Sad news came to us: the ELI member Professor Alexander Komarov passed away on May 31, 2015 in Moscow. For more than 40 years, he worked at the Institute of Physicochemical and Biological Problems in Soil Science RAS in Pushchino, where he founded a laboratory of ecosystem modelling in 1989.

Prof. Komarov developed, in close collaboration with St. Petersburg State University, the model ROMUL, which simulates the dynamics of soil organic matter by describing the processes of mineralization and humification. Further developments included systems of mathematical models EFIMOD describing the cycling of carbon and nitrogen in forest ecosystems to analyze different scenarios of forest productivity in boreal and temperate zones under climate change, the effects of forest management and catastrophic impacts on forest ecosystems (forest fires, windfalls, clear cuttings). In collaboration with the Institute of Mathematical Problems of Biology RAS, Pr. Komarov also took part in the development of theoretical foundations and algorithms for assessing changes in forest plant biodiversity in natural and human-managed ecosystems.

Prof. Komarov was one of the founders of the Pushchino State University in the Biological Centre of Russian Academy of Sciences, which was the unique university in Russia where students had an opportunity to communicate with leading Russian scientists and create a new scientific knowledge in research laboratories during their education process. In 2009, Prof. Komarov founded a series of biennial national conferences on ecological modelling. He was the Associate Editor for Ecological Modelling, supporting its high scientific quality papers. He was elected to the Advisory Board of the International Society for Ecological Modelling (ISEM) as well.

Prof. Komarov was an outstanding scientist, talented teacher and a very kindly person who whipped up scientists and students.

Alexander will live forever in our hearts and memories.

Colleagues from the Laboratory of Ecological Modelling and
L. Khanina, M. Palenova, S. Chumachenko,
G. and N. Andrienko, O. Chertov