

Programme for Government 2013-2016

This program comes at a historic moment and is based on cooperation of several political forces in order to achieve a Strong Romania. The solution we back is to strengthen state institutions, to bring prosperity, fairness and common sense. A strong Romania aims to support the economic recovery and the middle class, it means social justice and support for Romanians affected by the crisis, fair and just institutions, a strong state with a chance in the world that is changing before our eyes.

Development of this programme for Government has taken into account a number of factors which create the premises for Romania's development over the next four years. It is about the difficult economic situation in the European Union – our most important trading partner - about people's expectations and the definitely expressed vote on December 9, about commitments that Romania has taken to the EU and NATO partners, as well as economic and social reality of the country. All these require a responsible approach of the governance to serve the immediate interests of citizens, but also medium and long term objectives of the Romanian society.

Objective assessment of the economic and social reality of the country shows that Romania is currently on track of sustainable development, while still facing the effects of a poorly managed economic crisis in 2012. Thus, some of the injustices committed by PDL governments have been redressed, tackling social imbalances has been directly targeted in the past seven months, the Government has become more concerned with the real problems of population and the economic environment has received favorable signals from the Government. However, the years when the austerity policy was the only implemented took their toll, and correction of all errors from 2009 until the spring of 2012 requires sustained and long term action.

In this context, the Government aims at continuing the good things started in the last seven months. The central objective is to achieve a

sustainable balance between fiscal consolidation and economic recovery, between the economic and social, between the need for a strong state and reduction in the wastage of public money. To this end, we will promote a coherent set of macroeconomic policies meant to back the business environment, to recover the investment attractiveness of Romania, to lead the creation of new jobs and provide a favorable evolution of the living standards of the population.

Government programme reflected while harmonizing a set of principles underlying the European governance: macroeconomic prudence and fiscal – budget responsibility, observance of the individuals' right to decent, well paid jobs, equal opportunities and protection against the injustice and discrimination, countering poverty through job creation and equal opportunities for the rural area people, principle of flexicurity which ensures the convergence among labor legislation, active employment policies and social welfare of a flexible labor force; the principle of bridging gaps separating Romania from the EU advanced states, including through taking over the European solutions; the principle of protecting and encouraging the family which means access to decent housing, quality education and healthcare, modern infrastructure and communications, healthy environment, leisure time.

This Programme for Government is the expression of an outlook on Romania's future as strong state, and will be supported by a national average and long term development strategy. It does not limit itself to sector objectives and measures, but it comprises a project of society meant to restore the community spirit, to strengthen solidarity and to put the state institutions on new contractual bases. We aim therefore at a good governance to restore the Romanians' hope, dignity and the pride to live in their country.

To strengthen state institutions, to boost their functional efficiency and restore the relation with citizens, it is essential for the institutional system to enter with priority in a reconfiguration process. The revision of the Constitution is a step which cannot be postponed. The aim of Constitution revision consists in (re)gaining the trust of citizens in state institutions through guaranteeing a predictable and stable conduct of institutionalized power. The stake of this step consists in strengthening the Romanian democracy. The fundamental law should have to clarify the responsibilities and relations between the main public authorities and very importantly, to achieve the

integrative function. Reporting to Constitution and its values should become the binding element uniting the Romanian citizens within the state. The electoral legislation cannot miss from the process of rethinking the institutional architecture. The harmonization of the legislative acts in the field and their integration in the Electoral Code, expression of a consensual approach at the level of political class and the consultation with the civil society is one of the major objectives of the Government. It is important that the electoral law generates predictability regarding the party system, securing a unitary competition framework for the political parties.

The principle of balance between the fiscal consolidation policies, backing the economic environment and the imperative of social protection and solidarity is one of the Government Programme fundamentals. The Romanian society further needs a governance to follow the social European model which proved it is close to people, that it may introduce more social justice and that it can provide evolution towards durable development.

Other principle underlying the current Programme for Government is that of respect towards the Opposition. The Romanian political system needs a cohesive and active Opposition, with which the Government can engage in dialogue when making major decisions for society. Romania cannot go on in conflict and discord. A responsible governance promotes the dialogue, construction and stability.

The dialogue with Opposition will also be doubled by social dialogue. Transparency and openness towards social partners and consulting civil society represent constancies of the Government act. They will secure a solid basis for backing the Government's initiatives and measures, strengthening its commitment to observe the principles of good governance: transparency, responsibility and citizen participation.

Leaving from few principles which I backed in the last 7 months too, but also during the electoral campaign, the 2013 -2016 governance will start building a strong Romania, which would mean prosperity, welfare and fairness.

- We observe the rule of law and individual rights, as set out in the Constitution. Governance is the promoter of legality.
- We observe Romania's commitments to its external partners-European Commission, International Monetary Fund and the World

Bank – pursuing to nurture inclusive growth, equally distributed among the population, by implementing structural reforms to enhance competitiveness of the Romanian economy.

- We apply a new vision for Romania: economic development and social cohesion. Recovery replaces stagnation, without neglecting the ongoing fiscal consolidation.
- We believe that significant and immediate improvement of structural funds absorption is essential for sustainable economic growth and limiting external debt.
- We support economic freedom, private initiative and fair competition, effective ways to combat poverty.
- We guarantee ownership and support correct capital accumulation.
- Public money should be used efficiently, national wealth must be protected, and we wage war against tax evasion.
- Accelerating structural reforms and effective mobilization of large domestic effectiveness reserves will help the Romanian economy to capitalize on its growth potential.
- We support the development of a competitive economy, the Romanian industry and a modern agriculture, to provide stable and well paid jobs to Romanians.
- We promote sustainable social policies that provide free and equal access to education and health and ensure a dignified life to Romanian citizens.
- We tell people the truth and work together.
- We do not promise more than we can do. We want to restore Romanians' hope and confidence.
- We build a government based on transparency, competence and honesty, with another model of government, with other standards, with professionals and competence.
- We cannot go on without political reform. This means an improved Constitution, a legitimate and credible Parliament.
- Romania needs to regain its rightful place among the world states as respected partner in the European Union.

This programme is designed for a construction on a minimum of 4 years, strong, progressive construction, based on the values of freedom, fairness, justice and accountability. In the last seven months, we have kept our word. We started to repair injustices and will continue to work to build a strong Romania.

GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS: MAY-NOVEMBER 2012

USL Government succeeded in achieving more than stability and predictability during its term in office May to November 2012. It showed that Romania can achieve equitable, sustainable fiscal consolidation. It continued fiscal adjustment, without cutting in the people's incomes. Instead, it managed to correct the mistakes of the past.

USL government managed further fiscal adjustment while finding solutions to streamline the economy. USL Government managed to secure economy, respecting all the targets agreed with the IMF and EC, strengthening buffer stock of Treasury to 4 month coverage of current expenses. High confidence of internal and external investors can be seen in cutting domestic and foreign bond issues' effectiveness.

Although it had to solve many of the problems left uncorrected by previous governments (dissatisfaction with income cuts, wastage and pillage of the public budget, energy, etc, the surge of raised costs with interest after governance on debt in recent years, etc.) USL Government managed to achieve a fair compromise between austerity and economic recovery, between economic and social, between the need for a strong state and reducing waste.

WHAT WE PLEDGED AND WHAT WE ACHIEVED

REPAIR OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE

I promised to correct some social inequities. We adopted Government Emergency Order no. 15 of May 2012 whereby we rose the salaries of the budget sector employees by 8 percent as of June this year and by 7, 4 percent as of December this year with a view to bringing the respective salaries at their June 2010 level. We approved the Government Emergency Order 19 of May 2012, with the aim of the restitution of the sums unfairly withheld from retirees' pensions, such as the Constitutional Court established, as of January 1st, 2011 and until April 30, 2012 and stopping the taxation of

pensions by 5, 5 percent for the health fund, which was object of the Constitutional Court's Decision.

EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC MONEY

We pledged to efficiently manage the public money. We issued the GEO no.26 of May 2012 whereby we reduced substantially a series of inefficient and inopportune budget expenses consisting in: reducing by 30 percent of protocol expenses and those on abroad visits in the second semester 2012 compared to second semester 2011; ban on the legal and consultancy services purchase by central and local bodies of the state, given that they have their own structures with similar profile, ban on the purchase of feasibility studies for investment objectives that do not have the funding ensured; substantial limiting of printing purchase and other goods with protocol destination; limiting the number of public sector employees who can be members of delegations abroad.

CURBING THE TAX EVASION

We pledged zero tolerance towards tax evasion. Through Government Emergency Order 24 of 2012 for the amendment of law 572/2003 on the Tax Code and the regulation of some tax and financial measures, there has been decided the following: introduction of the obligation to mark the crude oil and other products assimilated to it from excises view- active measure to firmly combat tax evasion, which otherwise would have showed its effects, because during August – September 2012, state collection from crude oil excise rose by 114 millions lei compared to the same period last year.

MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

We promised to relax the constraints for the business environment. We raised the exemption ceiling at VAT payment from 35.000 to 65.000 EUR, with enforcement from July 1st, 2012 which generated a consistent tax relaxation for small entrepreneurs. We ensured a stimulating fiscal treatment at the level of banking system to capitalize on the non – performance liabilities, with favorable effects for loans recovery. We granted the right at fiscal loss recovery in case of companies merger and division.

OBSERVANCE OF COMMITMENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIERS

Romania has met all obligations agreed with international creditors, approval of letters of intent being done smoothly every time. Romania will observe the main target of the preventive agreement - effectively reducing the budget deficit from 4.1% of GDP in 2011 to 2.2% of GDP in 2013. Structural budget deficit reduced from 3% of GDP in 2011 to 0.9% of GDP estimated for 2012. This substantial reduction of the deficit, even in an election year is a remarkable performance, which ensures the credibility and predictability of Government economic policy and financing at affordable costs of budget and external deficit.

GIVING UP THE MODEL BASED ON INDEBTEDNESS

Romania's gross financing needs will decrease from 12.3% of GDP in 2012 to 11.4% of GDP in 2013. Hungary will have in 2013 a gross funding need of 20.5% of GDP and Poland 9.9% of GDP. This means creating fiscal space for stimulus measures and higher funds for education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, etc..

ENHANCED INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

Investors' confidence in international markets is greater now than on the takeover of USL government first term in May. Risk premium that insurers practice for securities issued by the Romanian state (CDS) reached only 215.6 basis points, or 2.15% compared to 337.5 basis points, or 3.37% on May 7, this year, which represents a reduction of over a third during this period. It is worth pointing out that Romania's CDS level is low, currently about 40 basis points compared to Hungary and about 30 basis points compared to Croatia.

LOWER FUNDING COSTS

Cost of financing treasury on domestic market is at a lower level than early this year. In early September this year to a request for Eurobonds totaling Euro 750 million, foreign investors offered 3.5 billion euros, ie 4.7 times more at a cost of 5.1% for a maturity of six years, which represents a decrease of 0 , 15 points compared with

similar issue in September 2011, given that it had a shorter maturity of only 5 years.

On October 21, 2012, the USL Government has achieved an important success on domestic capital market, managed to sell bonds in euros, within 2.8 years, amounting to EUR 421.5 million (compared to EUR 150 million requested), at an average cost of only 3.76%. Increased confidence of the capital markets in the Ponta Government compared to previous ones of PDL is demonstrated clearly by the fact that a relatively similar maturity (three years), in May 2011, the then Government has borrowed all of the internal market at an average cost of 4.89% and by 1.13 percentage points higher than the current Executive managed yesterday. On October 31, 2012, Romania has successfully attracted by the Ministry of Public Finance, an amount of 1.5 billion euro from international capital markets, following bonds issues denominated in euro. The average cost at which the operation succeeded, or 5.04 percent, is the historical minimum of sovereign issues made by Romania. At the same time, the maturity of the loan was extended to seven years, two years longer than that of the previous external financing.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL BUFFERS MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING

Treasury financial reserve (buffer exchange) created by agreement with external partners to cover the deficit and public debt funding necessary for about 4 months is within agreed parameters. Currently, the balance of the buffer is 4.787 billion EUR or 14% higher than May 8, 2012.

Romania has in IMF accounts a credit line of 3.2 billion euro, a sum which the Government does not intend to use, because, as I stated above, Romania enjoys domestic and international financial market confidence which ensures the necessary funding.

A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF THE CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT

Coverage of current account deficit through foreign direct investment at the end of the previous Government' term of office, was only 8.4%, while in late august, the same indicator stands at 30.1%, which corresponds to an improvement of 3 , 6 times.

ACCELERATION OF STRUCTURAL REFORMS PACE

We achieved structural reforms at state companies level. We privatized / are about to fully privatize minority stakes in some state-owned companies in the fields of energy, transport and the Romanian Post. We have implemented procedures of gradual liberalization of prices for gas and electricity (Boc Government's commitment to the foreign creditors). We will apply a transparent and clear policy on subsidizing vulnerable consumers, financed by a tax levied on exceptional revenues of energy companies. We restructured Hidroelectrica in order to reach the actual level of profitability that society potential confers by canceling contracts with damage by electricity selling to "smart guys". We went through all the legal procedures for the sale of a minority stake in Transgaz, approach which is in the final phase of implementation. We offered for privatization of a majority stake of Oltchim, commitment taken to the foreign partners since June 2011 by the Government of the time which undertook the sale of the company until the end of 2011. Ponta Government paid Oltchim outstanding wages and restarted the plant. In addition to it, it is preparing a new privatization procedure. We have completed the procedure for selecting and appointing private management to a first group of companies belonging to the state, of which, there have already been appointed private managers at Tarom. We streamlined state companies included in this program. We removed the losses of state-owned companies and increased the profitability of others of these companies.

STIMULATION OF PRIVATE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT THROUGH FISCAL MEASURES

Enacted measures that will take effect from January 1, 2013:

- The introduction of VAT upon collection, for taxpayers with a turnover of less than 2. 250. 000 ceiling. Beneficiaries - about 430,000 VAT payers, representing approximately 92% of the total number of VAT payers;
- Simplification of declaration and payment of capital gains tax by giving up the quarterly declaration and quarterly advance payments for annual declaration and payment. The measure aims to simplify income tax administration and encourage capital market development.
- Transposition of Directive 2010/45/EC on issuing invoices which will provide legal certainty to taxpayers regarding invoicing obligations by

establishing clear rules on information in invoice and deadline for cross-border transactions invoicing.

MACROECONOMIC POLICY

Macroeconomic corrective measures chosen for 2010-2011 to reduce the budget deficit were inadequate because they affected the entire population, especially low-income population, increased social inequality, fueled inflation. Furthermore, importance of EU funds absorption was underestimated as an instrument to counter the macroeconomic effects of the crisis, the level of public spending could have been protected by absorption of structural and cohesion funds of 1.5% - 2% of GDP annually.

USL government that sworn in May 2012 continued fiscal budget consolidation process from 5.6% of GDP budget deficit in 2011 through commitments methodology (ESA) to below 3% of GDP in 2012, which is a remarkable adjustment to more so as it was done in an election year. At the end of this year, mainly due to the consolidation effort, Romania has a very good chance to get out of the excessive deficit procedure.

Commitments with international partners have been maintained clearly but there were implemented measures that eased painful social effects of previous years. On the part of budgetary expenditure, USL Government operated two fundamental reasons related to their increased efficiency: reducing waste, which should be a permanent objective of budget execution and, arising from this process, release of resources for other needs, including social ones. Thus, there was reduced misallocation of public money, being saved resources for salaries completion and return of CAS withheld from retirees.

Macroeconomic policy challenges persist over the next few years as a result of constraints on aggregate domestic demand, on the one hand and a hostile international environment, the persistent crisis in the euro area, on the other hand. It is necessary, in this context, of an appropriate macroeconomic policy mix consisting of:

- Structural reforms to promote investment process as a decisive factor of economic growth. Reforms are priority in the administration

of state-owned companies, in tax revenue collection, in public expenditure management, education and health.

- Substantial improvement in the rate of absorption of structural funds, the cheapest source of external financing and an instrument for protecting public spending levels under the effect of driving their growth.

- Further fiscal and budgetary consolidation on both routes. On the revenues side, we aim to increase the collection of taxes by countering tax evasion. On the expenditure side, we aim to further increase their efficiency.

- Increasing employment through active measures to create jobs and stimulate business environment development;

- Maintaining an adequate level of the buffer stock of public budget;

- A prudent management of public debt;

- Substantiation of a set of macroeconomic policies (monetary, foreign exchange, fiscal and budgetary) to prevent slippage, large imbalances.

Acceleration of structural reforms and mobilization of large domestic reserves of efficiency will help the Romanian economy to capitalize on its economic growth potential, estimated at 3% per year.

The Romanian Government will pursue this objective to be achieved by policies that take into account the need to reconcile economic efficiency and entrepreneurship development with a social reality crumbled by inequalities.

Domestic macroeconomic policy cannot be dissociated from economic governance in the EU. Romania will participate in the mechanisms of European economic policy coordination. Romania maintains its objective of joining the euro area, being concerned with real convergence as a prerequisite to achieve this aim.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture and development of the Romanian village are absolute priorities of the current Government. Romania has lost a lot, following deterioration in the agricultural sector by the destruction of chains on products and therefore the division into millions of small farms,

lacking equipment necessary for modern agriculture and which finds it difficult to align to market requirements and a modern and performing agriculture.

In this term of office, we intend to capitalize on real agricultural potential of Romania, while revitalizing rural areas.

We aim that the agricultural sector becomes an engine of growth and a source of employment for the rural population, once with the guarantee of farmers' incomes.

It is necessary to accelerate the modernization of agriculture to enable it to provide food for the entire population, to restore the internal market, a decent standard of living for farmers, reduce imports and increase exports of agro-food products.

USL Government considers it essential to reduce gaps between rural area in Romania and that of Member States in Western Europe.

Raising living standards, creating jobs and providing access to health services and public education represent fundamental objectives of the Liberal Social Union Government.

DIRECTIONS OF ACTION

Development of agriculture and Romanian village

- Increase in competitiveness of Romanian agriculture to meet European and international market competition, increase in agricultural productivity necessary to allow coverage of agricultural products amount and increased exports, particularly of finished products;
- Development of irrigation system, completing primary irrigation infrastructure (Siret - Baragan Channel) and rehabilitation of land reclamation;
- Setting channels on products - or, more quality products will not reach the market or will be sold at ridiculous prices;
- Review of tax system and evasion combating, on average term, establishing a reduced VAT at basic food products, provided that the necessary fiscal space is ensured;
- Encouraging niche agriculture (example: organic agriculture and traditional products);

- Development of fruit production sector;
- Creation of platforms for taking over, sorting, conditioning, storage, packaging and analysis of fruits and vegetables and the proper functioning of markets.
- Establishing agricultural credit fund and the mutual one in agriculture;
- Identification of measures designed to lead to the development of the economic role of agriculture associative organizations;
- Reform in research and innovation in agriculture, development of a national program of agricultural research - development during 2014 - 2020, which is consistent with the future of the CAP;
- Adoption of measures to lead to land merger and reducing the number of farms and farm;
- The renewal and development of mountain areas;
- Identification of new support measures for young farmers;
- Adoption of measures to establish a functioning land market establishment of lending scheme for land acquisition

European funds

- Acceleration of the absorption of EU funds. It is essential for Romania to minimize the amounts to be disengaged finally.
- Negotiation of a larger EU budget for agriculture and rural development in the period 2014-2020.
- Preparation and negotiation of the National Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020; future program will ensure identification of real priorities of Romanian rural environment and focus of funds only on priority projects
- Taking the necessary steps at EU level to increase direct payments in order to reduce the gap with neighboring states, but also to lead to increased competitiveness of Romanian farmers throughout the European Union

Legislative acts

- Simplification of legislation and procedures - this is an objective necessity, given that agricultural European legislation is already very complex and Romania usually complicate it more
- A better and consistent dialogue with producer organizations, processors and retailers in adopting the legislation in the area;

Institutional Reform of the Ministry of Agriculture and

subordinated

institutions

Application of the common agricultural policies cannot be achieved without a major reform in the Romanian administration.

- Introduction of modern management within the Ministry;
- Improving farmers awareness of support measures (measures of e-government);
- Creation of a budget projection of the MADR, for a minimum of three years and perspective for the period 2014-2020. Programme for Agriculture will reflect the financing needs of the sector in order to carry out a multi-year budget planning
- Upgrading the efficiency of agencies by their merger;
- Ensuring sufficient staff, well trained and properly paid.
- Gradual involvement of representative professional organizations in payments, as a measure to increase their sense of responsibility

Agricultural Chambers

- Their transformation into consulting suppliers to farmers and young entrepreneurs in rural areas;
- Developing the legal framework necessary for them to be able to provide self-financing;
- Fulfilling the role of Agricultural Chambers as defined to meet the requirements at national and European level.

All these aims will be achieved through:

- Institutional capacity building;
- Efficient use of natural resources
- Training and continuing professional education;
- Strengthening the capacity of forecasting, the correct estimation of the agricultural sector developments;
- Developing research and innovation in the field;
- Scientific advisory opinions where appropriate.

FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE AND ROMANIAN VILLAGE

- Restoring the place of agriculture given its potential and traditions;
- Association in agriculture will reach the required level for the promotion of a competitive agriculture based on European and international market demand;

- Development of livestock and increasing its share in total agricultural production is a priority;
- We promote and support organic and traditional Romanian products;
- MADR will have a functioning and depoliticized administrative structure;
- Farmers will be informed and professionally trained through programs dedicated to RDP;
- Employers' organizations will play a greater role in decision making in agriculture;
- Increasing role of farmers so that they can be able to decisively influence the agricultural policies;
- Increase in irrigated areas through incentives for efficiency in water use and facilitating farmers access to affordable electricity;
- Romania can become from importer **a player on the international market**;
- Procedures for granting European agricultural funds will be simplified to facilitate the beneficiaries access.
- There will be redefined the tourist role, but not only of the Romanian village.

DEFENCE

Defence Policy of the Government of Romania in the period 2013-2016, will ensure strategic continuity issues on the NATO, the EU and Strategic Partnerships dimension, particularly for the XXI Century Strategic Partnership with the U.S., will generate the increase in operational capacity of forces and ensure implementation of a human resource management model for the development of professional motivation and career development.

Directions of action:

- Continued participation in international operations honoring commitments undertaken to NATO and the EU;
- Fulfilling responsibilities arising from membership of NATO and the EU to provide capabilities necessary to meet political and military ambition level of the two organizations;
- Active engagement in projects under the initiatives' Smart Defence / NATO "and" Pooling and Sharing / EU ";

- Fulfilling obligations under the strategic partnership with the U.S., including those identified under Law nr.290/2011 on deployment of missile shield elements of the U.S. / NATO in Romania;
- Increased contribution to regional security and stability;
- Active participation in decision-making processes within the North - Atlantic Alliance and the European Union;
- Review of regulatory framework specific for defense, military career management, remuneration and military occupational pension system;
- Development of planning documents under the law, the White Paper on Defence and Military Strategy of Romania, through a strategic review of defense;
- Review of the structure of the Ministry;
- Improved quality of life for the Romanian Army personnel in line with economic and social realities and membership of NATO and the EU, at the same time with increase in the attractiveness of the military profession;
- Reorganization of own medical system in conjunction with operational needs and the national healthcare system;
- Modernization of military education;
- Restoring the operational capacity of the Romanian Army, based on the principles of defence planning process in NATO, to develop a structure of force and optimize a decision making act under a multiannual plan of recovery and consolidation of the operational capacity of the Romanian Army;
- Increased budgetary allocations for defence in order to achieve sustainable and operational capacity;
- Reconsider purchase and procurement programs in relation to available financial resources and operational needs;
- Gradually making the air defense capability through the "multi-role aircraft";
- Efficient management of the Ministry property;
- Clarification of the situation of "Romavia" Autonomous State Owned Romanian Aviation Company;
- Stimulating domestic production of domestic defence industry as required by Army and NATO and EU standards.

WATERS AND FORESTS

Water and forest policies will seek sustainable and efficient management of natural resources in order to increase the economic benefits of population without endangering the constitutional right to a healthy environment, ensuring sustainable water management, including risk prevention and mitigation of natural disasters to increase safety of citizens and ensuring sustainable management of forests and wildlife hunting.

Directions of action

Water management and flood risk

- Sustainable management of water resources, flood protection, ensuring proper hydro-meteorological monitoring, protection of water supplies, improving water quality to achieve good water status and improving the legal framework, methodologies, rules and regulations in the areas of water management, meteorology and hydrology.
- Integrating elements of water protection into sectoral policies developed at EU level, in particular the Common Agricultural Policy, Energy and Climate Change.
- Improvement of water resources management, on river basins, in order to ensure in safe conditions the public water requirements, irrigation, industry and animal husbandry.
- Reducing vulnerability to climate change by improving the response capacity at central, regional and local emergency caused by floods or drought, particularly focusing actions in areas where citizens are particularly vulnerable and / or ecosystems are exposed to such effects.
- Meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union to achieve good ecological status of water.
- Achievement of investment projects of water supply, town sewerage and wastewater treatment plants in order to implement European directives in the water sector, and in order to comply with European and international commitments in this area.
- Implementation of the national strategy for flood risk management in the medium and long term to prevent and reduce flood risk to the population and increase the safety of citizens and property.
- Management of river basins to mitigate the effects of floods and hydrological drought.
- Improved prognosis, increase in response times of the authorities involved and improved coordinated operation of reservoirs.

National meteorological system administration

- Improved forecasts, their integration with hydrological forecasts for knowledge and forecasting of complex and conjugated purposes phenomena and efficient information flow to the population and decision makers at central and local level.
- Ensuring meteorological and hydrological monitoring in order to protect life and property.
- The issuance of forecasts, warnings and forecasts, and integrated hydro-meteorological warnings to inform the public and policy makers to prevent and / or reduce the effects of severe weather phenomena.

Protection and sustainable management of forests and wildlife hunting

Sustainable management of forests and wildlife hunting in order to increase their contribution to improving quality of life and sustainable development, economic growth and increase in environmental potential of forests, increase in forest protection efforts through proper management and improving the legal framework on forestry and hunting area.

- Approval of a national forestry strategy and Revision of the National Forest Programme for a sustainable forest management.
- Development of a National Afforestation Program that has as main objective to increase forest cover in support of adaptation to climate change (land stabilization, improvement of the water cycle in nature, combating desertification, increasing capacity to absorb emissions of greenhouse gases) .
- Preparation of a National Forest Inventory for better knowledge of forest resources and the creation of the framework required to achieve the Land survey works for the National Forest Fund.
- Making complex arrangement works of **torrential catchments** and afforestation of degraded lands and the creation of forest belts.
- Development of a network of national forest fund accessibility.
- Promoting forest certification in the National Forest Fund in order to increase economic and ecological potential of forests.
- Streamlining of the control on the observance of the use of forest resources regime.
- Sustainable use of wildlife resources.
- Promotion of the use and exploitation of secondary products and services provided by forest ecosystems.

Fishery

- Fishing sustainable activities and economically competitive aquaculture with observance of ecological principles.
- Development of infrastructure for economic efficiency of commercial fishing.
- Creating the framework for aquaculture development in order to increase the contribution of this activity to the economic cycle and decrease in the pressure of the demand for fishery products on natural fish resource.

BUDGET

- An annual average economic growth rate of 3% in the period 2013-2016.
- Maintaining the ESA -system budget deficit below 3% of GDP by 2016, following the criteria set by the Maastricht Treaty.
- Achieving a structural budget deficit of 0.7% of GDP in 2014 and maintaining it at that level in 2015 and 2016.
- Maintaining the share of total public debt in GDP to a sustainable level, significantly lower than the 60% of GDP set by the Maastricht Treaty.
- Drafting a public debt management Strategy after Polish model, transposed by law, which to include automatic adjustment measures in case of exceeding thresholds of debt.
- Taking all necessary steps to pass, with the budget of 2014, to the multi-annual budget programming in line with best international practices in the field.
- We will continue agreements with external partners (EU, IMF, World Bank) and we will comply with them.
- Managing public finances will be characterized by predictability, transparency, clear rules and procedures in all their segments, both at central and local level.

COMMUNICATIONS

Since the main aim of integrating digital technologies in Romanian economy and society is to foster innovation and economic growth while improving the quality of daily life of citizens and enterprises, the main objectives of the USL Government program for the period 2013 - 2016 aimed at the implementation of the European provisions of the Digital Agenda, aligning to the legal framework with respect to broadband communications, access to public information, electronic identity, personal data protection and interoperability solutions implementation in accordance with the European framework.

Adoption and rapid implementation of measures related to information technology and communications in the EU Agenda 2020 will be achieved through the development and implementation of the "National Strategy on the Digital Agenda for Romania". This unique national strategic vision will be the envelope of all sectoral strategies and national plans specific to development priorities in the field. Such an approach provides a unified coordination of the seven pillars included in the European strategy Digital Agenda for Europe. For this purpose, there will be established a coordination mechanism and internal monitoring, at the level of the Romanian Government, through harmonization between the various policies and sectoral strategies proposed in the Digital Agenda.

To monitor and evaluate the effects of the measures foreseen in the strategy for its improvement or correction, there will be established a regular dialogue with representatives of civil society and business environment.

With a view to ensuring the right to non-discriminatory information of citizens, there will be ensured legal framework for the transition to digital terrestrial television, and implementation of a national pilot project for broadcasting TV programs in digital format.

For the liberalization of postal services, postal universal service and modernization of Romanian Post services, there will be ensured the adequate legal framework.

DIRECTIONS OF ACTION

e-Governance, Interoperability, Cloud Computing, Social Media

E-governance involves more than IT systems, this involves rethinking organizations and processes so that public services are delivered

more efficiently. e-Governance enables citizens, business environment and public organizations to reach their objectives easier, faster and at a lower cost. Ensuring interoperability of systems will significantly encourage electronic public service delivery through governance and proper processes in accordance with the policies and objectives of the European Union and through secure exchange of information.

- Achieving interoperability nationwide coordinated with the EU, to streamline public activities in the sense of orientation on electronic services and focused on events in the life of a citizen;
 - Supporting institutional coordination system to ensure implementation of interoperability framework, as agreed at European level from strategic and organizational viewpoint.
 - Supporting cooperation among public institutions for alignment and interconnection to achieve and implement trans-European public services
 - Implementation of a centralized system of user authentication and unique identification (digital certificate, one time password, digital fingerprint, etc.)
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- Implementation of Cloud technologies within public institutions by creating a centralized scalable and dynamic platform offering high quality IT services at low cost to a level of security at European standards. Government Cloud will combine a particular concept of Hybrid Cloud - A Public Cloud area dedicated to the relationship with citizens in e-Governance (streamlines e-Gov development costs) and a sensitive area of Private Cloud dedicated to governmental organizations interoperability
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- Implementation of cloud services monitoring, defining a legislative framework and methodological standards for the provision of cloud services and the implementation of measures to assess the vulnerabilities and penetration testing for computing cloud architectures.
 - Implementation of Open Data European Initiative – making accessible, reusable and redistributable data available for free to the public, without taking into account the restrictions on the type of copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control (open data) through open-data portal for government

- Promotion and implementation of BIG data time innovative processing technologies systems to optimize decision making processes and to facilitate data analysis in public administration
- Simplification of administrative procedures by promoting electronic platforms to facilitate the exchange of documents at the level of the regional and local central public administration.
- Implementation of the security controls in accordance with the best practices and national and European regulations concerning the protection of personal data and their periodic audits (annual), is a first step in increasing public confidence of citizens in electronic government systems;
- Review of the field legislation on electronic identification, electronic signature, timestamp and use of documents electronically.
- Development of a strategic framework to combat cybercrime and to increase citizens' confidence in the use of information technology.
- Promotion and implementation of collaborative online systems, participatory instruments and electronic services to public and governmental initiatives for individuals and business environment.
- Stimulation of citizens with respect to generating digital content relevant for Romania and contributions in collaborative digital media (online Romania)
- Improving data and disaster centers activity, information and support services to achieve common information environment of public administration institutions enabling significant acceleration of decision-making processes at central, sectoral and territorial levels through more efficient use of ICT systems of planning and decision support.

ICT in the service of education, health and culture

- Basic digital skills training for Romanian citizens with a focus on disadvantaged (elderly, disabled, etc.).
- Support, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, of innovative methods of integrating Web 2.0 educational resources and open educational resources into learning process;
- Publication and dissemination of digital cultural heritage of Romania: public libraries, museums, cultural objectives. Providing easy access to on-line cultural information
- Provision, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, of teacher continual training programs for convergence with technological pace;

- Support for the organization of eContent national competitions for undergraduate education
- Support for full computerization of educational establishments and education administrative services at all levels
- Support for initiatives to promote the implementation and interoperability of eHealth solutions at national and European level (hospital information systems, laboratory information systems, applications for family doctors, etc.), administrative IT systems (accounting, human resources, etc) and national e-health systems (statistics, CNAS, DSP)
- Provision of mobility character of medical information in electronic format within the health system organizations;

E-commerce and ICT R & D and innovation

- Promotion of modern mechanisms of e-commerce, m-commerce, m-wallet and NFC through alignment with European regulations
- Encouraging traders to use electronic sales channels: e-commerce, m-commerce, both on domestic market and abroad
- Initiation of research and innovation programs in IT&C with a predominantly applied character, based on industry needs;
- Introduction of smart specialization as a prerequisite for funding research activities in selected sectors as priorities for Romania. Ensuring the innovation clusters type mechanisms and poles of competitiveness for regional growth;
- Stimulation of private investment in research and innovation in order to increase the share of innovative products and services in the Romanian economy to ensure competitiveness and stimulate productivity;
- Implementation of projects within Connecting Europe programme, both in electronic communications infrastructure, and in terms of the development of electronic services.

Broadband and digital services infrastructure

The overall objective is to improve the availability of broadband services for Romanian citizens and businesses in rural areas by creating a broadband infrastructure (distribution networks), seeking to comply with the coverage and quality standards adopted by the EU. This measure will have a direct impact on reducing the digital gap, promoting competitive environment in IT & C market, accelerating the

transition to the information society in Romania, increasing cohesion and social inclusion.

- Developing a set of normative and legislative acts that encourage the development of broadband infrastructure and ensure a competitive environment;
- Ensuring a unitary institutional framework to enable effective coordination of investment in the communications infrastructure in which all relevant stakeholders to be involved;
- Upgrading broadband networks (NGA-FTTH) - which aims to improve all broadband communications networks, in order to ensure technical requirements imposed by the new set of applications generated in accordance with the Digital Agenda 2020.

Setting up in direct coordination of the Prime Minister of the Online Services and Design Department, having as main responsibilities:

- a) *To lead* the transformation and innovation process of online services provided by the Romanian Government;
- b) *To plan*, develop and implement initiatives aimed at correct and transparent public information on public administration's work modalities;
- c) *To improve* the involvement of citizens in decision-making process for delivery of public services of quality;
- d) *To coordinate* efforts to achieve a unique recruitment portal for vacancies financed from the state budget and local budgets, as well as other initiatives on transparency and integrity of public administration;
- e) *To achieve* centralization of primary data on public administration employees, on public expenditure and other aggregation initiatives of data produced by public entities;
- f) *To lead* efforts on open data, empowering citizens to identify, download and use public data sets generated or held by the public administration;
- g) *To monitor* the implementation of e-Government projects, Partnership for Open Government (*Open Government Partnership*), the strategy on the EU Digital Agenda and to support public institutions involved;
- h) *To supervise* the process of defining and implementing a unitary visual identity at the level of central public administration and also of

a unitary presence in the state entities online environment, including the implementation of gov.ro domain at the level of the entire public system.

CULTURE

The main mission of cultural policy consists, on the one hand, to enhance inventory, conservation, restoration and enhancement capacity of national and local cultural heritage, on the other hand, to support the most significant forms of artistic creativity and the most competitive cultural industries. The method to pursue this mission is to support local collectivities in enhancing institutional, budgetary and technical capacity to encourage, manage, protect and promote local cultural expressions and individual creativity. This support aims to facilitate access forms both to public funds and European programs dedicated to cultural heritage, cultural industries or regional development and tourism.

National culture is the most comprehensive expression of national identity understood in its historical depth and diversity and the cultural heritage is the most important dowry which the nation can make to the common European space. At this stage, preservation of the built heritage is the main emergency of cultural policies. Protection and knowledge of cultural heritage, of a unique diversity in Europe must become a priority for the entire Romanian society by introducing this topic in formal and informal education. In this way, culture becomes a constitutive public good of democratic citizenship, both national and European. Therefore, we propose a vision that would lead to an intensive and extensive capitalization of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Romania.

Fundamental objectives

- Development, submission of Cultural Heritage Code to public debate and legislative promotion in order to achieve an effective and efficient protection of cultural heritage and its introduction into the national and international circuit.

- Establishment of National Education and Training System in built heritage area with integration of the mechanism for certification of specialists and experts in the field.
- Completion of inventory and ranking of built and movable national heritage and strengthening legal device and administrative means of rescue, protection and enhancement of historical and architectural monuments, sites and urban assemblies as well as public monuments.
- Establishment of National Heritage Fund, a public institution that will take over the administration, restoration, preservation and enhancement of the historical and architectural monuments of uncertain status of property or privately owned or managed by local authorities and which are in a state of abandonment and decay.

Directions of action

- Preparation of the background document to start negotiations with the European Commission for SOP Culture-Heritage-Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of European Funds.
- Re-institution of the programme "Heritage at risk" for outdoor ethnographic museum based on financing with private contribution, patronage and sponsorship.
- Initiation of procedures for inclusion of monumental ensemble "Heroes Way" from Targu-Jiu on UNESCO World Heritage List, thus contributing to the promotion and recognition of Romanian cultural values internationally.
- Start of a complex project to solve the situation of Orăştie Dacian fortresses, site included on World Heritage List in 1999 because of its exceptional value in terms of history and culture.
- Promotion of Horezu pottery as an element of national intangible heritage, given its inclusion on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Encouragement and support of research in the field of intangible heritage in Romania, through the inventory of assets and completion of the Second Volume of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Romania. Directory II and the adoption of new legislation to protect intangible heritage according to 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

- Drafting and setting up collections for a "Museum of Communism" that will illustrate everyday life under state socialism, material culture, repression and forms of resistance.
- Designing a concert hall in Bucharest at international standards that will become the reference center for Enescu festivals.
- Support for systematic and continuous Romanian participation in international cultural events (Venice Biennale, International Exhibition of Books etc.).
- Development of public-private partnerships in the field of artistic industries (media, advertising, design, fashion, etc).
- Completion of the National Institute of Heritage mission with continual training and certification of national heritage professionals.
- Establishment, in addition to the National Heritage Institute, of a National Restoration Center to bring together professionals and the craft of art restoration and establish national standards for interventions on monuments and movable heritage objects.
- Preservation and development of artistic craftsmanship within a program conducted jointly with the Ministry of Education.
- Development in partnership with the Ministry of Education, of arts and cultural education in the pre-university education and of the scientific research in the field of heritage at the university level.
- Launching the National Directory of Historic Monuments in cooperation with the Romanian Academy.
- Legislative clarification and increase in rigor of regulations in the field of literary and artistic property.
- Development and implementation, in partnership with General City Hall of Bucharest and District 3 City Hall, of the integrated project "Historic center of the capital" for the establishment of a protected cultural area, enhancement of historical monuments and architectural heritage, industries and artistic crafts.
- Supporting contemporary artistic creation by supporting creative camps, exhibitions and cultural events organization in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute.
- Supporting the Romanian film industry to strengthen its international competitiveness.
- Supporting the churches to introduce security systems in places of worship which are home to movable heritage objects.

DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Argument for setting up the MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Background

- In recent years, we have witnessed the continuous process of centralization of powers in the Ministries, this action having as direct consequences:
 - Underfunding of public services managed by local authorities (education, health, social care, public infrastructure of water, sewer, roads, etc..)
 - Management of national programs on exclusively political criteria, lacking transparency;
 - An apparent decentralization achieved only at a formal level, but without financial support;
 - Intensifying political control of mayors and chairmen of county councils by providing financial resources only on the grounds of political affiliation and not based on analysis of the needs of local communities;
 - Strengthening the local public authorities bureaucracy.

- Total lack of public investment prioritization and strategy at national level, to contain elements and clearly defined criteria emphasized the current disparities between rural and urban areas, between counties and between regions.

NECESSITY

- As local administration is closest to the citizen public system and therefore needs all the levers and skills needed to prevent, identify and solve the citizens' problems.
- As the regional development cannot be achieved without local authorities.
- Since it is necessary to improve the legislative framework related to local realities and needs.

- Because it requires a coherent development strategy both national and regional to provide standards of civilization and comfort to all Romanian citizens
- Increase in the absorption of EU funds by simplifying procedures for submission, evaluation, implementation and verification of projects.
- Territorial administrative reorganization by creating the institutional framework for the operation of territorial administrative regions.
- Development of a strategic development plan for:
 - Reducing disparities in order to achieve the European average for all developing regions,
 - Accelerated recovery of economic and social delays of less developed areas, due to historical, geographical, economic, social, political conditions and prevention of new imbalances.

OBJECTIVES

- Prioritization of public investment for Romanian village in the sense of priority funding of a mandatory minimum package of public investments, such as: school, church, medical clinic and pharmacy, library and community center, water and sanitation, local roads, street lighting, sanitation, fire fighting machine, ambulance, municipal fair etc, to ensure minimum standards of civilization and comfort.
- Further reform of public administration, with emphasis on local autonomy by unleashing a real decentralization, while observing the subsidiarity principle.
- Harmonization of legislation governing public administration in order to improve the administrative act.
- Introduction of a system of indicators to assess the functioning of all public administration institutions, both at central and local level by using quality and cost standards for all public services. Review of all operating and regulatory rules of the administration, so that the activity of public administration should be measurable and effective.
- The streamlining of the concept of "one stop shop" and eGovernment systems to reduce bureaucracy, operating costs of the public administration system and expanding citizens' access to public information of local and national interest.

DIRECTIONS OF ACTION

1. Increased absorption of EU funds.

2. Prioritizing investment and public works in the context of sustainable and balanced regional development.

3 Regionalization and administrative and financial decentralization.

4. Amendment of legislation to streamline and de-bureaucratize public administration.

5. Promotion of incentive policies to stimulate the professional performance of public administration staff.

1. Increased absorption of EU funds

- urgent analysis of all amounts available under EU-funded programs and their reallocation to finance projects in the reserve lists.

- Restoring the strategic role of the Regional Development Council. The implementation of local / county / regional level strategies by prioritizing projects at UAT (administrative units) leading to balanced regional development.

- Promoting legislation to:

- reduce bureaucracy by eliminating notices and approvals in the project preparation phase, with the source of funding public and / or European funds and their replacement with notices of principle and their exemption from any taxes.

- clear regulation of powers and responsibilities of each institution involved in the management and control of EU funds, in order to eliminate super-control or the lack of control in some cases.

- The imposition of a single framework for access and reimbursement, regardless of program / AM / - technical and economic documents, notices, nature of eligible expenses, contributions to co-funding of projects, funding applications, progress reports, etc..

- Imposing shorter deadlines for reimbursement of expenses and conclusion of addenda to funding contracts.

- Acceleration of procurement from European funds by introducing the concept of maximum priority of publication of tender documentation in SEAP.

- Introduction of measures to prevent financial corrections by standardizing of tender documentation, including specifications and the introduction of cost and quality standards for all types of procurement (services, works, products supply).

2. Prioritizing investment and public works in the context of sustainable and balanced regional development

- Developing a strategic unitary plan of development that will focus mainly on reducing intra and inter regional disparities.
- Prioritization of public investments within strategic development plan and setting measurable indicators in conjunction with existing financial allocations and their division by region and county.
- The following programs: will be achieved and continued
 - The "Romanian village' Programme- priority funding of a mandatory minimum package of public investments, such as: *school, church, medical clinic and pharmacy, library and community center, water and sanitation, local roads, street lighting, sanitation, fire truck, ambulance, municipal borough, etc.. ensuring a minimum standard of civilization and comfort.*
 - The program for the sustainable development of small and medium towns.
 - Programme to stimulate the development of large urban agglomerations through institutional and legislative measures.
 - A program of modernization of county roads to ensure accessibility to national and European transport networks.
 - Housing programs:
 - For Youth
 - For some socio-professional categories (doctors, teachers, etc..)
 - Social Housing
 - Programs for thermal rehabilitation of residential buildings and seismic risk reduction.
 - Continuation of the "Heating 2006-2015" Programme.
 - Other programs under development, necessary and appropriate.
- Continuation with a view to completing unfinished projects started and which enroll in one of the programs of the Ministry, on the basis of priorities and criteria to be approved after consultation with beneficiaries.

3. Regionalization and administrative and financial decentralization

• **Completion of a rigorous timetable for decentralization of public administration includes:**

- Assigning responsibilities between central public administration on the one hand and the regional and local one, on the other hand.
- The devolution of powers within a stable and transparent process.
- Avoiding financial imbalances.
- Continuity of public service delivery.
- Amendment of all legislation on local public administration to create the necessary institutional framework of decentralization: Law 215/2001 on local public administration, Law 273/2006 on local public finance, Law 340/2006 of the institution of the prefect, Law 393/2004 of status of local elected, Law 95/2006 on decentralization, Law 315/2004 on regional development etc..
- The decentralization process must be carried out on three levels: local (municipalities, towns, cities), county and regional levels, so most decentralized services from counties to become institutions of county / local interest in the coordination / subordination of local authorities.
- Establishment of institutional framework for the establishment of administrative-territorial regions.
- Organizing the devolution of powers and competences among the Government, on the one hand and regions and districts, on the other hand, will be based on public debate, in collaboration with the media, NGOs and other public institutions interested as well as permanent and accurate information of citizens.
- The devolution to the regions will be achieved for their balanced development, namely:
 - Economic development of the region.
 - Management of EU funds at the regional level.
 - Management of regional infrastructure on road, rail, inland waterway, sea, air transport.
 - Management of health and medical infrastructure at regional level.
 - Promotion of regional tourism objectives.
 - Spatial planning at regional level.
 - Development of pre-university technical and vocational education at the regional level.
 - Development of regional programs for agricultural development to encourage access of Romanian products on the domestic and foreign markets, including through the creation of regional brands.
 - Management of social protection programs at regional level.

- Environmental protection at regional level.
- Emergency management at the regional level.
- Other powers etc.
- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES will pursue that in each region there are at least:
 - A regional hospital (with high performance medicine).
 - Regional system of emergency intervention.
 - Road and rail infrastructure upgraded.
 - An international airport.
 - A polyvalent regional sports center internationally.
 - A regional business center.
 - A cultural center of European level.
 - An internationally recognized university.
- The central authorities will develop all national public policies and regional and local authorities will develop their own policies observing the framework and rules, criteria and standards established through national public policies.
- Redefining the prefects' competences in the context of decentralization and devolution.
- The decentralization process will be achieved by providing financial resources adequate to devolved powers.
- Amendment of legislative acts regulating local public finances in order to achieve the following objectives:
 - Functioning of local public administration system;
 - Development of local communities;
 - Elimination of all forms of discrimination in the allocation of Government funds for local authorities;
 - Strengthening the capacity of local administration to attract European funds and fund / co-fund local development programs;
 - Introduction of quality standards for public services provided to the population, cost standards and norms related to the staff so that public expenditure to be justified and transparent. These will be determined by the Government together with local authorities' associative structures.

4. Amendment of the legislation to streamline and de-bureaucratize public administration

- Clear demarcation of responsibility of authorizing officers, elected officials in relation to subordinate officials, about the appropriateness and legality of administrative acts.

- Amendment of the legal provisions on the attack in the courts of administrative acts by the prefect (see suspension of the contested administrative act, the term for the promotion of appeal in court, etc..).
- Reconsidering the role and importance of the mayor and county council president in the context of increased duties and responsibilities after decentralization.
- Harmonization of all provisions of in force normative acts of public administration with current responsibilities and powers: Law no. 215/2001 on Local Public Administration, Law no. 393/2004 on the status of local elected officials, Law no. 161/2003 on measures to ensure transparency in the exercise of public dignities, civil offices and business environment, the prevention and punishment of corruption, Law no. 188/1999 on civil servants, Law no. 340/2004 regarding the prefect and the prefect institution, Law no. 95/2006 on decentralization, Law no. 315/2004 on Regional Development, Law 273/2006 on local public finances etc..

4. Promotion of incentive policies to stimulate the professional performance of public administration staff

- decentralization of public office management to authorizing officers (recruitment, promotion, temporary deployment) in order to simplify and streamline administrative system.
- Development of a legislative framework to encourage professional performance, limiting the exodus of staff and attracting critical socio-professional categories in public administration by introducing motivators.
- Professionalization of the civil service by:
 - Reviewing professional performance evaluation system
 - Reforming development / training of civil servants and creating a body of expert trainers.

EDUCATION

Government strategy in education aims to achieve several objectives:

- Increase performance of Romanian educational system;
- Ensure social equity policies;

- Provide skills and competencies enabling personal, intellectual and professional development, from the perspective of lifelong learning;
- Open the education, training and research to society, to the social, economic and cultural environment;
- Strengthen social cohesion and increase citizen participation in economic and social development programs by promoting active citizenship;
- Enhance innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and professional training;
- Build the knowledge society through education transformation into vector of socio-economic development;
- Ensure the competitiveness at European and international level;
- Perpetuate cooperation with Romanian scientific Diaspora;
- Stimulate creativity, innovation and technology transfer;
- Depoliticize system and promote professionals in educational management;
- Promote public policies based on system needs identified by studies and analyses;
- Observe the principle of education autonomy and public accountability principle and strengthen the legal mechanisms related to the operation of these principles;
- Integrate young people into the labor market by developing policies to ensure a high level of growth and sustainable employment based on knowledge;
- Increase the international visibility of Romanian educational results;
- Coordinate education sector policies with policies and initiatives of other sectors in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives;
- Increase financial resources for education, including by attracting private funding sources;
- Observe the principle of social dialogue;
- Assume the role of a member state of the European Union through participation in policies and joint initiatives in education, research, both in the Union and outside it (cooperation with Asia, Australia, Latin America, North America and Africa);
- Increase Romania's role in assisting other countries in education in order to achieve the objectives of the Education for All initiative, an initiative supported by the UN and coordinated globally by UNESCO.

SOCIAL PACKAGE FOR EDUCATION

- Implementation of programs enabling conditions for the development and training of children from birth to age of majority.
- This package will provide assistance to parents of infants on growth conditions, integration of children in the nursery school or preschool, attending a quality school program in schools adequately equipped to shape students intellectually and professionally, while providing services of health, physical development (in school sports clubs) and socio-cultural development.
- *SOCIAL PACKAGE FOR EDUCATION* will be customized based on a number of items so as to guarantee equal opportunities, regardless of the social status of the families, gender, religion, ethnicity, psychomotor skills, etc.

INVESTMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCES to:

- Professionalize teaching career in Romania and reconsider teacher degree system from this perspective;
- Professionalize managerial career in education;
- Resize ratio between the theoretical and practical component of training curriculum of teachers;
- Develop the educational market of continual training programs based on a competitive system;
- Strengthen partnerships between higher education and pre-university education in initial and continuous training for the teaching career, which ensure appropriateness of contents and methods of training for the needs of teachers;
- Link structures and the stages of the teaching career to educational standards and provide professional dynamics by using transferable professional credits system;
- Redefine the status and role of auxiliary staff in terms of professional skills and increase their contribution to ensuring the quality of education;
- Develop modern institutional structures in order to optimize the educational staff continual training activities;
- Provide career development based on professional competence;
- Promote a more extensive range of continuing education courses for teachers and support staff in secondary education, including conversion/reconversion type;
- Provide a payroll system and the financial motivation in accordance with the role of the teacher in society.

MATERIAL BASIS OF EDUCATION

Provision and modernization of material basis of pre-university education, considering standardization conditions nationwide where possible. The four directions will aim to:

- Modernizing teaching and learning process by means of information and communication technologies;
- Connecting all schools to the Internet via high-speed connections;
- Equipping school libraries, including extending digital libraries;
- Investing in educational infrastructure and learning means;
- Achieving strong educational centers to provide education services to children up to high school education, scholarships, accommodation and/ or daily transportation (school buses project continuation, initiated during 2001 - 2004 governance and maintained in 2005-2008 governance) where appropriate, sports facilities and housing for teachers.
- The distribution of these investments in Romania will be based on the actual needs of the country and the school network dynamics predicted for the next two decades.
- These objectives will be mainly funded from the state budget, but a good portion of the necessary funds may be covered by accessing various operational programs financed from EU structural funds and other sources.
- Finalization of investments started.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS CORRELATION WITH LABOUR MARKET

Initial training of young people, and the continual training of adults cannot be achieved without a closer correlation of curricula with the concerns and needs of the current socio-economic area, by:

- Frequently conducting studies on the economic needs of firms and using the results of these studies in the design of new curricula;
- Proper substantiation of the curricula;
- Adapting the curriculum to school;
- Linking vocational and technical education to firms' requirements;
- Extending extracurricular activities;
- Developing specialized internships;

- Amending labor laws to allow pupils over 16 and students to work during the holidays with the observance of all the rights specific to their level of education and their age;
- Following the graduates throughout their professional track to record a feed-back on their career success;
- Developing programs for retraining and / or continual training, depending on the system needs;
- Reactivating the Agency - established during 2001-2004 government - dealing with the relationship between school / university and socio-economic environment. The funding of this agency can be achieved entirely from extra-budgetary sources.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Supporting those extracurricular educational policies which by completing approved curricula, to ensure:

- education for health;
- civic education;
- cultural, artistic and scientific education;
- environmental education;
- education through sport;
- road safety education;
- education for sustainable development.

LEARNING AND EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

With respect to education for national minorities, for the next decade, the Government should consider:

- Ensuring conditions to learn the Romanian language and the mother tongue by the students;
- Increasing the coverage of education in mother tongue, while increasing its quality;
- Developing textbooks in minority languages for compulsory education and stimulating the development and / or translation of textbooks for secondary higher education;
- Restructuring of curriculum from a multicultural perspective;
- Developing a network of school mediators to encourage participation of Roma population in compulsory education;
- Initial and continuous training of teachers for minority language education;

- Providing access to each child belonging to minorities (including the Roma population) to basic education and stimulating their participation in higher levels of education.

DECENTRALIZATION AND DEPOLITICIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL UNITS

- Observing the principle of subsidiary, the Government and the Ministry of Education will act on those policies that will enable better management of public resources at the micro level, in relation to education and regional development goals they have to meet.
- Decentralization cannot be done without strengthening legislation on public accountability and protecting educational institutions from political interference. These measures will strengthen the local communities' attachment to the activities that take place in school, ensuring the stability of teachers and school management teams and increasing transparency.

AUTONOMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Autonomy of higher education institutions is a principle guaranteed by the Constitution and should be extended in relation to current legislation.

This principle is defined by five components:

- self-government, based on a broader legal framework;
- Performance-based funding;
- the right to have its own personnel policy;
- the right to decide on the contents of learning / research, under the law and the objectives set by each educational institution in part;
- public accountability in relation to the programs undertaken.

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF ROMANIAN EDUCATION

- Further policies to strengthen bilateral and multilateral international partnerships, encouraging exchanges of students, teachers, etc.. within the existing programs (Erasmus, CEPUS, Fulbright, DAAD, Francophone space related programs, bilateral agreements, etc..) and the development of new directions of international cooperation.
- Romania has to re-enter the market of education services for foreign students, which can bring together both prestige and significant financial resources.

- Strengthening the traditional relations between Romania and various international organizations in education and research (European Union, European Science Foundation, European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, etc..).
- Strengthening the education programs offered to Romanian ethnics abroad.
- The Ministry of Education will continue its active policy related to education initiatives at European level and will assume a role in the future too in the Bologna Process, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) etc..
- The new Government will develop mechanisms for international cooperation with countries in difficulty in terms of education reforms, particularly in terms of achieving the objectives undertaken by the initiative Education for All, an initiative supported by the UN and coordinated globally by UNESCO.

INCREASE IN ROMANIAN UNIVERSITIES COMPETITIVENESS

Government should adopt clear and urgent measures to ensure:

- appropriate and predictable multi-year funding for higher education institutions in Romania, on the basis of excellence criteria, with a view to strengthening the material basis and building new campuses, a process which should be correlated with the development vision of the sector for the next 20 years - University of the Future – 2030;
- Strengthening quality assurance criteria, in order to move to performance-based development;
- Focus of resources by fostering academic cooperation and not by measures questioning university autonomy;
- Reviving research grant competitions;
- Introduction of measures to stabilize the young teachers in Romanian universities;
- Stop the process of accelerated and abusive retirement of academic personalities;
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation of the system (eg Registry Single, National Qualifications Framework, etc..) And strategic planning based on national and international statistics, etc..

PROGRAMMES FOR EDUCATION

EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD IN ROMANIA

- Completion by the end of 2016 of school campuses program tailored to specific educational needs of the area (boarding, meals, workshops, scholarships, clothing, school supplies).
- Finalization of school infrastructure investment program until 2016.
- In each commune, there will be at least one school at European standards, equipped with modern teaching aids and school buses.
- Creation of 50,000 new places in kindergartens and nurseries by 2016.

RELATIONSHIP WITH LABOR MARKET AND ENSURING A CAREER

- Stimulation of public-private partnership between education and economic environment, with a view to drawing European funds, in order to increase the absorption rate of graduates on the labor market.
- The USL desideratum "A profession for every young person."

INSTITUTIONAL STIMULATION OF VOLUNTEER WORK

- Defining educational portfolio as fundamental criterion for career advancement.
- Stimulation of civil society initiatives to promote volunteer work.

DIASPORA

- The renewal and extension of language course, culture and Romanian civilization in Europe (Italy, Spain, France, Portugal and Cyprus, and in the future in as many Member States) for students of Romanian citizenship studying in public schools in aforementioned states.
- Attracting young Romanian living abroad in universities in Romania.
- Increase in the number of scholarships for children from Moldova and ethnic Romanian children from neighboring states.
- Adoption of programmatic solutions for reunification of families where parents work abroad.

AN INNOVATIVE SCHOOL

- Motivate teachers, recognizing their social role through remuneration, dignity and professional autonomy observance;

- Urgent integration of teaching staff in continuous training programs through projects financed from structural funds.
- Continuous training of teachers will be focused on:
 - digitized education;
 - curriculum adequate to innovative, creative training, and skills acquisition;
 - modern pedagogy, optimizing the relationship with parents, pupils and local authorities;
 - updating knowledge in the discipline curriculum.
- Development of students' creativity and capacity for innovation, focus on cultural acquisitions, technological knowledge, training skills for healthy living, sports, the environment, in the spirit of democratic principles, knowledge of at least two foreign languages;
- Promotion, through education, of a benchmark system in society;
- Substantiation of education on personal development needs in light of the objectives of the "Europe 2020" by:
 - Increasing the contribution of school and family in personalizing child education;
 - School guidance through psychopedagogical cabinets;
 - Developing lifelong learning skills to increase the capacity to adapt to new jobs.
- Computerization and fast internet access to all units and educational institutions by:
 - Creation of new learning opportunities with computer means, multimedia systems, educational software and data networks;
 - Multiplication of communication channels and new forms of socialization;
 - Development of management computerization in school administration;
 - Introduction of electronic books;
 - Establishment of pilot networks for schools in disadvantaged areas.
- Increased capacity for innovation and creativity from the perspective of sustainable development by:

- Further extracurricular complementary education;
 - Response to educational training needs of students and their parents to develop creativity and innovation;
 - Supporting students capable of innovation and creation.
- Providing complementary education to increase ability to adapt and rebuilding social cohesion by:
 - Developing educational alternatives;
 - Training young people through sports activities;
 - Rehabilitation camps for students;
 - Institutionalizing participation in projects and programs with themes that are complementary to the curriculum.
- Supporting programs "Second chance through education" in order to eliminate illiteracy and labor market integration through:
 - Ensuring equal opportunities and elimination of all forms of discrimination;
 - Facilities, appropriate policies and programs for vulnerable groups;
 - Support programmes for those who have left school early.
- Securing the autonomy of schools and teachers' professional autonomy by:
 - Institutionalization of school autonomy with assuming public responsibility with respect to public school performance;
 - Teachers' professional autonomy in the customized implementation of curricula;
 - Encouraging the setting up of training school consortia and professional associations;
 - Establishing legal framework for school partnership with local authorities and school operators concerned;
 - Participation of schools and teachers in programs and projects that benefit the educational process;
 - Establishing partnerships for best practices exchange with schools in the country and abroad;
 - Participation in training programs for personal development and boost in performance in the teaching career;
 - Encouraging private initiative in pre-university education.

- Generalizing the "School after school" programme in partnership with local authorities, parents, businesses, by:
 - Developing general framework in which the program "School after school" unfolds;
 - Providing decision autonomy at school level in partnership with parents and contributing local authorities;
 - Ensuring regulatory framework to include in the teaching load the hours worked in the "School after school" Programme

- Ensuring academic autonomy, coupled with public responsibility through:
 - The academic community freedom to manage their own study programs;
 - The academic community freedom to establish and choose democratically the management structures;
 - Backing private initiatives in higher education and securing functional autonomy.

- Increasing the role of universities in developing proactive regions of knowledge
 - Increasing the innovation capacity of human resources;
 - Achieving adequate infrastructure and logistics;
 - Developing services and innovative economic sectors;
 - Developing strategic alliances among universities, private companies and state agencies.

- Universities to create the knowledge economy
 - Participation of universities in developing public policies and strategies;
 - Developing collaborative networks for knowledge creation, their dissemination and use to increase welfare;
 - Developing research bases for the knowledge economy;
 - Developing effective structures for the transfer of knowledge and technology;
 - Developing research capacity in the generation of knowledge of commercial interest;

- Focus on teaching contents in order to increase the innovation capacity of human resources through:

- Developing a culture of scientific and technological knowledge;
 - Transfer of innovation in products and to ensure a problem – solving oriented higher education;
 - Developing students' individual creativity.

- Development of intermediate structures designed to support partnerships between universities and companies - "green" economy based on knowledge and technology transfer.

- Encouraging and supporting "knowledge brokers" - professional hybrids that have the ability to quickly understand a field and quickly identify potential, limits and key challenges. Knowledge brokers have:
 - Entrepreneurial skills;
 - Ability to identify interesting ideas;
 - Ability to organize teams;
 - Ability to catalyze the development of new ideas.

- Creation of the necessary regulatory framework for universities, government institutions and companies to work together to increase the welfare of society by:
 - Autonomy in the structuring of partnerships;
 - Guaranteeing academic freedom in the exercise of profession;
 - Including at least 10% of the active population in training programs.

RESEARCH

Scientific research is the main process of knowledge, creation and innovation but also the main source of development of states. Romanian research success depends on the ability to bring together university laboratories with economic and specialized research structures, the articulation of major research programs, integration and participation in the European Research Area.

DIRECTIONS FOR ACTION

- Grouping all research institutions subordinated to Ministries and government agencies under the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation' s authority for coordinating all research activities in Romania

- Identifying and supporting peak areas with potential for performance;
- Development of interdisciplinary research in inter-university or non-academic partnerships;
- Encouraging Romanian research teams to participate in competitions within Horizon 2020 program and supporting the winning projects;
- Promotion and enhancing the scientific excellence;
- Reflection, in education, of the research results;
- Developing bilateral and multilateral, national and international relations in order to identify best practices and implement them in our country too;
- Setting up science and technology parks, in public / private partnerships;
- Setting up poles of competitiveness and promoting scientific exchanges among universities / research centers in Romania and abroad.
- Supporting young researchers;
- Developing research infrastructure in universities and national research institutes;
- Developing proactive policies - including fiscal - to support technology transfers;
- The Ministry of Education should work with all field Ministries to ensure the implementation of research results;

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Scientific research in terms of earmarked resources should be for all policy makers in Romania a priority on budgeting reconsideration. Higher education and research are priorities for all EU states who consider that the success of these areas is the path to the safest economic recovery.

DIRECTIONS FOR ACTION

- Articulation of major research programs in line with Romania's strategic development objectives and the objectives of the 'Europe 2020 Strategy';
- Supporting scientific research in areas with potential for performance;

- Encouraging through funding mechanisms the interdisciplinary approaches with application potential in the development of products;
- Supporting research bases with multiple users;
- Transfer of research capacity to the sector for generation of knowledge of commercial interest;
- Tax exemption on profits invested in technology transfer;
- Transformation of the developing regions in areas of knowledge to develop "green" economy by concentrating universities, government and businesses' efforts;
- Development of multiplicative strategies by creating or expanding joint infrastructure for research or technology;
- Use of structural funds for joint infrastructure development-oriented to research and technology;
- Funding channels to increase connectivity among universities, research institutes, agencies and companies to bridge the gap from science to application;
- Significant development of innovative economic sectors, backing the dynamics of innovation in all sectors and investment by *developing a creative class with important contributions to the growth of welfare in society.*

The ELI project development (Extreme Light Infrastructure)

- Priority undertaking of this project by the USL and the Romanian Government to build the most powerful laser in the world, one of the top five most important projects carried out from European funds and supported by the Foreign Investors Council.

ENERGY

In the Romanian Government's view, **the energy sector must play a vital role in the economic and social development of Romania.** In national and international context, marked by economic crisis, the Romanian energy sector has great resources, expertise confirmed by a prestigious tradition and outstanding opportunities to be in the vanguard of Romanian economic recovery and to help strengthen the country's position among European Union states.

Energy policy is focused on developing infrastructure and competitiveness and constitutes the substance of a new national economic project. The Government also emphasizes the observance of the structural reforms in the energy sector agreed with international creditors.

Strategic objectives

- **Energy Security**
- **Energy efficiency and environmental protection**
- **Increased competitiveness**
- **Encouraging investment**
- **Energy consumers protection**
- **Stimulating investment in renewable energy production**
- **Romania- regional energy pole**

Objective I: Energy Security

Romanian Government's programme in the field of energy security aims at the following:

- Implementation of a program to diversify sources and routes of supply and limiting supply dependence on imported energy resources;
- Ensuring the security of critical energy infrastructure, storage capabilities, including nuclear installations;
- Promotion of investments to increase production capacity of electricity and ensure the energy security of the country.
- Promoting cross-border and regional projects to diversify access to energy resources of raw materials, mainly oil and gas;
- Backing strategic projects of national interest;
- Encouraging investment for the discovery of new hydrocarbon reserves and increase in the rate of replacement of existing reserves;
- Developing energy equipment manufacturing industry in accordance with EU standards in the field
- Promoting programs to increase the underground natural gas storage capacity for doubling it;
- Improving green certificates market in order to draw private capital in renewable sources investment.

Objective II: Energy efficiency and environmental protection

To achieve these objectives, the Romanian Government will undertake the following measures:

- Construction of new high-efficiency cogeneration plants;
- Rehabilitation, modernization or replacement of existing facilities to increase efficiency and reduce environmental impact;
- Promotion of European standards for minimum levels of energy efficiency in industry, transport, construction, agriculture, services and residential sector;
- Backing energy efficiency programs by identifying new investment funds and the setting up of the Romanian Authority for energy conservation and energy efficiency;
- Energy efficiency upgrading by supporting the financing from EU funds;
- Stimulating the functioning of energy service companies (ESCO).
- Analysis of the appropriateness of granting fiscal and financial incentives to achieve energy efficiency projects;
- Recovery of overdue implementation of European legislation in the field of energy efficiency for buildings;
- Achieving a national program to educate people for energy saving and local use of renewable energy resources;
- Completing the necessary legislative framework for the development of the competitive market of energy services;
- Promotion of white certificates trading to boost investment in energy efficiency, in accordance with European practices.

The specific measures to be adopted for environmental protection are:

- Investments in environmental protection, in energy production by nuclear and conventional solutions.
- Further internalization of environmental costs in the price of energy.
- Increased use of flexible mechanisms stipulated in the Kyoto Protocol
- Promoting clean technologies, technologies for CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) from the flue gases of coal and fuel cells and use of hydrogen as energy carrier
- Use of household and industrial waste to produce electricity and heat;

- Implementation of technical solution for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel at CNE Cernavoda
 - Development of renewable source capacity, taking into account the status of protected areas and ecosystem balance
 - Development of emission certificates market

Objective III: Increase in Economic Competitiveness

Economic competitiveness cannot be supported by subsidizing unprofitable sectors, cheap labor force employment and prices kept artificially. In the long term, maintaining these practices leads to technological backwardness, arrears and waste in energy.

Competitiveness in the energy sector will be pursued in the following directions:

- competitiveness of energy resources - energy potential;
- technical and environmental competitiveness of energy systems;
- economic competitiveness of energy producers;
- financial competitiveness of the energy market operators;
- competitiveness in compliance programs to new levels;
- labor productivity in the energy sector;
- maturity of consumer groups.

Measures to increase competitiveness

- Development of large refurbishment projects of electricity generation capacity;
- Reducing losses in transmission and distribution networks;
- Reducing electric power consumption in transport and buildings
- Increasing the efficiency of energy supply (backing decentralized energy production and high efficiency cogeneration as a solution for CET (Electrical Heating Plants), urban heating and cooling solutions);
- Energy market liberalization simultaneously with increasing consumers autonomy (the possibility to compare prices, change energy suppliers, transparency in billing);
- Production of electricity and heat from renewable energy sources in accordance with available resources;
- Promoting standards for manufacturers of energy equipment and measures to boost energy efficiency.

- Introducing energy audit and energy management systems in large companies;
- Providing resources for research in the field of energy systems;
- Supporting SMEs for boost in energy efficiency both in production and outside the services;
- Creation of national programs to introduce smart grids, energy storage (ex. pumped storage hydroelectric plants) smart urban projects;
- Creating trading instruments to stimulate the participation of large energy consumers to the energy market;

Objective IV: Encouraging investments

It is imperative for Romania to regain investor confidence whereby:

- Stabilization of the legal, administrative and fiscal framework;
- Observance by the authorities of the adopted legislative package;
- Gradual liberalization of electricity and gas markets, while adopting and implementing legislative measures for the protection of vulnerable consumers;
- Introduction, in consultation with field companies, of an additional contribution on additional revenues obtained by companies producing natural gas following market liberalization with a view to ensuring the financial resources to subsidize vulnerable consumers;
- Promoting new technologies and modernization of equipment for coal, lignite, and uranium deposit exploitation;
- Promotion of technologies to exploit methane gas from coal deposits;
- Undertaking oil works together with specialized foreign companies, within contracts for exploration, development, exploitation of areas of interest while observing the Romanian and European legislation.
- Putting into operation of new perimeters for turning lignite and uranium;
- Identification of new deposits by increasing geological research;
- Upgrading and expanding uranium refining capacity;
- Participation in partnership with foreign markets in concessions for uranium ore with a view to their exploration and exploitation;
- Rehabilitation and development of pipeline transport systems;

- Increased security of natural gas supply through diversification of supply sources by import and developing new interconnections with transportation systems of neighboring countries;
- Increased capacity to transport gas extracted from the continental shelf of the Black Sea.
- Promoting cross-border interconnection projects for gas and electricity;
- Increase in the gas underground storage capacity to take over peak consumption during the cold season, and to increase security of supply of gas to consumers;
- Increase in the storage capacity of petroleum and petroleum products, to ensure minimum stocks for 90 days, based on projected growth in domestic consumption.

Objective V: Energy Consumer Protection

- Identifying the vulnerable consumers and their protection considering the liberalization of electricity and gas market
- Development of markets administered by OPCOM for gas trading in a transparent, competitive and non-discriminatory way;
- Development of markets administered by OPCOM market for trading electricity and gas to large consumers, as a measure necessary for re-industrialization of Romania;
- Securing consumers access to electricity and gas in a non discriminatory and transparent way;
- Ensuring access to public transportation and distribution services of electricity and gas for all consumers
- Exercising control over the quality of public services of electricity and gas transportation and distribution.

Objective VI: Energy from Renewable Sources

Energy from renewable sources other than hydro, although it has a significant share in the Romanian production, has an upward potential in coming years as new technologies increasingly allow their economic exploitation

Investors targeted by policies on renewable resources are: great actors of Romanian and world energy market, SMEs, agricultural farms, population.

Principles of renewable energy production development

- predictability
- bonus correlated with the cost of technology

Measures

- Periodic review (annual) of specific investment / MW installed power for different types of technologies.
- Communication of available bonus schemes for facilities placed in service in the next year and the duration of their application.
- Setting renewable energy sources which should be encouraged considering existing technologies, yet untapped local resources, the potential to stimulate other economic sectors, the effects on the trade balance.

Support Scheme

- Green certificates: medium and large manufacturers
- Regulated tariffs (feed-in tariffs): micro and small producers

Energy policy and agriculture

- Recovery of degraded lands by energy plants crops
- Encouraging crop for biofuel production
- Expanding production of biogas and cogeneration capacity that use biomass and biogas
- Supply of isolated rural areas with small hydropower devices or wind generators

Objective VII: Romania, regional power pole

- Romania has a mix of energy resources which may enable it to become a leading regional manufacturer and supplier of energy.
- Resource potential can be enhanced by putting into operation of new perimeters for recovery of hydrocarbon deposits in the Black Sea continental shelf and the deep sea.
- OPCOM can become a regional energy exchange;
- Romania is a potential reservoir of natural gas supply to the region, within the EU, and to the Ukraine as well.

- Transport networks for electricity and natural gas will be developed to increase interconnection capacity with neighboring countries.
- Electricity and gas market in Romania will join the European single market project, by coupling with the developed markets of the neighboring countries and EU Member States.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Strengthening the energy market position of the Oltenia and Hunedoara electric power plants;
- Resuming the bid to achieve reactors 3 and 4 at Cernavoda;
- Attracting capital for environmental investments and refurbishments, including the construction of new power units at Hunedoara and Oltenia power plants.
- Resuming partnerships for Galati, Braila and Borzesti thermo power plants;
- Development of electricity transmission networks between Dobrogea and the rest of the country;
- Making Tarnita-Lapustesti hydroelectric pumped storage plant;
- Starting investments for Islaz hydroelectric plant;
- Increasing exploitation of hydropower potential of Romania (upstream of Portile de Fier I, Islaz, Bistrita);
- Further heavy water production at Drobeta Turnu-Severin RAAN at competitive prices, stimulation of nuclear research and technology transfer for generation reactors 3-4.
- Expanding exploration and exploitation of oil and gas deposits in the Black Sea
- Starting actions of exploration to identify exploitable shale deposits;
- Initiating partnerships to modernize Elcen Bucharest Iernut and Doicești power plants;
- Active involvement in achieving European projects: Nabucco, Constanta - Trieste oil pipeline, and AGRI and LNG Constanta terminal;
- Increased capacity of natural gas underground storage.

One of the priority projects for the next period is the development of production capacities of electricity and heat that will use domestic and industrial waste as primary resource, contributing decisively to solving environmental problems and population supply with heat and hot water at low costs.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

I. Conceptual and principled orientation

Clear winning of parliamentary elections by a political alliance that comprises exponents of ideological trends in full recovery in Europe and shaping the broader parliamentary support for the most stable government in the last decade, create favorable conditions to promote the most robust and ambitious construction of Romanian foreign policy after NATO and EU integration. In the internal political context created with the swearing –in of the new Executive, Romania's foreign policy can regain the same strategic vision, the same capacity to mobilize skills and resources, and political transpartinic support which it also enjoyed only in the European and Euro-Atlantic pre-accession period.

Romania's foreign policy must be a policy of national consensus to achieve its goals. Integrated management of Romanian foreign policy requires management of diplomacy institution on principles of rigor, efficiency, honesty and professionalism, stability and continuity in the promotion and defense of national interests.

Romanian diplomacy pursues as essential objective of Romania's foreign policy, raising the international profile of the country. Strengthening the role and substantiation of Romania's contribution as member of the European family and deepening Strategic Partnership for the 21 century with the U.S. will be the defining dimensions of our vision of foreign policy. Romania's foreign policy must reinvigorate the external action of the Romanian state based on the awareness that the status of Romania as EU and NATO member is an instrument for modernization of the Romanian society and increase the international profile of the country which should be used with maximum efficiency for recovery of all political, economic and security benefits deriving from membership in the two organizations and to achieve national interests of Romania.

Foreign policy action will focus on continuing efforts to achieve full European integration, elimination of remaining vulnerabilities that should strengthen Romania's status by ensuring consistency, efficiency and predictability of our foreign policy.

Respect for the principles and norms of international law will continue to lie at the heart of Romania's foreign policy action.

However, Romania's diplomatic action needs to capitalize on the capacity of state at the EU and NATO foreign border, with awareness of the advantages and disadvantages that this geopolitics implies.

From this point of view, a key foreign policy priority is the subsumption of foreign diplomatic efforts to expand in Romania's neighborhood of the Romanian democratic area of prosperity, security and predictability needed to ensure national security in its broadest sense.

Foreign policy should be consistent in terms of objectives and priorities with security and defense policy. A strategic vision of integrated foreign and security policy will facilitate the creation of additional capacity for external steps bearing political and / or economic benefits, whose success depends on coordination between key institutions of the national security system.

Vested with new powers and responsibilities, the MFA has the ability to become the central node of a network with variable geometry to promote large projects of foreign policy that are no longer confined to diplomatic actions, but requires a continuous effort of interinstitutional coordination and commitment, with multiannual discharge on different geographical areas and in areas not apparently related to diplomacy. Romanian foreign policy must fundamentally change the profile and manner of application through the transition from model focused mainly on multilateral-bilateral binom to thematic approach, inclusive. Foreign policy should focus on developing projects, promoting interdisciplinarity, complementarity and synergy, from which it will gain consistency and impact. This transformation of purpose and attitude must be reflected appropriately in compiling the list of foreign policy objectives and priorities, and in the future institutional architecture of the MFA.

By consistency, reliability and dynamism, the Romanian government will act responsibly to strengthen Romania's international credibility and respectability to achieve Romania's international objectives and to ensure with priority the protection of the interests of its citizens.

Thus, defining and promoting concrete priorities of Romanian foreign policy will be continuously and consistently reported to national interest and they will be put in the service of national and personal dignity of Romanian citizens.

Diplomacy will constantly pursue the design of Romania's image abroad as a state with a consolidated democracy with strong and

functional institutions, fully complying with the rules and democratic values.

Romanian diplomacy must be reconfirmed as a fundamental institution of the state to recover the prestige and influence diminished in recent years, and the strategic nature goal-oriented, such as those subsumed to properly exercise of the EU Council Presidency in 2019 to integrate in a long-term vision Romania's place and role in the world.

II. Government objectives

1. Focus of all efforts of diplomatic action to protect and promote national interests of Romania and its citizens in political, security, economic, social and cultural view
2. The foreign policy action will aim with priority at supporting the objective of Romania's modernization and reform and raising the profile of the Romanian state in Europe and internationally.
3. Growth and consolidation of Romania's profile into the European Union and NATO and more effectively harnessing the benefits arising from Romania 'status of membership in the two structures;
 4. Strengthening Strategic Partnership for 21st Century with the United States.
 5. Further efforts to promote and support, through effective and comprehensive action the European integration aspirations of the Republic of Moldova will have a central place
6. Actively promoting the objective of transforming the neighborhood of Romania, both in Western Balkans , especially in the eastern neighborhood, in a democratic area of prosperity, security and predictability necessary for national security in its widest meaning
7. Strengthening bilateral cooperation with neighboring states.
8. Defence and active promotion of the rights of persons belonging to Romanian minorities / communities in the states neighboring Romania, in strict accordance with European standards and, where applicable, with compliance with the EU accession political criteria.
9. Strengthening partnerships Romania has developed in recent years and promotion of new partnerships for effective diplomatic action in European and Euro-atlantic context. In this respect, there will be considered states of the wider Black Sea area, including the

South Caucasus, Asia, including Central Asia, and other countries in the G 20.

10. Attaining strategic targets for enhanced cooperation with countries from other continents towards which can be oriented the economic interests of our country.

11. Strengthening economic dimension of diplomacy by emphasizing aspects related to the dynamic economic cooperation, attracting foreign investment and promoting Romanian products and companies on foreign markets.

12. Ensuring a presence of substance within various international structures and promotion of the vital role of multilateralism in ensuring the stability, development and global and regional cooperation.

13. Ensuring assistance and consular protection services at European standards for Romanian citizens living abroad.

III. Directions of action

1. Increasing and enhancing the profile and role of Romania in the EU, under the conditions created by the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Therefore, there will be acted with priority, but not exclusively for:

- Romania's positioning, based on a coherent vision in the various debates within the EU and using the complexity of European politics with pragmatism;

- Active and consistent participation in the decision-making process within the EU;

- Active participation in the **process of reflection on the future of the European Union;**

- Actively supporting the approach and **European integration efforts of of the Republic of Moldova;**

- Initiation of the process of preparation of the proper exercise of the **Presidency of EU Council 2019;**

- Contributing to the adoption of concrete measures at EU level **to strengthen economic governance of EMU and that for growth and jobs;**

- Optimal support of national interests in **negotiating the new financial perspective of EU (2014-2020)**, particularly obtaining **important allocations for the Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Policy**. Debates on future EU budget for 2014-2020 will be further addressed as a real opportunity to reducing the development gap to the old Member States;

- Diplomatic support for the objective of completing the Mechanism of Cooperation and Verification on the basis of the real and needed progress which to be properly evaluated without political conditionality of any kind, in order to eliminate such vulnerabilities that still affect Romania's full membership of the EU and also on developments at the European general level. Government will continue to actively promote in the dialogue with European counterparts Romania's progress in the field based on commitments circumscribed to objective of strengthening a fair and effective judiciary, citizen-oriented system;

- Active diplomatic support of the objective of **Romania's accession to the Schengen area**, on the basis of meeting the standards of the Schengen acquis, already recognized by the JHA Council and the European Parliament, without any political conditionality. Romanian party's approach will leave from the compromise proposed by the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, and subsequently by the President of the European Council in March 2012: the accession with sea and air borders in the first stage and the subsequent lifting of checks at land borders. Romania will intensify dialogue with Member States, both at governmental and parliamentary level. It will also be further promoted the measures to consolidate the capacity to protect external borders, including by Frontex missions;

- Appropriate protection at EU level of Romania's interests on ensuring **energy security**, including by supporting with priority projects of the Southern Corridor - in particular Nabucco, AGRI - and their funding;

- Continuing efforts to ensure a significant presence of Romanian diplomats in the **European External Action Service**, which corresponds to the status of Romania as the 7th State of the Union, and aspirations of Romanian diplomacy, as traditional, professional and efficient diplomacy;

- Continuing efforts **to implement the European Danube Strategy**, focusing on shaping specific projects within it. Efforts will focus on the launch and implementation of projects, both those completed in short and medium-term (infrastructure / transport, interconnection of energy market).

- More efficient use of the **Black Sea Synergy and Eastern Partnership** Instruments to support Romania's strategic objectives in the Eastern neighborhood
- Promoting the adoption of the **European Strategy of the Black Sea** starting from the framework set by the resolution in the field of the European Parliament in 2011;
- Social inclusion of Roma issues will continue to be maintained to the attention and the Government will pursue a more accurate reflection of Romania's efforts in this regard and will facilitate the European partners dialogue with other competent institutions from Romania on National Strategy of Roma social inclusion 2012-2020, adopted in December 2011;
- On Romanian workers' access to the labor markets of EU Member States, we will continue our steps to the Member States that maintain restrictions attached to the Commission and the European Parliament, so that Romanian citizens' rights as European citizens be fully respected;
- Support for further EU enlargement policy, focusing on the Western Balkans, with consideration of full compliance with the conditions of membership, including rights of persons belonging to the Romanian minority, regardless of as they are known. There will also be supported Turkey's accession to the EU.
- Exploiting Romanian niche areas of expertise, such as those resulting from Romania's participation in EU military and civilian missions under the EU Common Security and Defense Policy, active participation in the creation and implementation of European Asylum Policy, by capitalisation of Romanian expertise gained through the creation and operation of the Emergency Transit Center for Refugee from Timisoara - the world's first of this kind;
- With respect to the Common Security and Defence Policy, given Romania's position as major contributor to EU missions, both civil and military, there will be pursued further such contribution, while promoting a more coherent and effective approach, that would take into account including positive valences of an intensified dialogue with Eastern partners;
- **Better interaction with the European Parliament**, in the increased awareness of the role of the institution after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

2. Increasing the profile and Romania's role within NATO in the context of the ongoing effort of the Alliance to adapt to the new international context. Priority action will be taken primarily, but not exclusively for:

- Help strengthening the relevance of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and collective defense, as essential principle of operation of the Alliance;
- Continued support for the development of NATO's missile defense system, as important mission of the Alliance, based on the principle of indivisibility of Allies security,, the principle of solidarity and the principle of ensuring the protection of all territory, of the allied forces and populations;
- Undertaking initiatives like "smart defense" to facilitate strengthening Alliance's military capabilities, in the current financial restrictions;
- Promoting the strengthening of Romania's status within the Alliance by hosting elements of the U.S. missile defense system and their integration into the future NATO system;
- Pursuing the completion of all arrangements for the Implementation of the Agreement between Romania and the United States on the location of the U.S. defense system against missiles in Romania, signed in Washington on 13 September 2011, as well as their application in the context in which, after declaring on NATO Summit in Chicago in May 2012 of interim capability of the NATO anti- missile system, the next step in the development of this system will be the base in Deveselu, operational in 2015, which will be the *initial* capability of NATO system;
- Strengthening NATO as a forum for consultations between the European Allies and North America – on the basis of the support on strengthening the transatlantic link - and between the Allies and between Allies and NATO partners;
- **Strengthening the regional approach to NATO, especially in the wider Black Sea**, including in the context of the NATO Summit in Chicago;
- Supporting the implementation of the reform of NATO's partnerships, extending increased attention to partners in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, and to strengthening NATO-EU partnership;
- Further supporting as position of principle, of the "open door" politics

further promoting expansion of NATO in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighborhood;

- Providing an enhanced role within NATO to energy security issues, complementary to efforts in this area at EU level;
- Promoting a balanced approach of NATO on the issue of deterrence;
- Promoting a relationship of openness and cooperation, on a pragmatic basis, between NATO and Russia, with full respect for the allied principles and values;
- continuation of Romania's commitment to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan until the completion of mission objectives in accordance with the parameters of the transition process in Afghanistan, which will allow initiation of allied troops withdrawal on timetable decided by NATO;
- In accordance with the decisions of the Chicago Summit (May 2012), it will provide support for post-2014 Romanian participation in allied efforts of training and support in Afghanistan, in the International Training and Assistance Mission (ITAM) for ensuring stability and good governance by the Afghan authorities, Romania will also continue to participate in EUPOL Afghanistan EU mission;
- Active involvement of Romania, according to its strategic interests in the debates on a solution to the current stalemate in the implementation of the CFE Treaty. There will be further supported a principled approach to any new conventional armaments arrangement, considering that any future negotiation process should allow addressing all aspects of CFE regime and take into account the security interests of each participating country;
- Capitalisation on Romania's mandate as NATO Contact Point in Azerbaijan and Georgia from 2013-2014.

3. Strategic Partnership with U.S. is the transatlantic dimension of Romanian foreign policy and is Romania's most important partnership of global scale.

This partnership, which is at the highest level of consistency since its creation must enter into a new phase, in which the excellent cooperation in the political-military and security area must be completed with a positive dynamic of economic cooperation areas, at the social, cultural and interpersonal level. Romanian Government will continue its efforts of operationalization of the *Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for the XXI Century from September 2011*, following the full exploitation of cooperation prospects opened by this.

For this purpose, it will use actively the Romania -US bilateral Task Force, created in 2012, which monitors the implementation of concrete projects in areas stipulated by the Declaration.

Particular attention will be given to maintaining and developing political and diplomatic and security dimension, both bilaterally and in NATO context. At bilateral level, there will be finalized the legal framework regulating Romania's participation in the American gradual-adaptive missile defense system in Europe through conclusion of all implementation arrangements of the *Agreement between Romania and the United States of America* on location of the U.S. missile defense system in Romania, signed in Washington, 13 September 2011.

Expanding economic cooperation, attracting new U.S. investment in Romania will be priority. There will sustained action to support the creation of conditions for the admission of Romania in Visa Waiver Program in the context of the promotion and adoption of new legislation in the U.S. in this field. Within the EU, Romania will support the expansion and deepening of partnership EU -US, which is essential for defining the Union's external strategic partnerships.

4. Further **sustainable consolidation of bilateral relation with the Republic of Moldova**, based on bilateral European Strategic Partnership with valuing particular nature of origin, language, culture, common history, along with active support for stabilization and deep democratic reform and its European aspirations. Therefore, there will be acted primarily, but not exclusively, for:

- Continued support for democratic reforms in Chisinau;
- Continued support for bilateral and international assistance, especially the European and the U.S one., support for macroeconomic stabilization;
- Implementation of decisions of the joint meeting of the two governments on 3 March 2012 and of meeting of prime ministers of Romania and Moldova and some ministers of the two governments on 17 July 2012; organizing joint annual government meeting;
- Implementation of the **Action Plan**, signed on 3 March 2012, for the enforcement of the Joint Declaration establishing a strategic partnership between Romania and the Republic of Moldova;
- Firm and consistent support of **Moldova's European track**:

support for the completion of negotiations for an Association Agreement with the EU, for deep and comprehensive free trade agreement and visa liberalization regime;

- Further provision of technical and financial assistance to the Government of the Republic of Moldova;

- Continued implementation and completion, along with the Government in Chisinau **of projects of common interest in the energy field** such as pipeline Iași- Ungheni, Falciu-Gotesti and Suceava -Balti overhead lines, coupling energy system from the Republic of Moldova

to the European ENTSO-E, optic fiber installation between Isaccea and Chisinau, and of the other transport and infrastructure projects;

- Continued support for the work of the European Action Group of the Republic of Moldova, initiated by Romania at the level of the Foreign Ministers of EU Member States;

- Regarding the **Transnistrian** issue, Romania will be actively involved, including within EU for substantive progress in the formal negotiations under the "5 +2" format with a view to agreeing on a solution that fully complies with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova in its internationally recognized borders. It will also support further increase of EU and U.S. status in the format and the transformation of the current peacekeeping mission in civilian mission with the EU participation, while promoting measures to increase EU confidence and action directed towards democratization, of the region with positive impact on the political regulation process. In the OSCE, Romania will support full observance of political commitments undertaken within the organization, including in the context of the debate on the future of the CFE Treaty.

5. Capitalisation of **the Romanian partnerships at bilateral and multilateral level** , and other relations of strategic importance

There will be continued the development and implementation of the current bilateral partnerships of Romania with the **EU Member States**, pursuing the realization of sectoral commitments based on priority European policies, with the objective of joint action both within the Union and beyond.

Thus, increased attention, both at political and economic level will be given to the strategic relationship with **Germany**. It will be consolidated the strategic partnership with **France** based on shared interests of the two countries within the EU and mutual respect by agreeing on a new roadmap of the Strategic Partnership.

Enhanced strategic partnership with **Italy** will be used to its true value based on the excellent economic relations and efforts will be made to launch a strategic partnership with **Spain**. Strategic partnership with the **UK** will be substantialized with priority.

Strategic partnership with **Poland**, already with excellent results will be further strengthened, based on convergent interests of the two countries within the EU, NATO and Eastern Neighborhood.

Increased attention will be extended to the relationship with **Turkey** to implement, by signing and implementation of the *Action Plan*, the bilateral strategic partnership, based on sharing common democratic values, common interests within NATO, the need to transform the Black Sea region into an area of democratic prosperity, stability and security and based on the strong support provided by Romania to Turkey's EU accession.

We will also continue to act for streamlining the informal **trilateral format** created by Romania with Poland and Turkey in 2012.

Romania will act to value strategic relationship with **Canada**, which would strengthen transatlantic link as a key vector of the foreign policy of Romania. An important objective in relation to Canada, in addition to enhancing economic relations and cooperation within NATO, will be to eliminate the compulsoriness of visa for Romanian citizens.

6. Enhancing positive and active involvement of Romania, both bilaterally and through European vocation and regional projects in the **Western Balkans** (through support in the EU and expertise given bilaterally, of the European perspective of the countries of this region) **and especially in the Eastern neighborhood - the Wider Black Sea area, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.**

Creating a democratic, prosperous, secure, stable neighborhood irreversibly connected to European and Euro-Atlantic value system is in the direct interest of Romania and its security broadly, as a state at the external border of the EU and NATO, and a practical contribution to the security of the value community to which we belong. In this respect, there will be strengthened efforts to strengthen Romanian diplomatic representation, especially in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia.

Romania will continue to give priority attention to regional cooperation structures: **Cooperation Process in South East Europe(SEECP)** -

whose presidency will be exercised by Romania since July 2013 for a term of 6 months, **Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC)**, **the Regional Cooperation Council**, Central European Initiative.

7. Making the best of **relations with other direct neighbors of Romania**

Thus, there will be acted to boost strategic partnership with **Hungary**. There will be promoted the possibility of organizing joint meetings of Government. There will be acted for 2011 Protocol session completion of the Bilateral committee on minorities, including based on Romanian model to approach the solving of the problems of persons belonging to national minorities, and for the organisation of new sessions of the Committee, pursuing concrete actions to preserve the cultural identity of Romanians in Hungary.

There will be explored new ways of approaching the issue of Gojdu heritage, historical and special and symbolic significance, to identify the best solutions.

Regarding the strategic relationship with **Bulgaria**, it will be aimed at strengthening cooperation based on convergence interests of the two countries within the EU, NATO, the Black Sea, and on the basis of given excellent economic cooperation at the level of the exchanges and contacts between people. There will be pursued the possibility to organize new joint Government meetings. There will be continued the negotiations to finalize the delimitation of Black Sea maritime areas of the two states based on applicable international law.

Romania will continue to support **Serbia's** European aspirations and defense of interests and identity of Romanians in Serbia. In this regard, priority will be given to pursuing the implementation of the provisions of the **bilateral Joint Commission on Minorities Protocol signed at 1 March 2012**, in Brussels, with the participation of relevant international organizations and European Commission.

Romania will continue to support Ukraine's European aspirations by promoting balanced commitment, both in bilateral relations and in the context of EU relations with Ukraine. Romania will support a constructive approach to the EU's relationship with Ukraine, and will insist on the consolidation of the implementation of European standards and stimulation of political, social and economic reforms.

Romania will support the signing of the Association Agreement based on meeting the benchmarks set by the EU.

There will be maintained efforts to resolve bilateral issues still on political agenda, such as **Bâstroe** issues in accordance with international law, to ensure European standards protection of the rights of persons belonging to Romanian native community and to preserve and develop their cultural identity. In this respect, it will act to **resume the activity of the bilateral Joint Commission for Minorities**.

There will also be taken action to **finalize agreement on small border traffic** which will have to be given the consular instruments necessary for implementation. It is important a major effort to promote contacts at the level of the two societies, the opinion makers, civil society, better mutual understanding.

8. In relation to the **South Caucasus and Central Asia** states, Romania will seek to maintain and strengthen upward trend in the Romania's political dialogue in the region:

- Strategic partnership with **Azerbaijan** will continue to be promoted with priority .
- Romania will continue to support the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of **Georgia**.

Partnership relations with **Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan** will be substantiated to confer natural strategic nature corresponding with the objective of promoting adequate national interests in the region.

9. A priority for Romania's foreign policy will be to develop relationships with traditional **emerging powers of Asia, Latin America and Africa**.

This will require the allocation of substantial resources in pursuit of our foreign policy for revival of relations with these powers relevant to the 21st century. Priority is the reconfirmation and substantiation of the ample partnership of friendship and cooperation with **China** and supplement to a balanced economic relationship, including efforts to attract Chinese investments in Romania. There will also be consolidated the strategic partnership with **South -Korea**. There will be acted to substantiate partnership with **Japan**, that has strategic aspects and creation of the extended partnership with **India** (through completion and implementation of the Joint Statement to establish an extended Partnership). There will be made efforts to promote a strategic relationship with **Brasil**. There will be promoted new partnerships with emerging powers from G20 from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Romania's relationship with **Israel** has an effective strategic dimension on many levels – security, politics which will be further extended, including at economic and technological level.

There will be valued the special relationship with the community of Israeli citizens of Romanian origin, as privileged bridge between the two countries.

There should be capitalized the good relations with **Arab states**, to promote the economic and cultural interests.

. Finding a sustainable solution to the peace process in the Middle East will be further supported actively by Romanian diplomacy, from the relations traditionally good with stakeholders and regional expertise gained from Romania. There will continue efforts to promote the transfer of Romanian expertise on the transition to a democratic regime for some Arab states as a result of structural changes in the region. There will be pursued and promoted the specific interests in the formulation of EU positions in the situation in Syria and the Iranian nuclear file.

10. There will be pursued a new dynamic of political relations with the **Russian Federation** on the positive coordinates already established in economic cooperation, by identifying points of convergence, based on which, a transparent dialogue to be developed. As EU and NATO member state, Romania will pursue the stabilisation of a predictable, pragmatic relation of Romania with Russia, based on mutual respect. Romania will continue to encourage and promote the dialogue within the EU-Russia Standing Partnership Council, and will use including the opportunities created by Partnership for Upgrading between European Union and Russia, respectively between Romania and Russia and in NATO- Russia Council, based on the common interests identified between Russia and these organisations.

At bilateral level, there will be outlined the development of economic cooperation and a better knowledge and interaction at the level of societies. There is necessary to revalue the bilateral political Treaty, given the tenth anniversary from its signing in 2013, of the joint intergovernment Commission on economic and technical – scientific cooperation, setting up of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Moscow. There will continue the steps to resume and make dynamic the activity of the *Bilateral Joint Commission on solving the problems coming from our common history, including the Treasury of Romania*.

11. 11. Recalibrating / strengthening the **economic dimension** of the Romanian foreign policy - both by supporting expansion of Romanian companies, but also for attracting investment in Romania. There will be promoted a more creative approach in this area, especially in the context of economic and financial crisis, with emphasis on business opportunities, attracting foreign investors, promoting Romanian products and efficient services to economic advisers. There will be promoted to this end, the establishment of an Advisory Council of MAE with business environment representatives.

In this context of economic dimension, there is necessary to resume the steps for Romania's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

There is also needed an active support of direct strategic interests of Romania in terms of **energy security** (for realization of major decisions to lead to the development of the Southern Corridor, in particular Nabucco, AGRI).

There will be promoted the support of an alert pace of **energy networks interconnections between Romania and its neighbors**, based on the reality that our energy security space does not stop at the borders of the Union. Furthermore, there will be consolidated the collaborative efforts with European partners primarily, but not exclusively, for the expansion and multiplication of projects based on renewable energies.

There will be acted to underpin the initiative to achieve a transportation corridor of commodities Black Sea - Caspian Sea.

It is important to develop contacts with the countries of Middle East and Arab world, pursuing the interest of economic actors in the **Gulf Cooperation Council states to Romania**.

12. **Official Assistance for Development** will remain a priority dimension of diplomatic action, aiming at strengthening and developing the objectives set through the annual plan in the area. There will be considered priority geographical areas: Republic of Moldova, Eastern Neighborhood, Mediterranean Basin to support democracy building projects, rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The realisation of ODA objectives will require appropriate resource earmarking.

13. Promoting and protecting **the interests and identity of Romanians abroad** by:

- The full application of Law no. 299/2007 on support for Romanian diaspora, including by organizing the Congress of Romanians Abroad and election of Romanians Abroad Council;
- Active management of the relationship with the Romanian communities by Romanian diplomats from the Romanian missions appointed for that purpose;
- Active use of the Joint Commissions on Minorities, involvement of the Council of Europe and the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE.

14. Improving the quality of consular services provided to Romanian citizens abroad and manifestation of constant attitude in consular support actions offered to Romanian citizens abroad temporarily or permanently.

For this purpose, there will be considered the following solutions:

- Computerization of consular services (project E-Cons) under the motto: "Consular section closer to your home! "
- Further expansion of the consular network by opening new offices in areas of interest mainly in EU and in the Euro-Atlantic area and setting up mobile consular offices;
- Decrease in the amount of the consular fees currently charged;
- Conduct awareness campaigns on the Roma citizens on the need to signal their presence at the diplomatic missions to facilitate consular protection and assistance (ex. permanent text message service(SMS) sent to the Romanian citizens entering the areas considered at risk, abroad);
- To re-calibration consular assistance and protection strategy at the MAE level to respond quickly to requests of Romanian and European citizens who are in areas affected by socio-political crises and natural disasters, there will be an effective coordination between specialized functional structures existing at internal level (MAE Consular Crisis Center) and those existing at external level(at EU level).

MAE will continue to maintain a good level of preparation for Romania's Schengen accession, both in terms of external consular network and the strict application of European rules.

15. We have developed a new instrument to **promote diversity of Romanian benchmarks in Europe**, whereby there will be displayed architectural monuments, artistic works by Romanian artists, which are in various public spaces and museums in Europe and other places reminiscent of Romania. This symbolic inventory is meant to

highlight the rich contribution that the Romanian people brought along time to the development of European culture and civilization.

16. Ensure a presence of substance within various international structures and promotion of the vital role of multilateralism in ensuring the stability, development and global and regional cooperation.

- Increase visibility of Romania within the UN system, on line to identify viable solutions to many challenges, including the crisis category currently facing the international community.
- Consecration of Romania's active role in the Council of Europe, aimed at ensuring compliance with democratic standards and human rights in the whole CoE space, including the protection of Romanian communities;
- Confirmation of Romania's constructive activism in pan-European security landscape, particularly by increasing the relevance and effectiveness of OSCE in solving "frozen conflicts" ,overcoming the deadlock of current regime of conventional arms control in Europe and promoting human rights;
- Maintaining Romania' status as principal promoter of Francophony in Central and Eastern Europe.

17. Development, through inter-institutional effort of national public diplomacy and cultural strategy (medium and long term) and some strategic directions for action, for changing perception of Romania abroad (short and medium term).

IV. Institutional reform and increase in the institutional capacity of diplomacy

A. MAE should have a viable and efficient structure. Therefore, the Romanian Government will give priority to the development of MAE institutional capacity.

Thus, with respect to internal reform aspects and the relations with other institutions, there are necessary:

1. A structure adapted to foreign policy priorities of the Government programme and creation of a much coherent human resource policy, starting from:

- Resumption of recruitment of young diplomats, blocked in recent years, with significant negative consequences on human resource development by organizing fair and transparent entrance exams, especially in view of holding by Romania of the EU Council Presidency in 2019 and for strengthening the capacity of granting professional consular assistance to Romanian citizens abroad;
 - Continuing to improve and develop permanent training programs , including through European funds accessing;
 - Improving the selection of future diplomats by strengthening partnerships with prestigious Romanian universities;
 - Creating a coherent "professional career" guide to ensure predictability and stability of diplomatic career and encourage diplomats to leave for the post in difficult areas and which to lead to acquiring professional prestige;
 - Promotion based on merit and results in both the diplomatic degree and in positions;
 - Promoting legislative measures to restore adequately and fairly the pension situation of Romanian Diplomatic and Consular Corps members;
- 2) Improving the public communication and public diplomacy by regular press conference, the use of new communications media.
 - 3) Construction of the MAE budget based on a multi-annual projection of needs, which corresponds appropriately to tasks and priorities of foreign policy.
 - 4) Adoption of measures to ensure the necessary MAE infrastructure, including a new headquarters for the proper management of the EU Council Presidency in 2019; optimization of diplomatic missions headquarters, especially those owned by the Romanian State.
- B. With respect to the **inter-institutional relations**, there is needed:
1. Increased interaction with parliamentary foreign policy committees and of European affairs - through constant participation in MAE leadership in committees meetings and sending regular information on topics of current interest - especially in the context of the increased role of national Parliaments in European affairs, provided by the Treaty of Lisbon;
 2. Better interaction with Romanian MEPs in European Parliament;
 3. Regular sessions of strategic reflection with other institutions with contributions in all important foreign policy issues of the government program for identification of the best ways of achievement;
 4. Promoting a structured dialogue between the Ministry and partners

of academic and cultural environment, as well as of the civil society.

FINANCE

Taxation and state budget must be subordinated to the fundamental objective of economic development. Our fiscal vision is to be a qualitative one, to stimulate the economic environment, investment and entrepreneurship. Philosophy of public finance must be put in agreement with the principles of sound economic development based on building a strong private sector, independent of political power, able to generate prosperity, social security and to accelerate reforms in the public sector sphere including.

In recent years, Romania has gone through the experience of quantitative fiscal adjustment with serious social implications and reduced effects at economic recovery level. Economic reality shows that budget austerity is not, in itself, the key of economic problems, in the absence of policies to facilitate economic growth, jobs creation, and reducing the social impact of fiscal adjustment.

Fundamental objectives

An efficient European public finance system - efficient, transparent, predictable, to lead to increased budget revenues by broadening the tax base and not increasing the tax burden on the economy;

Macroeconomic stability and public debt sustainability by maintaining budget deficit in the current fiscal consolidation trend;

Simplifying the tax system and creating predictability in the fiscal – budget stimulating framework for the development of private and public economic environment;

Increase in the quality of public finance, strengthening fiscal discipline and governance, and reducing discretionary decision in fiscal and budgetary policies, under the same rules of the game for all taxpayers;

Curbing corruption by decoupling political cronies from public funds, and transparency of public funds' use, while rethinking procurement under opportunity, priority and efficiency criteria.

Rapid growth of convergence potential with the EU can only be achieved by further disinflation, strengthening public finance and maintaining external deficit within sustainable limits.

In the medium term, a competitive investment framework will prove its viability by attracting a high volume of foreign investments and in the

long-term, priority objective is to support genuine local capital in an effort of private re-industrialization of Romania.

At the same time, in its financial and budgetary size, the economic development model will be focused on public training investment; those investments designed to support infrastructure, agriculture and rural development, energy and advanced technology.

We promote Public - Private Partnership as a key mechanism to attract funding for large infrastructure projects;

We develop national integrated information system for budget execution in real time;

We generalize the SEAP system - electronic procurement system for all public purchases of central and local government. In this way, we will attack corruption that has come in recent years to choke the economy and downgrade Romania in the eyes of the European Union.

The fundamental economic objective of the government program is to create employment. The state does not directly create jobs, but provides, through a stimulating institutional framework, the economic environment necessary for the creation of jobs, which would reduce the unemployment rate below 5%, compared with 2008 level.

Stimulating private sector and creating jobs:

Courses of action in the horizon 2013-2016

- We simplify taxation and we increase tax competitiveness of the business environment by:
general reduction of taxation, b) broadening the tax base, c) simplifying the system of taxes d) increasing budget revenues collection e) reduction of tax evasion.
- VAT will return to 19%.
- We keep the ceiling of 16% and we introduce during the mandate, the differentiated tax on wage income with tax deductibility: quotas of 8%, 12% and 16%, which will be determined on income scales.
- We halve the number of special tax.
- Increase the R & D expenditure deductibility from 20% to 50%.
- Align to European average, the fees charged by the state as a result of the concession of state assets.

- Exempt from tax for a period of five years, of the dividends that will be reinvested in equipment and technology equipment, research and development, in the form of increasing share capital to companies with shareholders or ownership of share capital by other companies and that create new jobs.
- Stimulate business environment in allowable limits for macroeconomic stability, by simplifying procedures and cutting red tape for small entrepreneurs. Increasing VAT exemption threshold to EUR 65 000 for small entrepreneurs.
- Reduce VAT for agricultural producers from 24% to 9%, and 15% will remain for them to develop. The measure will be valid only for the production and not for the processing chain. Thus, we stimulate domestic producers and reduce tax evasion in agriculture.
- Reduce CAS by 5 percentage points for employers;
- Reduce CAS full payment owed by employers for one year, for creation of new jobs (on condition of keeping the job for another year).
- Reduce costs of bureaucracy and taxation, by abolition of tariffs, opinions, permits and the legislative framework simplification.
- Accelerate the absorption of EU funds by creating a central structure responsible for coordinating Managing Authorities, by simplifying and unifying the legal framework;
- Consolidate CEC and Eximbank. Specialization of the object of activity (Eximbank - for promoting exports and stimulating industrial development, CEC- for financing agriculture, SMEs, small entrepreneurs and independent activities);
- Adopt a new law for small and medium enterprises, based on transposition into Romanian legislation of Small Business Act (SBA).
- Capitalization of the Guarantee Fund for SMEs. Supporting SMEs in difficulty, because of the economic crisis, by establishing a state aid scheme to include the use of EU funds too.
- Support the development and diversification of economic activities, generating multiple activities and alternative income for crafts and non- agricultural activities.
- Support farmers to take European organic produce certificates. Thus, they will have easier access to the European market (a market that awaits them without need to promote themselves too much) and sell the products they make on much money.
- Make substantive tax financial control only once every 3 years for SMEs and enforce the principle of "one time" to remove the requests

to SMEs by a public institution to submit documents issued by other institutions.

- Implement multi-annual budget programming on projects and programs that will bring significant savings to the budget and increase the predictability and efficiency of public spending.
- Restructuring of fiscal control institutions (ANAF, Financial Guard, Customs), and establishment of a supervisory and audit board composed of international experts from EU Member States, with performance in the field.
- Passing legislation to encourage the use of electronic transactions and reducing significantly the cash operations, measure that will have as immediate effect an increase in the taxable income of the contributors and reduction of tax evasion.
- Introduction of performance contracts in all public institutions and state companies (Ministries, government agencies, local authorities and state enterprises).

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMPETITIVENESS

Romania needs a coherent industrial policy. Launch by the European Union of the the Europe 2020 Strategy consecrated industrial policy area as one of its seven flagship initiatives through the document: "An industrial policy for globalization era ". In this context, we will back the change of the currently used approach - from the traditional conception of restructuring depending on the resources and, therefore, in relation to comparative advantage, to identification of solutions to stimulate activities based on knowledge and information, so that they are capable of emphasizing the competitive advantages.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Improving competitiveness and flexibility will follow especially a sustained increase in productivity and innovation based on diversification and innovation of domestic industrial base in European context and will be achieved by:

- improving the competitive environment and business climate mainly by strengthening state aid policy and measures for better regulation leading to the reduction of administrative burdens on businesses, increased decisional transparency and public consultation;
- developing services sector with a focus on network industries and especially by promoting the information society and high-speed communications as horizontal support in line with Community policy
- development of scientific and technological parks in which to be developed innovative clusters whose life cycle have as finality provision of goods and services for export;
- promotion and development of cooperation between industry and research where there will be sought solutions for the areas of high technology, for rapid funding and support, beyond market mechanisms in line with EU recommendations;
- stronger promotion of entrepreneurship for the development of SMEs sector, so that this becomes significant in the configuration of the ownership structure of the national economy;

- continuity of privatization policies by introducing on the capital market of state participations in accordance with national priorities;
- development of an industrial policy to outline elements pertaining to industrial specialization needed to move towards a low carbon emission economy
 - Boost in the administrative capacity pertaining to the ex-post evaluation of policies with impact on competitiveness, improvement of EU funds absorption process and increase in the quality of regulation process
 - strengthening and expansion of energy efficiency policies by all companies in order to increase their sustainability;
- Romanian export growth by promoting complementary approach between domestic support and external promotion measures.

Directions of action

Managing the economic interests of the state

- focusing all management activities on state private property, so that the Government to develop the legislative framework necessary to unblock the economy and solve the arrears problem.
- unitary way to nominate state representatives in the Board of Directors by promoting specialists. There will be permanently eliminated the current practice of appointment of the approximately 500 members of the Board of Directors of companies, state owned companies and national companies from among political cronies.
 - developing policies to support businesses privatized after 1992, to fully comply with post-privatization obligations and exit the state

monitoring. A fundamental role in this regard will be played by the new structure created for private state property management

by granting state aid, it will be along CEC and Exim Bank the only entitled to notification by the European Commission through the Competition Council.

- recovery of bank claims, state commercial and budget ones to privatized companies, taking into account the legal provisions on their consolidation in USD currency, so that companies are not burdened artificially by delay increases to claims payment for which buyers are not liable, these belonging to companies prior to 1989.

Promoting an integrated vision for mineral resources area

- Review of the regulatory framework in the mining sector in order to improve it by: review and implementation of a predictable regulatory framework to increase the attractiveness for potential private investors in the mining sector; development and approval of mining industry strategy. Last mining industry strategy expired in 2010 all the measures taken so far in the sector lack accurate assessment of the implications induced in the economy, amending Mine Law 85/2003 to clarify the closed mining perimeters reconcession ways, simplification of administrative procedures of license and mining permits granting, updating mining royalties and exploration / exploitation fees, etc., review of the legislative framework and specific regulations of mine closure process, ecological restoration and post-closure monitoring of the affected areas, establishing national monitoring system of mine waste deposits, harmonizing the legislation related to Mining Law with new provisions, etc.
- Reorganization of public institutions involved in the development of mining sector, improvement of the capacity of public institutions involved in managing and monitoring mining activities. In this respect, there are necessary: setting up the Mining Authority, body with regulatory, organisation and control role at national level of mining activities for institutional harmonization with EU Member States.

- The gradual reduction of the state role in mining exploration and exploitation activities of mineral resources: review and promotion of legal acts to attract in the economic cycle of research and / or exploitation perimeters currently blocked in the approval process at different levels of government (about 440 licenses of exploration / exploitation) re-bidding former mining areas for which there are already applications, capitalisation on current mining products existing on stock, at different producers, reorganisation of state mining companies management, through competence, rights, management obligations transfer to a private law entity through specific contracts;
- Promoting private investment in areas with untapped mining potential still in entirety. Private investors in the mining sector can contribute significantly to economic regeneration in areas affected by the restructuring of the mining sector, by closing mines commercially not viable, given that resource potential has not been exhausted;

Rise in the Romanian exports

- Creating an efficient network of trade promotion centers (CPCs) to make available to business representatives in Romania efficient means of Romanian export promotion;
- Regaining Romania's traditional export markets, especially those outside European Union (Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, South America, CIS states , etc.).
- Reorientation of production from sectors affected by the crisis, especially by increasing exports (automotive, auto parts manufacturing industry, complex banking financial instruments, construction works, etc.) to areas with a high absorption rate, including the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, People's Republic of China).
- Updating the National Export Strategy of Romania, with the central goal of defining an efficiency grid allowing significant increase in Romanian exports.

- Flexible system of export promotion by defining effective tools, with a major impact materialized by increasing the volume of Romania's exports.
- Establishment of Regional Export Councils as elements of distribution, representation and collection of proposals generated by the business environment in the territory.
- Streamlining the Foreign Trade Portal, especially by streamlining circuit of export offers identified by external network representatives.
- Institutionalized cooperation with Eximbank to promote some export incentives(ensuring export, loans with bonus interest etc..)
- Collaboration with employers' associations in the field;

Boosting the competitiveness of industry in Romania by:

- Developing competitive market, while stimulating the activity of economic operators;
- Establishing a structured framework of quarterly monitoring and evaluation of measures for improving the business environment;
- Annual assessment of the relevant industries competitiveness and taking horizontal measures to increase their competitiveness by creating a " High level group for competitiveness issues, energy and the environment "
- Promoting new research programs in areas with technological potential, high added value or internal resources (food industry);
- Improving the qualifications framework for new types of products and services;
- Supporting innovative companies and their concentration;

- Promoting independent research services. Romania needs to participate in sectoral working groups created at the EC level (for pharmaceutical industry, electro-technical one, mechanical engineering, food industry, information technology and communications, chemical and defense industry, the European space program, life sciences and Biotechnology for fashion and design) and to prepare in time responses to challenges in the development of these areas. On the same pattern, Romania must develop dialogue for other industries with impact (ex: textile or civil engineering industry);
- Conducting impact analyses on ex-post industrial competitiveness and quality surveys with a view to promoting the intelligent regulation. Monitoring of four indicators – competitiveness within EU and worldwide, number of jobs created, share of finished industrial products originating in ecological industries in the total of finished industrial products, share of the value added and employment in industrial sectors enforcing high and average technologies in total industrial sectors;
- Curbing administrative obstacles for companies and improving the quality of legislation;
- Enforcing the Single Market Act through implementing the 50 measures from Monti Report with a view to improving labor market, trade activities, and mutual exchanges – measures with legislative character.
- Further setting up of industrial parks, especially for high industrial areas (electronics, IT, precision mechanics, etc)
- More efficient use of information technologies in industrial sectors;
- Imposing in infrastructure contracts with external contractors of some offset provisions whereby related metallic constructions are to be achieved by Romanian suppliers;
- Developing cooperation in production and integration in manufacturing and trading regional and global networks;

- Strengthening the link between industry and university milieu / academic one, speeding up the process of transfer and implementation in industrial societies of the research – development – innovation activity outcomes
- Promoting funding strategies through public – private partnership
- Promoting a sustainable industrial policy through enforcing the directive pertaining to eco-design;
- Backing development regions through cohesion policy with a view to diversifying current industries, modernisation of production and innovation capacities;
- Backing and promoting policies in the industrial property protection and standardisation;
- Backing creative industries;

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Internal Affairs is one of the most important components of the rule of law and involves the provision of an essential public service to people with the ultimate aim of ensuring security and safety of citizens. The taxpayer citizen and bearer of national sovereignty should be the main beneficiary of the activity of the Ministry of Interior.

To this end, public institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Interior will focus all resources (human, material and financial) to combat until eradication the crime of all types and to solve effectively emergency situations.

Fundamental objectives

- *The continuous increase of the safety of citizens both in rural and in urban areas;*

- *Improvement of police cooperation to combat cross-border crime and the crimes committed by Romanian citizens abroad;*
- *Reducing bureaucracy within the Ministry of Interior, streamlining these structures and the redirection of the office employees to operational structures,*
 - *Analyzing and improving the legislative framework governing powers in public order and safety areas, emergencies and activities of the Prefect institution*
 - *Development, promotion and implementation of some policies and programs for the staff professional preparation, welfare, in order to consolidate the status of policeman, gendarme, fireman and other employees of the Interior Ministry's structures.*

Directions of action

- restructuring of national and local structures in order to be strong, professional and effective;
- development and implementation of policies consistent with standards and directives of the European Council with the purpose of making these structures compatible with their counterparts in the EU;
- increase in the citizen' safety by combating street crime, and increase in civic safety in the pre-university education institutions areas;
- preventing and combating corruption among the Interior Ministry's personnel at all levels and in all structures;
- preventing and combating organized crime, illicit drug and other prohibited substances trafficking, developing a strategy to prevent and combat crime, within which there will be set priorities and the

role of the state, school, family and civil society to combat this scourge;

- decrease in the traffic accidents dynamics, mainly those having casualties;
- increased efficiency of the activities for solving emergencies by improving the endowment of staff with modern and professional equipment;
- empowering the prefect institution in coordinating the activity in emergencies.

PUBLIC POLICIES

- increase citizen' safety by:
- combating street crime
- increase in civic safety in the pre-university educational institutions areas,
- reconstruction of local policy system and harmonization with national policies,
- preventing and combating corruption,
- preventing and combating crime,
- combating organized crime,
- combating drug trafficking
- safer road traffic
- emergency management and critical infrastructure protection,
- community public services closer to citizens (identity documents, permits,passports, registration)
- strengthening the role of the prefect institution and increase in its efficiency and stipulation of the functions of the Government's

representative at the local level (representation function and position of authority),

- within international cooperation, special attention should be extended to police cooperation to combat cross-border crime and crime committed by Romanian citizens abroad,
- also cooperation with the institutions of the EU Internal Security

(FRONTEX, EUROPOL) is an essential component of Ministry's activity for the implementation of European policies in the field,

- cooperation with INTERPOL and regional cooperation formats in South –East Europe will remain a major concern of the Ministry's leadership.

JUSTICE

With main tasks such as: the proper functioning of the judicial system, providing conditions for the administration of justice as a public service and defense of the rule of law and the citizens' rights and freedoms, the Ministry of Justice is dutybound to promote a modern judiciary, one to be closer to the citizen and to ensure equality before the law.

Strategies in the justice field

1) Establish a public policy based on the principles of independence and professionalism.

2) The legislation reclamation programme that requires analyzing all legislation in Romania,

Its correlation with European legislation, republication of legislative acts and restricting the number of regulations, program to be carried out together with the Government, Parliament and the Legislative Council.

3) The implementation of the national anticorruption strategy.

4) The computerization of the judiciary by enforcing the computerisation strategy adopted jointly by the Ministry of Justice together with the

Superior Council of Magistracy, High Court of Cassation and Justice and the Public Ministry.

Legislative measures

- Developing a legislation complying with European principles on restitution of the property abusively confiscated by the Communist regime.
- Clarification of the status of prosecutors and the role of Public Ministry in relation to constitutional provisions
- Strengthening the rule of law, including by strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman and depoliticizing the Constitutional Court.
- Improving the legal framework for the recovery of damages resulting from offenses.
- Implementation of European legislation on extended confiscation, and the other Directives adopted by the EU Council.
- Establishing a mechanism for appointment to leadership positions within Public Ministry, in a transparent way, and based on the criteria of professionalism and integrity.
- Amendment of national legislation in line with the European Convention of Human Rights.
- Implementation of new codes as a fundamental objective. Enforcement as of 2013 of new Code of Civil Procedure and as of 2014, of the new Criminal Code and the new Code of Criminal Procedure and correlation of specific legislation, particularly in criminal matters, regarding the execution of custodial sentences and non-custodial sentences.
- Transforming High Court of Cassation and Justice in a court of cassation with the main role in standardization of jurisprudence and creation of judicial mechanisms to unify judicial practice.

Measures of institutional organization

- Reorganization of the courts in order to prepare them for the new codes by implementation of the action plan adopted by the Government in this respect by memorandum.
- Increase in logistics and institutional capacity of structures of the Public Ministry through consolidated public investment programs, and through better management of existing resources. Adapting and implementing a national programme to stop crime based on three pillars: prevention of crime, sanctions enforcement and social reintegration of persons who served their sentence, according to law.
- Reorganization of prisons to ensure conditions of detention according to international norms.
- Improvement of ex officio / free legal aid, while conducting an extensive public information campaign on this right, especially in disadvantaged areas (rural, depopulated) and for marginalized social categories (elderly, low income, etc.).
- Management of courts budget by the High Court of Cassation and

Justice by establishing an optimal and efficient calendar reported to international obligations of the Romanian state inserted into the CVM.

- Increasing the transparency of justice by publishing on internet rulings, with the protection of personal data of the parties.
- Reducing the number of miscarriages of justice by improving the continual professional training of magistrates.
- Strengthening administrative capacity and independence of the Judicial Inspection.
- Increasing the celerity of justice and reducing its costs, including

Through modern methods of pre-judicial settlement of conflicts.

- Resumption of establishment of specialized courts, based on relevant evaluations- measure strongly requested by magistrates

and foreign investors (for example, specialized courts in family matters and juvenile - juvenile justice, and specialized courts in commercial law and bankruptcy). Amendment of the insolvency laws after an analysis with World Bank experts

- Accessing structural funds to improve logistics of prosecutor's offices and courts, in parallel with the smooth completion of the Loan Agreement with World Bank for the Program on the Judicial System Reform.
- Strengthening collaboration with CSM, professional associations and civil society.

Progress under the CVM - a key priority for the European course of Romanian justice

- Achieving priority objectives assumed in the Mechanism for Cooperation and Verification (MCV) by implementing the new Codes. Correlation of specific legislation especially in criminal matters in the execution of custodial sentences and non-custodial sentences.
- MCV transformation into a genuine instrument for cooperation with the European Commission to achieve an effective judicial system, fair and predictable.
- Starting a substantive dialogue with European officials for a better way how the Romanian judiciary must meet its objectives, within the MCV.
- Supervising the implementation of objectives and fundamental principles of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.
- Supporting institutions responsible for fulfilling the obligations assumed by Romania for entry into the Schengen area.

Large infrastructure projects

The overall objective of the strategy in priority infrastructure projects is to ensure the financial, procedural and contractual conditions to start and finalize as rapidly as possible those major investments that have a significant economic and social immediate impact and solve acute problems that currently have a significant negative impact on the quality of life of citizens and the ability of companies to do business in Romania.

To achieve this general objective and specific objectives, there will be supported the following general measures and compulsory actions:

- an accelerated absorption of EU funds available for projects

contained in the 2007-2013 programming and preparation of project portfolio, while improving procedures for the 2014 -

2020 programming period;

- a centralized procurement of goods, services or works related to priority infrastructure projects with high complexity, including the necessary funding;
- Improvement of the specific legislative framework to attract direct foreign investment and implementation of project financing structures according to the best practices at European and global level, including by modernization and unification of legislation on public procurement / concessions / public-private partnership, and efficiency promotion ("Best Value for Money");
- Use of some prefunding/ co-funding/modern funding structures , taking into account both short and medium term limited funding of state budget, and constraints resulting from the public deficit control and the degree of indebtedness of the state and public entities, favoring implementations that allow a maximum involvement of private sector in projects achievement;
- a review of tender documentation patterns for major investment projects assignment, and of contracts model for execution by adopting international standards used in the field to the specific national legal framework;

- Promotion of special inter-institutional partnerships with EU Member States authorities that developed best practices by which to promote transfer of knowledge to improve the national administrative capacity
- Promotion of specialty technical assistance to support the work of planning and implementation of priority infrastructure projects through specialists with significant global expertise

Key infrastructure projects to be included in the directory described above, on areas, are:

Road area

- Bucharest-Ploiesti-Brasov Highway (Comarnic-Brasov road section).
- Sibiu - Ramnicu Valcea Highway

Railway area

- A high-speed railway line on Pan-European Corridor IV (Arad - Timisoara - Caransebeş - Drobeta Turnu Severin - Craiova - Calafat / Bucharest)
- rehabilitation of the railway line on the Pan-European Corridor IV Brasov –Simeria;
- rehabilitation of the railway line on the Pan-European Corridor IV Border -Curtici- Simeria

Naval area

- extension of the Constanta outer harbor breakwater
- Danube – Bucharest Channel (public - private partnership).
- infrastructure rehabilitation on the Danube - Black Sea Channel

Public information area

- an Integrated Information System of Cadastre and Land Registration
- an Integrated Information System of Electronic Access to Justice

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental policy aims to ensure to the present and future generations, a clean and healthy environment, able to protect the nature, the quality of life in correlation with green and competitive economic development with low carbon dioxide emissions and effective from the viewpoint of use of resources.

We aim to improve the environmental infrastructure and reduce the current gap to other EU Member States, biodiversity conservation, reducing pollution and improving air quality and at the same time, promotion of energy production from renewable and clean alternative sources and stimulating sustainable economic growth with a focus on creating new "green" jobs. An essential instrument will be the increase in the absorption of European funds through the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment and preparing Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

We extend special attention to improving the transparency of decision making, and and awareness, information, consultation and participation of all citizens in decision making on the environment.

Environment protection

A. Combating climate change

- Completion of the National Strategy on Climate Change for the period 2013 -2020 aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases according to commitments under the Climate Change and Energy Package
- Developing action plans to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in sectors covered by Decision no. 406/2009/EC on the effort of Member States to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (areas that are not under EU ETS (greenhouse Emissions Trading system))
- Supporting local authorities to develop their own strategies for combating climate change locally.
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve, by 2020, Romania's commitments to implement the package "Energy –climate change "
- funding through the Environment Fund, of public and private projects that have as demonstrable result reduction of greenhouse gas

(Energy efficiency in the industrial, residential and public sector, recovery of methane gas from landfills and using it as an energy resource, use of renewable energy sources);

- funding projects to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from revenues from auctioning under the provisions of the ETS, which is done in a centralized way at the European level;

- an improved dialogue with operators subject to the ETS provisions in order to comply with its requirements;

· Adapting to climate change effects

- completion of national adaptation Strategy to climate change, according to the European Charter for adaptation;

- development of collaboration with other public central and local authorities to develop adaptation plans to climate change effects.
- improvement of the legislative framework of methodologies, norms and regulations in the national meteorological system in order to implement the action plan
- reduction in medium and long-term vulnerability to the effects of climate changes by developing action plans at central, regional and local level on adaptation to climate change effects

B. Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components

- Approval and implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on biodiversity conservation 2013-2020;
- Improving the legal and institutional framework for a coherent management of the network of protected areas;
- Mapping of natural habitats and wildlife habitats of Community interest and setting the system for monitoring their state of preservation;
- Management plans for protected areas;
- Establishing methodologies for compensation granting to owners and land lessees in protected areas;
- Establishing a unitary management system of strictly protected species;
- Economic evaluation of the services provided by natural and semi-natural ecosystems
- Implementing the concept of preserving the integrity and operation of ecological systems, sustainable management of natural resources from marine and land components of coastal areas
 - Measures for integrated coastal zone management to ensure support necessary system for resource conservation relative

to coastal areas, as part of the European network Natura 2000, designated under the Community provisions in the area

v. Danube Delta revitalization through adaptive management based on conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development of local communities:

- Inventory and mapping of natural habitats and the habitats of the wild species of conservation interest;
- Setting up methodologies and monitoring system of the conservation status of natural habitats and species of Community interest;
- Integrated Management Plan of the Danube Delta;
- Establishing traffic monitoring system on canals and lakes in the Delta

Danube;

- Sewage system and water supply and integrated management system of waste for all municipalities located within the " Danube Delta" Biosphere Reservation
- Creation of mechanisms to support sustainable development of communities and higher living standards for local people
- Multiannual Financing Program for the Danube Delta

d Waste and hazardous substances management

- Turning waste into a resource, according to the EU Roadmap on efficient use of resources
- Strategic planning at a regional level of waste management for completion /achievement of investments necessary to meet European targets in the field.
- Acceleration of achieving integrated waste management systems, including by improving the absorption of EU funds;
- Expanding and improving waste collection systems;

- Increase in the amount of waste entering the recycling cycle;
 - Improving the institutional capacity in the field of chemicals management
 - Improving cooperation with the European Chemicals Agency.
- e. Evaluating and improving air quality, industrial pollution control
- Improving and expanding the national air quality monitoring system;
 - Reduce noise and vibration in residential areas;
 - Prevention and control of industrial pollution by:
 - securing investment needed to fulfill commitments set out in

Treaty of Accession to the EU

- adoption by industry of best available techniques under

Industrial Emissions Directive

- intensification of the control of legislation enforcement in the area

Improving weather forecast, warning and public information system, and response capabilities in case of accidents: radiological, chemical, including in the transboundary context

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F. Protection of soil and subsoil

- Approval of the National Strategy for the sustainable management of contaminated sites
- reduction of contaminated sites areas, of naturally occurring and anthropogenic hazard mitigation
- Ensuring that decisions related to land use, adopted at all levels take into account the environmental impact not only the social and economic one

Integrating environmental policy into other sectoral policies and the implementation of sustainable development principles

- Conducting systematic ex-ante assessments of the social, economic and environment impact of all political initiatives at the national level, to ensure their consistency and effectiveness
- Monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, based on quantifiable indicators
- Increasing the role of the Interministerial Committee for environmental policy integration in the other sectoral policies
- Developing effective mechanisms to improve cooperation between authorities for better environmental protection regulations

Modernisation and strengthening the administrative capacity in the environment area

- Institutional capacity development and ensuring environmental protection and a systematic training of staff
- Strengthening the EU funds absorption capacity within the SOP Environment
- Streamlining the process / the control act on compliance with

Environmental requirements in carrying out any activities with environmental impact

Improving education and awareness, information, consultation and participation of all citizens in environmental decision making

- Citizen awareness on environmental protection
- Promoting environmental education, setting up a partnership with the Ministry of Education to establish specific curricula
- Support NGOs in the citizen awareness on environmental protection

- Ensuring greater transparency of decision-making process
- Speeding up communication with civil society

Improving quality of life in communities

- sustainable development of cities
- Increasing green spaces - target of 26 sqm / inhabitant
- development around major urban areas of complex green

spaces formed by woodland and water surface

- completion of resettlement in suburban areas of operators generating pollutants, noise and dust
- Compliance with EU environmental standards by developing

water infrastructure and wastewater treatment station and increasing related service quality

- Increasing the share of public transport, its interconnection and facilitating "green" transport means
- urban planning and development of planning regulation based on ecological principles
- strengthening controls and penalties to observe urban cleanliness.

Healthy eating

- Backing organic farming and organic products as a strategic option for Romania's development
- Unifying and clarifying national legal framework on GMOs.

Green Public Procurement

- Promotion of green procurement and introduction of environmental and social criteria to improve the quality of products and services offered to citizens.

- Encouragement of green public procurement through the development and approval of an Action Plan for Green Public Procurement to track:
- Promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns;
- encouraging development and application of clean and environment-friendly technologies;
- setting criteria for procurement of green products and services.
- Information and awareness of public authorities on the importance of promoting procurement of green products and services.

LABOR

It aims to ensure a flexible legislative framework for increasing the employment rate, promotion of flexicurity principle, and increasing training, and whereby this labor productivity, while releasing the pressure on the employer by reducing administrative barriers and social contributions.

DIRECTIONS FOR ACTION

Employment

- Increasing the employment, focusing on the following target groups : young people aged between 15 and 25 years, workers aged 50 to 64 years, women; unskilled workers, people with disabilities, people with complex family responsibilities, ethnic minorities, including the Roma minority.

- Stimulating investment aimed at improving the working conditions of employees, with emphasis on green jobs;
- Increasing skills and hence labor productivity by promoting training programs of employees, tailored to economic development opportunities;
- Supporting the third sector, the social economy and social enterprises, aimed at increasing cohesion and social inclusion of people from vulnerable groups by setting up, in the local interest, new jobs and / or social services.
- The introduction of short-time employment procedure which allows for a limited period, aggregation of income from part-time work with part of the unemployment benefit;
- . Introducing social record in relation to access to procurement / public contracts by the prohibition to participate in any form of procurement or public works contracts award of those businesses that used illegal forms of work, exploitation at work or minors used for night work, at height or in adverse weather conditions in the last 2 years.
- Curbing illegal employment and strengthening fiscal discipline while reducing barriers and administrative costs for the employer, up to 18% card by creating the insured card in the social insurance system - the basis of single integrated social security system (electronic single window), which will increase personal information transparency by allowing the beneficiary to access information on their social security and control of the office;
 - Limiting the phenomenon of 'brain drain';
 - Promoting legislation for young people whereby to ensure consistent transit from school to the labor market and balance between professional and personal lives by increasing access to social services for childcare and for persons at risk of addiction;

- Stimulating and expanding measures to encourage youth employment in the labor market, especially of those from orphanages and disabled persons;
- Stimulating the development of a network of specialists for advice and information on jobs for people with disabilities.
- Promoting integrated programs for social inclusion of Roma, starting from the increase in their employment rate and strengthening the relationship between governmental authorities with non-governmental organizations to identify their needs.

Salary policy

- We support equal opportunities, including by eliminating wage gap between women and men in the labor market.
- Gradual increase in the minimum wage by 2016 to 1,200 RON.
- We gradually reduce over the next four years, the CAS payable by the employer by 5 percent points by 2016.

Pensions

• Introduction of voluntary occupational pensions (Pillar IV) based on insured and the employer's contribution, based on the specifics of profession or fields, thus eliminating injustices created to special pension beneficiaries, by the new pension law and also there is created the possibility for stimulating in the long-term occupations with greater wear.

• Increased responsibility for old age income of people working in occasional and seasonal activities, particularly in agriculture, by creating a system of pensions and other social insurance rights of farmers, given the specific of these activities.

- Starting from the belief that the sustainability of the pension system depends on the enforcement of the principle of contribution, by

accumulation, and individual responsibility, we will promote a sustainable pension system based on individual saving accounts

to take, as a share, a growing percentage of replacement income and also from the total income of the insured social security. In this regard, we will support change of principles governing public pension system, by focusing the system on the principle of contributiveness and individual responsibility through an individual savings accounts for public pensions (Pillar I) to ensure during the transition to the new system, the measures to mitigate the reform cost, without affecting income of beneficiaries in payment or with little accumulation period.

- Relieving the state social insurance budget of expenses that may be incurred in other funding sources - ex. payment from the state budget of accompanying allowance, given to invalids degree I.

Social assistance

- Social assistance system reform by transforming it from a passive into a proactive one. Changing focus from individual assistance on building social protection measures around family protection through increased level of social security and individual accountability through a child and family -centered social policy, that encourage dignified aging based on an integrated system of social services and benefits for vulnerable groups;

- Improving quality of life by improving the quality of services provided to families, such as development of educational and supervision services in preschool or after-school programs care , services for disabled, services for the elderly and for people in a state of dependence on third parties for health reasons, while stimulating employers to develop these services used by their employees;

- Poverty reduction for 580,000 people by 2020.

- Fighting poverty and promoting social inclusion and protection by providing a social system based on an institutional mechanism to identify, assess and intervene for all cases of social risk.
- Development of social services while reducing the volume of direct financial benefits to beneficiaries, and the development of the use of vouchers system.
- Stimulating public and private investment in an integrated advanced social assistance system, for the protection of the the elderly, disabled, homeless and without income and of other persons in situations of social risk and who need permanent or temporary protection.
- Protecting vulnerable consumers by providing additional aid to pay the energy bill.
- Development of social services for the care of children and family dependent persons and supporting the recognition of carers work at home.

Family and Child Protection

- Promotion of support mechanisms for parents and ensuring a balance between family and professional life by standardizing quality in day care of children, integrated care and education in nurseries, day services and accredited and qualified nannies, and of the monitoring system for ensuring the quality of these services.
- Ensuring access to good care and preschool education by strengthening and development of nurseries, kindergartens and programs of "after-school" and creating deductibility for employers who arranged nurseries or kindergartens including in their premises for employees children;
- Updating strategy for elderly starting from multiple needs of the elderly and the principle of prioritizing prevention and supporting home care.

- Making a special legal and institutional framework on dependency and addictions, with specialized services for functional dependence due to age, disability, addictions and for terminally ill patients.
- In order to ensure proper use of funds only for the purposes for which they were collected, there will be made a new architecture of social protection through clear targeting of funds from contributions and special taxes;
- Increasing the risk of error detection, fraud, corruption on social services budget by increasing penalties, strengthening the legal framework of social inspector, increasing interoperability for cross-checking in the office, having low administrative costs;
- Developing secondary legislation on domestic violence and achievement in each county of a residential service for victims of domestic violence.
- Including social cohesion and gender equality principles in all public policies and strengthening capacity to monitor their implementation.

SOCIAL DIALOGUE

- Restoring the role of social dialogue institution central to state of law and democracy.
- Restoring ties with parts of society to reinforce links of trust between government and the governed.
- Resumption of social dialogue at the institutional level, by involving the social partners (trade unions, employers, NGOs) in the decision-making. The resumption of talks on making legislative improvements in the following areas: trade unions, collective agreements, labor disputes, employers, civil servants, labor inspection, labor code, trading companies ş.a.m.d.

HEALTH

Our health care system, with its institutions and health professionals, places the patient at the core of its concerns. Social concept underlying the health system is based on the principles of universal access to healthcare of quality and, therefore, involves the application of the principle of solidarity in funding.

One of the Government's main tasks will be to identify and systematize optimal action directions for the implementation of reform measures in a comprehensive legislative process, to allow meeting the expectations of people and the political environment.

There must be resumed citizens confidence in the health through civilized access to the health services they need, and also there must be resumed the dignity of medical staff.

General objective

A health system that supports and enables people to achieve good health status and which contributes to the increase in the quality of their life.

Specific objectives

Strengthening the role of the health system

- Developing a strategy during 2013 for developing and modernizing Romanian healthcare system in the short, medium and long term;
- Promoting health policies as intersectoral policies by involving other sectors in increasing the health of the population and implementing the concept "health in all public policies";
- Promoting evidence-based health policies and implicitly positioning health system components share (public health services, community health services, preventive services, outpatient care);
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- Health policy development in partnership with the patient / population professional organizations;
- Review the funding system and implementation of a rigorous control of public spending;
- Continued and improved public access to emergency services through strengthening integrated system.

Health System Management

- Reorganisation of health insurance system by amending and revising legislation;
- Creating the institutional framework for continuous improvement of the quality of health services;
- Diversification of powers, duties and responsibilities of family physicians, aiming to increase the role of primary care in the continuous improvement of the health system performance;
- Financing public health policies through better management of European funds;
- Development, financing and implementation of screening programs to detect early and treat non-communicable diseases with a major impact on health state indicators, with priority for oncological, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases;
- Depoliticising health system management by providing career professional development based on institutional and legislative framework, grounded in performance criteria;
- Integrity structure development at the level of the ministry of health and of decentralized structures, to ensure observing the transparent decision-making at all levels of the health system;
- Redefining information system to exclude duplication and ensure

validity and quality of data;

- Development of an Integrated Information System for Public Health (SISSP) as support for information system, enabling interoperability of current and future applications based on an integrated architecture, allowing effective use of information in health policy development and system management.

Organization of health services

- Increase access to basic health services;
- Coordination / integration of health services including identifying and developing the role of roles of other institutions with potential impact on health (local public authorities, schools, social services, etc.)
- Coordination of health care by providing optimal routes for patients, on categories of disease;
- Developing multi-functional outpatient health centers (medical specialties; laboratory specialties / imaging services / lab / functional explorations)
- Implementation and monitoring of instruments to ensure the quality of Health services / safety of patients;
- Professional Management of National Health Programmes
- Providing an efficient information system horizontally and vertically to integrate all components of the health system.

Health system funding

In this respect, we will promote measures concerning:

- Separation of health services financing:
- package of basic health services to all citizens - insured and uninsured -

package that will include the fields: emergency, prevention, national health programs;

- Additional medical package for privately insured citizens, insurance deductible to a limit set by the Government;
- Regulation of participation of medical technology manufacturing companies in the partial financing of the increased cost of using these technologies.

Human resource

Preparation and attracting medical staff by:

- Revise wage system for flexibility and stimulating performance and competitiveness by excluding medical profession and of healthcare assistance, including midwives in budget staff category;
- Providing training to an adequate number of staff with the preponderance for deficient specialties;
- Reforming residency regarding admission, training and getting

specialist qualifications;

- Providing additional conditions / reasons, for the installation of health cabinets in disadvantaged areas.

Development of projects to attract human resources

- Residency supported through facilities by the local communities
- Subsidizing rents for resident doctors and young professionals from local communities
- Provision of facilities to open medical offices of family doctors and

of outpatient physicians, Multifunctional centers, including

reduction of fees to an acceptable level and co-payments for utilities etc.

Infrastructure

Fundamental objectives: providing additional financial resources from European funds and through PPP, especially for the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.

Specific Objectives

- Updating documentation and begin construction of the 8 regional emergency hospitals, hospitals of the most complex notch quality;
- Development of county emergency hospitals of strategic interest and increase in their competence
- Completion SMURD national infrastructure expansion (providing crews SMURD in rural areas to increase the efficiency and participation of local);
- Preservation of intervention capacity by equipping ambulance services and SMURD using multiannual endowment programs;
- Renovation and equipping of hospital outpatient services units through the ROP program and other community programs through the programme with World Bank or funding from the Ministry of Health;
- Supporting private investment in building and equipping new hospitals, by credits guaranteed by Romanian state and by subsidizing part of the interest;
- Development and implementation of e-health services nationwide;
- Rehabilitation and development of radiological investigation, intensive care and radiotherapy platforms, as well as operating theaters and laboratories of interventional cardiology, interventional neuro-radiology, and interventional gastroenterologia and similar ones in strategic hospitals;
- Establishment of burn centers in at least 3 regions besides those in Bucharest;
- Development of cardiovascular pediatric and neonatal surgery centers.

Medical Technologies

- Development and implementation of health technology assessment policy;
- Developing specific policies for key areas of health technologies (Medicines, medical devices, high-performance equipment, etc.).
- Compensation of medicines for low-income retirees;
- Establishment of the National Pharmaceutical Company to create the necessary diversity for market provision with medicines;
- Uniform development, import and distribution company for continuity of supply and sale of medicines for the population;
- Restarting and development of the activity of the Cantacuzino Institute to ensure independence in vaccines and promotion of export products, the institute having national and regional strategic role;
- Endowment with performance equipments of healthcare areas (ex: oncology / radiotherapy)
- Endowment with the latest equipment of areas such as oncology, radiotherap, etc

Guidelines and action directions to be detailed in legislation and secondary legislative acts pertaining to:

- Primary care

Specialized outpatient care

- Hospital care
- Emergency medical assistance
- Medical rehabilitation and recovery care
- Medical care of the elderly
- Home care and palliative care

- Providing outpatient medicine treatment
- Ensuring quality of care
- HR Policies
- Health insurance
- Prevention in health
- Audit of the health system and its components