



Romania

United Nations Development Programme

Newsletter

Issue # 38
9 December

2004



Romanian Local Communities contributing to Achieve Global Environmental Impact

GEF and UNDP joined hands to address the challenges of global environmental conservation through Small Grants Programme (SGP). SGP was officially launched in Romania at the UN House on 9 December 2004 to promote the public awareness of its funding initiatives.

The GEF Small Grants Programme aims to secure global environmental benefits towards conservation of biodiversity, climate change abatement, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation through community based approaches while generating sustainable livelihoods. SGP is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the Global Environment Facility, and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

SGP builds capacity of communities and NGOs to address environmental concerns; and provides a mechanism for demonstrating and disseminating community-led solutions to global environmental problems. SGP provides field-tested approaches that may be replicated and expanded to benefit the global environment. Every project is granted up to US \$50,000 and should be co-financed with at least 35%.

“Over time, it has become increasingly clear that while government policies are key elements for sustainable development, ultimately their success will depend on the initiatives of individuals and communities. Democratic participatory process, flexibility, and transparency are cornerstones of the SGP approach. The programme supports the participation of communities, NGOs, CBOs, and other stakeholders, in planning, design and implementation of projects” said Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative.



Ms Mihaela Dupleac, SGP NC; Ms Maria Koroknai, Interpreter; Ms Soknan Han Jung, UN RC/UNDP RR; Ms Violeta Kogalniceanu, Head of Environment UNDP



The focus of the event was to improve the visibility of SGP initiative in Romania. It was attended by more than 70 participants, including NGOs and CBOs; international donors - EC, USAID, Japanese Embassy, Canadian Embassy, “Mihai Eminescu” Trust, Heifer Foundation; ministries - Ministry of Environment and Water Management, Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs; local authorities; and the press. The highlight of the day was the training session for NGOs and CBOs to learn the application process and the programme strategy for Romania. Some of the criteria for successful project proposals are: a) Compliance with programme’s thematic and geographical focus b) Practical activities c) Community involvement in all the stages of project from design to implementation and evaluation d) High co-financing share e) Partnership with other categories of stakeholders, as emphasized

by Mihaela Dupleac, the National Coordinator of GEF/SGP programme.

The event concluded with a call for project proposals from NGOs and CBOs. The strategy and guidelines for application can be found at www.undp.ro/environment/sgp. Local authorities, research institutes, academia, etc, wishing to apply should team up with NGOs and CBOs. The application deadline for the first call is 20 January 2005.

For more information, please contact Ms Mihaela Dupleac, Environment Section, UNDP Romania at mihaela.dupleac@undp.org and fax: 021-2017828.