HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES IN ROMANIA

Almost a century and a quarter passed since the first Romanian active participation in a major historical oceanographic research cruise, on board Belgica, in the Antarctic waters (1897). The following development of marine sciences in Romania is due to several scientists e.g. Emil Racovitza (1878-1947), Ioan Borcea (1879-1936), Grigore Antipa (1867-1944) and others, and to their institutional establishments such as the Marine Zoological Station at Agigea-Constantza (1926), the Bio-oceanographic Institute in Constanţa (1932), the National Museum of Natural History in Bucharest (1934) a.o. Various other professors, researchers and museographers contributed over time with their valuable achievements and results to the progress of this broad scientific field of investigations. Witness stands also Romania's affiliation to many regional and international scientific organizations and bodies, like the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea - CIESM (since 1925), UNESCO (since 1955), the International Ocean Institute (since 1996) etc. Romanian leading marine research and development institutes, namely the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa" in Constantza and the National Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology (GEOECOMAR), respectively, as well as new created marine environment devoted NGOs, added their contributions to a variety of R-D-I programmes and projects at national, regional and international level in the last decades. Their involvements e.g. in the numerous activities of the Black Sea Commission, acting on the mandate of all six Black Sea coastal states (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine), which on April 21,1992 signed and shortly thereafter ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (the Black Sea Commission) which implemented the provisions of the Convention and the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan are significant contributions to the investigation, management and environmental protection measureas concerning the Black Sea im more recent years. A rich historical and scientific bibliography, started end of last centuty until the present, confirms the significant achievements of Romanian oceanological research in the various fields of geological, physical, chemical, biological oceanography, marine fisheries and engineering

Emil Racovita (1878-1947)

Ioan Borcea (1879-1936)

Grigore Antipa (1867-1944)