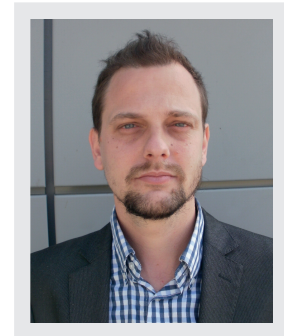


Foreword about Professor Peter Pocta, the Professor at Department of Multimedia and Information, part Communication Technology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, University of Zilina, Slovakia:

Peter Pocta received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in telecommunication from the University of Zilina, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Slovakia in 2004 and 2007, respectively. During his Ph.D. study, he was awarded several fellowships. Firstly, he spent 3 months as an Erasmus student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Chair of Telecommunications at the Dresden University of Technology, Germany where he collaborated on testing principles over Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) access lines. Secondly, he was with Alcatel-Lucent, Research and Development center, Network Integration department, Stuttgart, Germany where he investigated an impact of some settings of Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) system on speech quality. He is currently a Full Professor in the Department of Multimedia and Information-Communication Technology at the University of Zilina and is involved with International Standardization through



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the European Telecommunications Standards Institute Technical Committee Speech and Multimedia Transmission Quality (ETSI TC STQ) as well as International Telecommunication Union, Telecommunication Standardization Sector, Study Group 12 (ITU-T SG12). His research interests include speech, audio and video quality assessment, software-defined networking and Quality of Experience management. He has published over 75 peer-reviewed papers in international journals and conferences including Acta Acustica united with Acustica, Speech Communication (Elsevier), Computer Standards & Interfaces (Elsevier), AEU - International Journal of Electronics and Communications (Elsevier), IEEE Transactions on Broadcasting, Multimedia Tools and Applications (Springer), ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Application, Measurement of Speech, Audio and Video Transmission Quality In Telecommunication Networks (MESAQIN), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Multimedia Signal Processing (IEEE MMSP), International Symposium on Integrated Network Management (IFIP/IEEE) and Quality of Multimedia Experience (QoMEX) conferences. He also serves as an external reviewer for several high-ranked journals, e.g. IEEE Transactions on Multimedia, IEEE/ACM Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing, Multimedia Systems (Springer), Journal of Systems and Software (Elsevier), Computer Standards & Interfaces (Elsevier), Speech Communication (Elsevier) and Telecommunication Systems (Springer), ACM Computing surveys, Quality and User Experience (Springer), Virtual Reality (Springer), IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology and several conferences in area of speech and audio quality, Quality of Experience (QoE) management and communication networks.

When it comes to a future of speech, audio and video quality assessment, I see three directions, which this area can evolve in the upcoming years, namely a multimodal quality perception (so how different modalities, e.g. audio and video, interact with each other in order to form a final quality assessment), quality assessment of immersive applications (as they become more and more popular and there is high demand to improve them in terms of quality experienced by the end user as well as optimization of traffic load generated by immersive applications) and no reference quality estimation models (as service providers and network operators require them to monitor and manage their delivery chains as much as possible in the context of QoE management in order to provide the end user with the highest quality possible for the corresponding network conditions). It is worth noting here that software defined networking should help a lot in the QoE management context. Moreover, as the current COVID19 pandemic is hugely influencing our face-to-face social interactions and therefore tele-conference systems became a very important part of our daily life, when it comes to an education, work as well as leisure time, I strongly believe that there will be a high interest in improving their performance and usability in the upcoming years. So, I expect that research funding agencies as well as commercial companies will be willing to fund this research in order to have the improved systems ready for similar situations in future.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Advances in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (AEEE) team for a great work. Moreover, I keep my fingers crossed when it comes to a Science Citation Index (SCI) indexation process of the AEEE journal.