

– **Abstract** –

In this thesis two main concepts were used for the synthesis of polybenzoxazine/graphene oxide (GO) nanocomposites. Firstly, polybenzoxazine nanocomposites containing 1% wt. of different GO structures functionalized with organic groups were prepared using the solvent dispersion method. It was shown that the nature of organic functionalities from the surface of graphene sheets has a major role in the polymerization process of the monomer. From the DSC results on the synthesized materials, a decrease in the polymerization temperature was observed for the BA-a monomer from 241.5°C to 237.7°C in case of the nanocomposites containing graphene oxide with numerous oxidized groups (GO) and up to 239°C for the nanocomposites containing graphene oxide with carboxyl groups (GO-COOH). In the case of the use of rGO-NH<sub>2</sub> and rGO-NH, no major contributions were observed in accelerating the polymerization, but it was shown that the amine groups are consumed during the reaction with the BA-a monomer, contributing to the crosslinking of polybenzoxazine materials. Secondly, the covalent functionalization method was used by developing new strategies to directly synthesize the benzoxazine monomers onto different GO layers. GO-COOH, aminated reduced graphene oxide (rGO) and GO were used as main reagents for the benzoxazine formation and the successful formation of the hybrid monomers was proved by FT-IR, XPS and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analyses. Moreover, the final materials showed improved thermal stability and the polymerization temperature was reduced with ~10°C for GO functionalized with poly(amidoamines) and benzoxazine structures. The Raman spectrometry, XRD analysis and TEM images of the final polybenzoxazine/GO nanocomposites were employed for better understanding of the exfoliation and polymerization process occurring for each type of benzoxazine-functionalized GO synthesized material and the final balance between *in-graphene polymerization* and *out-graphene polymerization* that significantly influences the mechanical properties of the final materials is discussed.