



PRESS RELEASE



Romanian funded UNDP project in the Republic of Moldova wins international recognition

Although Romania joined the prestigious donor countries club only two years ago, following the accession to the European Union in January 2007, the official development assistance (ODA) contribution is already bringing noteworthy results. The project *'Better Opportunities for Women and youth'* implemented in Republic of Moldova with help from the governments of the United States and Romania, received an award during the global South-South Development Expo (GSSD) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Thanks to this project financed also by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP Moldova created nine Social Reintegration Centres for orphans, children with no family care, and mothers, with children or expectant, who were victims of domestic violence. Apart from shelter services, the centres provide psychological and social care, career counseling and vocational training, all aimed to facilitate a smooth re-integration of people living on the fringe of society.

In all, 4, 136 vulnerable people were helped in these centres, 992 of them young people of which 642 have already been employed. The project also supported the creation of seven social enterprises generating 131 new jobs, as well as partnerships with 25 private sector firms and several Romanian NGOs. The valuable technical expertise transferred from Romanian NGOs to the Republic of Moldova, is very much linked to the role UN and UNDP wants to play in identifying and linking relevant experience in Romania to programme objectives in other countries.

This project will be subject of a documentary film produced by Marian Voicu for the Romanian National Television (TVR1) to be filmed in May.

Romania's contribution to ODA in the 2007 financial cycle was 80 million Euros, channeled through various ministries and international organizations, including UNDP, which is involved in the implementation of projects in a set of priority countries selected by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (i.e. Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Georgia).

"We were pleased that our first steps in the new endeavor of development assistance received UN acknowledgment. An ODA priority for Romania will remain the Republic of Moldova and we trust this first accomplishment will be followed by other relevant and effective projects developed with the competent support of the UNDP" said Mihaela Rutjens, director of Development Assistance Directorate of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The UNDP is a key actor within the donor's community which made a generous use of its comparative advantages such as: already established offices and operations in these countries (ensuring that no overhead is wasted on setting up or expanding operations), established practice areas, expertise and focus exclusively on development work and a vast knowledge network linking 166 countries and territories.

This international recognition is proof of a very good cooperation between UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania aimed at fighting poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals nationally and internationally.

For more information please go the following links:

<http://www.mae.ro/index.php?unde=doc&id=35299&idlnk=1&cat=3>

www.UNDP.md

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