

UNDP Fosters Tomorrow's Leaders In Public Sector



From l to r: Prof. Ioan Pânzaru, RGSS Commission President, Mr. Mircea Muresan, Spokesman, Ministry of Education and Research, Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN RC and UNDP RR in Romania, and Mr. Mihai Toader, RGSS Project Manager

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Romania and the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) announced today the official launch of the third National Competition for the Romanian Government Special Scholarships (RGSS) at a press conference held at MER.

The RGSS programme is building tomorrow's leaders by awarding grants to bright young Romanian nationals to pursue undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies in a wide variety of fields ranging from public administration, public health policy to business administration at renowned international universities.

Through this project, UNDP takes a leading role in assisting Romania's effort to invest in higher education and human capital. With an annual funding of €1 million from the Romanian Government, the RGSS is a valuable investment in youth and in sustainable development in Romania.

Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative (UN RC/UNDP RR), views the flagship programme as a much-needed vehicle for promoting new standards of efficiency, transparency and accountability in Romania's public administration. "Romania's commitment to have its most talented young people trained at prestigious international academic institutions will support the accelerated reform process in preparation for Romania's integration into the European family. We are now selecting a third generation of young Romanian leaders who will bring their modern vision to the country as future agents of change in the public sector," said Ms. Jung.

Since the programme inception in 2004, many talented students - chosen for their leadership potential - have had the opportunity to learn and conduct research abroad. The 2005 winners have already enrolled this fall at European and North American universities. The 2004 winners, the first RGSS graduates, are now returning to Romania ready to kick start their careers as public managers. Trained to engineer a mentality shift in the public sector, they are expected to bring positive contributions to the practice of public administration in Romania.

At the press conference, Prof. Ioan Pânzaru, RGSS Commission President, Mr. Mircea Muresan, MER Spokesman, Ms. Soknan Han Jung UN RC/UNDP RR in Romania, and Mr. Mihai Toader, RGSS Project Manager, briefed the



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Journalists asking questions to RGSS officials

mass-media on: the second generation of RGSS recipients heading to renowned international academic institutions, the updated Application File, the streamlined selection procedure, and the high standards of the leadership evaluation interviews.

An awareness campaign with the slogan "Your career, a chance for Romania!" is now underway. The media blitz aims to inform both students and people under 35 already serving in the public sector about the 2006 contest.

The full lists of the 2004 and 2005 RGSS winners, as well as complete information on the 2006 competition for the "Romanian Government" Special Scholarship are currently available at www.burseguvern.ro.