



**ROMÂNIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND YOUTH**

Str. G-ral Berthelot 28-30, 010168, sector 1, București, Tel 4056208, Fax 3124719

**Speech**

***The importance of Research for Global Sustainable Development***

**Cristian Mihai Adomnitei**  
**Minister of Education, Research and Youth**

- Check Against Delivery -

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my highest appreciation to the German Presidency, for the excellent work performed during this year and especially for organizing such an important event.

It is a privilege and a pleasure for me to be invited to attend this Forum which has the aim to approach a challenging topic: *sustainable development and the role of research in this process*.

We all agree that we live in a period characterized by knowledge based competition, in which the most valuable commodities are innovation and information. Countries and regions are competing today to attract or develop successful knowledge based business or industries, recognizing the importance of research and innovation in economic and social development. But many of the most successful business realized that they can no longer rely only on their own resources, human or infrastructure, but they have to collaborate and network, form strategic alliances to develop and exploit new technologies.

Science knows no boundaries and research is asked today to deal with issues that are increasingly global. Today, we are discussing at the political level important issues such as climate changes or provision of

reliable energy services. These are just few areas where research is asked to play an important role.

In Europe, we have a powerful tool to use it today, namely the **7<sup>th</sup> Framework programme and structural funds addressing competitiveness**. Commissioner Potočnik and his team performed an excellent work bringing together all the stakeholders and fighting for EU 3% of GDP R&D investment objective.

As a minister of education and research I believe that knowledge is a universal concept. It is not tied to any country. It is portable. It can be created anywhere and it may be beneficial to a wide range of areas in the world. By definition, knowledge is a changing notion. Education and research are important ways to acquire, develop and learn how to use this knowledge and is our role as Governments to support knowledge **that contributes to sustainable development**.

We all have agreed at European level that universities, research institutes and private enterprises have an essential role to play in promoting **research that support economic growth and environmental protection**. Universities and other higher education institutions have also a key role in providing education and training that support the people to fully exploit **sustainable** technologies.

As a representative of the Romanian Government I can assure you of our strong commitment to contribute to the development of the **European Research Area**. In this respect, the Romanian Government adopted the **National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2007-2013**.

I would like to share with you today, our vision. We believe that **Romania** builds a knowledge-based society, focused on solving problems arisen from meeting the demand to innovate, as expressed by the economy and the society. To respond to that challenge, the RDI system will open to the Romanian companies, to the international scientific environment, to the societal needs and the educational system.

The correlation of the national need of innovation with the development of science and technology at a global level will take place through research-action networks, where the multidisciplinary international cooperation will target the resolution of specifically identified problems. Brokerage centres, technology transfer and knowledge centres will provide the interface between the domestic need of innovation and the solutions that may be adapted from the global knowledge stock.

The international mobility will be a key dimension of researcher training. The intersectoral mobility mechanisms will ensure an effective knowledge and expertise transfer between the research organisations. Meanwhile, the universities will be supported to establish excellence research institutes in strategic areas, doctoral and postgraduate schools.

We established optimistic goals but we believe that under the coordination of our **National Scientific Research Authority**, we will be able to implement the necessary actions to achieve our goals. The Strategic Planning is provided by the National Authority for Scientific Research, which has the mission to prepare, implement, monitor and assess the policies in the RDI areas.

I was mentioning about our vision, our institutional arrangement and I would like to say some words as regards financial allocation. Starting with 2005, in order to determine a more rapid shift in the evolution of the RDI system, and, consequently, a quicker adaptation to the complex requirements of the post-accession period, the Romanian Government has firmly engaged in the direction of **increasing resources invested in research**. As a consequence, the public expenditures for research and development has registered in 2006 a significantly increase, 1,5 times more than 2005 and almost two times more, as compared to 2004.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that international exchanges of researchers, networking and inter-disciplinary projects are tools that can support our national approaches and cooperation between Member States and Commission as well as between research and education are important keys in the process of achieving the objectives of Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs.

Thank you very much for your attention.