

Liviu Constantinescu was born on the 26th of November, 1914, in the Iglisu Vechi village of the Transylvanian region of Marginimea Sibiului. He went to high school in Sighisoara and Blaj. In 1935 he graduated with honors from the University of Bucharest and became Doctor in Physical Sciences in 1941.

In 1943 he was appointed director of the newly established Geomagnetic Observatory Surlari, well known today to geophysicists around the world. Beginning with 1949, under the direction of academician Sabba S. Stefanescu, he took active part in setting up the first chair of Geophysics, whose head he became in 1969.

He distinguished himself among the Geophysicists community by his numerous scientific contributions that led to the elucidation of some of the major problems of Geophysics and Earth Physics. He had outstanding contributions in the fields of Geomagnetism - with specifications concerning the general morphology and the special characteristics of magnetic storms, normal distribution and secular variation of the geomagnetic field, potential fields by the study of the gravity tides effects - and especially in Seismology, by fault plane solutions, focal mechanism of the earthquakes, seismicity and tectonophysics.



Academician Professor
Liviu CONSTANTINESCU
1914 – 1997
IUGG Vice-President (1969-1971)

His qualities as an elite professor and researcher were completed by the tact and competence he proved as a doctorate supervisor and especially as an organizer of scientific research of national and international reputation. In 1958 he was appointed head of the Department of Applied Geophysics of the Institute of Geology, Geophysics and Geography of the Romanian Academy. In 1959 he became head of the Department of Geophysics of the Romanian Academy Institute of Physics and in 1961 he was designated scientific director of the Geophysical Research Center of the Romanian Academy. In 1969 he was elected pro-rector for scientific activity of the Institute of Petroleum, Gas and Geology.

In 1963 the Romanian Academy elected him corresponding member and in 1990 full member. He was President (1990-1995) and then President of Honour of the Geonomic Sciences Department of this highest scientific body of the country.

Professor Liviu Constantinescu received numerous awards throughout his scientific career. Among them the title of Knight of the Crown Order (1947), the Work Order class III (1963), the Star of the RSR Order class IV (1967), the Scientific Merit Order class II (1971), the Medal "Pro Beneficio Mundi" (Brazilian Academy of Sciences) (1975), the Medal "100 years of International Geophysics" (Academy of Sciences of the USSR) (1983).

He was elected member "Honoris Causa" of the Association of the Hungarian Geophysicists (1964); president (1971-1975) of the Co-ordinating Committee of the PNUD/UNESCO Project for the study of the Balkan region seismicity (1970-1977); member of the National Romanian Commission for UNESCO (1970-1974); member (expert) of the Study Group of SIPRI, Stockholm (1969); vice-president of the European Seismologic Commission (1972-1976); member of the Governing Council of the International Seismologic Center (1970-1974); president of the Panel Discussions concerning "Seismic Prospecting" at the X-th Petroleum World Congress (1979), honorary member of the Geological Society of Romania (1990); President (1990-1995) and then Honorary President of the Romanian Society of Geophysics.

Professor Constantinescu was designated Secretary-General, then Vice-president and President of the Romanian National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics, President of the Romanian National Committee for Geosphere - Biosphere (I.G.B.P.). He was also a member of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee between 1967-1975 and Vice-President of the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics between 1969-1971.