

**Cordially invites you to a special conference**

**Policy making at cross-roads: making a difference for better governance**

**Bucharest, 3 may 2006  
MARIOTT Grand Hotel**

**Argument and topics**

After a decade of institutional reform and in the eve of European accession, Romania is in the position to assess its administrative and policy development capacity in regard to its future EU membership. The conference will (i) map out the reform of the policy process in general; and (ii) explore the education sector as a particular policy field where the strategic coordination and vision should play a crucial role.

**The first panel** will address issues as:

*Key challenges and reasonable expectations in policy management reform: international / regional / Romanian experience; what is the market for policy analysis / evaluation inside and outside the government? how to create widespread demand for better policy making? what role the stakeholders (think tanks, media, and foreign assistance) can play in improving the output of the policy-making process?*

**The second panel** will focus on a key policy sector, which is also relevant for the way the public institutions should be reformed and staffed with capable people holding key competencies for a modern public administration. The issues addressed in the panel are:

*Do we have a vision for the education system in Romania, as a future EU member country? Is there a professional approach to policy-making in education? What competencies are in place and what is missing for quality policy making in education?*

Each panel starts with three or four brief presentations intended to serve as a basis for the substantial discussions to follow, which are meant to be the core of this policy debate event.

**Participants' profile**

The conference will gather policy practitioners and analysts from all levels of government, academia, think tanks and the private sector. Current and former IPF fellows will also take part.

## **AGENDA**

### ***13:30 Opening remarks***

**Lucian CIOLAN**, Lecturer - Bucharest University, IPF Fellow

**Renate WEBER**, President, Open Society Foundation-Romania

**Pamela KILPADI**, Program Coordinator, IPF Program, Open Society Institute-Budapest

### ***13:45 Panel 1. Reforming policy management: can there be rules for government decision-making?***

*Moderator: **Sorin IONIȚĂ**, SAR Research Director, IPF Fellow*

**Victor GIOSAN**, Deputy Minister, Romanian General Secretariat of the Government,

**Leslie PAL**, Professor of Public Policy – Carleton University, Senior Advisor to the IPF Policymaking in Transition working group

**Claudiu CRACIUN**, Teaching Assistant SNSPA, IPF Fellow

**Pamela KILPADI**, Program Coordinator, IPF Program, Open Society Institute Budapest

**Goran BULDIOSKI**, Program Officer, Think Tank Fund, OSI Human Rights and Governance Grants Program

### ***15:45 Coffee break***

### ***16:00 Panel 2. Education and Policy Making: bridging competency gaps***

*Moderator: **Claudiu CRACIUN**, Teaching Assistant SNSPA, IPF Fellow*

**Adrian Miroiu**, Professor of Political Theory and Public Policy, SNSPA

**Lucian Ciolan**, Lecturer, University of Bucharest, IPF Fellow

**Madlen ȘERBAN**, director of National Centre for Development of Vocational Education and Training

### ***17.45. Conclusions***

**For confirmations and information on the event please contact:**

**Claudiu Craciun**

**Political Science Department, National School of Political Studies and  
Administration**

6-8 Povernei str.

Tel: 4 021 212 52 86

Mobile phone: 4 07 44 81 15 64

Email: [clcraciun@yahoo.com](mailto:clcraciun@yahoo.com), [craciun@policy.hu](mailto:craciun@policy.hu)

**Lucian Ion Ciolan**

**National Centre for Development of Vocational Education and Training**

10-12, Spiru Haret str.

Tel: +40 21 311 11 62

Mobile phone: +40 72 256 06 67

Fax: +40 21 312 54 98

Email: [lucian@tvvet.ro](mailto:lucian@tvvet.ro); [ciolan@policy.hu](mailto:ciolan@policy.hu)

**Sorin Ionita**

**Romanian Academic Society**

61 Mihai Eminescu str,

Tel/Fax: +40-021 2111477, +40-021 2111424

Email: [sionita@sar.org.ro](mailto:sionita@sar.org.ro), [ionita@policy.hu](mailto:ionita@policy.hu)

## **Background Information**

### **What is IPF?**

The International Policy Fellowships Program (IPF) identifies and nurtures the next generation of open society leaders in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Mongolia. IPF joined forces with the Center for Policy Studies when it was established in late 1999 and began offering training to policy fellows to develop their capacity to write professional policy documents, identify appropriate policy instruments, and effectively advocate policies—skills that remain underdeveloped in countries where the Soros foundations work. From 2005, IPF activities will diversify into two main program areas: an impact-oriented fellowships program designed for leaders with proven policymaking and advocacy experience, and a public policy capacity development program providing assistance to up-and-coming policy researchers at local and regional levels.

Webpage: <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/ipf>

### **IPF: Policymaking in Transition Contexts Working Group**

Democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the post-Soviet space set in motion after the collapse of communist regimes have compelled us to reflect on the formation and particularities of emerging political systems. The process of transition involves transformation from both a centrally planned to a market-based economy and from authoritarianism to pluralistic democracy. What conditions make successful transition possible and what factors make democracy endure? What factors and processes are responsible for the divergent paths of transition countries? How can transition be promoted? These and other questions are addressed by this working group with a focus on Romania—a country experiencing an accelerated transition process and reform of its policymaking processes in the run-up to its planned European Union accession in 2007.

Webpage: [www.policy.hu/workinggroups05/policy/index.htm](http://www.policy.hu/workinggroups05/policy/index.htm)