

UNDP Romania Highlights Achievements at the Five-Year Activity Report Launch



(Bucharest, 13 July 2007) The United Nations Development Programme today launched the five-year activity report “*Making Things Happen – Helping the country from Transition to EU accession*” at an official ceremony in Bucharest.

Over the last 5 years UNDP has supported Romania's preparations for accession to the European Union in 2007. It also assisted Romania in making progress towards its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Consultations with UNDP partners helped identify the goals of the country programme: reducing poverty, increasing employment opportunities, enhancing governance and decentralization, making headway towards environmental sustainability, decreasing gender and other social inequalities, combating HIV/AIDS, and encouraging business partnerships.

Based on more than three decades of experience in Romania, UNDP is currently implementing the 2005-2009 Country Programme. Anchored around Romania's MDGs and UNDAF, UNDP's main goal in Romania has been to address the challenges to human development resulting from the dual process of transition from communist society and the accession to the EU. UNDP has sought to ensure that ongoing legislative and institutional reforms did not overlook vulnerable groups.

The publication illustrates how the UNDP Romania 2005-2009 Country Programme focused its strategic vision on helping the country find solutions to the following challenges:

- Democratic governance, by strengthening the public sector capacity and management, and promoting transparency and accountability.
- Sustainable and balanced economic growth, by decreasing poverty, creating jobs and reducing the disparities between the various regions

of Romania, coupled with an overall increase in the standard of living.

- Responsible management of environmental resources, by taking into account the impact of economic development on the ecosystem, and controlling climate change through energy efficiency.

The report presents an overview of all major UNDP projects implemented in Romania in the last five-years and signals key areas of concern that will continue even after Romania's EU accession. These include the growing wage gap, insufficient social inclusion, unequal access to education, a widening gender gap, rural-urban and regional disparities, and a high incidence of human trafficking.

“I hope that this report will show our partners the economic, social and environmental benefits of UNDP in action and will convince more individuals, municipalities, and private companies to invest in a better future for all Romanians,” stated Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative. Earlier this week, President of Romania, Mr. Traian Basescu, conferred Ms. Jung the Faithful Service decoration in the grade of Grand Cross “as a sign of high appreciation for her dynamic leadership and the prestigious activity in support of the social integration of disadvantaged groups, the promotion of economic growth programmes, the development of small and medium enterprises, and cultural heritage preservation”.

The Five-Year Activity Report was showcased at a large ceremony where UNDP also launched another flagship publication, 2007 National Human Development Report, and bode farewell to Ms. Jung's five-year tenure as the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Romania in the presence of distinguished members of the government, diplomatic corps and UN/UNDP partners, civil society, business community and the press corps.



President of Romania Traian Basescu confers Faithful Service decoration to Soknan Han Jung UN RC/UNDP RR as recognition of her leadership.