



Press Release

25, September, 2009

Bucharest

UEFISCSU Successfully Concluded the First *Bucharest Dialogues* Event

Friday, September 25, 2009, in Bucharest, Kretzulescu Palace, the Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding (UEFISCSU), as part of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project, successfully concluded the first mutual learning workshop of a series of ten workshops that will take place under the umbrella of the *Bucharest Dialogues*.

The topic of this mutual learning workshop, an international event that concerned the Romanian higher education, was “Systems Thinking for Foresight: The Case of Romanian Higher Education System” and brought together foresight practitioners from six countries, all of them having expertise in the field: Denis Loveridge (UK), Campbell Warden (Spain), Susana Elena-Perez (Spain), Riel Miller (France), Zoya Damianova (Bulgaria), Philine Warnke (Germany), Ozcan Saritas (UK), Katja Pook (Germany), Lik Meng Lee (Malaysia) but also Romanian experts in educational sciences and higher education such as: Radu Gheorghiu, PhD Student; Marian Zulean, Lecturer; Prof. Cezar Scarlat; Prof. Serban Agachi; Dan Grosu, PhD Student; Prof. Adrian Miroiu.

During the two-day workshop, basic foresight concepts as well as their applications to the Romanian higher education foresight exercise were discussed and developed.

At the end of the event, **Prof. Adrian Curaj, manager of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project** declared:

„We have reached the end of the first *Bucharest Dialogue* and I am convinced that all the participants actually gained something from it. This is our first step towards placing Romania on the map of international foresight; there are still many steps to take in order to create and develop a national capacity for anticipating and managing efficiently events that lie ahead in the future. This is a long and ambitious road we are taking – conducting the largest structured consultation exercise on the development of higher education in Europe, which will include over 10,000 higher education stakeholders. Ours is an ambitious project and that is why the experience of the countries you are representing here is indeed very useful to us. Thank you for your participation and I am looking forward to having you as our dialogue partners here in Bucharest.”



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Background Information

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 *Bucharest Dialogues* aim at becoming a landmark on the international foresight map by providing the expertise necessary for the higher education players to develop their capacity for long-term strategic analysis and scenario-building.

The goal of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project is to create the favorable conditions necessary for the 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.

One of the purposes of the project is to develop the higher education players' capacity for long-term strategic analysis. To improve the leadership capacity, the project envisages the strengthening of the Romanian foresight practitioner community and its integration into the international community. For this purpose, a series of 10 workshops aimed at developing basic foresight concepts through international expert dialogue are organized in Bucharest.

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 drills.

The *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project is one of the five strategic higher education projects conducted by CNCISIS, 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.

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

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