

**Press Release****October, 31, 2009****Bucharest**

**The Second *Bucharest Dialogues* Event:
12 International Experts Are Working for Romanian Education**

The Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding (UEFISCSU), as part of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project, organizes the second *Bucharest Dialogues* event, between October 31 – November 1, 2009, in Bucharest, at the Academy of Economic Studies, Virgil Madgearu Conference Hall.

Under the umbrella of the *Bucharest Dialogues*, 10 mutual learning workshops will take place, with the participation of the most reputed international foresight studies experts as well as Romanian higher education experts.

The topic of the second workshop will be: “Scenario Building: Methods, Approaches and Applications in Higher Education”.

The goal of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project is to create the favorable conditions necessary for Romanian higher education to contribute to the economic and social growth of Romania, in the context of globalization and changes in the higher education paradigms.

One of the purposes of the project is to develop the higher education players' capacity for long-term strategic analysis. To improve the leadership capacity, the project envisages the strengthening of the Romanian foresight practitioner community and its integration into the international community. For this purpose, a series of 10 workshops aimed at developing basic foresight concepts through international expert dialogue are organized in Bucharest.

“This is the second time in just 2 months that we have succeeded in bringing top personalities in the field of foresight studies, whose works enjoy international recognition, to Bucharest. This proves that the foresight exercise we are conducting for Romanian education, as part of the Quality and Leadership project observes the international requirements for foresight studies but also that Romania has actual growth potential in this field”, says **Prof. Adrian Curaj**, manager of the *Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education* project.



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The workshops have two sections:

- The first focuses on explaining and developing the basic foresight concepts;
- The second focuses on how the concepts can be applied to the Romanian higher education foresight exercise.

The conclusions of each workshop will be uploaded to an online wiki (the ForWiki will be available in 2010) so they can be used in future foresight exercises.

Participants:

The following international foresight experts will attend the second *Bucharest Dialogues* workshop:

George M. Cairns - Management Professor at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. He contributed to the development of scenario-building methodology by co-writing works on this topic and teaching in the UK, Europe, Asia and Australia. He managed organizational scenario-building projects in fields such as air traffic control in Europe, the future of agriculture and water reserves in Australia, the future Scottish e-government and third-cycle education in Australia.

Murray Turoff, Professor Emeritus at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, co-author of *The Delphi Method: Techniques and Applications* (1975). Professor Turoff is known as the creator of the Delphi method, in the 70s. He is also the author of the award-winning book, *The Network Nation: Human Communication via Computer* (1978). He has a vast experience in foresight and policy studies that use the Delphi method. He is the co-author of *Delphi Method Book* (1975) and of a new book on Emergency "Management Information Systems" to be released in 2009.

Gill Ringland, author of *Scenario Planning* (Wiley, 2006) and *Scenarios in Public Policy* (Wiley, 2002) that became bestsellers on amazon.com. Gill Ringland is a well-known author, consultant and trainer in scenario and strategy building.

Elie Faroult, expert with the European Commission Foresight Unit, Brussels.

Kiira Karkkainen, analyst at the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) with the OECD, her interests are education for innovation but also innovation in education. Her experience focuses on future educational policies in the Scandinavian countries in the context of international growth, cooperation and diplomacy in the European Commission, UNESCO and the UN Finish Mission in Romania.

Starr Roxanne Hiltz, Professor Emeritus at the Department of Information Systems Institute of Technology, New Jersey. She contributed to the development of online learning as author of *The Virtual Classroom* (1994), *Learning Networks* (co-author, 1995) and *Learning Online Together* (co-author, 2005).



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Ziauddin Sardar, City University London, editor of the prestigious foresight studies magazine *Futures*, he is known as a writer, radio host and cultural critic. He wrote more than 45 books such as: *The Future of Muslim Civilisation* (1979), *Islamic Futures: The Shape of Ideas to Come* (1985) and the international bestseller *Why Do People Hate America?* (2002).

Campbell Warden is an external expert, evaluator and trainer for UNESCO and United Nations Industrial (UNIDO); Campbell Warden launched the HERO initiative (*Managing and Reporting Intangibles by Higher Education and Research Organisations*) in 2001.

Katja Pook is an independent consultant and “systemic consultant and psychotherapist” (she focuses on the system thinking of social systems), with expertise in intellectual capital management, knowledge management, organizational and human resource development.

Ozcan Saritas is a researcher at PREST, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, University of Manchester, as well as editor of *Foresight* magazine.

Riel Miller is an international expert in designing and implementing foresight strategic projects. Among his clients are Cisco Systems and Philips as well as the Government of Ireland, the Government of Canada and the European Commission. He teaches all over the world and he is a professor at the Masters in Public Affairs, *Institut de Sciences Politiques (Sciences-Po)*, in Paris, France, and he is a member of the *Association of Professional Futurists* as well as of UK organizations in the field.

The debates will be chaired by **Prof. Dragos Paul Aligica**, Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Apart from his university work, he works as an international expert for consultancy firms and partner in projects such as the UN Development Program, for the World Bank, the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development. Along with Peter Boettke, he is co-author of *Challenging Institutional Analysis and Development: The Bloomington School*, which deals with Elinor Ostrom’s institutional theory (the Nobel Prize for Economy in 2009). He is currently working on a book called *Social Theory, Philosophy and Futurology. Thinkers and Ideas of a Prospective Discipline*.

Background Information

The **Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education project** is one of the five strategic higher education projects conducted by **CNCSIS**, **CNFIS** and **UEFISCSU** and funded through the European Social Fund, the Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development.

The mission of UEFISCSU is to manage the financial resources necessary to support the development of higher education and university research. In order to do that, the organization is seeking to attract new sources of financing and to focus its activity on a high-performance management of funds for higher education and research in universities.



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The general goal of the **Quality and Leadership for Romanian Higher Education project** is to develop, with the help of all relevant partners, a vision and a strategy for Romanian higher education (in 2025), which would constitute the basis of medium- and long-term policies and actions, thus contributing to the improvement of strategic, financial, human resources and learning resources management in universities, to the promotion of innovation, cooperation and partnerships among universities, the business environment and research centers in order to develop a Romanian knowledge society.

For further information, visit our website www.edu2025.ro or contact:

Adriana Tran, Head of Public Relations

UEFISCSU

Phone: 0724182525

Email: presa.proiecte@uefiscsu.ro



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