Dear rector Professor Popa,

dear rector Professor Graur,

dear members of the Academic Senate,

dear colleagues and friends from Suceava University and from partner universities here in Romania,

dear students and guests,

I am highly – yes, I might say - extremely honored by receiving the Doctor honoris causa from your university.

First of all thank you, dear friends of TU Ilmenau and mine, to awarding me with the highest recognition of the academic cooperation between two Higher Educational Institutes namely between Suceava University and Technische Universität Ilmenau.

I accept this honor not only as an honor for me but also as a recognition of the cooperation between our universities and the people having contributed to the ongoing process of becoming long term and trustful partners and friends meanwhile.

International relations are very important in times of crises (political and financial) and even in times of military conflicts, and we must keep the processes going on within the operation of academia independently from this, and we should contribute to a more peaceful world! For us it is necessary to work together confronted with such conflicts and I see it as our task to work in our academic world to educate students open minded for a peaceful collaboration. The added value is more than visits and letters of intent – it is us that prepare the youth for a better world and especially the engineers have a distinguished responsibility in a technical dominated world.

A big wish of mine is to have University Suceava as a leading institution in the partnership between Germany and Romania in a transnational educational network. I know the network already exists in a way but we should institutionalize it as such.

My idea and proposal from this point here today is to build a Romanian-German Network of transnational education and the University Suceava should be the leading part of it. It is my idea to form a network with the partner universities in Romania, Technische Universität Ilmenau and may be some other universities in Germany. My contribution to that is that I will find suitable partners in our country to follow the idea. Let’s start in the field of Electrical Engineering and we will see how the idea will come up to the academic world. Frank March will develop a proposal to this initial idea and I trust on the contribution from you as experienced scientists and international people.

I am fully aware of the fact that such an activity can only be done with partners who trust each other very well, but we are such partners for a long time. Features like freedom, peace, tolerance and common respect should accompany this initiative and make impetus on the extension of the partnership(s).

As we have a common understanding of the Humboldt’s principle the unity of research and teaching we will build new bridges between our universities. Already there are activities, if I may remind us to the participation of a student team at the “Hard & soft competition” every year (and I like to be here to open this event annually), the contributions of Ilmenau scientists at DAS Conference and the exchange of PhD students – meanwhile we had 8 of them in Ilmenau and hopefully we can send our students here. The open mindedness is existing, the place is beautiful and really recommendable. Professor Graur and me discussed today additional opportunities to collaborate in the field of micro- and nanotechnologies.

Please let me summarize my reaction on this wonderful honoring ceremony with the expression that the people here in Suceava and from the partner universities in Cluj-Napoca, Bukarest, Timişoara, Braşov and Tirgu Mures are very close to my heart and I am really looking forward for a strong and successful cooperation in the near future!

Thank you very much again for this great honor!

I am very proud to be a member of this academic community!

Peter Scharff