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A new generation of leaders to drive change in Romanian Administration

Creating a modern, merit-based, service-oriented and politically neutral public administration is one of Romania's key priorities as it prepares for EU accession. The Romanian Government Special Scholarship programme for managers in the public sector offers funding for bright young Romanians to study in leading world universities, based on a contractual commitment to return to the country and take leadership positions in public administration.

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Set up through recently adopted legislation, the programme is implemented through a broad-based partnership, with UNDP as the Government's implementing partner. The Ministry of Education and Research is the main financier (\$7 million over 2004-2007), while UNDP contributes with funding of its own, the implementation capacities, worldwide expertise and know-how, and its commitment to efficiency, transparency, accountability, and political neutrality. The newly established Commission for Public Managers, a multi-stakeholder representative body that brings together government, civil society, trade unions, private sector, media and international organizations, oversees the programme.

The initiative is in line with the support that UNDP is constantly providing to Romania for strengthening its institutional capacity, for accelerating the public administration reform, and for promoting accountability and integrity within public service. The project is expected to contribute towards transforming Romania's public sector into a modern administration at the service of the citizens, and reducing Romania's brains drain.



National media extensively reflected the launch of the 2004 National Contest for the Romanian Government Special Scholarships

The 2004 National Contest for an estimated number of 40 to 80 scholarships was officially launched on 26 October at the UN House in Bucharest, at a press conference largely attended by the media. Participants included Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Alexandru Popa, the President of the Commission for Public Managers, other members of the Commission.



Mr. Alexandru Popa, President of the Commission for Public Managers and Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

The speakers gave a brief presentation of the programme, underlining the forward looking vision of its initiators and explaining the opportunities as well as the obligations incumbent on the future beneficiaries. "The Scholarship programme for managers in the public sector is a remarkable, farsighted initiative of the Romanian Government, which UNDP fully supports. It is an investment in youth, an investment in the future, an investment for sustainable development, and Romania is certain to reap important benefits from this investment when the young people trained in leading universities in the world return to Romania to be the agents of change in the public sector", said Ms. Jung.

For more information, please contact UNDP Romania, Governance Section, at governance@undp.ro.