

In memoriam Heinz Habrich (1964 - 2021)

We received the deeply sad news that Heinz Habrich, former EUREF Technical Working Group (TWG) member and good friend, passed away, after a long, serious illness.

Heinz Habrich worked at the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) and its predecessor, the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie (IfaG) in Frankfurt on Main, Germany, since 1990. He was involved in the EUREF activities since the late 1990ies. With Heinz Habrich, BKG hosted one of the Regional Data Centres for the EUREF Permanent Network (EPN) and the Local Analysis Centre "BKG".

Thanks to the cooperation with the Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern (AIUB), Switzerland, Heinz was able to work on the implementation of GLONASS into the Bernese GPS Software during this time, resulting 1999 in his Ph.D thesis on "Geodetic applications of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) and of GLONASS/GPS combinations".

First time in 1998 as a guest he joined the EUREF TWG, now Governing Board (GB), reporting on the results of the Malta 96 campaign. In 2000 he took over the responsibility as EPN Analysis Center Coordinator (ACC), following Matthias Becker, also from IfaG and joined the TWG from 2001 on as permanent guest, eventually receiving the status of a regular "member in charge of a specific task" in 2008. Heinz forced the inclusion of GLONASS into the processing and analysis of the EPN observations, paving the way towards multi-GNSS of today. Heinz Habrich was interested in the work and progress of the International GNSS Service (IGS), in particular engaged in the Data Centre Working Group and contributing from 2000 to 2005 with a combined GPS/GLONASS orbit and clock solution to the International GLONASS Service (IGLOS). In 2013 he had to retire as ACC.

He always organized very well the meetings of the EPN Local Analysis Centres (LACs), not leaving the room before the recommendations were clearly formulated. We will remember him as a colleague who worked equally well on computations as ACC as well as on elaboration, for example to take care on the contribution of EUREF the "INfrastructure for Spatial InfoRmation in Europe" (INSPIRE). Our thoughts are with his wife and both children.