

In memory of  
Vladimir Ivanovici  
(1952-2005)



On 30th of March 2005, the Romanian meteorology lost one of the most valuable personalities, Dr. Vladimir Ivanovici, Executive Director of the National Meteorological Administration (former National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology). As a scientist, he brought his important contribution to the development of modern dynamic meteorology in Romania, successfully carrying on the pioneer's activity in this domain initiated by his forerunners Andrei Doneaud and Nicolae Besleaga.

As mentioned in an interview published in Constantin Toni Dirtu's paper "Romanian personalities and their achievements" (2003), Vladimir Ivanovici was attracted by meteorology since he was a child when he "used to look forward to the first snowfall or frost" or he was simply watching the air temperature evolution using "his own thermometer on the balcony". Later on, when he was in school, he was fascinated by the study of Physics and Mathematics. As a consequence of his remarkable results obtained in the Physics International Olympiad, he was admitted without passing any exam at the Faculty of Physics, Physics of the Atmosphere and Meteorology Department within the University of Bucharest, successfully graduating in 1976. In the same year he was hired at the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Bucharest (today National Meteorological Administration) within the Dynamic Meteorology Laboratory. With talent and devotion he improved and finalized his preparation in the domain of meteorology, by obtaining the PhD in Physics in 1987 with the paper entitled "Physico-mathematical modelling of the macroscale, mesoscale and local scale atmospheric processes and phenomena with applications for the meteorological forecast in Romania's conditions". Ever since his first years of activity, he proved devotion, competence and accuracy, courageously approaching modern research directions. He coordinated research themes in the field of dynamic meteorology, bringing his personal contributions such as: carrying out and implementation of the first barocline atmospheric numerical model operationally used in Romania, development of advanced numerical methods, numerical modelling of atmospheric pollutants transport. His professional abilities were recognized by receiving the title of senior scientific researcher I, in 1990, equivalent with that of university professor. From the administrative point of view, he was, in turn, Head of the Numerical Modelling Group, Head of the Dynamic Meteorology Laboratory and finally Scientific Director. As Associated Professor to the Faculty of Physics within the University of Bucharest and by coordinating various PhD papers, Vladimir Ivanovici greatly contributed to the development of the dynamic meteorology school in Romania. He was the author and joint-author to various scientific articles totalizing a number of 54, 20 of which being published abroad.

When Romania started to get involved in the international collaboration, in the year 1989, Vladimir Ivanovici was one of the most important initiators of the collaboration with Météo-France within the ARPEGE/ALADIN project, representing Romania over the period 1991-1997. Within many working stages performed at Météo-France, he worked on nearly all aspects of the project (digital filter initialization, details of the dynamical implementation, physics of convection, etc.). Together with the team he coordinated, he managed to implement the ALADIN model at NIMH in August 1997. Side by side with the French partners he kept on improving the ALADIN model. As a recognition of his contribution to the implementation of the ALADIN model, Vladimir Ivanovici was awarded the "Medaille Le Verrier" by Météo-France's General Director, André Lebeau. He also participated to the preparation of the 2nd version of the ALADIN model (ALADIN MoU) in the years 2000-2001, together with Jean-Francois Geleyn and Dusan Hrcek. He coordinated Romanian teams in other international projects such as: "KIT-ALADIN EU PECO INCO-COPERNICUS" international project (1996-1998), "Validation and pre-operational evaluation of a fine-mesh spectral limited area numerical weather prediction model used in dynamical adaptation mode" (1993-1997).

Vladimir Ivanovici was involved in different international scientific organizations such as: national correspondent to the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) starting with 1999 and since 2003-member of the IAMAS Executive Committee, Romania's representative to the European Working Group on Limited Area Modelling, Romania's representative to the WMO Commission of Atmospheric Sciences (CAS), national coordinator of the Technical Committee of Meteorology within the COST Programme. Within NIMH (present NMA) he was the vice-president of the Scientific Council over the period 1992-1994 and president in the period 1994-1998.

Besides the research activity, Vladimir Ivanovici also contributed to the modernization of the operative activity through the implementation of the Messir-Vision systems and especially the SIMIN project (National Integrated Meteorological System) one of the greatest achievements of the Romanian meteorology. The passion for everything that means weather forecast, did not allow him, despite his multiple tasks and commitments as Scientific Director, to miss the daily and long-range weather forecast councils, where he always had valuable interventions.

The qualities of high scientific competence proved by Vladimir Ivanovici were strengthened by his special human qualities: sense of balance, pragmatism and an excellent capacity of synthesis. Due to these qualities, he always enjoyed the appreciation of the people around him, he worked with directly or indirectly. Now, that he left us forever, the Romanian meteorology has lost a great scientist and an excellent colleague who left behind great achievements which will definitely last over the years.



**Dr. Ion SANDU,**  
**General Director of NMA**