

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT  
Dynamical Systems, Geometry and Combinatorics  
(Center of Excellence under the WBC Framework 6 projects)

To: Whom it may concern

I am happy to learn about the possibility of financing a mathematical research center in Belgrade and to express my emphatic support for it.

The mathematical tradition in former Yugoslavia has been very strong (I have learned about it already as a student) and the proposers are definitely among the finest mathematicians in the region. Actually, in my field (Discrete Mathematics, Geometry, Topology) I know of no serious competition in Balkan countries at all!

Moreover, the expertise of the proposers (Ř. Zivaljević, S. Vrećica) is unique in the whole world. They have been among the strongest and foremost researchers applying advanced methods of algebraic topology to problems of combinatorics and discrete geometry with remarkable success, and they have achieved numerous first-rate results, published in the very best mathematical journals of the world.

I've been keeping close contacts with them and their group for many years now. To my PhD degree student, Tomas Kaiser (who is a successful young researcher by now), who decided to pursue the subject of topological methods in combinatorics, I immediately recommended Živaljević and Vrećica as the best people to learn from, and he has visited them in Belgrade.

A top-level mathematical research environment is a precious and fragile thing - it is easy to destroy and very hard to establish. In Živaljević's group in Belgrade it has been existing for many years, and I would dare to say, against all odds. It would have been all too easy for members of the group to find immensely better material conditions abroad.

I sincerely hope that the current project will be funded in full. I definitely hope to continue and extend my collaboration with the group and also involve students and young researchers from Prague.

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