

European Public Administration Network - EUPAN Directors General Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

In the context of Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRAP) through the General Department of Public Administration, the National Agency of Civil Servants (NACS) and the National Institute of Administration (INA), organised at the Palace of Parliament in Bucharest, from 3 to 4 June 2019, the Directors General Meeting within the European Public Administration Network (EUPAN).

The meeting was attended by approximately 70 senior management representatives from the Member States' public administrations and from the European Commission, observers, representatives of the organizers as well as of Romanian associations and academia.

The State Secretary of MDRAP, Virgil-Alin Chirilă, coordinator at ministerial level of the events of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, stressed that Romania strongly supports the consolidation of the European project in order to meet the expectations of the European citizens in a cohesive, unitary and unbiased manner: *"Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union has assumed that the most important principles to relate to are the unity and the cohesion of the Union. One of the successes of our mandate, also recognized by the European partners, is the extensive consultations organized on the most important European issues with all the actors involved. We have a common goal and only together we can succeed in enhancing trust in the fundamental values that unite us. If we want the Union to go forward, then we must all go in the same direction. No one can be left behind"*.

The format of the meeting allowed the participants to discuss topics of interest in one plenary session and some interactive workshops.

The plenary session included presentations on:

- the management of human resources in the Romanian public administration;
- the work of the Social Dialogue Committee for the Central Government Administrations (SDC CGA);
- Sweden's progress in the field of digitalization;
- the priorities of the Finnish Presidency within EUPAN (Finland is the country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union).

The topics for workshops were focused on:

- the necessary skills for e-governance;
- the code of ethics as an integral part of the organizational culture;
- the challenges of electronic services in the public administration;
- the impact of strategic planning documents on the central public administration.

Moreover, the topics led to some research at the level of the Member States. The obtained results were presented at the meeting. The event was also a good opportunity to reflect on all activities conducted within the network during Romania's Presidency, the consistency of discussions being particularly appreciated by participants.

An important milestone was the adoption of the EUPAN Strategy Paper for 2019-2022, a document drafted during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The event concludes the series of EUPAN Network meetings that have taken place in our country during this rotating presidency to the Council of European Union. The network series of meetings began in March and included the organization of 4 events (one at Directors-General's level, one at experts' level and two at secretarial level).

EUPAN is an informal network of public administration professionals from the European Union Member States, the European Commission and the observer states, which has a significant impact on the public administration's initiatives in each country. The network is organized around major fields of interest, such as human resource management and organizational development, innovation and delivery of public services, but it is also open to other public administration issues such as public administration reform, open government etc.

At the same time, EUPAN is a forum that allows the exchange of information, experiences and good practices, enabling a country based comparison of the reforms and measures used to modernize public administration in the Member States. In this way, the countries can promote similar strategies and measures that allow a unitary and coherent development and evolution across Europe, in response to common challenges in the field.

EUPAN's main objective is to establish a more relevant and to the point cooperation between European public administrations and to deliver clear results in order to find an effective way of selecting topics of interest for a common agenda, which should be in line with the priorities of the Member States and the Union, taking into account the current development and topics on the public agenda.