



## **Romanian Development Camp**

*Second Edition, Venus – Romania, September 16 – 19, 2009*

### **ABOUT THE CAMP**

#### **I. Aims**

**The Romanian Development Camp** is an annual event<sup>1</sup> for the benefit of the national public administration as well as NGOs, media and the academic sector. The main objective of the Romanian Development Camp is for national authorities and their partners to develop their capacities to implement the National Strategy for Official Development Assistance – a shared competency of Romania with the European Union. The Romanian Development Camp provides for a platform for national ODA stakeholders to reflect on current global development issues, European trends and development commitments, while familiarizing themselves with the tools and instruments for ODA effectiveness. The Romanian Development Camp is a multifaceted event: it is a space for training, for exchange of knowledge and best practices; it is a forum of dialogue and networking, ensuring the sustainable interaction between national stakeholders, as well as between the national and international counterparts.

The categories of stakeholders present are:

- + Romanian Parliament (members of the Foreign Affairs Committee); Line Ministries and European counterparts of the Romanian MFA from EU Member States; Romanian Embassies staff in ODA priority countries (Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Georgia); Development Agencies from EU Member States
- + Romanian NGOs, representatives of the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs (FOND) and guest counterparts from the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Georgia.
- + Romanian media and counterparts from international news groups.
- + Romanian academia from 4 of the largest state Universities in the country: Bucuresti, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara and correspondents from European higher education institutions.
- + Representatives of the European Commission

The 1<sup>st</sup> Romanian Development Camp of September 2008 had the unique objective of increasing the general knowledge of ODA among national constituents. As a new donor, the Romanian authorities and stakeholders familiarized themselves with basic development concepts, tool and frameworks during last year's proceedings.

As the needs of Romania's ODA stakeholders diversify, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Camp addresses more complex issues related to contemporary phenomena such as the financial and economic crisis and new concepts such as East-East partnership. Reflecting the higher level of knowledge on international development cooperation issues, the Romanian Development Camp 2009 addresses specific themes of interest for each category of stakeholders present.

The Development Camp methodology reflects this diversity. The plenary sessions allow for opportunities for learning and sharing of knowledge on themes of interest to all stakeholders (presentations of models and examples of development approaches of prevalently New Member States). Parallel workshops have geographic focus, honing attention this year on challenges for post-crises recovery in Afghanistan and the emerging development cooperation priorities in Central Asia. Cross-sectoral workshops present opportunity for participants to have a platform for elaborating on partnership strategies and priority actions.

## II. The Agenda

### Plenary sessions

**1. Financial instruments and facilities for ODA: EU instruments and facilities and Innovative financial mechanisms.** The session is dedicated to knowledge transfer on European development instruments, their regional specificities and objectives as well as ways of accessing them. Romania is a contributor to EU development budget since 2007, and starting 2011 it will extend its contribution to the European Development Fund, the main instrument for providing Community development cooperation. The theme is presented by an EC representative.

World-wide financial crisis and unmet monetary governmental commitments for ODA are challenges jeopardizing development initiatives; the innovative financial mechanisms are stable, predictable, and sustainable ways to serve development.

At the end of the session the participants will be familiar with European ODA instruments as well as innovative ways of financing development, particularly in crisis situations.

**2. National Awareness Raising.** Does public opinion on official development assistance matter? How does the media report on ODA? The session is opened by representatives of the media as speakers and focuses on 2 documentaries made by the Romanian Television in Serbia, on Romanian ODA projects. The aim is to analyze and discuss media involvement as a channel of awareness raising.

**3. Capacity building for the New Member States.** The objective of the session is for South-Eastern European governments to make better use of transition knowledge and EU approximation processes in relevant NMS: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. This will be achieved by benefiting from the experience of SIDA and the EU Compact. At the end of the session the participants will be familiar with models and initiatives related to increasing the capacity of new donor states to fulfill their role as assistance cooperation partners.

**4. Beneficiary Countries' Perspective.** The session is reserved to Romania's partners in ODA projects in the Republic of Moldova, particularly to the project "Better Opportunities for Women and Youth", supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Moldova and funded by the Governments of the United States and Romania, was among the best 6 social projects in the world to receive awards as a result of a contest organized by the UN Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. The award was presented during the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD) which took place on December 16-19, 2008 in New York. At the end of the session, participants will have a better understanding of how ODA is translated into tangible programs of sustainable solutions to local development challenges.

**5. Comparative advantages of Romania as a Donor:** An analysis of Romania's comparative advantage as an development partner and assistance provider will be presented. The author of the study, Sandra Pralong, was UNDP's Senior Emerging Donor Coordination Advisor. The presentation is seconded by Marek Brencic, speaking on the Slovak Experience on European Transition Compendium.

The aim of the session is to dialogue on the common theme of all new European donors: the successful transition experience in some social sectors translated into comparative advantages.

### Parallel workshops

**Topic 1: Official Development Assistance and Post-Crisis Recovery.** Between 25 – 50% of wars which have ended re-ignite within 5 – 10 years (the figures depending upon research frameworks). The challenges of post-war recovery and peace-building and development after war are significant. Development agencies, governments, and national and international organizations have recognized that are current policy and operational frameworks are often not sufficient for consolidating peace and enabling effective war to peace transition and sustainable development after war. Often, the underlying root causes which gave rise to the violence in the first place, and the visible and invisible impacts and effects of the war on the societies involved, remain as obstacles to recovery and future development. The aim of this session would be to provide a clear, concise overview of the state of policy and field operations in post-war recovery and peace consolidation, drawing on practical examples and lessons learned and exploring the role of different stakeholders. The presentation held by Kai Brand-Jacobsen presentation provides an overview

to all participants on the issues, key lessons learned, relevant anecdotes from several postwar recovery experiences, and identify essential needs to be addressed in policy and practice.

The case study following the presentation is Afghanistan - by David Connolly, researcher at the Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit, University of York, UK.

### **Topic 2: Future perspectives for the Romanian ODA: Central Asia**

Michel Bohnet of BMZ as resource person presents the German development initiatives in Central Asia as a case study. The process of transformation within Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) continues to be difficult. The overarching goal of the German development cooperation is poverty reduction and regional cooperation as crucial components of crisis prevention. The priority areas of German development cooperation are: supporting the democratisation process and enforcing the rule of law, supporting socially and environmentally acceptable economic reforms, securing basic social services and supporting supra-regional programmes.

The amount of German development cooperation that has been provided since 1992 totals € 827 million. German development cooperation focuses on Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

### Cross Cutting Topics

#### **Reporting ODA: Line ministries**

Reporting National ODA: this session is dedicated to train line ministries relevant staff in the ODA reporting mechanisms developed by the OECD - DAC. The session is lead by Anamaria Popeia from Romanian MFA.

#### **Partnerships between EU neighborhood and Romanian NGOs: opportunities and challenges**

The session offers the space for dialogue for national NGOs with NGO counterparts from the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Georgia on the subject of partnership and mutual expectations for fair and effective partnerships:

#### **Academia: The transition experience as an academic discipline**

Emerging donor states in the Baltic region, Southern and Eastern Europe have been answering the need to create their own national capacity (institutional and educational) to implement development assistance projects and programs. The stage of developing and/or strengthening their capacity is country-specific, however all seem to replicate similar systems, including preparing adequate human resources through academic programs. New EU Member States have created, implemented or are in the process of doing so – courses of international development studies in a variety of forms, levels and synergies with related disciplines. The session explores how 20 years of transition experience has influenced current programmes at the NMS universities, and how can the transition experience become an academic discipline, integrated in International Development Studies.

**Mass-media: Media role in development cooperation.** Free information, conveyed by independent media, is an indispensable condition for democracy and development. Without the media, societies lose awareness of their past, have no knowledge of their present and lack the forum for debate needed to build their future. The sustainable economic and social development of any state requires not only solid democracy, but also enlightened and free debate on the future, in which all opinions can be expressed. Building the capacity of journalists, and enhancing their ability to cover developmental issues is seen as another key component of the SNIECODA project. A practical 2 hours session led by an experienced trainer will be open to reporters from Romania.

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