

ROMANIAN CENTRE OF MARINE GEOLOGY AND GEOECOLOGY

Short presentation

1. General

The Romanian Centre of Marine Geology and Geoecology (RCGGM) is a governmental research-development institution controlled and co-ordinated by the Ministry of Research and Technology of Romania.

The Centre took shape mainly through the reorganisation of the Marine Geology and Sedimentology Department of the Geological Institute of Romania. The governmental decision of separating and developing the Department of Marine Geology as a separate scientific institution has been taken because the importance, the specificity and the complexity of geological-geophysical and geo-ecological research on sea.

Presently the Romanian Centre of Marine Geology and Geoecology has 105 scientific and technical personnel working in Bucharest and in a branch in Constantza.

2. Main scientific objectives

The scientific activity of the RCGGM is oriented towards the following main directions:

I. Marine and fluvial geo-ecological studies regarding the ecosystems of the macro-geosystem River Danube - Danube Delta - Coastal Zone - Black Sea and the environmental impact of hydrotechnical works carried out along the Danube course and in the Danube Delta.

II. Geological-geophysical survey of the Black Sea, mainly of the Romanian continental shelf, as well as of other marine areas. Bathymetric, geologic-sedimentologic, magnetometric and gravimetric mapping of the shelf area is carried out at 1:200.000 and 1:50.000 scales.

III. Studies of paleo-ecology, studies of the environmental and geological impacts of the climate and sea-level changes in the past and in the present.

IV. Land-sea interactions in the Coastal Zone and its integrated management.

V. Studies, technical assistance and consulting for littoral and offshore marine engineering, industrial and environmental impact studies.

3. National and international scientific programmes

The Romanian Centre of Marine Geology and Geoecology is involved in the following national and international scientific programmes:

* The Romanian Programme for the complex assessment of the Black Sea.

* The Programme "European River-Ocean System" (EROS-2000), phase III concerning the interaction of the river Danube and the Black Sea. The Programme studying the state of ecosystems within the Danube and the Black Sea is financed by the European Community through PHARE and PECO Programmes. The general co-ordination of this programme is fulfilled by Dr. J.M. Martin (Environmental Institute in Ispra), and the regional co-ordination is realised by RCGGM.

* The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Programme for Environmental Management of the Black Sea. The Programme is supported by the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and UNESCO. The RCGGM contribution consists especially in participation at the elaboration of the Black Sea GIS and the Metadata Bank of the institutions and scientists involved in the Black Sea assessment.

* The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme: Joint Global Ocean Flux Study Project (JGOFS); Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone Project (LOICZ); Past and Present Global Changes Project (PAGES).

* German-Romanian-Russian project: Study of geological structure and evolution of the Danube deep-sea fan complex.

* Bilateral projects with IFREMER - France and the Institute of Marine Geology in Bologna - Italy.

4. Structure of the RCGGM

The structure of the Centre corresponds to its main scientific aims. So, the Centre has four scientific departments (laboratories), a technical and navigational department and an operational-financial-administrative one. The scientific departments of the Centre are: Marine Geology and Sedimentology Laboratory; Laboratory for Seismoacoustics and Physics of the Sea; Marine Gravimetry and Magnetometry Laboratory; Laboratory of Marine Geoecology and Biogeochemistry. RCGGM is transforming and equipping a converted Atlantic II-type trawler (3,000 t displacement) into multidisciplinary marine research vessel which will be operational in 1997.