



Romania

United Nations Development Programme

Newsletter

Issue # 9

2008

Stand Up and Take Action Against Poverty, Cluj-Napoca



Stand Up Moment, Piata Pacii, Cluj-Napoca



Panel and partners after debate, Cluj-Napoca

Cluj-Napoca, Cluj County, 17th of October 2008 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by taking part in a large Stand Up Against Poverty event in Cluj-Napoca, an important cultural and university town located in the centre of Romania.

This year, Cluj-Napoca joined the third worldwide annual Stand Up mobilization in two local events organized by the Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR) and World Vision, in cooperation with the British Embassy in Romania, the UN Information Office and the Center for the Study of Democracy Cluj-Napoca.

UNDP and MFA representatives participated in a roundtable on raising awareness on issues related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Official Development Assistance (ODA), and discussed the involvement of various stakeholders as well as their potential impact at national level. The overall aim of the roundtable was to highlight the connections between present actors and create a sense of synergy between their different actions.

The organizers mobilized wide local public support in a Stand Up moment in Cluj-Napoca's Peace Square; all the supporters of this action were called upon to express their solidarity with the people of the world and take a stand against the perpetuation of worldwide poverty and in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Pupils from schools in Cluj-Napoca, Gherla and Aghires involved in on-going youth projects organized parallel Stand Up moments in their own schools.

The exhibition *Together for 2015 - Împreună pentru 2015*, prepared by the UNDP and MFA, presented concrete data and information on the midpoint achievements of MDGs at both national and international level. The exhibition is one of the many tools created by UNDP's ODA project to raise awareness and gauge public support for the national engagements in the context of international efforts to achieve the MDGs. The exhibition - opened in Cluj-Napoca on October 17th 2008 - will be made available to different categories of public for the next four months and will circulate in all the large university centers in Romania.

The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) was first launched in January 2005 at the World Social Forum in Porto Allegre. Since then hundreds of millions of people around the world took part in Stand Up events. This year the count numbered 116,993,629 people in 2,000 events in 100 countries, including the participants in Cluj-Napoca.

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