

PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT EUROPE TO ROMANIA

In memoriam Prof. Elie Carafoli

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A quarter of a century ago passed into nothingness Prof. Elie Carafoli, the founder and head of the Aviation Department of the Politehnica University of Bucharest. As his former student, and for 35 years, his collaborator, i dedicate these lines to him.

No, it's not only a pious remembrance, but also the need to provide ways of re-Europeanization of the Romanian school, seriously marred by anti-intellectual mentalities. I had the opportunity to closely know some authorities on various disciplines (as for instance prof. Danielopol in Medical School, prof. Dorin Pavel in Hydrotechnics, prof. Miron Niculescu or prof. Octavian Onicescu activating in Mathematics-to give only some examples) who all returned to Romania after eminent doctoral thesis defended in major European universities. If i were to synthesize their principles they would state: "We had a lot of offers to stay abroad but we chose to come back to help our country", that thing meaning that, after an intense professional and didactic activity, fighting antiquated or defeatist mentalities, they succeeded to impose the EUROPEAN QUALITY STANDARDS in learning and professing various disciplines.

Many things have changed since then, but STANDARDS remain, respected and guarded with harshness, so that "even time fears them", as Herodotus said about the Pyramids. The tendency of neglecting these norms by "*come what may*" (cheap improvisations) is equivalent to a social untreatable disease.

In all he achieved – the first low-wing aircraft, the wind tunnel at the Politehnica University, courses in aerodynamics - Prof. Elie Carafoli managed to rigorously comply with European quality standards, rejecting any nonconformity or « back door entries ». His favorite motto «Non multa sed multum» gives evidence of his continuous concern with quality. He used to say to us: "You must be like they are in Paris, Berlin, London" – a familiar advice to me as alumni of National College "Sf.Sava". These lines intend to send a message from the people that brought Europe in Romania by adopting and respecting the European quality standards. Each Romanian should be aware that any workplace can become an empire of human victory or the dust pit of his decay.

And Prof. Elie Carafoli remains a symbol of human victory at the European scale.