



Romania

United Nations Development Programme

Issue # 12

Newsletter

2009

20th February 2009, UN marked the World Day of Social Justice in Romania



The first marking of the **World Day of Social Justice** in Romania was organized by the United Nations System in Romania together with the Romanian National Anti-Poverty -Social Inclusion Network / EAPN Romania (RENASIS) and the Romanian Development NGOs Platform (FOND) on the 20th February 2009. The event aimed to draw particular attention to the effects of the current financial crisis upon vulnerable groups and poverty affected communities which may suffer further from disruption of the social imbalances.

The World Day of Social Justice brought together around 40 representatives of the UN Agencies, the Romanian Government as well as key members of the civil society active in the field of social justice. Among the participants were Ms. Mariana Nedelcu, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Ms. Anca Tamas, Director of European Affairs Department at the Ministry of Justice and Citizens' Freedoms, as well as Mr. Robert Laurentiu Iapornicu, President of the National Agency for Roma and Mr. Bogdan Hossu, President of Cartel Alfa. The civil society was represented by Ms. Cristina Loghin, President of RENASIS, Mr. Ionut Sibian, President of FOND and Mr. Viorel Micescu, Executive Director of CENTRAS, as well as other members of more than ten NGOs active in this field.

The discussion put forward several recommendations and specific actions to be taken in order to improve the level of social justice in Romania, out of which we mention the following:

- The Government representatives tackled the issue of child protection and juvenile courts and recommended the creation of **specialized sections on child protection within existing courts.**
- The problem of poverty assessment in Romania was also addressed and attention was drawn to the need to **correlate the data collecting systems and instruments for continuous monitoring of relevant indicators, so that real time adjustments could be made.**
- On the whole, another recommendation would be to adopt **an interdisciplinary approach to the implementation of public policies** in various fields such as nutrition, poverty reduction, social inclusion, child protection.
- The civil society members referred to the transparency of the policy and decision making processes and the citizens' participation in the local public sphere. A solution to an enhanced public-private partnership was seen in the **creation of a National Council of the NGOs and also of a Social-Economic Committee at county level.**





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- The NGO representatives also demanded for a **renewed definition of the concept of ‘social dialogue with social partners’** that is used within the National Labor Code, see article 216¹, in which not only the syndicates and patronages, but also the non-governmental organizations should be taken into consideration under this umbrella.
- Furthermore, another recommendation relates to the accession of structural funds, as the management authorities are not accustomed to communicating well with the civil society, which leads to a lack of efficiency in this field. Therefore, **changing the methodology of accessing the structural funds towards a better communication and cooperation between the applicant NGOs and the management authorities** within the ministries would be a desired step to be taken.
- It has been commonly agreed that there is a need to increase solidarity and public awareness on severe social problems faced by vulnerable groups in Romania. Therefore, the civil society representatives have strongly recommended the involvement of **public television and radio** in broadcasting targeted **TV and radio programs on social issues**.
- In relation to the importance of child care **an evaluation of the legal framework on child protection and the disabled as well as its implementation** is seen as highly useful. As a further specific recommendation, there is a need to initiate social services for new categories of vulnerable groups such as **day care centers for children whose parents work abroad**.

The marking of the World Day of Social Justice in Romania was a chance for building new partnerships in dealing with this issue and an opportunity to establish greater social cohesion.

The meeting ended with the commitment to promote policies to improve the level of social justice in Romania. Furthermore, the UN stated its interest in facilitating such meetings on a regular basis, to support the Romanian Government and the members of the civil society to engage in a dialogue on specialized topics, where fast track project opportunities and new ideas in support of social justice could be addressed.

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United Nations
System in Romania



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¹ Committees of social dialogue, with a consultative character, shall be established within ministries and prefectures, under the terms of the law, involving the public administration, the trade unions and employers' organizations.