant at the Faculty of Geodesy of the University of Zagreb and enrolled in postgraduate studies at the same faculty. He was a DAAD-scholar on specialization at the Institute for Earth Survey (Institut für Erdmessung) of the University of Hannover, Germany. Although the preparation of the doctoral dissertation entitled *Untersuchungen zur Höhenbestimmung mit dem Global Positioning System (GPS) und Schwerefelddaten* was nearing completion in Germany (the mentor made the first correction of the text), due to going to the Homeland War he stopped working on it, and after the war unfortunately the deadlines for defending the dissertation in Germany have expired. In 2000, he enrolled in postgraduate doctoral studies at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb. He defended his doctoral dissertation entitled *Modeling the reference surface of height systems* in 2001 at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb.

He got a job at Oikon d.o.o. at the Institute of Applied Ecology, and parallel he teaches at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb as an external associate. In 2001, he was employed at the Croatian Geodetic Institute (HGI) in Zagreb. He serves as the chairman of the East-Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts of Geographical Names (UNGEGN). Through the pan-European project EuroGeoNames, he included Croatia in the European system of geographical names. Croatia was the only non-EU country included in the system. He was a national representative in the pan-European organization EuroSDR. He was the chairman of the organizing committee of three international meetings. He is the editor of two proceedings. In 2010, the Croatian Geodetic Institute was merged with the State Geodetic Administration (DGU). In DGU, he works on the establishment and development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NIPP). He was working on the drafting of the Act on NSDI (Official Gazette 56/2013) and legislative documentation of NSDI in accordance with the requirements of the EU INSPIRE directive. He is working on the creation of the NIPP geoportal, which connects to the EU INSPIRE geoportal, so that Croatia can fulfill its obligations from the EU before the accession period. In parallel, he continuously teaches at the Geodetic Faculty of the University of Zagreb and publishes works. Since 2014, he has been employed at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy in Split. In 2014, he was elected to the scientific title of scientific adviser in the scientific field of technical sciences in the field of geodesy. He has published more than 100 works. He was the mentor of three student works that received the University Rector's Award. He is a member of several professional associations, commissions and working groups. As an independent expert, he reviewed 28 projects for the European Commission, and one project each for The Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) of Cyprus, L'Agence nationale de la recherche (France) and Slovak Research and Development Agency. He was a member of the editorial boards of three domestic and foreign scientific journals. In 2016, he was elected to the title scientific-teaching title full professor in the scientific field of technical science, scientific field geodesy at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb. At the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy in Split, he was elected to the scientific-teaching position of full professor in 2023. He is a licensed engineer of the Croatian Chamber of Certified Geodetic Engineers.

He speaks English and German. He is married and is the father of one child.