

# Florica Bagdasar

January 24, 1901 -19 December 1978

**FLORICA BAGDASAR**



- Florica Bagdasar was the first woman minister in Romania. He held the portfolio of Minister of Health from 1946 to 1948. He was a physician with the specialty of infantile neuropsychiatry, schooled at Harvard, and made an important contribution to the eradication of malaria.



Florica Bagdasar was the first woman to be part of a Romanian Government. Born on January 24, 1901, in Monastir, Macedonia, Florica Ciumetti, by her maiden name, came into the world in a family of Macedonian intellectuals. His father, Sterie Ciumetti, was a road and bridge engineer and a mathematics teacher. He graduated from the "Roman Voda" high school - the modern section - in 1920. He followed his dream of being a doctor and enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, graduating in 1925.

At the end of his studies, he obtained his PhD degree in medicine and surgery and the right to free practice. Immediately after graduation, she married doctor Dumitru Bagdasar. The two spouses went for improvement in America. Florica Bagdasar attended public health courses at Harvard. Returning to the country in 1929, the two spouses attended an internship of several years at the Hospital for Nervous Diseases in Chernivtsi.

They settled permanently in Bucharest, where Dimitrie Bagdasar described the first neurosurgery clinic. It was the wife who assisted them in the operating room, at the first brain surgeries, done in improvised conditions.





## In the service of children's health

Florica Bagdasar dedicated herself to the neuropsychiatric and educational assistance of the child. He contributed to the emergence of the first primer called "Book for all children" and developed a new textbook of arithmetic, teaching materials aimed at attracting children and making them learn with pleasure.

In 1946 he contributed to the establishment of the Center for Mental Hygiene in Bucharest for the treatment of children with mental disabilities and behavioral disorders. As director of the institution, Florica Bagdasar gathered next to her experts, psychologists, pedagogues, speech therapists and physical therapists, a special team for missing children's problems.



# Minister of Health

---

- In September 1946, Florica Bagdasar was part of Romania's official delegation to the Paris Peace Conference. From Paris he went on an official mission to Stockholm in order to ask for the help of the Swedes for war-ravaged Romania.