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## ROMANIAN ECONOMIC SCIENCES CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY

### 1. The first economists of Romania

The first economists who were elected corresponding members of the Romanian Literature Society and the Romanian Academic Society – the first names of the Romanian Academy – were Ion Ionescu de la Brad – September 7/19, 1871, Petre S. Aurelian – 9/21 September 1871 and Ion Ghica – August 13/25, 1873. Petre S. Aurelian first worked in the natural sciences section and then in the scientific section, and Ion Ghica in the historical-archaeological section. The fourth economist, elected corresponding member on September 13/25, 1877, was Visarion Roman. If in the Romanian Literary Society the elected members were not organized on the sections according to their profile, the Romanian Academic Society proceeded to set up three sections.

In the multitude of events that marked the beginnings of the formation of modern Romania, as well as of the Romanian Academy – one of the first important institutions of the new Romanian state – two of the four cited economists had a remarkable activity as members of the Academy, 4 times President, and Petre S. Aurelian, Vice President of 1879 and 1897 respectively, was elected President between 1901 and 1904.

On 7/19 September 1877, the historian, the journalist, the cultural guide and the political man, George Barițiu has presented the paper “The Notion about the Social Economy and the History of Civilization in Transylvania”, which refers to the “enumeration of those productions and treasures of Transylvania, which in any country is the base of the social economy”, considered as the first work from the view point of economic sciences, at a meeting of the members of the Romanian Academic Society, which in two years, in 1879, will become the Romanian Academy.

On September 2/14, 1878, Ion Ghica raised the question of the necessity to obtain a “more convenient place in order to expand, which, year after year obtain its works and the important role which is meant to be have Society Romanian Academic”, then, on 21 September/October 3 the same year, Ion Ghica presented to the members of the Romanian Academy the study entitled “Man and Its Beginning”, in which he refers to “the variety of human types, the classification of species, the generation of spontaneous and natural selection, the multiplication and disappearance of species”.

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<sup>1</sup> PhD, scientific researcher I, National Institute of Economy, Romanian Academy, member of The Romanian Academy of Scientists, e-mail: [dobrescu@acad.ro](mailto:dobrescu@acad.ro)

The first academic who spoke of the need for an encyclopedia of Romania, was the economist Petre S. Aurelian, who, on July 13/25, 1879, stated: “All peoples possess such a national encyclopedia in which anyone, either earthly or foreign, at any occasion precise information on the state of affairs from a country”. This is the most practical way to open everyone’s eyes to a country and to facilitate progress in any branch, and thus considers that the Academy should also initiate such a work. This idea was implemented by acad. Dimitrie Gusti, between 1938 and 1943, in which he coordinated the “Encyclopedia of Romania” in 4 volumes, from which the third volume deals with the “National Economy. Frames and Production” and follows a description of economic geography, population, economic legislation and production, recalled by the industries that compose it, and vol. IV is titled “National Economy, Circulation, Distribution and Consumption” Approaches are transportation and communications, internal and external trade, units and securities, credit, public finances, consumption.

Nowadays, on June 21, 2010, Acad. Tudorel Postolache started the “New Encyclopedia of Romania”, which in the scientific session of December 12, 2013 had the following composition: 1. Introduction (Acad. Tudorel Postolache); 2. The Encyclopedia and the Coexistence of Civilizations (Professor Ilie Bădescu); 3. Denis Diderot: encyclopaedia in *Encyclopédie* (Prof. Petre Roman, PhD.); 4. A Brief History of Encyclopaedias, with Emphasis on the 15th Edition of Britannica (Dr. Valentina Robu); 5. The Romanian Encyclopaedic Approach in the 19th and 20th Centuries (Prof. Dr. Victor Axenciuc, honorary member); 6. Incursions in the Agrarian History of Romania (Prof. Damian Hurezeanu); 7. Regional Dimensions of the Demographic Crisis in Romania. A Prospective View 2011–1050 (Prof. Vasile Ghețău PhD); 8. Mountain and Water (Prof. Ioan Jelev); 9. About Eco-economy and Green Economy in Romania (Prof. Alexandru Bogdan, PhD, corresponding member).

Every year, starting in 1898 and continuing in 1898, 1899 and 1900, economist and agronomist Petre S. Aurelian was elected president of the Scientific Section Bureau.

On March 10/23, 1900, Vice President of the Romanian Academy, V. A. Urechia, presented the communication “Finance under Caragea and the various movements of the Greeks at that time”.

On April 5/18, 1902, Constantin I. Istrati, PhD, physician, chemist, member of the Romanian Academy (April 7/19, 1899) and president of the Academy, during 1913–1916, delivered the reception speech at the Romanian Academy, entitled “Scientific activity of Ion Ghica”, the first reception speech dedicated to a great Romanian economist, which he calls “a pioneer of the most important cultural, political and national revival ... economist, his writings are of exceptional importance ... Ion Ghica was not only an enthusiastic admirer of the sciences, but in all his writings he proves deep knowledge, touching subjects that at that time were barely known. More than that. He possessed the scientific method. The process from simple to compound, from positive facts to new hypotheses, from analysis to synthesis, in all of his writings, in all his studies, either science, economics, history or politics ...

Here's who was Ion Ghica. Higher man, thinker thought, scientist, important cultural factor; he is a glory and a title of pride for his name and our nation". The answer to the reception speech by Dr. Constantin I. Istrati was given by Dimitrie Alexandru Strudza, political, historical, economist, member of the Romanian Academy.

Then, between 1908 and 1931, almost a quarter of a century, for unknown reasons, no economist was elected a member of the Romanian Academy. On May 28, 1931, honorary members of the Romanian Academy, German economist and sociologist Werner Sombart, and French economist Charles Rist were elected, and on May 23, 1936 – corresponding members Ion Răducanu and Victor Slăvescu. In the year following his election, on February 29, 1937, Victor Slăvescu spoke about "Ion Ghica's economic work", and on May 20, 1939, he was elected a member. On June 1, 1938, a correspondent member, demographer and statistician Sabin Manuilă was elected.

## 2. 77 years since the first mention of economic sciences

On May 20, 1941, 10 members of the Romanian Academy, namely Mihai Ciucă, Dimitrie Gusti – sociologist, Gh. Ionescu-Șișești, Petre P. Negulescu, Liviu Rebreanu, general Radu R. Rosetti, Traian Săvulescu, Ion Simionescu, Victor Slăvescu – economist and Gh. Spacu – presented a project for the reorganization of the Romanian Academy from the need to "adapt the Academy's statutes to the new requirements of the time". Thus, it was proposed that the three sections that existed at the end of the nineteenth century should comprise three other subsections, namely: a) the section of letters, arts and philological sciences (already specified in the title of the section, the three subsections); b) section of historical, philosophical and social sciences, with 3 subsections; in social sciences are considered: sociology, legal sciences, economic, financial and statistical sciences; c) the scientific section, with 3 subsections: mathematical, physical and chemical sciences; natural sciences; technical and military sciences.

According to the Organization and Functioning Statute of the R.P.R. Academy, approved on August 12, 1948, one of the six sections of the Academy was the Department of Historical, Philosophical, Economic and Legal Sciences, whose president was elected Acad. Petre Constantinescu-Iasi. On 23 March 1952, the decision of the General Scientific Session of the R.P.R. Academy "Recommends the Presidium to speed up the establishment of the Institute of Economic Research of the R.P.R. Academy".

On July 2, 1955, according to the Statute of the Academy of the Romanian People's Republic, the number of sections increased to 8, including the Department of Economic, Philosophical and Legal Sciences. On that occasion, Alexandru Barlădeanu and Vasile Malinschi, economists, were elected as members. The latter, on 7 March 1962, became deputy prime secretary of the Romanian Academy, and as correspondent members, the economists Ion Rachmuth and Barbu Zaharescu. On 21 March 1963, economists Roman Moldovan and Costin Murgescu were elected, and on February 3, 1965 – two others: the economist and historian Gheorghe Zane,

who will become member on March 1, 1974, and the statistician Mircea Dragoș Biji. On April 8, 1966, when the new leadership of the R.S.R Academy was elected, at the Department of Economic Sciences and Sociological Research, Acad. Vasile Malinschi was elected president.

On March 1, 1974, the economist Manea Mănescu was elected a member, and the economists Nicolae N. Constantinescu, Tudorel Postolache and Emilian Dobrescu – corresponding members of the Economic Sciences and Sociology Department. On this occasion, the new leadership of the R.S.R. Academy was also elected, the leadership of the Economic Sciences and Sociology Section being entrusted to Acad. Manea Mănescu.

The year 1975 was rich in events organized by the Department of Economic Sciences and Sociology as follows: on April 4, the scientific debate on “Fundamental Coordination of Economic Growth and National Income in Romania until 1990” took place; May 28 – public debate, “On the current stage of development of monopolistic capitalism”; on June 25 – on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the publication of the book “The Nation’s Wealth”, a public hearing was held, at which acad. Vasile Malinschi spoke about “Adam Smith in Romania”, Nicolae N. Constantinescu, C.M. Adam Smith and Economic Growth Issues, and Barbu Zaharescu, Ms. C., on “Karl Marx and Adam Smith”.

On September 21, 1978, sociologist Henri Stahl, C.M. from March 1, 1974, within the Economic Sciences and Sociology Section, presented the Communication entitled “Technical and Scientific Revolution and Its Social Implications – Sociology and Social Engineering”. On June 15, 1979, Roman Moldovan, C.M. presented the communication “Some Issues which appear for the central authority of state regarding the administration of sciences”. Then, on February 29, 1980, the symposium “Tradition and Actuality in Romanian Sociology” took place, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Dimitrie Gusti’s birth.

The year 1981 was a new year in which the economists came to the fore during the activities carried out in the RSR Academy, through communications presented at the section of which they were part: 1. On February 6 – Barbu Zaharescu, C.M., delivered the communication “The crisis of the system current money”; 2. March 19 – Nicolae N. Constantinescu delivered the communication “The Collective Productive Worker in the Light of the First Industrial Revolution and of the Contemporary Scientific and Technical world”; 3. May 29 – Acad. Vasile Malinschi presented the communication “Grigore Antipa – Economist”.

The following year, in 1982, the economists presented the following communications: 1. May 28 – Roman Moldovan, C.M. – “Stages and Trends in the Future Study”; 2. September 24 – at the meeting with the topic “Moments in the History of Romanian Economic Thought”, important personalities such as: Nicolae Balcescu (130 years from death), Ion Ionescu from Brad (90 years from death), G. Baritiu (170 years since birth), Leonida Colescu (110 years since birth), Virgil Madgearu (90 years since his birth) and Gheorghe Zane (85 years since birth).

On 25 February 1983, within the Economic Sciences and Sociology Department, Acad. Vasile Malinschi lectured on “Economy and Right in Nicolae Titulescu’s View”, and on 20th January 1984, Nicolae N. Constantinescu, C.M., held the communication “The process of forming the unitary national state and its importance for the development of the national economic complex”.

In 1984, between June 7 and 9, the first edition of the “Academic Economic Days” was organized by the Department of Economic Sciences and Sociology, the Central Institute for Economic Research, the Economic Sciences Division of the Academy of Social and Political Sciences and the Academy of Economic Sciences Economics.

At the symposium held on 29 April 1985, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism and the celebration of the State Independence Day of Romania, by the Section of Economic Sciences and Sociology, Nicolae N. Constantinescu, C.M., presented the communication “The economic effort of the Romanian people in the struggle for the defeat of fascism”, and Costin Murgescu, C.M., presented “Disarmament, a vital requirement of contemporaneity.” On June 6–7, 1985, the second edition of the “Academic Economic Days” was held on “The Ceausescu Age – 20 Years of Romania’s Economic and Social Development and the Perspectives Preconfigured by the XIIIth Congress of the Romanian Communist Party”, and on 30–31 October 1985 – the first edition of the “Sociological Academic Days” with the theme “The Ninth Congress of the PCR, new opening in the age of the homeland history – Two decades of brilliant economic and social achievements”, manifestation organized by the Economic Sciences Section Sociology of the RSR Academy, Sociology Department of the Academy of Social and Political Sciences, Romanian National Sociology Committee, Sociological Research Center and Academy of Economic Studies.

On April 24–25, 1986, the Economic and Sociological Sciences Department organized “Academic Economic and Sociological Days”, when were presented 165 papers grouped on 12 thematic sections, and on July 11, 1987, the same section of the Academy of Sciences of the United States in collaboration with the Central Statistics Division, the National Sociology Committee and the Academy of Economic Studies organized the “5 Billion Day” demography symposium. On October 17–18, 1988, the Economic Sciences and Sociology Section held the second edition of the “Economic and Sociological Academic Days” symposium, together with the National Sociology Committee, the Society of Economic Sciences, the Sociology Department of the Academy of Social and Political Sciences, The Academy of Economic Studies, the Central Institute of Economic Research, the Scientific and Methodological Council and the Central Statistics Division.

On December 26, 1989, the General Assembly of the Romanian Academy welcomed the Romanian Revolution and expressed its adhesion to the fundamental objectives of the national revival process. On this occasion, 21 members of the National Salvation Front Committee of the Romanian Academy were elected, including 3 economists: Acad. Alexandru Barladeanu, Nicoale N. Constantinescu, C.M. and Tudorel Postolache, C.M.

### 3. Period 1990–2018

On January 22, 1990, five economists and sociologists were titularized as members after a long period of correspondence with the Romanian Academy: the economists Nicolae N. Constantinescu, Emilian Dobrescu and Tudorel Postolache, corresponding members from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1974; the economist and sociologist Roman Moldovan (1911–1996), corresponding member from March 21, 1963, and the sociologist, jurist and historian Henri H. Stahl (1901–1991), corresponding member since March 1, 1974.

In the General Assembly of February 2, 1990, Acad. Nicolae N. Constantinescu was elected Secretary General. On February 3, 1990, the National Institute of Economic Research (INCE) was established, in which operates: the Institute of National Economy (IEN); Institute of World Economy (IEM); Institute for Interracial Relations Research and Industrial Structures Research (ICRISI), now called the Center for Industry and Services Economy (CEIS); The Institute for Financial and Monetary Research (ICFM), now called the “Victor Slăvescu” Financial and Monetary Research Center (CCFM); Institute of Agricultural Economics (IEA), Institute of Economic Forecasting (IPE), Life Quality Research Institute (ICCV), Electronic Computer Office (OCE); Economic Information and Documentation Center (CIDE); “Vladimir Trebici” Demographic Research Center; Center for Comparative and Consensual Economics; Research Center for the Efficient Renewable Energy Efficiency.

On June 3, 1990, American economist and mathematician Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen was elected as honorary member of the Romanian Academy. On November 13, 1990, economist Virgil Madgearu was elected a post-mortem honorary member of the Romanian Academy, and on December 14th the same year, was marked the 50th anniversary of his tragic disappearance.

On December 20, 1990, in the Aula of the Romanian Academy, the festivity for granting the title of honorary member of the Romanian Academy to Romanian economist Anghel Rugină and with that occasion he presented the communication “The intellectual crisis of our time and the moral responsibility of scientist Victor Slăvescu”. Then, on May 9, 1991, Professor Anghel Rugină presented the communication entitled “There is still something to be said about the market economy” in the House of Scientists, in which it focused on the three types of market economy: a) the one in which economic freedom is without limits; b) the one in which freedom is indirectly handled by the government and c) the type of economy expressed in the Scandinavian model. Anghel Rugină returned to the country and presented on April 26, 1994, the communication “Destiny of Humankind: Where Does the Contemporary World Go?”

On January 24, 1991, Acad. Alexandru Bârlădeanu was celebrated on the occasion of his 80th anniversary, when the academics Mihai Drăgănescu, Nicolae N. Constantinescu and Vasile Malinschi spoke. At the General Assembly of the members of the Romanian Academy of December 18, 1991 were elected corresponding members at the Department of Economics, Law and Sociology, economist Costin Kirițescu, and on 10 November 1992 became corresponding member also the sociologist Cătălin Zamfir.

Resuming the experience and tradition that existed before 1990, on 24 February 1993, the Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences Section organized the scientific debate on “The Enterprise in the Transition Period”. On March 24th the same year, Acad. Nicolae N. Constantinescu presented, in the Aula of the Romanian Academy, the reception speech “Ecological principle in economic science”, in which, after dealing with “the introduction of the ecological principle in economic science” and “some general problems determined by the application of the ecological principle in economic science”, he stressed: “Examining economic issues in light of the ecological principle, which means preserving vitality and diversity on Earth, demonstrates, from all angles of view, the need for a new orientation of the economy. (...) Economic growth itself, for the sake of economic growth, is no longer justified. Such development contradicts both the nature of the economic process as such and the human nature of ecology. In other words, the application of the ecological principle strengthens the humanistic character of economic science. This will stimulate the development of a new concept of development: Sustainable, Sustainable Ecological and Social Development”, which “thus becomes the conclusion of economic scientific research at the end of this millennium and the beginning of the third. And it shows that the natural sciences and the sciences of society tend to become more and more united in a single science, of man in the broadest and most complex sense of the word”.

On March 23, 1993 was elected as Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy, economist Constantin Ionete (1922–2011), and on 24–25 May 1993 were held the first Romanian-Swedish colloquium with the theme “Economic Research and Transition. Theoretical and Practical Approaches”, organized by the Romanian Academy, the National Institute of Economic Research, the Academy of Economic Studies from the Romanian side and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Swedish Institute, the University of Göteborg and the University of Lund, on the Swedish side. Then, on September 7–8, 1993, was held the first Romanian-Spanish Symposium with the theme “Economic Issues in European Perspective”, organized by the Romanian Academy and the Royal Academy of Doctors from Barcelona – Spain, and on October 7–10, 1993, took place The Academic Days, where Acad. Nicolae N. Constantinescu presented the communication “Romanian Contributions to the Creation of the Ecological Economy (up to the Second World War)”. On September 7, 1994, was held the ceremony of handing over the medal for corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Doctors from Spain for acad. Nicolae N. Constantinescu, president of the Department of Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences.

At the General Assemblies of the Romanian Academy, March 23, 1993 and November 12–13, 1993, Iulian Văcărel, Constantin Barbulescu and Aurel Iancu were elected as corresponding members from the Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences Department. On November 8, 1994, Iulian Văcărel was appointed as a member of the Romanian Academy.

On March 18, 1994, was organized by the Economic Sciences, Law and Sociology Section, the scientific session dedicated to the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the birth of economist Ion Răducanu, a former member of the Romanian Academy, whose activity was evocated by acad. Nicolae N. Constantinescu and the

corresponding members Iulian Văcărel and Constantin Barbulescu, and on July 11, 1994, on the occasion of the “World Day of Population”, a roundtable was organized at the House of Scientists which was organized by the Department of Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences, The Demography Commission of the Romanian Academy and the Romanian Agency for Ecological Management and Sustainable Development.

The year 1995 started with several events of economic origin: a) on February 7, 1995 was elected honorary member of the Romanian Academy, the Spanish economist Jaime Gil Aluja, who lectured on 27 September 1995, upon receipt of the honorary member medal, on the theme “About a new paradigm of the theory of decision”; b) on February 9, the Romanian Academy’s Prospective Studies Commission and the World Economics Institute was organized the “Romania’s Chances and Long-Term Prospects in the World Economy” Symposium, integrated with the project “Romania 2020”; c) On February 24, was held with the occasion on 120 years from the birth of economist Gheorghe Tașcă (1875–1951), a former member of the Romanian Academy, a communication session which was organized by the Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences Section and the Economic History Commission and the history of economic thinking. On June 28, 1995 under the auspices of the Economic and Legal Sciences and Sociology Section and of the Economic History and Economic Thought Commission, the scientific session dedicated to Dionisie Pop Martian (1829–1865) was held in the Aula of the Romanian Academy, on the occasion of his 130 years commemoration.

On October 26, 1995, Acad. Iulian Văcărel presented his reception speech “Financial Economists – Promoters and Defenders of National Interest” in the Aula of Romanian Academy. At first, he expressed his emotion to be among the full members of the Romanian Academy, among whom were “not few prestigious financial economists, such as Virgil Madgearu, Victor Slăvescu, Ion Raducanu, Gheorghe Tașcă, Vintiă Bratianu, whose works date back to the first half of our century. These economists, plus many others without the blazon of academics, had a common denominator: they all understood that in the economic and financial activity any action taken must take into account the national interest. (...) I use this occasion to pay respect to all the economists of yesterday and today who, in their everyday work, have made a belief in promoting national interest. I incline myself with piety and deference to the memory of those financial economists who, through their writings and their deeds, have made a well-deserved place in the immortal gallery and have added a glimpse of the Romanian Academy.” He then referred to “a few problems in which a number of financial economists have demonstrated clairvoyance, abnegation, and accountability to the nation”. I am thinking of: rebuilding and then developing the economy wiped out by the First World War; monetary, fiscal and fiscal reform after the creation of the Great Romania; overcoming the international financial crisis of the 1920s and the global economic crisis of ’29–’33; the recovery of the national currency and the recovery of public finances; protecting the national economy against the protectionist policies promoted by industrialized countries in the 1930s, the central idea being that “relations between states are constituted only on the basis of interests and above all on the economic interests of the big and powerful

ones”, Romania having “the duty to ensure that her interests are not despised by stronger partners, as has happened not over the course of history”. *Laudatio* at that reception speech was delivered by Acad. Nicolae N. Constantinescu.

On December 4, 1995, the economic, juridic and sociologic and philology and literature departments organized the scientific session dedicated to the 140th anniversary since the birth of the economist and literary critic Constantin Dobrogeanu-Gherea (1855–1920).

On May 6, 1996, the Department of Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences, together with the National Institute of Economic Research, celebrated the 90th anniversary of the birth of the American economist with Romanian origin Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen (1906–1994) and on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Economic and Legal Science and Sociology Section together with the Economic History and Economic Thought Commission was organized the international conference “Black Sea Economic Cooperation in the Twentieth Century”. On October 3, 1996, the scientific debate on the “Economic and Financial Autonomy of Research Units of the Romanian Academy” took place in the organization of the Section of Economic, Legal and Sociological Sciences.

Completed in January 1990 under the leadership of Acad. Tudorel Postolache, a team of specialists – who, in 1999, was named the ESEN group (abbreviation of the State of National Economy) and entered the main area of activities of the National Institute of Economic Research – was concerned about the big problems of economic transformation – social on Romania is moving into its new phase of existence. Initially, was elaborated the “Strategy for the Transition to the Market Economy”, then the “Snagov Declaration” (June 1995), a text that has been the consensus of all political forces – 16 parties – has signed a joint statement positively appreciated by European forum, and since 1999, “The National Strategy of Romania’s Economic Development on the Medium-Term (2001–2004)”.

In 2001, was launched the program ESEN 2 “Evaluation of the National Economy. Problems of Romania’s Integration into the European Union. Requirements and Assessments”, appreciated by the European Commission. After the end of this program, in 2003, was developed the ESEN 3 program on the sustainable development of the Romanian economy and society – “Romania’s economic development. Competitiveness and Integration in the European Union”. The realization of this program of major importance was entrusted to the Romanian Academy under the auspices of which several volumes were launched. The other economical members of the Department joined the members of the Romanian Academy as: Prof. Vasile Stănescu was elected honorary member on 29 January 1999, Prof. Mugurel Constantin Isărescu was elected as a corresponding member on 6 June 2001, and on 24 March 2006 was titrated. Also on June 2, 2001 was elected corresponding member Prof. Gheorghe Zaman. On December 21, 2001, Professor Aurel Iancu was elected as a titular member of the Romanian Academy, and on June 3, 2009, he delivered the speech titled “Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen – Founder of Economic School”. Professors Daniel Daianu and Lucian-Liviu Abu were elected as corresponding member on