



Romanian Development Camp Third Edition *MDGs in Focus: Perspectives from the re-emerging donors*

The third edition of the Romanian Development Camp took place on the 24th - 27th of June in Bucharest and Covasna, Romania and it was organized by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in partnership with the Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND), with the financial support of MFA.



The Romanian Development Camp is an annual event bringing together major stakeholders in development cooperation at national and European level: governmental actors, civil society, experts from European and international donors, partner countries, mass-media, academia and the private sector.

This edition brought together more than 100 participants from different countries and aimed at presenting the contributions of the new EU member states as donors. The theme was chosen in the context of the UN Summit which will be held this year in September and will review the progress and the main challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



The opening session was made by the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Teodor Baconschi, Mr. Viorel Micescu, the FOND President, the EU Commissioner for Development, Mr. Andris Piebalgs and Mr. Paul Hoebink, Professor in Development Cooperation.

Among participants invited were representatives from central and local authorities, ministries, Parliaments, embassies, civil society, private sector, academia and media.

This edition focused on the Millennium Development Goals and the partnerships between all the actors involved in development cooperation field.

The presentations covered some interesting topics such as Perspectives of re-emerging donors and recipient countries, the role of donor countries national parliaments, development education and development studies, aid effectiveness, policy coherence. During the three days, it was organized panels and debates and the participants had the opportunity to watch a thematic documentary - *Enjoy Poverty*.

The EU Commissioner for Development emphasized that EU is celebrating 50 years of development policy and is very important to work together to advance the goals, because the failure of the international community is not an option. Development should be at the center of the foreign policy agenda. Piebalgs also affirmed that NGOs are a driving force for development cooperation.



In Romania considerable progress has been made in the last years in the field of development education and development co-operation. The main challenges are the resources and how to convince the people that Romania needs to raise its international profile. There is a need to convince citizens that money are spent efficiently, with accountability and to implement an aid efficiency agenda

It was also presented the Moldovan civil society perspective and their recommendations for donors: to provide untied ODA, based on human rights and the performance of the government, to focus on quality and the outcomes, to offer support for the civil society, a better coordination - to avoid to do the same action at the same time.

In Republic of Moldova, Romania is the second biggest donor, in volume, due to the 100 million euro announced by President Basescu.

The panels were a good opportunity to discuss on specific themes and to create the possibility for the participants to interact. It was presented the for-profits and non-profits vision and the possibilities to create partnerships for future projects and initiatives.

Conclusions and recommendations:

- ✓ Even if Romania is not a big and important donor, it tries to be an effective one;
- ✓ Romania plans to raise the number of local actors so as to strengthen the national capacity;
- ✓ The role of donor countries national parliaments is very important but we must find how to improve the relation between civil society organizations and Parliaments;
- ✓ Romania needs to involve as many actors as possible and to increase the civic dialogue, to start work closer with the academia, the private sector and the local authorities;
- ✓ There is a need to be more engaged with the political parties and to have a new strategy with a clear vision and objectives, a result based strategy;
- ✓ An important recommendation was to initiate debates on development cooperation issues with all the relevant actors;
- ✓ The Ministry expressed its wish to focus more in priority countries, to raise awareness on ODA issues.

For more information about this event, please contact the FOND Secretariat - office@fondromania.org