

**Ms. Gabriella Pasztor
Secretary of State**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RESEARCH AND YOUTH
ROMANIA**

**CONCERNS, PROPOSALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND YOUTH (MEdRY),
IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to begin my statement reminding you the words of Mr. Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations: *“Our greatest challenge in the 21st century is to turn the currently still abstract idea of sustainable development into reality for all people on this planet.”*

As a consequence, the implementation of sustainable development refers to a holistic process that includes the economic, social, cultural and environmental challenges of our century.

We strongly believe that education plays a key role in the society because education provides access to knowledge and provides orientation in an increasingly complex world.

Promoting the youth’s employment

The available studies and data in regard to the contribution of education and training to promoting the economic growth show that the education and training represent the main contributors to supporting the economic growth and progress, increasing the level of education of the human capital, constituting an important factor of economic growth.

The general objective of the priority P4 within the National Development Plan of Romania 2007 – 2010 is represented by the **development of human capital and increasing its competitiveness on the labor market, by ensuring equal opportunities of lifelong learning and developing a modern, flexible and inclusive labor market, which to lead, by 2015, to a sustainable integration of approx 900.000 people on the labor market.**

These are the reasons for which MEdRY from Romania has the following main directions for action:

- Developing the human resources and the sustainable integration on the labor market.
- Implementing a new National Qualifications Framework by the end of 2010.
- Ensuring a human capital, that is educated and competitive on the European labor market, which has at its basis the insurance of equal access to quality education and initial and continuous training. In order to achieve this objective, there have been promoted laws and government decision:
 - *regarding the quality assurance in education ;*
 - *regarding the approval of the framework-methodology for organizing the integrated study programs, offered by two or more universities, which lead to awarding a common diploma.*

Major objective: Ensuring the access to education for the children of migrant workers and for the various categories of people being granted a certain form of protection in Romania, according to the law.

- **The sustainable integration of the young people on the labor market;**
- **The continuous training;**
- **Increasing the adaptability of the employed work force.**

Measures that have been/will be implemented for developing the skills, the quality of education and the employment on the labor force:

Increasing and improving the investment in human capital through:

1. Increasing the access to education for the disadvantaged groups by different programs;

Another measure is:

2. Improving the qualifications of the teaching staff;

3. Restructuring education system.

It is well known that education for sustainable development it's not only an issue of the formal school system, but of many other kinds on non-formal and informal education. Regarding non-formal education related to environmental protection and sustainable development, in Romania, contests at country, regional and national level are organized. Also, each school develops specific activities dedicated to events like: 'The European

Day for Citizenship through Education”, “Earth Day”, “International Day for Environment”, “The Water Day”, “The World Day for Animals”.

Adapting the education and training system to the new required competences, by:

- 1. Informing and raising the pupils’ awareness in regard to the migration phenomenon (in general) and, especially, to the various forms of migration, through:**
 - Realizing, on the basis of the collaboration between the **Romanian Representation to the UN Refugee Agency and the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth,**
- 2. Increasing and improving the investments for infrastructure/improving the education conditions;**
- 3. Developing higher education;**
- 4. Establishing and developing a national qualification system in the higher education.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I know that, at regional level, every country made efforts in order to implement the UNECE specific Strategy, but still I am convinced that we need more concerted actions to develop sound solutions for education for sustainable development.

It is necessary to make efforts for strengthening the cooperation among governments and stakeholders, improving education systems, streamlining formal, non-formal and informal learning and mobilizing adequate institutions and organizations for education for sustainable development.

I consider that the Statement on education for sustainable development in our region will support these efforts and will also contribute to the implementation of the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

Thank you for your attention.