

Globalance to Overcome a Polarized World

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A word of Thanks on the Occasion of Receiving the Title

Honorary Professor at the University UNIBIT

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10-11.30, National Library, Sofia/Bulgaria

Prof. Dr Stoyan Dentchev, Chairman of the General Assembly of UNIBIT

Prof. Dr Irena Peteva, Rector of UNIBIT

Prof. Dr Teresa Trencheva, Vice-Rector International Affairs of UNIBIT

Excellencies and guests

I wholeheartedly thank you for giving me the Honorary Professorship at UNIBIT, the University for Library Studies and Information Technologies here in Sofia. I am honored to receive this recognition.

Your, now also 'my' UNIBIT university is at the forefront of important societal and ethical issues of global importance. Library studies in a digital world are linked to the digital world, intellectual property rights, plagiarism and much more. Information technologies are present in every single activity in the academic, political and private world (www.unibit.bg/en).

In my short message of thanks, let me briefly mention three ethical topics of concern, in the perspective of my field of ethics and working on global level on all continents through the global network Globethics.net, where I am Founder and President (www.globethics.net).

1. Globalance

The world is moving from a globalized to a new polarized world, from the old Cold War (many of us experienced it!) to a new Cold War, as the conflict USA-China shows daily. We are more and more forced to decide if we are for West or East. IT Technologies are in the midst of it. Do you have an Apple, Samsung or Huawei mobile phone is no more a simple technical, but a highly political question. Extremist and fundamentalist trends need a strong ethical answer. We need to balance opposite values such as freedom and justice, security and openness, innovation and

conservation. We can overcome threats such as the Covid, climate warming, terrorism and autocratic governments not by division and polarization, but only by balanced values and cooperation.

2. Cyber Ethics

The digital and virtual technologies are a key driver in all sectors of society. UNIBIT can substantially contribute to a values-driven development and use of digital technologies, from internet to surveillance, from drones to satellites, from artificial intelligence to metaversum, from cyber-security to online education.

3. Values-driven Leadership

We celebrate here in Bulgaria today the Day of national Revival Leaders of Bulgaria. Leadership is key in every generation and every sector of society, be it the family, the academic, business, religious, cultural and especially political sector. Leaders in all sectors are often money-driven or power-driven. Money and power are important to implement goals, but the core motivation and orientation of leaders should be values and virtues. Values-driven leaders are credible, act with integrity for the common good instead mainly for personal interest and follow a long term, sustainable perspective.

Ethics in Higher Education such as in UNIBIT can make a real difference by guiding their students and teachers to become values-driven leaders with integrity, integrating strong values in the digital Cyber-world and engaging for a global balanced world to promote peace, justice and sustainability.

As a modest expression of thanks I give you three of my recent books (total 1400 pages) on the three topics (also for free download on www.globethics.net/publications):

- Globalance. Ethics Handbook for a Balanced World Post-Covid (2020)
- Cyber-Ethics 4.0. Serving Humanity with Values (2018)
- Ethics in Higher Education. Values-driven Leaders for the Future (2017)

I thank you.
