



Romania Offers USD 1,3 M Official Development Assistance



L to R: Jan Sorensen, Anamaria Almasan and Cosmin Dobran.

Bucharest - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Romania Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) today launched the programme “*Strengthening the National Institutional and Educational Capacity to Carry out Official Development Assistance (ODA) Programmes and Projects*”, a joint effort to support the transformation of Romania from a recipient of ODA and humanitarian aid to a donor country as a new EU country. The USD 1,3 M project is majority funded by MFA and will be implemented by UNDP.

Participating in the launch were Mr. Jan Sorensen, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Dana Raduta Matache, State Secretary MFA, Cosmin Dobran, Deputy State Secretary, Ms. Anamaria Almasan, Deputy Director Directorate for EU External Relations and Development Assistance and numerous representatives of the ministries, civil society and the press.

State-Secretary Raduta Matache opened the event by remembering the first humanitarian aid received by Romania after the fall of communism in 1989 and, years later, after floods and said that today “it’s time to help others.” Ms. Matache also commended UNDP’s expertise in implementing projects aimed at eradicating poverty over the world as well as in Romania and in the region.

“As all the other new EU Member States, Romania is now required to contribute to development cooperation as a donor country up to 0.17% of its GDP by 2010 and 0.33% by 2015,” said Mr. Sorensen in his welcoming remarks. “By transferring expertise accumulated in the period of transition, within and beyond the region, Romania will help the global community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and especially the eighth one, which calls for strengthening of development cooperation partnerships and increasing ODA flows to developing countries. The further expansion of ODA will bring several economic advantages to Romania, including procurement that will benefit Romanian companies.”

Romania has much to offer in this new capacity and can play a growing role in the development process, as the demand for expertise in other transition and developing countries is increasing. However, membership in the club of donor countries entails major changes and requires the need for completely new programmatic approaches and demands changes in mentalities, legislation and institutional instruments. Facing these new challenges, Romania needs support in strengthening its capacities for development cooperation, since it does not yet possess the necessary policy and institutional capacities to effectively deliver its ODA. These are some of the challenges UNDP will work with Government and civil society to address.

The project will focus on three components: 1) Building institutional and administrative capacity to carry out ODA programs/projects in partner countries; 2) Raising awareness at national level about Romanian ODA; 3) Developing graduate education component focusing on MDG, Human Development and ODA. This program will be developed in close cooperation with civil society, mass media and academia, as well as other stakeholders.

UNDP has helped to build national capacities for development cooperation, prepare development cooperation frameworks, and establish ODA delivery mechanisms in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, and most recently in Russia. Based on the experience and lessons learned in these countries, UNDP is offering support to the MFA in running a capacity building project aiming at having a Romanian administration fully capable to deliver its ODA by the end of 2009. A separate component consists of contributing earmarked contribution in the amount of 1 400 000 Euros directed to UNDP Country Offices in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Serbia.

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