

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

Romania

Housing and inclusion of disadvantaged Roma Cluj-Napoca pilot initiative

Bucharest, April 13, 2012: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Cluj-Napoca Municipality, with the support of the North West Regional Development Agency and the Civil Society Working Group (gLOC) are currently implementing the project “Model Project for making the most of EU Funds for Sustainable Housing and Inclusion of disadvantaged Roma (explicitly but not exclusively targeted) in Cluj-Napoca Metropolitan Area”.

The project was designed in response to the precarious living conditions of Roma communities in the Pata Rât district in the Cluj-Napoca Metropolitan Area. The current living conditions of the Roma in this district, the subsequent plans for further resettlement require concerted efforts of the authorities for more integrated, participatory planning with a view to put in place a sustainable housing project and inclusion program for the city of Cluj-Napoca. Only with such an approach can the economic development of Cluj-Napoca – already supported by applicable EU instruments – be considered in line with international and European standards.

This will be achieved through (1) delivery of community development interventions targeting representatives of Pata Rât district; (2) a participatory assessment of housing preferences and needs of these communities; and (3) sustaining partnerships and local stakeholder dialogue necessary for the preparation of concrete and actionable projects in the form of a project dossier for funding by appropriate sources. It is expected that the experience of the project will provide for a virtual repository of knowledge for replication in such situations across Romania and other Southeast Europe countries.

“We are working with the authorities so that they can use the resources of the European Funds and to make sure that they can find a sustainable solution for the people from Pata Rât. On behalf of my organization, we are very thankful to the Open Society Institute which has financed the partnership between the Municipality of Cluj-Napoca and UNDP. The idea is that we put together all our expertise, work together with the communities and identify quick fundable projects that could bring European Structural Funds to Cluj-Napoca for the benefit of Roma communities,” said Yesim Oruc, UNDP Representative.

The Municipality of Cluj-Napoca and UNDP encourage members of civil society in Cluj-Napoca and interested citizens to participate in the project activities. In this regard, while there will be a limited number of experts working in the project, the Municipality of Cluj-Napoca and UNDP wish to benefit from the views, technical know-how, experience and commitment of the dynamic and well-educated population of Cluj-Napoca.

Please submit inquiries and expressions of interest to participate in the project components to Ms. Mihaela Ghinescu at mihaela.ghinescu@undp.org