

# FINAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT

## (MAY 2018 - NOVEMBER 2020)

Research project: PN-III-P1-1.1-PD2016-1766

Grant funded by UEFISCDI

Project title: *The Power of Words. Propagandistic or Conspirational Manuscripts and Printings in Moldavia and Wallachia (1769–1812)*

Acronym *POWORDS*

Contract No. 84 of 02/05/2018

Website: <http://history.uaic.ro/research/powords/>

Project manager: Lect. IOAN-AUGUSTIN GURIȚĂ, PhD (“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Iași)

The last years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first two decades of the subsequent century represented a period marked by fundamental changes, mostly given that all the European forces were involved in wars or eroded by domestic conflicts. The Russo-(Austro)-Turkish wars, the Orthodox movements in the Balkans or the French Revolution were just some of the major events that also affected the Romanian Principalities. Moldavia and Walachia, under the suzerainty of the Porte, were in the “target range” of the great ideological currents manifested in those times, such as the Greek project of Russia; the Greek people’s fight for freedom, pan-orthodoxy as a unique identity form (“the Orthodox nationality”) and as a bind between peoples, “presented” as a new “crusade” (warranted by the “Slavic peoples”), the ideas of the French revolutionaries and so on. Beyond any doubt, Russia and Austria – powers claiming Byzantine descent – proceeded to specific actions of propaganda to bring together the parties involved in all this “deployment of forces” at ideological level. On the other hand, at the same time, conspirative actions were also conducted, especially coordinated by “initiates”, owners of texts (printed in the West) or manuscripts being put into contact – through networks – with the new Western ideas. During all this time, some of the representatives of the clergy played a special role, on either of the sides, (thus favouring or condemning currents, ideas, directions of thought. I must also highlight the fundamental role played by the Church, whose administrative networks and structures distributed and promoted certain texts considered in the post-Byzantine period “comfort books”, but who were mainly effects and/or tools of the propaganda!

It cannot be a mere coincidence that the histories of Constantine the Great (a model par excellence for the Orthodox autocrats – in our case, for the Russian tsars), the accounts about the foundation or fall of Constantinople, as well as the eschatological fragments, the oracles, or prophecies related to that anti-Ottoman “crusade”, led by the eastern emperors – starting with Peter the Great, given that the fall of the Ottoman empire was seen as a “prelude for Parussia”. Even more, it is no coincidence that after 1750 the Romanian space included – as translations – besides the aforementioned works, various versions of its life and testament, found in several unpublished manuscripts. During the periods of occupation, when Moldavia and Walachia were under Russian military administration, I have noticed an increase in texts with specific topics, intrinsically related to Russia and to its policy in the Orthodox world. The effects of propaganda reified in the spread of ideas, in their distribution under forms accessible to everyone, but also “codified” mystically, eschatologically, with a strong message fitting religious sentiment.

In the premodern and modern Romanian society, the written word represented – besides the other expressions of power – one of the easiest means of manifestation, either conveyed in a ritual setting, (through solemnities, public announcements, proclamations, princely and/or religious ceremonies, etc) or circulating in various mediums (families or elite groups, monastic communities, secret societies, etc). From this point of view, the difficulty of the topic was significant, because a responsible approach became of essence; it was crucial to assess each of these constitutive elements of the research project.

The analysis of various texts hosted by deposits and libraries, archives, and museums, or private collections may contribute to a better insight of them within the academic community, thus encouraging their research from various perspectives, even interdisciplinary. The editing and publication of sources follows a direction appreciated and followed by many historians, even more as there is a focus in the research field on the elements of originality concerning various topics. Interpretations of any kind may be made only by using the sources unconditionally, while the objectives proposed, once attained, may bring new and original elements within the research field.

By attaining the objectives of this research project, I will introduce new information and data in the national and international historiographic circuit, which will provide a better insight into general or particular aspects within the history of premodern and modern Romanian culture history, the history of the Orthodox Church in the Romanian Principalities, the history of political thought in the Romanian space. Given the sources and studies published and the approach chosen, this research project will open new research directions

concerning the political, ecclesiastical, and cultural history in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first decades of the subsequent century, so necessary in the Romanian historiography.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT IN 2018**

In the period related to the current report (2018), the objective of the project was fully attained. The objective included activities provided in the research plan, such as research and documentation in libraries, research institutes, and archives. An important activity was represented by the documentation and analysis of sources. I analysed some of the main sources I had considered when drafting up the project proposal. I have conducted research and documentation activities especially at the Academy of Sciences in Bulgaria, at the National Library “Saints Cyril and Methodius” in Sofia, at the Romanian Academy Library, at the Central University Library in Iași, at the Romanian National Library, at the State Archives in Bucharest and Iași, as well as at the “N. Iorga” History Institute in Bucharest.

Aware of the challenges entailed by such research and of the time I had, the results included in the plan were the publication of a paper in a collective volume or in an IDB-indexed journal, as well as the presentation of a scientific paper during a national or international event. These results were fully attained and even exceeded; I will detail it in the following lines.

Within the project, I had **two papers** accepted for publication (one in an IDB-indexed journal, the other in a collective volume) and I presented **four scientific papers**, one scientific paper abroad, an international paper in the country, and two national papers. All these scientific contributions focus on the project topic or on very similar topics. At the end of the year, it may be stated that all the results have been delivered.

I also mention that – in this stage of the project – I developed the web page, accessible online at: <http://history.uaic.ro/research/powords/>.

### **DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS**

## Papers

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Încercările unei generații. Putneni în administrația bisericească din Moldova (a doua jumătate a secolului al XVIII-lea) [The Trials of a Generation. Monks from Putna Monastery in the Ecclesiastical Administration of Moldavia (Second Half of the 18th Century)]*, in “Analele Putnei” [The Annals of Putna], XIV, 2018, 1 (**CEEOL, Index Copernicus**).
2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Contribuții la istoria relațiilor bisericești româno-ruse. Un document recuperate [Contributions to the history of Romanian-Russian ecclesiastical relations]*, on Gabriel Leanca (editor), *Politică și relații internaționale în istoria românilor. Omagiu profesorului Gheorghe Cliveti [Politics and international relations in the history of Romanians. Homage to Professor Gheorghe Cliveti]*, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Press Iași (**CNCS B**).

## Paper presented at international scientific events

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Between Empires and Ideologies. Political Projects, Cultural Transfer and Propaganda in Moldavia and Wallachia during the Russo-Turkish Wars (1768-1774, 1787-1792)*, Balkan Worlds IV, The ‘Great Ideas’ of the Balkans (18th – 20th c.), organized by the Dept. of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia in collaboration with Association Internationale d’Études du Sud-Est Européen and Laboratory of History of the Department, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, November 29th – December 1st, 2018 (<https://balkanworlds.edu.gr/final-programme/>).
2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Un arhiereu putnean uitat: episcopul Antonie al Romanului [A Forgotten Monk from Putna: Bishop Anthony of Roman (I)]*, “Colocviile Putnei” [Putna Colloquia], 21<sup>st</sup> edition, 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July, Putna Monastery. (<https://www.centrulstefancelmare.ro/ro/activitati/colocviile-putnei-editia-a-xxi-a/>)

## Paper presented at national scientific events

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Un text polemic din a doua jumătate a veacului al XVIII-lea și semnificațiile sale [A polemic text from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its meanings]*, Simpozionul „Artă și civilizație medievală”, ediția XXV, Colocviul *Scris și scriitură în Evul Mediu românesc* [“Medieval art and Civilisation” Symposium, 25<sup>th</sup> edition, Colloquium *Written and writing in the Romanian Middle Ages*], Suceava History Museum, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (<https://muzeulbucovinei.ro/arta-si-civilizatie-medievala-editia-a-xxv-a-8-9-noiembrie-2018/>).

2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Lămuriri privind înființarea, evoluția și competența unei instituții din a doua jumătate a veacului al XVIII-lea: Dicasteria Mitropoliei Moldovei [Clarifications on the constitution, evolution, and competence of an institution of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century: the dikasterion of the Moldavian Metropolis]*, Zilele Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, simpozion național, Sesiunea de comunicări a cadrelor didactice și a cercetătorilor [Days of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, national symposium, Paper session for didactic personnel and researchers], 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (<http://history.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/program-zile-univ-A5-2018.pdf>).

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT IN 2019**

In the period related to the current report (2019), the objective of the project was fully attained. The objective included activities provided in the research plan, such as research and documentation in libraries, research institutes, and archives. An important activity was represented by the documentation and analysis of sources, as well as by the transcription of manuscripts. I analysed some of the main sources I had considered when drafting up the project proposal. I have conducted research and documentation activities especially at the National archives in the Republic of Moldova, at the Romanian Academy Library, at the Central University Library in Iași, at the Romanian National Library, at the Library of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, at the State Archives in Bucharest and Iași, as well as at the “N. Iorga” History Institute in Bucharest.

Aware of the challenges entailed by such research and of the time I had, the results included in the plan were the publication of two papers (one of them comprising the edition of a manuscript assessed in the project) in IDB-indexed journals or in collective volumes, as well as the presentation of three scientific papers during national or international events. These results were fully attained and even exceeded; I will detail it in the following lines.

Within the project, I published two papers (both in an IDB-indexed journal) and I presented five scientific papers, an international paper abroad, an international paper in the country, and three national papers. Some of these papers will be published in the following period, either in specialised journals or in collective volumes, and they will be reported in the project.

Within the first paper mentioned, I also published the **edition of the Romanian manuscript II-68**, within the collection of manuscripts and rare books of the Central University Library Mihai Eminescu” in Iași, a miscellaneous dating to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, namely to 1794, comprising a rather interesting fragment: a prophecy ascribed to (Pseudo)Methodius of Patara. The text is preceded by two other writings with variable circulation in the Romanian Principalities: of history of Constantine the Great’s life, as well as a version of the fall of Constantinople. This is one of the few known manuscripts comprising the two accounts and the prophecy in one place, making up a relative whole.

All these scientific contributions focus on the project topic or on very similar topics. At the end of the year, it may be stated that all the results have been delivered.

I also mention that – in this stage of the project – I developed the web page, accessible online at: <http://history.uaic.ro/research/powords/>.

## DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

### Papers

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Despre Ștefan cel Mare și Moldova la sfârșitul secolului al XVII-lea. Note pe marginea unor fragmente de cronică târzie [About Stephen the Great and Moldavia at the End of the 17th Century. Remarks on a Late Chronicle]*, in “Analele Putnei” [The Annals of Putna], XIV, 2018 (published in 2019), 2 p. 157–190 (CEEOL, Index Copernicus).

2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *La 341 de ani după căderea Constantinopolului: un manuscris, un sucevean și un fenomen cultural [341 Years after the Fall of Constantinople: a Manuscript, a Native of Suceava and a Cultural Phenomenon]*, in “Analele Putnei” [The Annals of Putna], XIV, 2018 (published in 2019), 2 p. 27–90 (CEEOL, Index Copernicus).

#### **Paper presented at international scientific events**

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Pagini de istorie bisericească mai puțin cunoscute din primii ani ai stăpânirii austriece în nordul Moldovei [Less known ecclesiastical history pages in the first years of the Austrian domination in Northern Moldavia]*, “Colocviile Putnei” [Putna colloquia], 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, Putna-Dragomirna, 2019 (<https://www.centrulstefancelmare.ro/en/activitati/putna-colloquia-23rd-edition/>).

2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *The Byzantine Empire in Romanian Manuscripts from the 18th Century: Prophecies, Histories, Hagiographies*, The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, 15-19 April, Nicosia, Cyprus (<https://www.othelloisland.org/copy-of-2018-provisional-programme>).

#### **Paper presented at national scientific events**

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Dascăli putneni din veacul al XVIII-lea [The Putna teachers from the 18th century]*, “Colocviile Putnei” [Putna colloquia], 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, 12<sup>th</sup> Februry 2019, “N. Iorga” History Institute, Bucharest (<https://www.centrulstefancelmare.ro/en/activitati/putna-colloquia-22nd-edition/>).

2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *O „însămnare” din 1789 și importanța ei [A “note” of 1789 and its importance]*, monthly session of the Heraldry, Genealogy, and Sigillography Commission, Iași, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 ([https://www.irgh.org/?%C5%9Eedin%C5%A3e\\_lunare\\_de\\_comunic%C4%83ri\\_2019\\_Martie](https://www.irgh.org/?%C5%9Eedin%C5%A3e_lunare_de_comunic%C4%83ri_2019_Martie)).

3. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Rugăciuni pentru cazuri de epidemii și boli în spațiul românesc (sec. XVIII-XIX) [Prayers for epidemics and diseases in the Romanian space (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries)]*, within the workshop *Înfruntând un "inamic" invizibil. Politici administrative, practici medicale și comportamente sociale în Țările Române în context epidemic (secolele XVIII-XIX) [Confronting an invisible "enemy". Administrative policies, medical practices, and social behaviours in the Romanian Principalities in an epidemic context (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries)]*, "A.D. Xenopol" History Institute, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 ([http://adxenopol.academiaromana-is.ro/images/program\\_oct2019.pdf](http://adxenopol.academiaromana-is.ro/images/program_oct2019.pdf))

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT IN 2020**

In the period related to the current report (2020), the objective of the project was fully attained. The objective included activities provided in the research plan, such as research and documentation in libraries, research institutes, and archives. An important activity was represented by the documentation and analysis of sources, as well as by the transcription of manuscripts. I analysed some of the main sources I had considered when drafting up the project proposal. I have conducted research and documentation activities especially at the Romanian Academy Library, at the Central University Library in Iași, at the Romanian National Library, at the State Archives in Bucharest and Iași, as well as at the "N. Iorga" History Institute in Bucharest.

For the year 2020 and for the finalisation of the research project, the results provided in the project plan consisted in the **publication of the volume of studies and documents**. It was published at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University Press Iași.

Within the project, I have published one more **article**, **two others** were accepted for publication (all three in IDB-indexed journals) and **three scientific papers** were presented, one scientific paper abroad, an international paper in the country, and a national paper. Some of these papers **will be published** in the following period, either in specialised journals or in collective volumes. Within one paper (accepted for publication) I added the edition of a part of the Romanian manuscript **1181**, within the Romanian Academy Library collection, a miscellaneous dating to the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, comprising a highly interesting

polemic text for understanding the propaganda during the Russo-Turkish wars. All these scientific contributions focus on the project topic or on very similar topics.

I also mention that – in this stage of the project – I developed the web page, accessible online at: <http://history.uaic.ro/research/powords/>.

For the effective unfolding of the research and for the attainment of the objectives proposed, I had regular meetings with Prof. Laurențiu Rădvan, PhD, who has been involved constantly in this project.

The funds were used correctly, in a balanced manner, according to the objectives, activities, and budget categories within the project plan.

The scientific activity unfolded throughout the project has enabled the attaining of the results proposed and of the objectives set, respectively.

## DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

### Books

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, „Ținând cu putere cuvântul vieții”. *Studii și documente privitoare la istoria bisericească și culturală a Moldovei (sec. XVIII-XIX)* [“*Holding tight the word of life*”. *Studies and documents concerning the ecclesiastical and cultural history of Moldavia (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries)*], Editura Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” [“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Press], Iași 2020, ISBN 978-606-714-607-3 (CNCS B).

### Papers

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Un arhiepiscop putnean uitat: episcopul Antonie al Romanului* [A forgotten Putna hierarch: bishop Antonie of Roman] (I), in “Analele Putnei” [The Annals of Putna], XV, 2019, 1, p. 215-226 (CEEOL, Index Copernicus).
2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Pages of Romanian History in the works of Andrei Lyzlov*, in “Historical Yearbook”, volume XVIII, 2021, accepted for publication (CEEOL).

3. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Un text polemic din a doua jumătate a veacului al XVIII-lea și semnificațiile sale [A polemic text from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its meanings]*, in “Analele Științifice ale Universității «Al. I. Cuza»”, Iași, s. n., Istorie [“Scientific Annals of «Al. I. Cuza» University”, Iași, s. n., History], 66, 2020, volume XXI, 2020, accepted for publication (**CEEOL**).

#### **Paper presented at international scientific events**

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *The Romanian Church and the Uprising of / Η Ρουμανική Εκκλησία και η Εξέγερση του 1821*, within “Balkan Worlds V: The Balkan Dimensions of the 1821 Greek Revolutoin” / Βαλκάνιοι Κόσμοι V: Οι Βαλκάνιες διαστάσεις της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης του 1821, Thessaloniki, Greece, 27-29 February 2020 (<https://balkanworlds.edu.gr/final-programme/>).
2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Țările Române și „reînvierea” Imperiului Bizantin în veacul al XVIII-lea. Proiecte, propagandă, efecte [The Romanian Principalities and the “revival” of the Byzantine Empire in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Projects, propaganda, effects]*, The International Scientific Conference “History and Theology”, Constanța, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (<http://teologie.univ-ovidius.ro/pagini/sesiuni-stiintifice>).

#### **Paper presented at national scientific events**

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, – „*Creștea cu putere cuvântul Domnului și se întărea*”. *Fragmente biblice în tipărituri și manuscrise românești din secolele al XVIII-lea și al XIX-lea [“Growing and becoming stronger by the power of God”. Biblical fragments in Romanian prints and manuscripts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries]*, The Cultural-theological Conference “The Bible – the best answer for whoever wants to find the meaning of life”, The Archbishopric of Suceava and Rădăuți, Suceava, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (<https://www.crainou.ro/2020/11/19/conferinta-cultural-teologica/>).

## **SYNTHESIS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY WITHIN THE PROJECT**

In this project, considering the three stages, I had **estimated the publication of a volume of studies and documents** and of **three articles** (in collective volumes or IDB-indexed journals), as well as the participation in **four** conferences (national or international). These results were fully attained and even exceeded; I will detail it in the following lines.

Throughout the entire project, the following results **were attained**:

- **a volume of studies and documents**;
- **seven papers** published (or accepted for publication) in IDB-indexed journals or in collective volumes;
- **12 scientific papers, six of which presented at** international scientific events and **six** within national conferences.

The scientific activity conducted throughout the project has enabled the attaining of the results proposed and of the objectives set, respectively.

**26. XI. 2020**

Project manager,  
**Lect. Ioan-Augustin GURÎȚĂ, PhD**