NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

ICE MARINE DESIGN

Innovate! Regardless Launched at ICEPRONAV, Galați

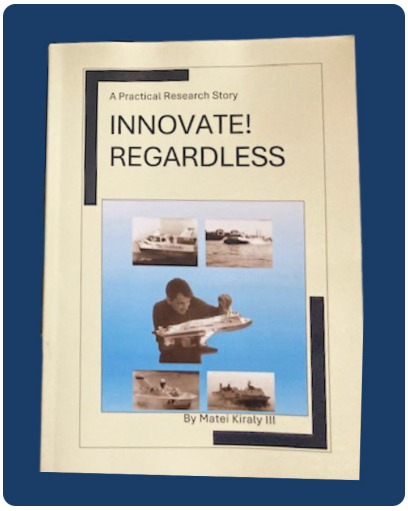
The first meeting in 2026 of the Romanian Shipbuilders Association (ANCONAV) not only marked the 60th anniversary of its host, ICEPRONAV, but also saw the launch of a remarkable book on engineering persistence titled ***Innovate! Regardless***.

The book documents the life and work of Matei Kiraly II (1936–2011), a Romanian naval architect recognised for his pioneering contributions to high-speed craft and hovercraft development. Authored by his son, Matei Kiraly III, the publication records a period of technical ambition and experimentation within Romanian ship research and prototype construction.

During his career at ICEPRONAV, Matei Kiraly II was involved in the design and development of hydrofoil vessels, side-wall hovercraft and amphibious air-cushion craft. His work combined theoretical rigour with practical problem-solving, advancing complex concepts despite material and institutional constraints.

Rather than presenting a conventional biography, ***Innovate! Regardless*** offers insight into the realities of engineering under pressure. It highlights persistence and commitment to technical standards, principles that continue to underpin ICEPRONAV's contribution to marine design within the ICE Group.

Holding the launch alongside the ANCONAV programme reinforced the connection between past and present, placing this historical reflection within today's professional community.



An Exceptional Winter Scene in Galați

On 18 February, the city of Galați and Romania's capital, Bucharest, experienced a period of heavier-than-usual snowfall, resulting in airport delays and temporary road closures due to snowdrifts. Travel between Bucharest and Galați was significantly slower than usual, with some visitors experiencing extended journey times.

While snowfall does occur during the winter months, conditions severe enough to disrupt access in this way are rare. Normal travel routes and schedules resumed shortly afterwards.

The photograph shows icicles formed along the ICE sign at the entrance to the Galați office, a rare moment when the company name aligned literally with the weather. National flags displayed at the entrance reflected the international character of recent visits.

An ICEPRONAV Alumnus Who Became Country Chief Executive for BV

Continuing our series highlighting ICEPRONAV alumni who have gone on to prominent roles in industry and academia, we feature Dr.-Ing. Jean Sever Popovici.

He graduated in 1973 from the Polytechnic Institute of Galați, Faculty of Mechanics, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, and joined ICEPRONAV the same year. He began as a design engineer, contributing to experimental models and vessel development projects during a period of technical expansion.

In 1978, following the commissioning of ICEPRONAV's Hydrodynamic Research Laboratories, he moved into research activity at the Cavitation Tunnel, where he helped develop methods for analysing propeller performance and propulsion efficiency. In 1989, he completed his PhD at Galați University on propeller–hull interaction, becoming the first ICEPRONAV engineer to obtain a doctoral degree while active within the organisation. He also lectured at the University of Galați and co-authored the technical volume Propeller Calculation.

In 1994, during a challenging period for Romanian shipbuilding, he became General Manager of ICEPRONAV. Through an outward-looking commercial approach and the introduction of computer-aided design systems, he strengthened the organisation's technical and economic position.

He later joined Bureau Veritas in 1998, serving for twenty years as

Country Chief Executive in Romania, and continues to support professional dialogue through the Shipbuilders' Colloquiums initiative.

FROM OUR PROJECT PORTFOLIO: PASSENGER CRUISE VESSEL

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NORWEGIAN EPIC

Client: STX Europe (was Aker France)

Shipyard: Chantiers de l'Atlantique

Year: 2007 - 08

Class: DNV GL

ICE Scope of Work:

- Basic and detail design for hull structure
- Detail design - coordination drawings for piping and outfitting (selected zones)
- Production info - plates and profiles specifications, assembly drawings and cutting info, material specifications, penetration lists and isometric sketches

ICE MARINE DESIGN

ENGINEERING CERTAINTY

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With a 60-year track record and an annual output having exceeded 700,000 professional engineering man-hours, the International Contract Engineering (ICE) Group is one of Europe's largest independent ship design consultancies. We provide high-calibre multi-discipline design services to yards and owners in the commercial shipping, defence and offshore energy industries, ranging from conceptual studies and Class drawings to detail design and production information. We cover a full range of naval architecture and marine engineering disciplines such as hydrodynamics, structural, mechanical, piping, electrical, instrumentation, outfit and HVAC. Our experience includes gas carriers, passenger vessels, navy and coast guard ships, chemical tankers, drill ships, FSO/FPSOs and a range of other vessels. We also have available proprietary designs that can be adapted to clients' requirements.

With our head office in the Isle of Man and engineering facilities in Romania and Croatia, we provide high quality design and engineering at competitive prices.