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THE BIRTH OF THE ROMANIAN I&CT SECTOR – A TRIBUTE TO ACAD. M. DRĂGĂNESCU

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Abstract. *In 2019, we celebrated 50 years since the graduation of the first generation of the students of the new faculty of Economic Calculus and Economic Cybernetics which was founded in ASE Bucharest by the Government Decision 2365 of 20th September 1967 (Ivan 2018). That event was facilitated by the approval of the "The national program of endowing the national economy with modern computation and data processing equipment" (released on June 21, 1967), which can be viewed as a birth certificate of a national Information and Communication Technologies (I&CT) system in Romania (Tăpuș 2018). An essential role in the coordination of the design of the program and the first years of deploying the measures contained in it has been played by Prof. Mihai Drăgănescu. In 2020, we commemorate 10 years since Prof. Drăgănescu, a former president of the Romanian Academy (1990-1994), also the founder (in 1992) of the Information Science and Technology section of the Academy (Rusu 2003), passed way. The present paper is intended to highlight the decisive contribution of Prof. Mihai Drăgănescu in designing and creating a national, integrated, network-type, I&CT sector in Romania. His contributions to the road towards a knowledge-based society are briefly presented. The paper starts by reviewing the contributions of several scientists and research and education schools that anticipated and set the stage for creating and deploying a national program in the ICT domain (Filip 2017). Then, the main ideas contained in the design of a complex national I&CT system that is composed and integrates several subsystems such as: education, research, fabrication, and usage of computers are presented. In the sequel, the paper reviews several first results obtained. Prof. Drăgănescu was an engineer an appreciated professor, and an effective manager in the I&CT domain as well as a innovative philosopher*

and a visionary thinker. He anticipated and defined a series of evolution stages of the human society such as information society, knowledge based one, and the society of consciousness. The interested reader can find more details in the recent book edited by Rebreanu and Iancu (2017) or in the volume edited by Tufiş et al (2004). Electronic versions of the works of prof. Drăgănescu are posted in a special chapter of the webpage of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing of the Romanian Academy (<http://www.racai.ro/about-us/dragam>).

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