

A Story Longer than a Century: The Hub of DANUBIUS-RI

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Abstract: The presentation starts from 1916 when Gr. Antipa, in the volume “Fisheries and Fishing in Romania”, speaks about the need for multidisciplinary research and the convergence of innovation between social sciences, humanities, and biology. Later, between 1991-1992, Jacques Cousteau following his exploration of the Danube Delta, spoke about the need for a transdisciplinary ecological center in Murighiol as the ideal place to support multidisciplinary research to protect, explore safely and sustainably the Danube Delta in his book "The Danube, for whom and why?", followed by the meeting between Minister D.Palade and Ms. Edith Cresson, Commissioner for Science, Research and Development, when the establishment of a Research Center in the Danube Delta was proposed. The results of the projects carried out with European funds, with the acronyms DANS and DANS2, are presented for the development of this center until obtaining the construction authorization. The importance of establishing a modern research hub such as the DANUBIUS-RI Hub near one of the most important archaeological sites in Romania is presented, which can revitalize the area from an economic and touristic point of view, attracting researchers, students, and visitors of both science and heritage. On the other hand, it can contribute to a better conservation and promotion of the archaeological site through collaborations between researchers from various fields. Last but not least, the connection with biotechnologies of the research that will be performed in the Hub through a partnership between science, technology, and environmental protection is discussed. By developing this modern research infrastructure and by supporting international collaboration, Romania has the opportunity to become a regional leader in research on river-sea systems and in the sustainable use of biological resources.

Keywords: Grigore Antipa 1916; Jacques Cousteau Murighiol; DANS/DANS2 Projects; DANUBIUS-RI Hub Development; Multidisciplinary & Biotech Integration

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