

Preface

The Winter School we organised in Thessaloniki, in the framework of the MANSiC project, had two distinguished but complementary targets, the educational and social one. We are glad that, according to the participants' opinion, expressed through the evaluation procedure, both of them were satisfied.

The educational target consisted of 23 lectures and 7.5 hours of hands-on laboratory training and was completed with the creation of the manuscripts, included in these proceedings, by the young participants. This extra work for the participants - which is the reason for the delay in the proceedings' publication - is considered of high educational value, as all manuscripts were corrected by the lecturers and then sent back to the participants, who had the opportunity to review the corrections and prepare their final form. It is worth mentioning that some of them did an excellent work.

The social target, although always coming after the educational one, is most important in building the new European generation. Science is the best vehicle through which young people can build their future in a multicultural society based on tolerance and understanding. I believe that this school offered the environment and the opportunity for 45 participants from 15 different countries to get to know one another and set the foundation for friendship.

Concluding the activities of this school, I would like to personally thank the scientific committee, the local organising committee, our distinguished lecturers and our sponsors for their help in the organisation and realisation of this endeavour. Special thanks are also due to Maya Marinova, Eleni Polychroniadou and Dimitris Evangelinos for making the publication of these proceedings possible.

The school organiser

E. K. Polychroniadis