

UNDP invests in human capital for regional development



Ms. Jung signs the Agreement together with the CID Director, Ms. Simona Basuc, and the President of the County Council, Mr. Stancu Bunea Gheorghe

On July 10, at the Brăila County Council session, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between UNDP, CID (The Information and Documentation Centre for European Integration and Sustainable Development), and the County Council of Brăila. By that, the pilot project **Support to the Regional Developments Boards and Agencies**, implemented by UNDP in close cooperation with the Ministry of European Integration, now includes the South-East Development Region. The project aims at increasing the regional development capacity and the absorption capacity at the level of the Development Regions in Romania by implementing pilot activities at the level of Region VII (Centre).

Increase of local and regional development capacity as well as the capacity to absorb EU funds are the expected results of this project. Two Technical Support Units – the one in Brăila, already functioning, and the future one in Alba Iulia – will provide training and consultancy services to the local and regional stakeholders. In addition, a network of qualified experts and trainers will be established and permanently updated, as a pool of experts available for any interested stakeholders.

According to the Cooperation Agreement, CID Brăila will share with the project stakeholders their experience in developing the capacities of local public authorities. The Centre was created at the initiative of the Brăila County Council by a non-profit organization established by the local and county authorities from Brăila.

At the signing of the Cooperation Agreement, Ms. Jung said: “CID represents a sound and viable solution for the local development challenges after the accession to the EU. It is also a valuable action that deserves to be promoted and used as an example by others, as well”. In reply, Mr. Gheorghe Bunea mentioned that “We have high expectations from this new cooperation. We trust it will have a real contribution to the development in the Brăila region.”

The event was followed by a visit and a press conference organized at the CID premises (Lacu Sărat). Presenting details about the envisaged activities, the Project Manager Ms. Ioana Derscanu emphasized that the collaboration with CID Brăila shows once again the importance of networking and exchange of experience towards long-term community development.

In the context of the local administration capacity strengthening, Ms. Soknan Han Jung also introduced to the authorities the project **Support to training of managers in the public sector through the ‘Romanian Government’ Special Scholarships**, which aims at supporting the increase of qualified human resources at local level. Being already at its third round of national campaign, the local authorities were encouraged to co-finance scholarships for bright youngsters who will come back to their communities to serve as **agents of change** in the process of public administration reform at the decentralized level.

The project so far has been implemented at the level of the central Government. The gathered experience and fruitful results are now extended to the level of the county. The Project Manager, Mr. Mihai Toader, mentioned that “The extension of the project from the central to the local level will significantly increase the capacity to contribute effectively to the sustainable development within communities”.

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Ms. Jung and Mr. Bunea Gheorghe sealed by a handshake the beginning of a new cooperation