

Future Public Managers -- ready to study abroad

A pre-departure Orientation Seminar took place on July 24–30 in Sinaia for the second generation of scholarship beneficiaries who will serve as Romania's future public managers. The "Romanian Government Special Scholarship (RGSS)" project is being implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research. Participants included more than 45 new scholarship winners ready to study abroad starting this fall. Several of the first generation of RGSS beneficiaries also participated in the seminar to share their first-hand experiences. Representatives of the programme partners, the project team and the press were also present. The Mayor of Sinaia, Mr. Vlad Oprea who was present at the event, pledged to support at least one scholarship financed by the Sinaia City Council. This was in response to the national campaign that UNDP Romania has embarked on advocating local authorities to participate in the decentralized scholarships programme in an effort to strengthen the local administration capacity, especially in preparation for the forthcoming EU accession.



From left to right: Mr. Mihai Toader, RGSS Project Manager, Prof. Ioan Pânzaru, RGSS Commission President, Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN RC/UNDP RR in Romania, Mr. Răzvan Ciriță, Head of Democratic Governance Section, UNDP Romania

The Seminar provided the RGSS bursaries selected through the 2005 national competition with information on the future academic life abroad, and facilitated a team-building exercise among the bursaries, encouraging them to form a compact group of managers in the Romanian public administration upon their return home after the completion of studies abroad. The new RGSS bursaries were also familiarized with the programme objectives and their own future role and responsibilities as public managers.

"You are 'la crème de la crème', the best of your generation! You are here as a result of a completely open, transparent, merit-based selection process through a highly competitive national contest. I encourage you to start building a cooperative spirit and set the ground for effective collaboration among yourselves as future "agents of change" in the Romanian public administration. You now have a chance to play the role of ambassadors, promoting the Romanian values and cultural traditions abroad, while networking with other young Romanians already studying abroad," prompted H.E. Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN RC/ UNDP RR.

At the Seminar, the bursaries gained valuable insights into the general academic environment abroad, information on legislative and administrative aspects of the study period, presentation of the statute and role of public managers and career prospects in the Romanian public administration, recommendations for cultural adaptation, including the introduction to the UN core values and principles.

Six bursaries from the first round also shared their academic and practical experiences gained over a year of study abroad. Prof. Ioan Pânzaru, President of the RGSS Commission and the RGSS National Project Director, Mr. Ion Ciucă, in the Ministry of Education and Research, were also at hand to offer useful advice and guidance.



Mrs. Simona Neumann, RGSS Academic Officer, presenting the UN MDG to the second generation of RGSS bursaries

A live TV debate, organised in cooperation with "Open Doors" TV show, on studying and living abroad, personal and professional expectations and responsibilities was broadcast by the National TV international channel.

As a result of the Seminar where team-building, communications and evaluation activities were offered, the bursaries better understood the significance of the RGSS programme, what is expected of them as a new generation of young leaders in public sector, as well as the role played and the constant support offered to them by all programme partners. The second generation of RGSS beneficiaries will therefore leave Romania better equipped and better prepared to meet the challenges of studying abroad.



The second generation of RGSS bursaries with Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN RC/UNDP RR, Prof. Ioan Panzaru, President of RGSS Commission, Mr. Vlad Oprea, Mayor of Sinaia, and the RGSS staff

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