



Romania

United Nations Development Programme

Issue # 21 / 17  
November

Newsletter

2003

## Regional Young Leaders Forum

"Leading work teams in government" was the theme of the three-day Regional Leaders Forum and training, which gathered young leaders from Romania's Presidential Administration and from neighboring countries on 12-14 November in Bucharest and Predeal. The event was organized by UNDP Project ROM/01/008 "Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Presidential Administration of Romania", in partnership with LEADERS Romania and under the Patronage of H.E Mircea Geoana, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Forum also benefited from private sector partnerships and sponsors.

At the opening session, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana encouraged young leaders to drive change in their organizations and not be afraid of taking risks and sticking to principles. "Democracy and development are not primarily about rules and institutions, but more fundamentally about values and attitudes, and I fanatically believe in the European future of our region which you are called upon to build", he said.

As countries in Central and Eastern Europe emerge from a difficult past and prepare to join the community of democratic and prosperous societies, they increasingly place their hopes for the future in a new generation of young, talented and energetic leaders. With the broader transition process over the past decade, the profile of the elites has changed significantly, from business to politics, to intellectual and opinion leaders. Mrs. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative said "One of the things that we have learned is that change efforts by the governments have little prospects for success if they are not supported by the dynamic new elites like yourselves, who can mobilize the energy to overcome intellectual and institutional inertia".

Also participating in the opening of the Leaders Forum were Mr. Michael Guest, US Ambassador in Romania, Mr. Pieter Jan Wolthers, Ambassador of The Netherlands in Romania, Mr. Ted Lattimore, President of Connex, and Mr. Bogdan Baltazar, President of BRD Group Société Générale.

Other interventions by UNDP Romania at the Forum included the moderation by Mr. Dan Dionisie, Head of Governance Section, of a roundtable on "Best practices in public administration reform", and a presentation of the achievements of UNDP Project ROM/01/008 by Ms. Andreia Georgescu, Project Manager. Among the participants were representatives of the Central Unit for Public Administration Reform and of key development partners (The Netherlands/Matra, EC Delegation and USAID/GRASP). The Forum also debated on topics such as "Entrepreneurial leadership in public and private institutions", "Leadership in public institutions", "Entrepreneurship" and "Regional Networks of support for the young leaders in government and public administration".



From left: Mr. Bogdan Baltazar, President of BRD Group Societe Generale, Mrs. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Mircea Geoana, Foreign Minister, Mr. Michael Guest, US Ambassador in Romania, Mr. Ted Lattimore, President of Connex, and Mr. Ovidiu Bujorean, President of LEADERS Romania.

One of the outcomes of the Forum is that by using an Internet-based platform, the young leaders from the Presidential Administration have become part of a regional network of young government leaders. They share best practices, knowledge and experiences regarding public administration reform and personal development with their colleagues from Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Moldova, Serbia, Poland, and Ukraine.

More information about young leaders in Romania can be obtained from:  
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