



Local Agenda 21 expands across Romania

Fourteen Romanian Municipalities (Arad, Bolintin Vale, Borsec, Campina, Falticeni, Medias, Pitesti, Sibiu, Sighisoara, Slatina, Targoviste, Targu Jiu, Vatra Dornei, Zimnicea), requested to join UNDP's Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) programme. In addition to the nine municipalities already on board, twenty-three municipalities will be implementing LA21 by the end of 2003. At the Earth Summit last year in Johannesburg, President Ion Iliescu of Romania recognised the success of this project and announced its expansion to 40 cities by 2007.

The agreements signed between UNDP and the mayors aim to strengthen the capacity of local governments and the public to adopt sustainable development principles and turn them into local strategies. The benefits of this joint endeavour have been recognized by the officials of these cities and summarized as follows:

"For Slatina, the priorities of LA 21 Programme are focused on drinking water, energy, infrastructure, and environment protection. The way we succeed to approach these programmes with the support of specialists, lobby and our management from the Municipality and Local Council, will turn Slatina into a city close to occidental standards" - Mr. Gheorghe Paunescu, Mayor of Slatina.

"On the way to transforming Zimnicea from a very poor community into a true European city, Local Agenda 21 is the first support in the Municipality's efforts to plan our future sustainable development. The activities developed in the project will help us channel our resources towards integrated actions that lead to social progress, environmental protection, efficient use of human and natural resources" - Mr. Petre Parvu, Mayor of Zimnicea.

"The Local Agenda 21 represents both a challenge and an opportunity for our community. The major challenge consists of establishing a well-balanced strategy for economic growth, environment preservation and human development. At the same time LA 21 is the only chance for a better future for our children. We hope we will have enough creativity and energy to fulfill this task." - Mr. Dorel Popa, Mayor of Arad.

"Sibiu is one of the thirteen Romanian cities to Implement the Local Agenda 21 in Romania. This is an honour for us and an opportunity to put together a good development strategy. The evolution of human society is best supported by the sustainable development model, according to which a society can achieve long term development only as long as the natural and human systems are in perfect harmony. Therefore, a strategy that integrates all trends and initiatives of the last years is necessary." - Klaus Johannis, Mayor of Sibiu, Chairman of the Local Steering Committee.

This has been a unique participatory process, galvanizing the energy of citizens, businesses, academics, NGOs, and local authorities. They all rose to the challenge and their collective efforts have produced coherent, specific strategies with concrete action and implementation plans. The result is a collection of best practices representing an important contribution to sustainable development in Romania and an example to be followed by the cities joining LA 21 in the future.

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



Vatra Dornei



Borsec



Pitesti



Falticeni