



MARIN VLADA
12 JUNE 1953 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

IN MEMORIAM

Our colleague Marin Vlada passed away on 21th of September 2021 at the age of only 68 years. Too early!

He was Associated Professor to the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Bucharest University, full member of CRIFST/ Division of History of Science, Editorial Secretary of *NOESIS Journal* <https://noesis.crifst.ro/editorial-board/>, member of the Editorial Board of *Studies and Communications Journal* <https://studii.crifst.ro/index.php>

He delivered all his energy and soul to promote and to study fruitful applications of informatics in Education (e-Learning) by the CNIV, later ICVL, nineteen editions he organized yearly. Since the last October, the conference was called “Marin Vlada” *International Conference of Virtual Learning*.

He made a tremendous effort to bring into light the *History of Romanian Informatics* (Project ROINFO). He knew how to gather a team of distinguished Romanian computer scientists who participated into the project of writing the *History of Romanian Informatics*. In its five volumes (2018–2021) written up today, Project ROINFO is a valuable comprehensive frame-work of reference in the field, and it will generate new research. The entire work is crossed by Marin Vlada’s vivid active untired spirit whose thought goes deep and far away into the future of the Romanian history of sciences to which Informatics is capable to apply to. Moreover, the whole plan he conceived for the *History of Romanian Informatics* has three outstanding qualities: (i) the plan is not a story, but it accords itself naturally with the principles of *History of Sciences* (Aldo Mieli, George Sarton, Petre Sergescu, René Taton); (ii) the plan is not a simple geography of ideas or/and computer scientists or/and schools and achievements, but it gives definitions and criteria to recognize historical facts and events based on documents and on those who lived the events by directly taking part into the creation of the institutions which made possible Romanian Informatics to be as it actually is today; (iii) the plan respects a still much ignored desideratum formulated in 2004 by Solomon Marcus: *the history of Romanian science cannot be written as before: let the truth to speak*¹.

¹ Solomon Marcus’ words are <it will be definitely necessary to overcome the facts level and to carry out a critical view rather unusual so far in the way the history of Romanian science has been written>. This follows by Solomon Marcus’ conception of history as <a proposal for a more comprehensive way than that in which the condition of a science in a certain country is usually understood, because we have considered the entire scientific, educational, social, historical, cultural and political context in which the Romanian mathematics developed during the 20th century>. Marin Vlada applies word by word this principle in the conception of the *History of Romanian Informatics*.

Since 2017, Marin Vlada fought with a great enthusiastic dedication to rise into contemporary sunshine light a clouded peak moment of Romanian Science: Ștefan Odobleja's work and its signification for Cybernetics and Informatics. Particularly, he collaborated by his computer competence and knowledge to the actual form of the site www.odobleja.ro – a wonderful useful source for Odobleja's works and life, source offered by “Ștefan Odobleja Foundation”. We all have to acknowledge both to Ștefan Odobleja Jr. (President of the Foundation) and to Marin Vlada (the historian of Romanian informatics in its deepest roots). Last but not least, since the spring of 2021, Marin Vlada dedicated all his powers to support the project initiated by Ștefan Odobleja Jr. to edit Ștefan Odobleja's unpublished manuscripts on Logic (over one thousand pages).

In all those projects, Marin Vlada knew to challenge both his colleagues and a great number of Romanian computer scientists to participate into his projects and to do valuable research on computer science and on its history, as well as on the history of Romanian science, for the benefit of all. He inspired many of us to work on the ideas he enthusiastically professed. He inspires us by a single phrase

<Tell future generations that Cybernetics was created in Romania (Ștefan Odobleja, 1938–1939), that Romania developed a Romanian informatics (Grigore Moisil, after 1953) and built its own electronic computer (Victor Toma, CIFA-1, 1957)!>

Marin Vlada always is reminding us His cry “Tell future generations” is more actually today than ever. Dear call to us for never get lost and tempted in this huge world so little understood. Marin Vlada gives us the key of Romanian toil. With this vivid call let us open the door to lighten afterwards the history of Romanian informatics and the history of Romanian science in its secret places (like Dr. Ștefan Odobleja) gift to us by God, spring from the Romanian soul given as gift to the world. Marin Vlada left us a heritage to fruitful it and to go on with the research on the issues he opened. ***Let us remember him through his written works and through his words.*** The reader and those interested in the themes approached by Marin Vlada or those who are wishing to know Marin Vlada, will find most of his works at the links which follows.

<http://c3.cniv.ro/?q=2020/vlada> (CNIV: Despre Marin Vlada), <http://c3.icvl.eu/> (site ICVL 2010–2030)

https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=list_works&hl=fr&hl=fr&user=oyZyaAIAAAAJ&pagesize=80 (80 articles)

<https://www.cugetliber.ro/stiri-cultura-educatie-de-elev-nu-te-apropii-interzicand-telefonul-si-obligandu-l-sa-memoreze-abstract-288876> (interview with Marin Vlada, in Romanian)

<http://c3.cniv.ro/articole2020/1.pdf> (Marin Vlada CNIV XVIII 2020)

<https://www.edumanager.ro/prof-dr-marin-vlada-universitatea-din-bucuresti-trebuie-sa-fim-mandri-de-eforturile-si-contributiile-oamenilor-de-stiinta-romani-in-aparitii-si-dezvoltarea-informaticii/> (interview with Marin Vlada, December 2020)

- <http://www.crifst.ro/biblioteca/autori/marin-vlada> (Istoria Informaticii Românești, 5 volume) <https://www.todaysoftmag.ro/article/3169/proiectul-roinfo-2018-2020-romanian-informatics-si-promovarea-istoriei-informaticii-romanesti?fbclid=IwAR30AS-A1zX2l4QVqOK8h2WQyH1GWixR-aPtpGc7xZ0MgNfePDMWDUVEPk0>
- http://c3.icvl.eu/papers2017/icvl/documente/pdf/section1/section1_paper2.pdf (ICVL XII 2017, M. Vlada, A. Adăscăliței: Ștefan Odobleja: A Scientific Visionary, precursor of Cybernetics and Artificial Intelligence)
- <https://www.crifst.ro/biblioteca/volume/o-istorie-ce-trebuie-cunoscut%C4%83-centrul-de-calcul-al-universit%C4%83%C8%9Bii-din-bucure%C8%99ti> (M. Vlada, I. Văduva: O istorie ce trebuie cunoscută: Centrul de Calcul al Universității din București (CCUB), prima unitate de informatică înființată în România; Matrix ROM București, 2021)
- <https://studii.crifst.ro/2020.php> (Studii și Comunicări, vol. XIII/2020, p 113–135, M. Vlada: Viața și opera lui Ștefan Odobleja – inventatorul ciberneticii, precursor al inteligenței artificiale și al informaticii)
- <https://www.edumanager.ro/manuscrisele-lui-stefan-odobleja-actuale-si-azi-de-la-studiile-medicale-stiinta-razboiului-si-filozofie-la-logica-vie-reala/> (M. Vlada, July 2021, in Romanian)
- <https://sites.google.com/view/roinfo/home> (ROINFO PROJECT 2018–2022, Romanian and English)
- https://studii.crifst.ro/doc/2021/2021_07.pdf (D. Șerban: in memoriam Professor Marin Vlada)
- Marcus, Solomon: Mathematics in Romania, Cub Press 22 Baia Mare, 2004; p.1

Editor,
Cătălin Ioniță