

# A close encounter with Romanian ufology.

As mentioned in FSR 52.4, there is currently no coherent way of monitoring UFO reports on a Europe-wide basis. In this issue we take a closer look at the Romanian UFO story, another Eastern European nation in the new Europe, that has overcome the legacy of systematic vicious repression of all forms of expression and intellectual freedom in the communist era. Today its people concern themselves with practicalities of modern life rather than burden themselves with elusive mysteries of the UFO question, however, they appear to be an open minded people, even in their academic institutions. They were among the newest entrants to the European Union in 2007, which may well lead to a return to common media censorship for example among their armed forces.



Members of UFO Scientific Circle on a trip to Brasov in 1973 Left, Calin Turcu. Centre Ion Hobana

Public interest in UFOs in Romania began with the 1968 flap, when several interesting reports reached the mass media, among them one of the crew of the commercial airline TAROM in August 17, and several other encounters in the next time period, until the end of September. The first Romanian books about UFOs were written by the SF writer and critic Ion Hobana (Bucharest, 1971) and the engineer Florin Gheorghita (Iasi, 1973), both of them involved in the investigation of the 1968 cases. Ion Hobana, together with Julien Weverbergh, also published several UFO books abroad, among them the *Ufo's from behind the iron curtain* (1974), translated in several languages. In the early seventies, some UFO research groups were organised, the most important, established in 1971, at the Cultural House of the University Students in Bucharest, was lead by Ion Hobana himself.. Within this "UFO Scientific Circle," were many professionals from the university environment, interested in studying the phenomenon, conducting field research and archived reports and organised numerous meetings to inform the general public.

In 1977, one of the members of this group, Calin Turcu (1942-2006), living in the small town of Valenii de Munte (100 km north of Bucharest), organised an informal, nationwide team named "*Romanian UFO Researchers (RUFOR)*", that published a *samizdat* UFO bulletin (27 numbers, 1979-86). Turcu established, in time, in his house, the greatest archive of written records, photos and films about Romanian cases, as well as the greatest UFO book library in Romania. The same team published later the only printed UFO periodical in Romania, named "*RUFOR*" (1994-1996). It had 21 issues, the first 8 in a tabloid form, and the rest as an A4 magazine. The chief editor was Peter Leb from the Transylvanian city of Targu Mures. All important Romanian UFO researchers contributed to this magazine. Presently, there is no printed UFO periodical in Romania.

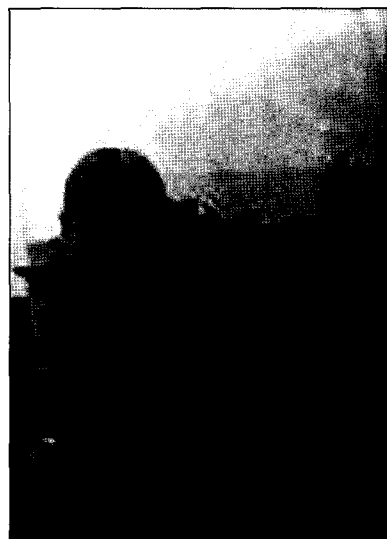
A dozen UFO books, translated or original, were published in



Roberto Pinotti president CUN with Ion Hobana, president ASFAN.

increased dramatically after 1990. Among the authors were Ion Hobana, Calin Turcu, Florin Gheorghita, Dan Farcas, Doru Davidovici (fighter pilot 1945-1989), Gyorgy Mandics (now living mainly in Hungary), Dan Apostol and Adrian Patrut (President of the Romanian Society of Parapsychology; he also wrote about some other strange phenomena in the Hoiu Baci forest near Cluj-Napoca). Unfortunately, an inadequate dissemination of books in the past 15 years, made many titles very restricted in their circulation. Also because of superficial editorial policies, books have emerged whose content does not meet minimum standards of the scientific process necessary to address the scope of the UFO. The Romanian UFO network (RUFON) has its headquarters in Coventry, Str. No Berzei. 16, headed by Paul Dorneanu and Florin Sirbu. In 1998 they established a database which increases day by day ([www.rufon.org](http://www.rufon.org)).

The Association for the Study of Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (ASFAN) Romania was set up in 1998 by a group of people connected with the UFO phenomenon and was conceived as an organisation of well established specialists working in various directions relevant to UFO research. Currently ASFAN is the only organisation with legal status for studying unidentified aerial phenomena. ASFAN is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation recognised by the Bucharest City Court decision of 28 September 1998 and the approval of the Minister of Research and Technology and Mayor of Bucharest. ASFAN headquarters is at the Municipality



Astronomical Observatory "Admiral Vasile Ursianu", in Bucharest, bul. Lascar Catargiu 21. For three years (2000-2003) ASFAN held monthly public meetings at the Military Circle and for National Cultural Students. Among the guests, besides members of Bucharest were Gheorghe Mandics of Timisoara, Adrian Patrut in Cluj-Napoca, or John Adam ASFAN branch chief of Batam ASFAN members were present in these years to

virtually all the TV channels and radio stations with national coverage, in debates on UFO issues

# A flying man visits the Romanian village of Gemeni September 2007

When one looks at the honest faces of Romanian country folk recounting their sightings of a flying humanoid; we see shock still written in their expression. This community's shock is a direct result of an alien encounter; it is a very natural reaction to the unknown danger whose residue they sense so vividly and relive constantly. Many ordinary citizens of modern Western democracies often feel the need to mock or find unnecessary mirth at people's profound response to a contact. These Romanian villagers are simple people, now they know the illusion of normality in our world has literally broken in on them. Life will never be the same; it is the end of innocence.



Police in Romania's Mehedinti County investigated claims that Gemeni's villagers saw a Superman-type figure flying over the town. They took the accounts of almost 20 witnesses so seriously that an investigation was launched into the sightings. Folks from Gemeni, Mehedinti County said that they saw an unidentified flying man wearing a shiny blue suit just like the one Superman wears. Officers took written statements from all of the Superman attestors and told Ananova that witnesses described the airborne person in the same way. A local police officer, Ion Anuta, said that the Romanian cops talked to people of different ages and described witnesses as "reliable citizens." One of the onlookers, 41-year-old Constantin Iorder,

100 yards from the ground in a standing position. He didn't make any smoke or sound, just cruising around." Officer Anuta commented on the consistency of bystanders' stories, saying, "They all said they saw this strange creature that flew over their houses in his shiny blue costume. We'll just have to see what happens next."



Additional commentary by FSR: the account above appears to originate in September 2007. The following is taken from a posting by 'Cosmin' on a Romanian message board.

Discussion with 'someone who saw' by cosmin: Personally I do not believe in extraterrestrials, but listening to the story of the father of my friend who lives in the village of Gemeni I am less inclined to doubt. The figure was seen at 7 o'clock one morning near a field of cabbage, and then he moved on to a road in the village. He looked like a man made of plastic, more specifically a balloon in the form of a man. Strange, but no-one had interest in flying a balloon in the morning and there was no wind to help the movement. Then it flew over a house and rose up above. It wore a white suit with something phosphorescent in its chest. Its head had big blue eyes with something white and black striped in its middle. The figure moved like a man and turned on the road to come back and then moved upwards. It returned to the sky and disappeared. Nobody had the courage to interact in any way with that thing.



An important note: The humanoid was described as a man made of plastic or more specifically a balloon in the form of a man. This is exactly the description of a helmeted flying humanoid that passed over a London suburb one evening in August 2007. His balloon-like appearance was