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UNDP AND NGOs MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN 5 ROMANIAN CITIES



10th of December 2008 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and civil society marked the International Day of Human Rights in 5 cities throughout the country. The events jumpstarted the Awareness Campaigns on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which will be implemented over the next two months by the NGOs CENTRAS, SECS, Pro Democracy and World Vision.

The launching events took a wide range of forms: conferences, round tables, outdoor events meant to inform and raise public awareness of the importance of reaching the MGDs at a global and national level; a parallel aim of the campaigns is to engage target groups – youth, mass media, civil society and their constituencies – in the national dialogue on Romania's status as a donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Since Romania became a donor of country following the EU accession, it has engaged in playing an important part in reaching the MDG at a global level, by cooperating with the Millennium Declaration signatory states. The 8 MDGs represent the core of the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 at the Millennium Summit by 191 countries, including Romania. The Millennium Declaration is the only global agenda prescribing development actions to reduce severe poverty in half by 2015. By campaigning on these two issues, the implementing NGOs are applying own methods to engage directly their constituencies in the developing actions.

In Bucharest, the Assistance Center for Nongovernmental Organisations (CENTRAS) launched the campaign "Pay it Forward", in the presence of Jan Sorensen, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative and Mihaela Rutjens, Director of Assistance for Development Direction of the MFA. SECS launched the campaigns "A Ray of Hope" and "For a Better World" in Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca. Pro Democratia implements the projects "Our World in Development" in Iasi and Timisoara; World Vision's campaign in Constanta called "Constanta's World Vision" was launched in the presence of Camelia Chirascu, Direction of Assistance for Development of the MFA and Cristina Vaileanu, project manager, UNDP.

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