Professor Marija Kosec passed away after a serious illness on the 23rd December 2012. Almost everyone called her Marička, a popular Slovenian version of the biblical name.

She was born on the 5th September 1947 in Šinkov turn, about 20 km away from Ljubljana, Slovenia. She graduated in 1970 in chemical technology, received her MSc in 1975 and her PhD in chemistry in 1982 at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She performed a part of her doctoral research (1979–1980) at the Institute for mineral engineering of RWTH Aachen, Germany.

Since 1971 she was employed at the Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 1997–2001 she was Head of the Ceramics Department and since 2002 she was Head of the Electronic Ceramics Department. In the years 2004–2009 she was also leading the Slovenian Centre of Excellence, called “Materials for electronics of next generations and other emerging technologies”, and since 2009 the Centre of Excellence “Advanced Materials and Technologies for the Future” (NAMASTE).

Since 1999 M. Kosec was Professor of Materials Science at the University of Ljubljana, with courses at graduate and post-graduate level. She was active in the Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School since its establishment in 2004 as its vice-president. She was an inspiring advisor to many PhD students in Slovenia and all around the world. Prof. Kosec was a visiting professor at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, Shizuoka University, Japan, and for short periods at a number of other schools. She was Adjunct Professor at Xi’an Jiaotong University, China.

In 2007–2009 she was the President of the Scientific Council of Jožef Stefan Institute. M. Kosec was the only female member of the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Slovenia and in the period 2005–2006 its president. She was an Ambassador of Science of the Republic of Slovenia (2003), in 2006 she received the Zois award, the highest national science award, and in 2009 the Puh recognition for the implementation of research results in industry.

Her main research interests included synthesis and processing of ceramics in different forms: particles, so-
olution-derived thin films, thick films, 2D or 3D structures, bulk electronic ceramics, predominantly ferroelectrics and piezoelectrics. Her contribution was in understanding and thus controlling the synthesis of application-important multi-component oxides, mainly perovskites, both in solution, in colloidal systems or suspensions, in powder mixtures by mechanochemical or classical solid-state reactions and processes. The research of lead-free complex perovskites resulted in the discovery of a new group of relaxors and highly-efficient piezoelectric single crystals. She focused on the integration of thick films on different substrates for ceramic micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS). Furthermore, she endeavored to merge basic science with applied research and development and to strengthen links between academia and industry.

Prof. Marija Kosec was author or co-author of more than 300 scientific papers in international journals and about 15 chapters in books. She gave more than 150 invited talks at international conferences and at different research institutions including Max Planck Institute, MIT, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and at important Japanese producers of electronic components including Murata, TDK, Panasonic and Toshiba. In 2000 she chaired the Electroceramics conference, in 2003 the European conference “Processing of Electroceramics” and in 2006 the 4th European Microelectronics and Packaging Symposium.

Since 1991 she was active in COST, European Co-operation in Science and Technology framework and since 1999 she was the member of the European Liaison Committee of International Microelectronics and Packaging Society. In 2001 she became the member of the Ferroelectrics Committee at IEEE. In 2010 she received the Ferroelectrics Recognition Award, IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society for her significant contributions to the processing science and technology of ferroelectric powders, bulk ceramics, thin and thick films.

Marija was really the hard worker and excellent scientist, however she enjoyed in numerous other activities. She was an enthusiastic traveler, and she enjoyed climbing, hiking and skiing with her husband and friends. She knew where and when to find mushrooms and how to cook or preserve them. She grew vegetables and flowers in her garden and prepared herbal teas. Many people would remember her vitality, careful attitude to colleagues, and her optimistic approach to life in general and to her research in particular. Her sharp mind and her extensive background knowledge, her sincere interest in people and her generous heart will be sadly missed. It is very difficult to find words to can really explain what Marija was and what she did for science and people.

We will keep Marija in our hearts as a very nice and warm person; we will remember her kindness, friendship, enormous energy and scientific potential. Prof. Marija Kosec was simply our Marička, for ever.

Prof. Barbara Malic
Prof. Biljana Stojanovic