



Delegation of the European Commission in Romania



Ministry of Public Finance

**SOCIAL/CIVIL SOCIETY****press release**

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**EU finances 66 new projects for the strengthening of Romanian NGOs**

The Delegation of the European Commission in Romania and the Romanian Government today announced the projects selected for financing under 3 (out of 5) components of the Phare 2003 Programme - Strengthening Civil Society. 66 projects, worth almost 2.8 million Euro, were selected for EU financing. These projects aim at a) increasing NGOs' institutional and operational capacity, b) strengthening NGOs' and professional associations' role in maintaining and supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights and c) strengthening and promoting NGOs' role in the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in the areas of consumer and environment protection, and socio-economic development. The complete lists of selected projects are attached to this press release.

Mr. Jonathan Scheele, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Romania stated: *"I would like to congratulate all NGOs whose projects have been recommended for financing. As in any competition, some participants won and others did not. I hope all applicants will use this experience in order to do better in future calls for proposals. I trust the winning projects will make a positive difference in the communities in which they operate. In that case all the efforts made by these NGOs and by the projects' evaluators will have been worthwhile"*.

The 66 projects focus on the following activities:

a) **Under the NGO sector development Component**, 4 projects in partnership with local authorities, business sector or other local stakeholders address issues of public concern, such as: prevention of, and fight against trafficking of human beings, corporate philanthropy and social involvement, accountability of elected representatives and citizens' communication with the authorities, equal opportunities for women and men; 20 projects support NGOs in developing their professional expertise; 2 projects focus on setting up NGO Resource Centres in Călărași and Buzău, while an additional project is dedicated to setting up a Resource Centre for NGOs involved in consumer protection activities in Bucharest; 4 projects aim at improving and developing the services provided by existing NGO Resource Centres in Târgu Mureș, Iași, Craiova and Bucharest; 1 project focuses on improving the legal and regulatory framework for the relationship of NGOs with credit institutions on the local market.

b) **Under the Democracy, human rights, rule of law and independence of justice Component**, 5 projects focus on the protection of human rights and awareness-raising campaigns (mainly related to children's and minority rights), 9 projects promote good governance, accountability and transparency of public authorities' decisions and will enhance MPs' accountability and responsibility in relations with their constituencies, and 3 projects will develop specific civil society mechanisms for monitoring the institutions fighting corruption.

c) **Under the Adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* Component**, 12 projects focus on environmental protection, 2 on strengthening the institutional capacity of NGOs working in the socio-economic development field and 3 projects will support the NGO sector in ensuring the effective protection of consumers' economic and legal rights.

The Civil Society Development Foundation provides technical assistance for the entire Phare 2003 Programme - Strengthening Civil Society.

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