

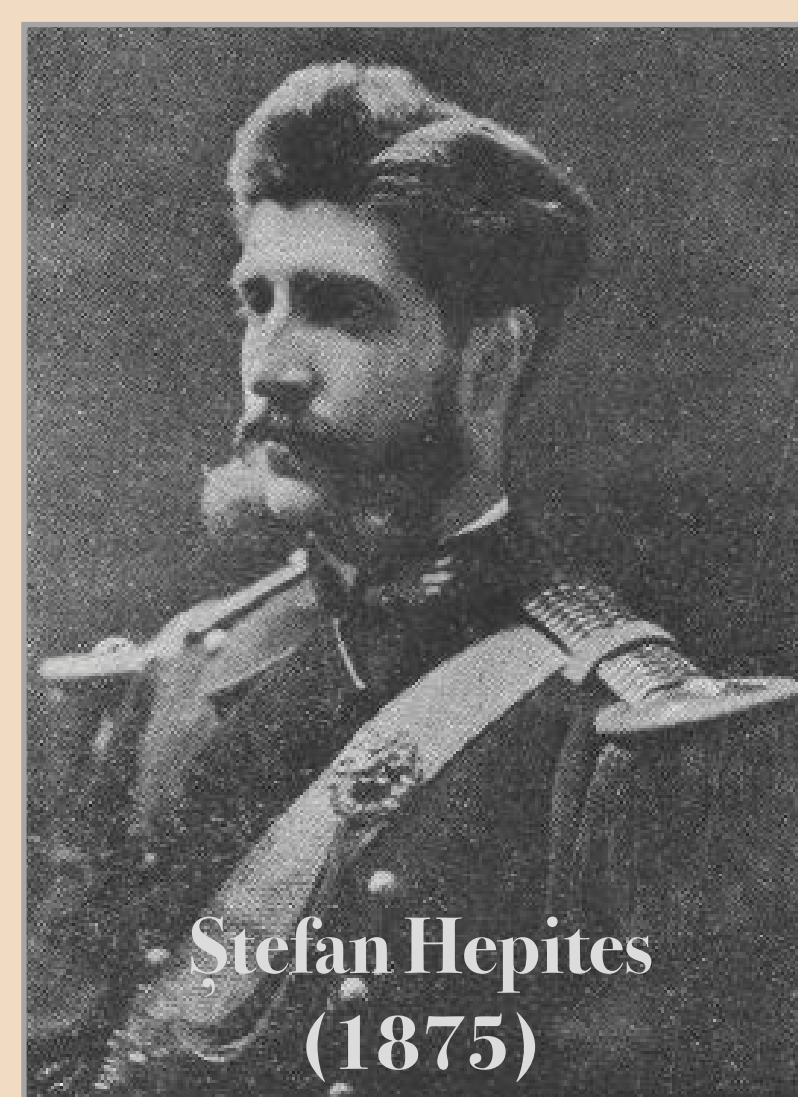
Centenary of death 1922-2022

# Ștefan C. Hepites

## The beginnings of meteorological studies in Romania

"Ștefan C. Hepites was born in Brăila on February 17, 1851. Between 1861-1865, he attended high school in Bucharest. After graduating from the military academy in 1869, he was sent to the Military School in Brussels. At the same time, he attended the University of Brussels, where he studied mathematics and physics and worked at the physics laboratory of the Uccle Observatory. In 1873, he obtained a doctorate in physical and mathematical sciences, as well as the diploma from the military school. Until 1875, when he returned to Romania, he attended the courses at the Polytechnic School in Brussels, completing the courses among the top students in the first group."

1851  
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1875



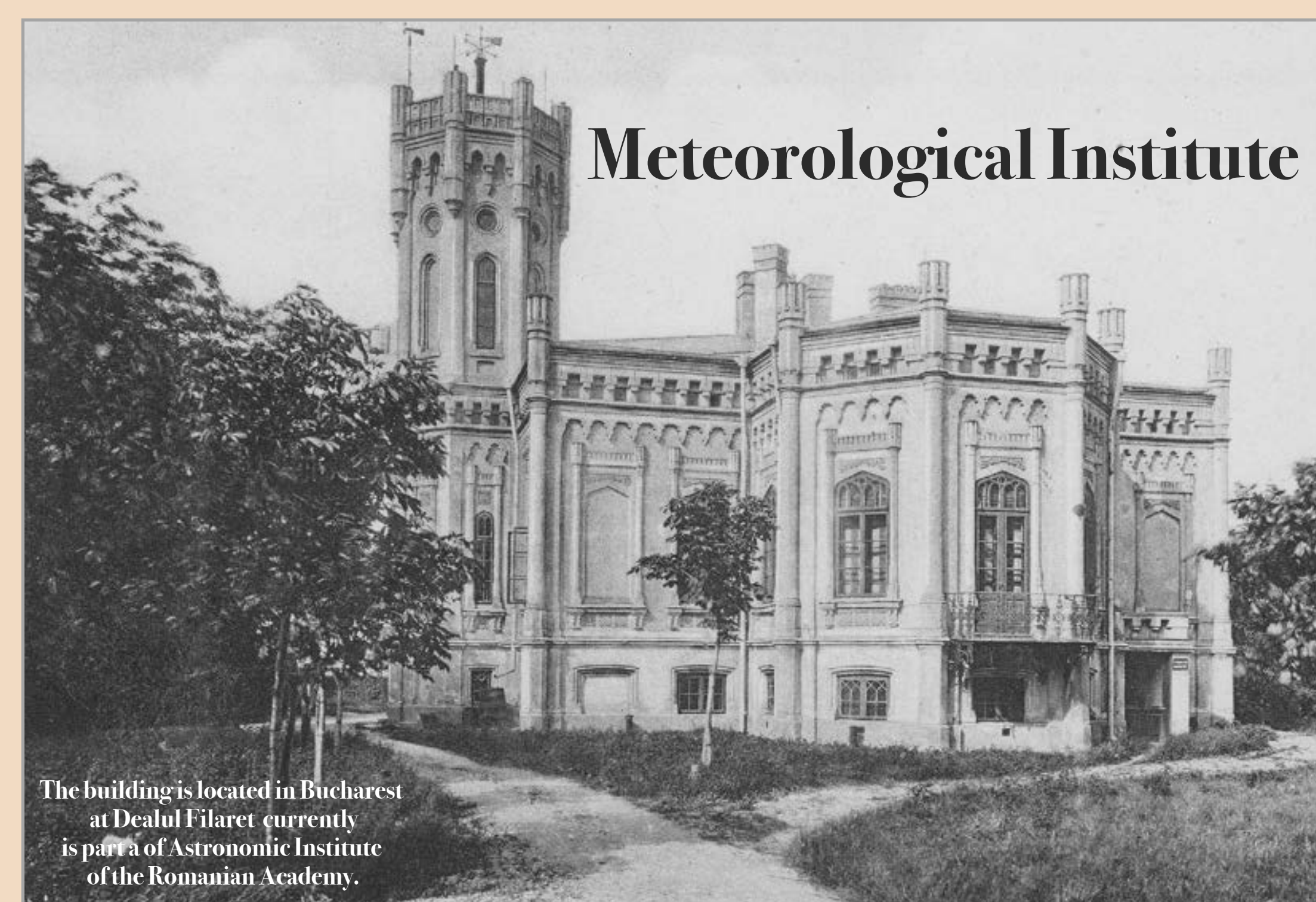
**1878** Ștefan Hepites establishes a meteorological station in Brăila, following, as much as possible, the recommendations of the *First International Meteorological Congress* in Vienna (1873). In this year, Hepites begins his practical activity as a scientist and organizer of meteorology in Romania. He personally conducted the observations every hour between 6 AM and 10 PM, sometimes continuing them during the night.

1883

The *Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Industry, and Domains* is established, with Ion I. Câmpineanu (1841-1888) as its first head, who decides to establish a meteorological service. Hepites, who was in Dortmund at that time for the reception of railway materials, received a letter from Minister Câmpineanu in which he is entrusted with organizing a meteorological service in Romania.

1884

The *Meteorological Institute of Romania* is established, and Ștefan Hepites General Domain Inspector, is entrusted with the organization and direction of the Meteorological Institute. Immediately after the establishment of the Institute, Hepites begins the installation of new meteorological stations throughout the country. Thus, from the three existing meteorological stations in 1884, the number increases to 11 stations in 1885, and by 1888, the network was formed by 30 observation stations.



The building is located in Bucharest at Dealul Filaret currently is part of Astronomic Institute of the Romanian Academy.

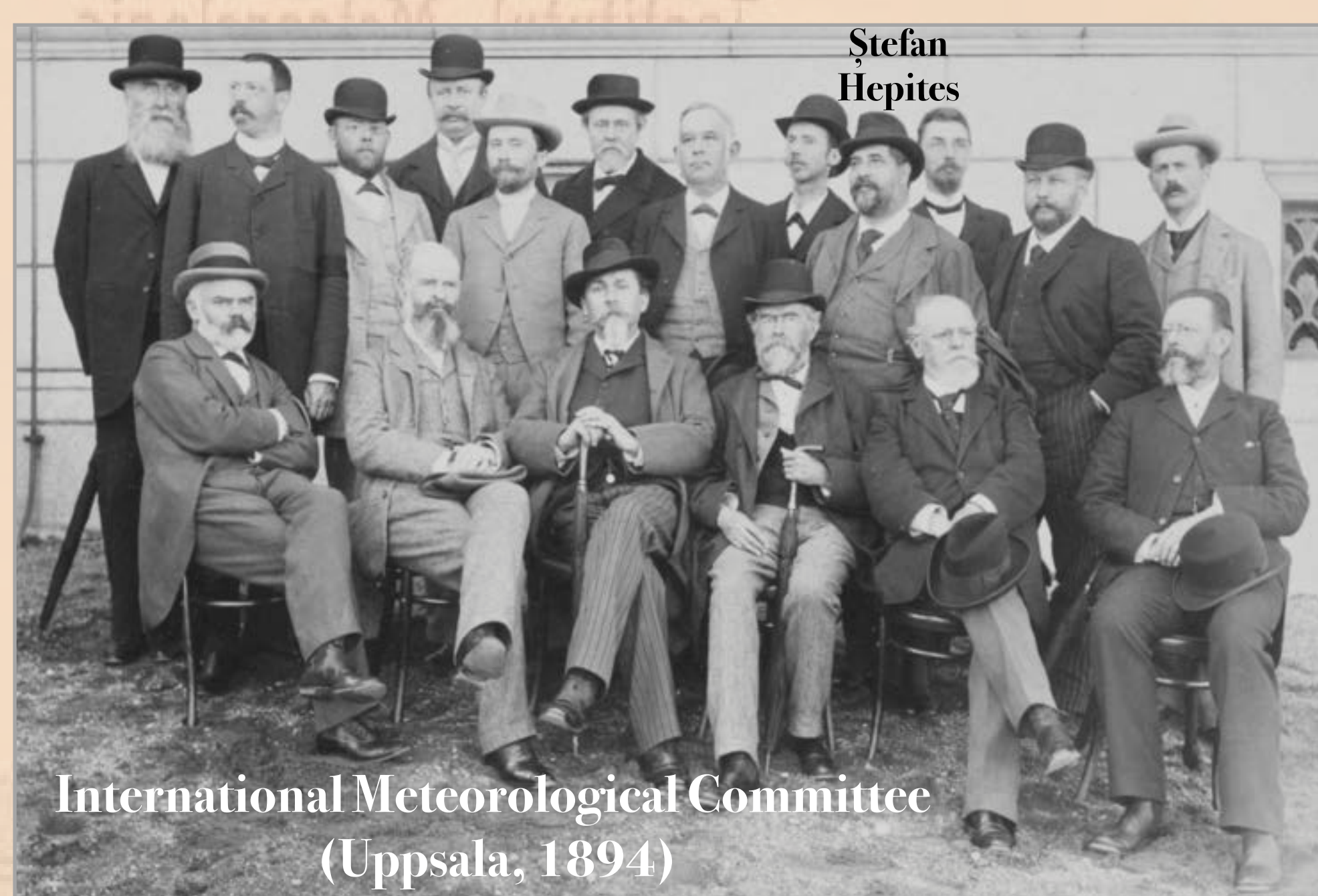
1885

The first volume of the *Annals of the Meteorological Institute of Romania* is published. At the beginning of the Institute's activities, Hepites compiled daily bulletins with observational data from Bucharest and some of the stations in the network. These bulletins were published daily in the *Monitorul Oficial*. Additionally, a report on meteorological phenomena from the previous week was published in the *Monitorul Oficial* every Monday. The *Bulletin of the Scientific Society of Bucharest* and some newspapers in Bucharest also published a special meteorological observation bulletin prepared by Hepites.

1888

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1895

Based on the meteorological data collected in Bucharest, Ștefan Hepites published in 1888 *The Climate of Bucharest*, the first work on climatology in Romania and one of the earliest works on urban climatology in the world. In 1891 Hepites is elected as a member of the *International Meteorological Committee* at the *Conference of Directors of Meteorological Services* held in Munich (August 26 - September 2)."



In 1894, Hepites participates in the first meeting of the *International Meteorological Committee* (Uppsala).

In the same year, he establishes a small astronomical observatory at Filaret, and in 1895, he installs the first seismic station in Bucharest-Filaret.

In 1907, Ștefan Hepites relinquishes the leadership of the *Meteorological Institute* of Romania to Ioan Murat (1878-1921) while retaining the honorary director position.

1907

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1922

Through a law enacted in 1908, the *Meteorological Institute* is transferred from the *Ministry of Agriculture* to the *Ministry of Public Instruction* and incorporated into the *Astronomical Observatory* under the leadership of Nicolae Conulescu (1866-1952). Between 1916 and 1919, Hepites leads the *International Bureau of Weights and Measures* (Sèvres).

Ștefan Hepites passes away in Brăila in 1922, leaving behind a meteorological service established by all the scientific requirements of the era.

Seminar organized by the UNESCO Chair of the Horia Hulubei Foundation.