

**1st October 2009, Bucharest****Press Release****“Building Success Scenarios for Romanian Higher Education” – the Topic of the Second
*Bucharest Dialogues Workshop***

Between October 31 and November 1, 2009 the second *Bucharest Dialogues* workshop, *Scenario Building: Methods, Approaches and Applications in Higher Education*, took place.

Twelve international foresight experts shared their experience in building success scenario in various fields as well as the methodology involved (e.g., Delphy, trend analysis, etc.).

Under the umbrella of the *Bucharest Dialogues*, 10 mutual learning workshops will take place, with the participation of the most reputed international foresight studies experts as well as Romanian higher education experts.

The conclusions of each workshop will be uploaded to an online wiki (the ForWiki will be available in 2010) so they can be used in future foresight exercises.

The organizer of the workshops is the Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding (UEFISCSU), as part of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project.

The goal of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project is to create the favorable conditions necessary for Romanian higher education to contribute to the economic and social growth of Romania, in the context of globalization and changes in the higher education paradigms.

Gill Ringland, well-known author (*Scenario Planning*, Wiley, 2006 and *Scenarios in Public Policy*, Wiley, 2002), consultant and trainer in scenario and strategy building presented, as part of the Case Studies Workshop, foresight projects conducted for the Scottish Government and British universities, and emphasized that scenario building and the understanding of change factors are useful tools for managing change and uncertainty.

George Cairns, Management Professor at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia showed that scenarios do not predict the future but help us understand the present and constitute the basis for informed decisions related to an organization’s strategies, planning and allotting of resources.



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Other participants whose input was valuable were **Murray Turoff**, Professor Emeritus at the New Jersey Institute of Technology; **Elie Faroult**, expert with the European Commission Foresight Unit; **Kiira Karkkainen**, analyst at the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) with the OECD; **Ziauddin Sardar**, City University London, editor of the prestigious foresight studies magazine *Futures*; **Katja Pook**, independent consultant specialized in intellectual capital management; **Ozcan Saritas**, researcher at PREST, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, University of Manchester, and **Riel Miller**, international expert in designing and implementing foresight strategic projects.

The debates were chaired by Prof. **Dragos Aligica**, Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Background Information

The **Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education project** is one of the five strategic higher education projects conducted by **CNCSIS**, **CNFIS** and **UEFISCSU** and funded through the European Social Fund, the Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development.

The mission of UEFISCSU is to manage the financial resources necessary to support the development of higher education and university research. In order to do that, the organization is seeking to attract new sources of financing and to focus its activity on a high-performance management of funds for higher education and research in universities.

The general goal of the **Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education project** is to develop, with the help of all relevant partners, a vision and a strategy for the Romanian higher education (in 2025), which would constitute the basis of medium- and long-term policies and actions, thus contributing to the improvement of strategic, financial, human resources and learning resources management in universities, to the promotion of innovation, cooperation and partnerships among universities, the business environment and research centers in order to develop a Romanian knowledge society.

For further information, visit our website: www.edu2025.ro or contact us:

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