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Ethics, social values and professional standards: investment for the future

Friday, 27 March 2015, took place the international conference ***Ethics in public administrations***, organized by the Center of Legal Resources and The National Agency of Civil Servants within the project "Training and Development for Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration" SMIS Code 22242 co-financed from The European Social Fond through the Operational Program Administrative Capacity Development 2007-2013.

The conference reunited almost 100 civil servants from Romania and 8 other European Union (EU) countries or from the region, members of The East Partnership or candidates to EU (United Kingdom, France, Poland, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and the Republic of Moldova).

The speakers presented the experiences of their own countries on ethics systems, on moral problems and the solutions / instruments developed to answer these challenges. Good practices and new ways to motivate the public administration in offering quality public services were identified.

We have proposed to change the approach regarding the integrity politics, from a combative perspective, focused on punishment or fear, mechanic rules, towards a positive approach, based on reward for performance, ethic values, dialog in the public sector, responsibility and good practices, declared Georgiana Iorgulescu, executive director of the Center for Resources in the opening of the conference.

This perspective was complemented by the messages of Sirma Caraman, State Secretary in the Ministry for Regional Development and Public Administration and by József Birtalan, the President of The National Agency of Civil Servants, which insisted on the further development of professional standards in public administration.

Robert Alan Doig, international expert in ethic systems, detailed the components of a new effective approach of ethichs in public life: *the integration of a culture of ethics in the public sphere pressumes the departure from the „dark way” of an environment suffocated by control, clasical strategies of monitorization, control and punishment, where reasons and values are molded by force, and the movement towards the „glade” of an ethical government framework where the expectations and procedures of the organization are fulfilled voluntarily and in an accountable manner.*

This change of attitude is based on a long term vision about the way the public administration will look in 20 years.

The civil servants always have to act in a proffesional way, in a way that they deserve and win the trust of their co-workers and persons they work for, concluded Yves Gounin, State Counselor delegate for International Relations of the State Council of France.

The conclusions of the conference will be integrated in projects that will be developed in the new programing period by the Center of Legal Resources, The National Agency of Civil Servants and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration.

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