

Elaboration of Romanian RDI Strategy 2007-2013 within the Framework of the National Foresight Exercise (2)

After the initial rounds of experts' interviewing, according to the answers received, six titles for domains were proposed (with several sub-domains) and altogether were cumulated into preliminary list, that was compiled and posted on-line as a questionnaire for a large public consultation process. The on-line survey was designed to collect information about, both, the preferred titles/ denominations of the suggested domains and sub-domains, and also, to enquire about new ones. The questionnaire was previously announced with different scientific meetings and professional gatherings, and, more important, via e-mail, on large groups of experts from the Ministry of Education and Research, from various data bases. Almost 13000 e-mail addresses were used, and the survey exercise was carried out between 20 December 2005 and 12 January 2006. Almost 1100 responses were received, which was considered a satisfactory rate of response having in view the novelty of the consultation exercise, especially as it is directed toward the elaboration of a national RDI strategy.

The results derived from the analysis on-line questionnaire responses were used as a base for discussions and deliberation for the participants of the 16 January workshop. After one-day meeting, the initially proposed titles from the on-line survey were slightly altered and, as commonly agreed, the major domains of interest were: "Technologies of Information Society", "The Competitiveness through innovation", "The Quality of Life", "The Social and Cultural Dynamics", "The Sustainable Development" and "The Institutional Construction of the RDI system for Knowledge-based Society"; in parallel, a new cross-cutting domain about frontier sciences was suggested. Final selection of investigated fields will be done by the Steering Committee, and offered for validation to the high level decision makers.

(2) *Identification of experts* - it has been done through a process of successive nomination-co-nomination process from the following categories: *Science, RDI Management, Industry/Business, Public administration and Civil society*. This procedure structures the experts' group, balancing the level of interaction and the scientific representativeness, on one hand, and the large participative dimension, on the other.

(3) *Identification of the key actors* - having two main objectives: to increase the percentage of experts involved in the consultation stages (in panels, for instance) and to identify ways in which stakeholders can be involved, during the intelligence gathering stage.

♦ Identifying the key parameters

(4) *Structuring the consultation*. In order to analyze each investigated field, a panel is due to be formed with the objective to determine the field's priorities. First step will be to identify an initial set of possible priorities (50 to 80) through workshops, interviews with stakeholder

representatives and reports made by independent experts. Once semantic equivalences will be eliminated, the possible priorities will be grouped in three to four clusters according to their subject matter.

(5) *Assessment of trends*. Each panel will organize a conference, ensuring a relevant degree of interaction and scientific depth. Individuals will be invited to take part in three or four simultaneous events (called "negotiation workshops") for each cluster of priorities identified at the previous step, according to their competencies. It will be important to balance participation among science, RDI management, industry/business, public administration and civil society experts so that a significant social- economic priorities selection is done. In the same time, a solid network for the implementation of change is created.

The already created panels will act as scientific councils of the conferences and will prepare the schedule and the list of participants as well. The results will be assessed and will be structured as a set of 25 to 30 possible priorities for each field.

(6) *Impact analysis*. The final list of priorities will ground the set of statements for a Delphi-like survey. The possible priorities will be assessed in accordance with criteria resulted from stating the strategic vision.

(7) *Setting-up the priorities*. The survey results will be analyzed by each panel. The conclusions will form a Report regarding the priorities of Romanian RDI system up to 2020.

♦ Selection of scenarios

(8) *Developing realistic scenarios*. Independent experts will draw up alternative scenarios for the development of the RDI system until 2020. They will work with predefined templates, integrating subsets of priorities.

(9) *Preferred scenarios selection*. The scenarios selection is the last and the most critical step of the process. Its implementation will be achieved through a vision workshop in which members of the Steering Committee of the foresight exercise, policy makers and other guests will take part. "The Romanian RDI System in 2020" study, consisting of a collection of preferred scenarios together with correspondent strategic objectives for 2007-2013, is the output of the vision workshop.

The output of the project can be integrated into an investment model for RDI activities, the development of such a model being a result per se. A system of indicators will be related to strategic goals, thus assuring a permanent feed back with the granted budget. The consortium takes full responsibility of implementing the investment instruments considering the feedback measuring methods and of up-grading the RDI policies accordingly.

Source: The National University Research Council (CNCSIS) and the Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding (UEFISCSU)



The rationale to establish the **National Authority for Scientific Research (NASR)**, part of the **Ministry for Education and Research**, emerged from the requirement to promote the development of the knowledge-based society. Given the relative large gap in research and technology development between Romania and the EU average, NASR assumed the mission to act as the executive manager of the Romanian government's decision to rapidly increase the public support for RTD towards the Barcelona "Three Percents for RTD" ambitious goal.

The **Programme of Research of Excellence** was approved by the Government (decision no. 368/28.04.2005) at the initiative of the **Ministry for Education and Research**. The programme consist in a set of concrete actions of strengthening of the Romanian research area and to help the Romanian research institutions in order to become competitive at the European level. This main goal is to prepare the ground for future calls of FP7.

Structure of the programme:

Modulus 1: Complex research projects

Modulus 2: Projects to support development of human resources in research:

- ♦ Research projects to support post doctoral programmes
- ♦ Research projects for young researchers: research of excellence projects for young researchers; research project for stimulate return of young researchers in the country
- ♦ Mobility projects for researchers
- ♦ Projects to support training and professional formation in research management

Modulus 3: Projects to support and promote participation to the European research programmes

Modulus 4:

Projects for infrastructure development, evaluation and certification of conformity

The Research of Excellence Programme – CEEEX is correlated with thematic areas from FP7.

The programme was launched in 2005 and it will be continued in 2006 (January and April calls)