

Public-Private Partnerships Discussed at Romanian Second National Forum for Sustainable Development



From left to right: Emil Calotă, Mayor, Municipality of Ploiesti, Leonard Cazan, Minister, Ministry of Development and Prognosis, Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative, HE Ion Iliescu, President of Romania, Martina Kastler, President of Unilever South-Central Europe and Mircea Malitza, President of Black Sea University Foundation

The Second National Forum for Sustainable Development, opened by the Romanian President Ion Iliescu, was held between 5-6 June 2003 in Ploiesti. The partners who organised the event were UNDP, the Romanian Federation of Local Authorities (RFLA), the National Centre for Sustainable Development, Ploiesti City Council and Unilever.

The UNDP project "Building Local Capacity to implement Local Agenda 21 in Romania" promotes greater local participation in development planning and Local Agenda 21 processes developed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 1992. Nine Romanian pilot cities started in 2000 and as a result of the unprecedented collective efforts of the citizens, academics, businesses, NGOs and local authorities involved, a coherent strategy with a concrete action plan has been reached.

At the Earth Summit last year in Johannesburg, the Romanian delegation, led by President Iliescu, recognised the success of this project and announced the extension of the project to 40 cities by 2007.

The aim of this year's Forum was to identify possible public-private partnerships. These would help to achieve the goals of local development plans drawn up by the Romanian local governments participating in the successful UNDP-supported Local Agenda 21 programme.

Mr. Emil Calota, Mayor of Ploiesti and President of the RFLA, welcomed the 250 guests, which included high-level representatives from the central and local government, NGOs, multinational companies and international organisations. In his opening statement, President Iliescu, emphasised public-private partnership and the *acquis communautaire* with subsequent regional and cross-border cooperation, as central to sustainable development. Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, stressed that "By joining the participatory platform already created, private investments are key in keeping the momentum of the Local Agenda 21 movement."

Good examples of public-private partnerships already in place and the wide range of opportunities for future partnerships were debated in the second day of the Forum. Town Mayors, key representatives of financial institutions and of large private companies exchanged experiences on ways to increase cooperation.

The event received extensive coverage from both national and local media.

For more information please contact UNDP Romania at socio@undp.ro



Mayor of Ploiesti (left) warmly welcoming Soknan Han Jung and Michael Guest, US Ambassador