# CENTENARY OF THE AGIGEA MARINE ZOOLOGICAL STATION. 100 YEARS OF MARINE RESEARCH IN ROMANIA

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On March 1, 2026, 100 years will be commemorated since the founding of the Marine Zoological Station in Agigea, the first marine research institution in Romania, a major landmark in the history of Romanian biology and scientific research.

On March 1, 2026, one hundred years will have passed since the establishment of the Marine Zoological Station in Agigea, Constanța County, by Royal Decree No. 810 of March 1, 1926, the first marine research institution in Romania. The founder was Professor Dr. Ioan Borcea, biologist, corresponding member of Romanian Academy, a distinguished representative of the oldest Romanian higher education institution, the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. The Station represented the founder's most remarkable professional achievement, alongside his numerous public offices and his teaching, scientific, and organizational accomplishments.

## THE INSTITUTION'S EVOLUTION OVER TIME

Between 1970 and 1990, the Station operated within the Romanian Marine Research Institute (currently the "Grigore Antipa" National Institute for Marine Research and Development), established in Constanța in 1970 at the initiative of Academician Mihai C. Băcescu (Bucharest) and Academician Eugen A. Pora (Cluj-Napoca), as the Biology Section.

Since its founding, the Station has been led by 12 directors, beginning with the first – Professor Ioan Borcea (1879–1936) – and continuing to the present director, Associate Professor Dr. Emanuel Baltag, biologist, both affiliated with the aforementioned University of Iași, as well as by three department heads during its period within the Romanian Marine Research Institute.

**Ioan Borcea**
(1879–1936)

## SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Throughout its existence, the Station and its milestone anniversaries have been marked by commemorative articles and interviews. Jubilee volumes were published on the occasions of the 30th, 40th, 70th, 75th, and 80th anniversaries. The Station's history records its administration, its continuous scientific activity, its educational work through student training and internships, and the outcomes of international scientific cooperation, particularly with France, Italy, and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (CIESM) in Monaco. After 1990, the Station returned to the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași.

This jubilee event would be incomplete without recalling two prominent personalities closely connected to the

Station: Professor Emeritus Dr. Ionel Andriescu (director between 1966 and 1970) and Associate Professor Dr. Maria S. Celan, an internationally renowned biologist, both of whom made substantial contributions to enhancing the institution's national and international scientific prestige.

Among the distinguished personalities who visited the Station was the Romanian scientist George E. Palade – Nobel Prize laureate (1974) – whose doctoral thesis in medicine and surgery, "The Urinary Tubule of the Dolphin – A Study in Comparative Morphology and Physiology," was initiated at the Station and defended on June 27, 1940.

At this Station, in 1969, Academician Eugen A. Pora organized, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Association for Marine Biology (MAMBO), the first International Course on the Biology of Brackish Waters, with the lectures later published in the two-volume work *Biologie des eaux saumâtres* (1977).

## ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTENARY EVENTS

This major centenary for Romanian biology should involve, both organizationally and professionally, the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, the Romanian Academy / the Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology / the Constanța Branch of C.R.I.F.S.T., the Academy of Romanian Scientists / the Constanța Branch / the Biological Sciences Section, as well as other national and local public institutions.

Relevant institutions and potentially interested persons are invited to participate with messages, scientific and/or memorial papers, or other contributions.

**Vivat, crescat, floreat!**

***Prof. Assoc. Dr. Alexandru Ș. BOLOGA***
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