

GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
The Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad

Activity Report

of the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad during January – December 2006

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by its Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad (DRRA) is the institution that, in compliance with the law, draws up and enforces the policy in the field of the relations with the Romanians abroad, according to the objectives and the principles set by the governing program.

In 2006, DRRA promoted an active policy, which aimed at providing a real support for stating, preserving and promoting the ethnical, linguistic, religious and cultural identity of the Romanians abroad, by complying with the European standards in the field, both by the direct financial support provided to the Romanians abroad, and at political-diplomatic level.

Moreover, one of the main activity objectives was ***to transform the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad into a modern, European institution, with a transparent activity, based upon the modern management principles.***

In this context, the main components having direct repercussions on the quality and the perception of the DRRA activity were taken into consideration as follows:

- **adoption of an adequate legal framework**, which would facilitate the funding provided to the Romanians from abroad, so that the actions carried out by the Romanian associations and organizations would have continuity and substance.
- **drawing up of a funding application form according to the European pattern**, accompanied by a guide that helps the beneficiaries of the funding;
- **establishment of partnerships with the credible Romanian associations and organizations, which are capable of carrying out projects** in the community they represent, **with quantifiable results and visible effects for promoting the Romanian identity**;
- **dialogue with the authorities of the countries where there are important Romanian communities**, and, **on the occasion of the State Secretary visits**, projects or proposals for future actions were established jointly and the Romanian State expressed its interest in the Romanian communities issue;

The dialogue with the representatives of central institutions with responsibilities in this field, with the mass-media and the civil society was developed, both on various subjects of interest for the DRRA activity, and for drawing up draft laws regarding the support provided to the Romanians abroad and the mail poll.

Efficiency and coherence characterized the activity of the Department in 2006, and the **credibility earned and the transparency achieved**, including by presenting its initiatives on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, have led to the **increase of the number of partners benefiting from funding, expertise and support from prestigious European bodies.**

In 2006, it **consolidated the partnership** with the non-governmental environment and with the **traditional and prestigious institutions of Romania** (the Romanian Academy, the Romanian Academy Institute of Linguistics, the National Art Museum of Romania, the Romanian Peasant's Museum), as well as the **collaboration with the academic**

environment in research projects, including with famous institutes from abroad, for compensating the severe lack of information in a field that was intentionally neglected during the communist regime.

The main lines of action that structured the activity of the Department in 2006 were the following:

1. The reform of the legal and normative framework of the DRRA activity;
2. The identification of important partners and the creation of successful partnerships;
3. The re-launching of bilateral mechanisms for monitoring the respect of the rights of the people of Romanian origin in the neighboring countries;
4. Political-diplomatic actions and meetings with the Romanian communities from abroad;
5. Actions and activities carried out by DRRA for the benefit of the Romanian communities in the neighborhood and in the Balkans, as well as in the emigration.

1. The reform of the normative framework of the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad.

1.a. Law 321/2006 on the system of providing unredeemable funding to the programmes, projects or actions for supporting the activity of the Romanians abroad and of their representative organizations, as well as of the way of distributing and using the amount provided in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for this activity, intended to clarify and systemize the activity in this field. The law became effective on January 1, 2007 and created the conditions for a more efficient funding activity, based upon set rules, avoiding delays and interruptions in the projects due to the procedures for adopting a new government decision, at the beginning of every year.

1.b. Draft laws for the first time

The absence of an adequate legal framework that would ensure continuity, efficiency and transparency in the activity of the Department created, prior to the year 2005, problems with consequences including in the relation with the beneficiaries of the DRRA funding.

The law on the support provided to the Romanians abroad

The draft Law on the support provided to the Romanians abroad was drawn up at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This draft law was subject to a public debate in the month of July 2006 and was published on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

The draft law initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **reiterates the constitutional obligation of the Romanian State to support the development of the relations with the Romanians from broad for preserving and stating their ethnical, cultural, linguistic and religious identity**, which underlines the fact that this law concretizes the obligation contained in the fundamental law of the country.

The Project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs defines, at the level of principles, the objective of the Law provisions regarding the support provided to the Romanian abroad, emphasizing the fact that a special attention is given to providing support to the vulnerable or threatened Romanian communities, which have a high risk of assimilation or whose number is continuously decreasing. This type of provisions is essential for specifying the objectives aimed at by promoting the legislative initiative.

1.c. The normative and good practice support of the DRRA activity The legislative support of the Department's activity was improved by undertaking a set of procedures and good practices existent in the field, at European level.

The funding activity for 2006 was carried out in compliance with the **Government Decision no. 591/2006**. For the first time, the normative framework was supplemented with a set of regulations, which were subject to the **Order no. 984/03.07.2006 of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for approving the Procedure of drawing up the documents of evaluation, selection and approval of programmes, projects and actions, as well as of developing and using the funds allocated for supporting the activity of the Romanians abroad and of their representative organizations.**

This document **established the evaluation criteria for providing unredeemable funding** (some of them are: meeting the legitimate requirement of people belonging to the Romanian communities of preserving, developing and expressing their identity, the applicant's organizational capacity, the effects of the programs at the level of the entire community), as well as **the procedures regarding the development of funding**, for the purpose of **ensuring an efficient and transparent process.**

1.d. Funding programs

The year 2006 marked a first thing as regards the construction and announcement of an action plan of the Department. In order to create the optimum context of coherent, constant actions to be followed up in a multi-annual work format, the strategic priorities of the Department were communicated, leading to the configuration of a structure based upon then programmes.

The objectives of the programs are to promote the Romanian language (*„Mihai Eminescu”*), to support education in the Romanian language for the Romanian communities from abroad (*„Spiru Haret”*), to promote the Romanian culture by performing arts (*„Ion Luca Caragiale”*), to promote the Romanian musical creation and interpretative art in the Romanian communities from abroad (*„George Enescu”*), to promote the creation of the Romanians all over the world in the field of visual arts (*„Constantin Brâncuși”*), to stimulate a „brain-regain” process dedicated to Romanian excellence (*„Henri Coandă”*), to structure the Romanian civil society from abroad (*„Societas”*), to recover and to promote values belonging to the material and immaterial patrimony of the Romanians from abroad (*„Patrimony”*), to develop cultural anthropology research activities in the Romanian communities from abroad (*„Dimitrie Gusti”*), to preserve and to state the religious identity in the Romanian communities from abroad (*Mitropolit „Andrei Şaguna”*).

1.e. A new strategic vision: the relations with the Romanian communities from abroad in the context of Romania's post accession

Considering the new status that Romania acquires after joining the European Union, both at international and regional level, a *new post accession vision* becomes ever clearer, leading to the definition of new strategic objectives, a context in which the *energies and creativity resources of millions of Romanians in the communities from abroad can add value to the fundamental targets of the Romanian foreign policy.*

This segment of the Romanian civil society has proved that it cannot be viewed only as a consumer of resources anymore, within identity assistance policies enforced by the Bucharest authorities, but it has to gain the place it deserves – that of a creator of values that belong to the Romanian mutual cultural funding, with an impact on consolidating a distinct image of Romania at international level.

Within the operational framework, the issue of the Romanian communities is dealt with by two directorates, according to the specific recognized work fields and instruments: the Directorate for the Romanians in the Neighboring Countries and in the Balkans and the Directorate for the

People Born in Romania, which covers the European Union, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Australia and Africa.

1.f. Transparency of activity

Undertaking a conduct based upon the increase of efficiency in allocating public funds and the complete transparency of the funding procedures, aiming at ensuring equal chances for the access to funding, decisions were made in relation to:

- funding applications – they had a format similar to the European pattern, being displayed in 2006 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, for the first time;
- the list of financed projects – was displayed, also for the first time, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, containing information about the amounts financed, the project objectives, the association carrying out the project and the way of carrying out the project.

2. The identification of important partners and the creation of successful partnerships

It was aimed at identifying and concluding partnerships that would provide consistency and predictability to the Department actions, the increase of the capacity to generate successful projects, with a sure impact and visibility in the Romanian communities from abroad, so that it would allow the creation of a new, European institutional profile of the DRRA, as well as a credible repositioning of the field as against the collectivities and the elite of the Romanian diaspora.

The inter-institutional partnerships have already entered a phase of consolidation and beginning of mutual projects. The partnership with **the Romanian Academy**, under the direction of the academician Prof. Ion Haiduc, PhD. is already functioning, just like the partnership with **the Romanian Academy Institute of Linguistics**, run by the academician Prof. Marius Sala, PhD. It also started a consolidated relation with the **Ministry of Culture and Cults** and, especially, with the **Secretariat for Cults**.

In partnership with the **Ministry of Education and Research**, it is aimed at identifying a formula for restructuring and consolidating the activity of **the Romanian Language Institute**, in order to obtain a modern institution, compatible with similar institutions from abroad, which could actually undertake the vocation of promoting the Romanian culture and civilization abroad. For this purpose, we work on a project for amending the Government Decision on the organization and operation of the Romanian Language Institute.

Also in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research, first of all, but with other institutions as well, we participate in a work group that designs solutions for meeting the requirement of providing educational services to the children of the Romanian communities from abroad, covering the European area (pilot initiatives: Spain and Italy).

Partnership protocols were discussed and completed with prestigious representatives of the non-governmental field: **(1) The Humanitas Editorial Group**, for creating a series of editorials that would provide visibility to the works belonging to the cultural patrimony of the Romanians from abroad; **(2) The New Europe College**, for providing excellence scholarships for exhaustive studies on the Romanians born in Romania or on researching the Romanian cultural patrimony from abroad; **(3) The Ipotești Memorial – „Mihai Eminescu” National Studies Center**, with which we agreed on organizing summer schools for the professors or lecturers of Romanian language, culture and civilization from abroad, as well as on providing research scholarships for young Romanians from abroad; **(4) The International Theater Institute – UNESCO**, with which we carry out a program of promoting the contemporary

Romanian theater, within which a set of DVDs with theater shows was made, under excellent technical conditions, and it has subtitles in foreign languages as well (English, French) and we also discuss for the year 2007 the project of a theater tour in the European area for promoting the Romanian cultural identity in European context.

Partnerships with orthodox churches form abroad, namely with: **(1)** His Eminence Iosif, Metropolitan of Western and Central Europe, with **(2)** His Eminence Serafim, Metropolitan for Germany and Central and Northern Europe and with **(3)** His Eminence Nicolae, Metropolitan for America and Canada, thus covering all the significant regions where there is a Romanian presence.

Except for the current meetings, a mechanism of consultation and cooperation with the churches from abroad was agreed and achieved by organizing consultation and cooperation meetings within the synods of the Romanian Orthodox Church (a first meeting in this format took place in October this year). Therefore, the projects designed for the religious or social factor and performed with the support of the Romanian churches from abroad are decided in partnership, according to the principle of co-responsibility and co-participation in carrying out projects, in compliance with a long term vision on the assistance that the church can provide to the Romanians from abroad. A constant factor of this partnership was also the stimulation of getting the given churches involved in emphasizing the Romanian elites from those regions.

For this purpose, we mention the support that **DRRA provided in the year 2006 and will continue to provide in 2007 to the Centers of Educative and Catechetical Coordination of the Romanian Metropolitan Orthodox Church for Western and Southern Europe (MOREOM)**. The three MOREOM centers **coordinate the activity of the 25 parochial schools created in France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, England, Belgium and Switzerland where Romanian children receive information about the Romanian culture and civilization, in the Romanian language and in the orthodox spirit.**

The relations with the Romanian Cultural Institutes from abroad started from the same partnership vision based upon which the Romanian values can be promoted in the environments of the given countries with more credibility to the degree to which the cultural elites of the Romanians from abroad can be constantly associated with the cultural diplomacy actions. For this purpose, the creation of associations that can carry out projects in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institutes (such as „The RCI Friends” in Paris and others) allows the activities of promoting the Romanian cultural identity to become more efficient, due to the sharing of resources (human, financial or of symbolic prestige).

The relations with the associations in the European and extra-European area. The partnership aimed at seven main objectives: (a) to stimulate the structure of the Romanian civil society in the international environment, by undertaking an associative conduct and the emergence of associations that would allow the expression of a Romanian identity dimension – a special emphasis was laid on encouraging the formation of professional networks; (b) to identify credible associations, with a managerial infrastructure able to support the performance of successful projects, for ensuring the visibility of the Romanian community in the environments of the residence countries; (c) to encourage the elites to undertake a visibility role in the Romanian communities from abroad; (d) to stimulate the associations for managing the image of the Romanian community in the residence countries, which entails both an increase of the image of a responsible community and of the credibility of Romania’s image; (e) to undertake a partnership with the institutions of the Romanian State based upon the principle of shared responsibility and shared participation; (f) to identify projects that can stimulate the rebuilding of a community solidarity, using the opportunities brought by Romania’s accession to the European area; (g) to encourage natural relations with the diplomatic, consular or cultural missions of Romania – especially for certain segments of the former emigration that still manifest reserves.

Together with the **Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society**, which is recognized for the activity it carried out to support Aromanians in the Balkans at the end of the 19th century – the beginning of the 20th century, the Department initiated a series of actions for affirming them as part of the Romanian community.

It was deemed necessary to undertake a **radical change of the DRRA collaboration and relation** with the environment of the associations. The Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad pursued **primarily the cooperation with organizations and associations that have a professional way of working, a young team and a transparent activity, of promoting the Romanian and European values**. The concrete results of the collaboration are monitored and, according to the level and consequences of the activity performed, the mutual projects that can be carried out in the future shall be decided.

3. The re-launching of bilateral mechanisms for monitoring the respect of the rights of people of Romanian origin in the neighboring countries

3.1. The operation of monitoring the respect of the rights of people belonging to the Romanian minority in Ukraine and the Ukrainian minority in Romania

Monitoring the respect of the rights of the people belonging to national minorities has represented a constant subject of the Romanian-Ukrainian discussions over the last years. The subject was approached by the Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Odessa meeting of July 4, 2006, the protection of people belonging to national minorities being, in fact, one of the main themes on the agenda.

On this occasion, they established a calendar of the cooperation between the two countries as regards the protection of national minorities, the completion of technical details regarding the parameters of the monitoring process, the beginning of the process for monitoring the respect of the rights of people belonging to the Romanian minority in Ukraine, respectively of the Ukrainian minority in Romania, in the Cernăuți region, Ukraine, respectively in the counties Suceava and Botoșani, Romania, and the organization, in Bucharest, of the fifth session of the Mixed Intergovernmental Commission on ensuring the rights of people belonging to the Romanian minority in Ukraine, respectively of the Ukrainian minority in Romania.

The monitoring shall continue in the first half of the year 2007, in the regions Odessa and Transcarpathia, respectively in the counties Tulcea and Maramureș, representing an important action for promoting the respect of the rights of the Romanian minority in Ukraine.

3.2. The Romanian-Ukrainian Mixed Intergovernmental Commission of collaboration on minority issues, established according to article 13 of the Treaty regarding the Good Neighborhood and Cooperation Relations between Romania and Ukraine, represents a structure of cooperation for fulfilling the commitments undertaken by the two countries as regards the preservation and development of the ethnical, linguistic, religious and cultural identity of the Romanian minority in Ukraine and of the Ukrainian minority in Romania evaluating periodically the way of fulfilling the relevant provisions in the treaty and submitting proposals for improving the internal legislative and institutional framework in the field.

The Mixed Commission, whose co-president is the State Secretary for Relations with the Romanians Abroad, had its fifth session on November 21-22, 2006, in Bucharest. The agenda of the meeting included the evaluation of the stage of implementing the provisions of the previous protocols, the examination of the information obtained following the first stage of the monitoring operation, as well as the discussion of other proposals for collaboration in the field of protecting the people belonging to national minorities.

The meeting provided to the Romanian party the possibility of reiterating and supporting the requests of the Romanian community and of submitting aspects regarding the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken by Ukraine for examination. The issues taken into consideration were that of education in the Romanian language, the need for an adequate support of the Romanian minority organizations, the access to literature in the Romanian language, which is difficult because of the complicated procedure of book donations.

4. Political-diplomatic actions and meetings with the Romanian communities from abroad

In 2006, the political-diplomatic actions initiated in the previous year were continued, according to an activity plan endorsed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Thus, at the State Secretary level, official visits and meetings with the Romanian communities took place in the following countries:

- **France (March 2-9, 2006):** meetings with Council of Europe officials and with representatives of the Romanian communities from Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon, and Marseille.
- **Ukraine (February 2-3):** meetings with officials and representatives of the Romanian communities, on the occasion of the visit of the President of Romania to Ukraine;
- **Serbia (April 18-19):** meetings with officials and representatives of the Romanian communities, on the occasion of the visit of the President of Romania to Serbia and Montenegro;
- **Great Britain and Ireland (April 4-13, 2006):** meetings with officials and representatives of the Romanian communities from London, Birmingham and Oxford, Dublin, Cork and Galway.
- **The United States of America (May 30 – June 9, 2006):** meetings with officials and representatives of the Romanian communities from Washington, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago and New York.
- **Ukraine, Odessa (July 3-4):** participation in the consultations at the minister of foreign affairs level concerning the main issues on the bilateral agenda and meetings with the representatives of the Romanian community in the region;
- **The Republic of Cyprus (July 27-31, 2006):** meetings with officials and representatives of the Romanian community in Cyprus.
- **The Republic of Moldova (August 30-31, 2006):** meetings with officials and participation in the events dedicated to the Romanian Language Day;
- **Hungary (November 17, 2006) –** participation in the opening of the Consulate General of Romania to Gyula.
- **Ukraine (November 7-10, 2006):** the offering of a book donation from the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad, meetings with officials and representatives of the Romanian community.
- **Italy (November 23-30, 2006):** meetings with representatives of the directions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior of Italy, with the mayors of the cities of Turin and Tivoli. He participated in the launching of the first number of the magazine and handed over the „Romanian Spirit” award at the Accademia di Romania to the dramatist Matei Vişniec; meetings were organized with the directions of the schools in Turin and Tivoli, where the first elementary schools of the Romanian diaspora¹ were officially launched in public educational institutions; meetings with the representatives of the Romanian associations and

¹ The Romanian language, history and geography are taught three times a week by Romanian teachers

churches in the regions of Lazio (in Rome), respectively of Piedmont and Lombardy (in Turin) took place, the projects mentioned being financially supported by DRRA.

- **France (December 19-22, 2006):** the meeting with Mrs. Monica Lovinescu took place on the occasion of delivering the diploma of the „Dimitrie Cantemir” National Award - 2006, initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for acknowledging the special merits of the Romanian personalities from abroad.

At expert level, the DRRA representatives had meetings with the Romanian communities from:

- **Spain (November 14 – 25, 2006):** the work visit to Spain included meetings with the representatives of the Romanian communities or of the local authorities, or of the Spanish educational institutions from Alicante, Valencia, Castellon, Barcelona, Madrid and Alcala de Henares. The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – DRRA also participated in the **Congress of the Romanian Communities from Spain – Coslada, November 24, 2006.**

The first Congress of the Romanian Communities from Spain, initiated by the Association for the Romanian Economic and Cultural Development in Spain – ADERE, with the support of the Madrid Community and of the Embassy of Romania to Madrid, enjoyed the participation of a great number of representatives of the Romanian associations from Spain. Romanian and Spanish personalities, representatives of cults, representatives of the Romanian authorities, of the Spanish national and local authorities and the press were present.

The congress allowed a debate on the problems that the Romanian community from Spain deals with: ***free access to the labour market, the introduction of facultative Romanian language and civilization courses in the curriculum of the schools where a significant part of the students are Romanians, the recognition of academic, professional diplomas, as well as of driving licenses, access to social and health insurances, the support of the Romanian spirituality in Spain, sending textbooks for the Romanian children, the support of cultural projects by the Romanian authorities, the funding and support of the orthodox churches.***

- **Jordan (December 5-8, 2006):** within the launching by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the public diplomacy program „Graduate in Romania – Friend of Romania”, meetings with the Association of Romanian Women in Jordan took place, during which the needs of expressing the cultural identity of the given community were identified, the DRRA funding programs were presented and necessary information on filling in the funding applications for projects were provided.

5. The Conference of the Romanian Communities from Europe (October 13 – 15, 2006).

On October 13-15, 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad, organized **the first Conference of the Romanian Communities from Europe**, at the International Conference Centre in the Parliament Palace.

The organization of this Conference in the context of Romania joining the European Union took into consideration the fact that, by their dimension and dynamics, the Romanian communities in the member states represent an extremely important political, economic, social and cultural potential for the Romanian State, an important resource for maximizing the accession benefits and reducing its costs.

This first exercise of communication with the Romanian communities from abroad also aimed at providing a direct dialogue of the Romanian authorities with the outstanding members of the Romanian communities from abroad, as well as becoming aware of the specific problems

of these communities and identifying possible solutions in the context of joining the European Union. The **major objectives** of the Conference were:

- to build a post accession vision concerning the relation of the Romanian State with the Romanians from abroad that would intensify the capacity of the Romanian communities in the European Union area to generate strategic advantages for Romania in the European context,
- the symbolic recovery of elites, representative personalities of emigration, for including them in the cultural, scientific and economic reality of Romania and their participation in achieving the strategic objectives of Romania,
- to build a new solidarity of the Romanian civil society, not segmented by the artificial criterion of location, having as a basis the continuity of the Romanian cultural funding,
- to intensify the dialogue and to diversify the ways of communication between the representatives of the associations and organizations of Romanians from Europe, as well as in their relation with the authorities and the civil society in Romania.

The conference received the **message of the President of Romania**, presented by Mr. Bogdan Tătaru – Cazaban, presidential counselor.

The event was honored by the **presence of the Prime Minister of Romania, Mr. Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu**, who welcomed the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and underlined the special role that the Romanians from abroad play in promoting Romania's image in Europe, in the context of our country's close accession to the EU.

In his speech of opening the Conference works, **the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mihai - Răzvan Ungureanu** appreciated the actions performed by the leaders of the Romanian communities from abroad that contribute to preserving and developing the Romanian identity.

The representative of the Parliament of Romania, Mr. Titus Corlăţean, Deputy, the representative of the Ministry of Culture and Cults, Mr. Ioan Onisei, State Secretary and the representative of the Romanian Orthodox Church, His Holiness Ciprian Cămpineanu gave speeches in the plenum, emphasizing the importance of preserving the Romanian identity within the Romanian communities from abroad. Also, **the representatives of some of the most numerous communities from Europe** (France, Serbia, Italy, Germany, Spain), presented some problems of the communities in the residence countries.

In their speeches, **the representatives of the Romanian relevant institutions** approached issues related to: the free movement of the Romanian citizens in the European Union; the way of awarding graduate and postgraduate scholarships, in Romania, for the students of Romanian nationality from abroad; the procedures to be followed for the recognition of diplomas obtained abroad.

Approximately 450 people participated in the Conference, of whom 200 personalities in the Romanian diaspora of the European countries and representatives of the Romanians in the neighboring countries and the Balkans. Representatives of the academic and business environment, of the cults, the civil society and the mass-media also participated in the event.

During the 3 days, the participants had the occasion of presenting, both during the debates in the plenum and during the 4 thematic workshops, **the specific problems of the Romanian communities in the countries from where they come, as well as the way in which they see the partnership with the Romanian State, the priorities and future lines of action in the context of Romania's integration in the European Union.**

The Conference works were structured in two plenum sessions with the themes **“Romanian communities in the neighboring countries and the Balkans”** and **„Romanian emigration in the European area”**, and 4 simultaneous thematic workshops - **„Education, culture and**

religion – pillars of the Romanian identity in European context”, „Organization of Romanian communities in the residence countries – the partnership with the public authorities from Romania”, “Building professional networks/communities on the European area”, „Mass-media within the Romanian communities in Europe”.

The discussions during these workshops provided the opportunity for a debate, in a more concrete framework, on the problems the Romanians deal with in their residence countries, as well as on the solutions that could be used together with the authorities in Romania.

A special moment was the nomination of the personality who received the „**Dimitrie Cantemir**” National Award for the year 2006, namely Mrs. Monica Lovinescu, for promoting the values of freedom, democracy and for contributing to the development of the Romanian cultural heritage.

The event represented the beginning of a structured dialogue of the Romanians from abroad with the Romanian authorities, the format of this type of meeting providing the possibility of expressing proposals for improving the relations with the Romanian communities from abroad.

Moreover, ***by orienting the themes proposed on the work agenda, the quality of the debates increased, the dialogue thus focusing on issues of substance, on identifying problems and designing solutions, thus allowing the definition of partnership lines of action.***

The priorities and the lines of action defined on this occasion shall implicitly contribute to the consolidation of a post accession vision, restating the relation of the Romanian State with the Romanians from abroad as a relation with a significant potential of adding value considering Romania’s accession to the European Union.

The work format, which gathered representatives of the Romanian communities in the neighboring countries and of the Romanian communities in the Western Europe, created the premise for a better mutual knowledge, the awareness of the very different problems the Romanians deal with according to their residence areas. This knowledge represents the base for a future cooperation in view of building a new solidarity of the Romanian civil society.

By inviting and involving outstanding emigration representatives in the debates, the Conference represented a first step in the Romanian authorities’ action of symbolically recovering the elites.

The presentation by the DRRA representatives of the unredeemable financial assistance framework programs and the conditions for obtaining them ensured a better knowledge of these possibilities of receiving support from the Romanian authorities.

6. Projects carried out by DRRA for the benefit of the Romanian communities in the neighboring countries and the Balkans, of the emigrant communities and the award of scholarships

6.1. For the year 2006, ten funding framework programs were established, specifying the fields for which funds are allocated by the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad, a special importance being given to promoting the elites in the diaspora and the Romanian cultural patrimony.

Just like in the previous year, the budget planned for supporting the activity of the Romanians worldwide amounted to RON 13,500,000. In total, in 2006, over 270 projects were submitted. Out of them, amounts were approved and used for **145 projects, totally amounting to RON 11,646,020.96.**

The figures, compared to those from the previous year, indicate a significant increase of the capacity of processing funds in 2006 (in 2005, 91 projects were financed, amounting to RON 11,082,311), taking into account the fact that the quality of the projects was obviously improved this year.

The financed projects mainly aimed at providing the necessary support within a partnership with the Romanian associations from abroad for emphasizing the role of the elites in expressing the cultural identity of the Romanian communities, for developing educational services that would allow the use of the Romanian language as an identity expression, for creating a new solidarity, in the European spirit, of the Romanians from abroad, for preserving the religious identity, for emphasizing the creative role of the Romanian cultural patrimony that expresses itself both by way of the cultural values in the country and by way of the Romanians living abroad.

The priorities of the projects were oriented according to the 10 funding programs initiated by DRRA in 2006. Some of the most significant projects designed for the Romanian communities in the European area and the non-European number are:

The International Congress of History of Religions organized in Bucharest by the Romanian Association of History of Religions (ARIR), on September 19-23, 2006 – the event was organized in cooperation with various Romanian institutions, as well as in partnership with actors in the scientific, cultural and historical fields in the country and from abroad, it gathered some of the most representative specialists and personalities in the field of history of religions.

Organized in „The Eliade Year”, having one central module dedicated to the study of the work of the great writer, philosopher and historian of religions, Mircea Eliade, and being part of the governmental program The Francophony Year, as a manifestation related to the World Francophony Summit, the event was really successful.²

The craftsmanship camp „Musicians for Europe” (Sibiu, July 12-22, 2006) – the project, proposed by the Foundation for Pluralism, financed the participation in the craftsmanship course for 18 young Romanians in the diaspora (Europe, America and Asia) with exceptional results in the musical field, who were offered the possibility to work with students with excellent results from the Romanian musical schools, under the direct coordination of prestigious professors in the country and from abroad, such as Mr. Liviu Prunaru, worldwide famous musician.

The camp „Know and accept your fellow” (Tismana, July 7-20, 2006), organized by the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan Church for Western and Southern Europe, facilitated the participation of 40 children of Romanian origin from Western Europe in a series of activities (workshop of Romanian folk dances, workshop of icons, workshop of woodcut, meeting with the craftsmen in Horezu village, theater workshop, trip-making).

France

The main characteristic of the Romanian emigration in France is the fact that ***an impressive number of intellectuals of great value coming from Romania have earned a deserving place in the French cultural patrimony, by the outstanding value of their work.***

² Details regarding the International Congress of History of Religions are on the website www.rahr.ro

The status of the Romanian diaspora in France makes that **most of the organizations in which its members gather, which were created by their own efforts or with the support of local personalities, have a cultural nature, namely that of promoting the Romanian spiritual values.** Many of them have a bi-national nature, including members of Romanian and French origin.

This concern for a high cultural standard can also be seen in the specific projects proposed by DRRA. Thus, in 2006, 7 projects were financed, of which three supported cultural activities, two referred to the need of preserving the religious identity, and one aimed at recovering the memory of the Romanian diaspora from the communist dictatorship years.

The creation of the „Ierunca – Lovinescu Memorial”, a project carried out upon the DRRA initiative, with the support of the Union of Romanian Writers (president: Prof. Nicolae Manolescu, PhD.), aiming at ***the creation of a memorial that would emphasize the cultural and ideological patrimony of the Romanian exile, wishing to contribute to the official reconsideration of the exile values and of a reference phase in Romania's history.***

The Educational and Catechetical Coordination Center³, by which the project initiator, the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan Church for Western and Southern Europe (MOREOM), whose jurisdiction includes the parishes of Romanian origin from France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands and Belgium, intended ***to organize pedagogical and catechetical documentation centers (in Limours - France, in Zaragoza - Spain and in Turin - Italy), to open 21 parochial schools in England (London), Belgium (Brussels), Switzerland (Lausanne), France (Paris, Nice, Strasbourg), Italy (Genoa, Lucca, Milan, Padua, Rome, Turin, Verona), Portugal (Lisbon), Spain (Alcala de Henares, Barcelona, Bilbao, Castellon de la Plana, Madrid, Valencia, Zaragoza).***

The itinerant exhibition of Romanian painters in France (August – November 2006), proposed by the International Cultural Association „Soleil de l'Est”, was presented in three localities in France (Collioure, Saint Genis des Fontaines and Fondettes, a locality situated in the suburbs of the city of Tours) and ***comprised plastic art works of prestigious Romanian painters (Val Gheorghiu, Corneliu Ionescu, Teodor Vescu, Angela Tomaselli, Dan Hatmanu, Nicolae Iorga, Lucian Liciu, Gabriel Stan, Liviu Cihodaru and Waldemar Mattis-Teutsch).*** ***The project also supported financially the design of advertising materials, the exhibition catalogue, as well as the preparation of an artistic camp in which a group of Romanian painters from the countries neighboring Romania and Romanian painters from France, Germany and Sweden will be invited in 2007.***

Romanian cultural seasons – autumn 2006 (September – December 2006), proposed by the Cultural Association „Printemps roumain”, Lille, France, - ***the exhibition of Romanian satirical graphics presented in Lille, Brest and Paris comprised the works of over 60 Romanian artists.*** Within the margin of the exhibition, meetings with political analysts/journalists were organized, as well as a round table on the subject „Caricature as art and its role in mass-media”.

The participation of Romanian artists from France in the Festival of Romanian Dramaturgy (Timișoara, respectively Bucharest, September 20 – 27, 2006) – the project offered the possibility of ***presenting before the Romanian public the play created according to the text by Matei Vișniec, the best-known contemporary play writer in the French artistic environment.*** The artist team led by the director Alexandra Badea gathered both French artists (Carine Piazzi, Marie Ael Verrier, Dominique Cikalwa, Sylvia Botella), and Romanian artists (Alexandra Badea, Mădălina Constantin).

³ This project also financed the publishing of the first two numbers of the Information and Documentation Magazine, the completion of the center's interactive website and the purchase of textbooks to be used in all the parochial and Sunday schools under the MOREOM jurisdiction.

The refurbishment of the Romanian orthodox church in Strasbourg – the works of refurbishing a church that has a special importance both for structuring the Romanian community in Strasbourg, and for the symbolic position as against the European institutions⁴.

The celebration of the National Day of Romania, in Strasbourg, organized by the Romanian Cultural Association of Friendship (ACAR). A wreath of flowers was laid before the bust of General Henri Mathias Berthelot, who had a major importance for the development of the Romanian-French relations.

Italy

On April 20, 2006, in Bucharest, governmental consultations were organized for the first time at the level of the Romanian diaspora, on the subject of the Romanian community in Italy (the most numerous in Europe), between a delegation run by the State Secretary for Romanians Abroad and an Italian delegation run by the Ambassador Adriano Benedetti, General Director of DG for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies (DGI SPDM), within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

In November, in Rome, the State Secretary for Romanians from Abroad met the First Deputy of the Minister of the Interior and, respectively, the General Director of DGI SPDM within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. They discussed the status of the Romanian community after January 1, 2007. The Romanian Government project of organizing classes of language, history and geography of Romania in the public educational institutions in Italy was presented. The two parties deemed necessary a meeting between the representatives of the Ministries of Education of the two countries on this subject.

On this occasion, the head of DRRA had discussions with the mayors and the directions of the public schools in Turin and Tivoli, where an important number of Romanian students learn and ***where the Department finances the successful operation of pilot schools in the Romanian language (in Tivoli, since January 1, 2007).***

In 2006, for the first time, projects proposed by the Romanian associations in Northern Italy were financed. All the six projects proposed by the Romanian community and presented hereinafter were successfully completed:

The Festival Romania - traditions and European values (September 17 – 24, 2006) – the project was presented by the Association of Romanians in Italy ARI – Milan (Lombardy Region). The inauguration took place in the conference room of the Civic Museum in the center of the city of Milan, in the presence of the Mayoralty representatives, of the general consul and the DRRA representative.

The inauguration was followed by the ***vernissage of old postcards exhibition: “Romania at the roots of Europe”***. The festivity had a great success to the public. During the week, the cultural event, of a high class, included, ***a Romanian classical music concert, the presentation of two novels written by Romanian authors from Milan, the launching of the book “Bucharest from village to metropolis – Urban identity and new tendencies” by Giuseppe Cinà, PhD., professor at the University of Architecture in Genoa, the round table “Mircea Eliade in the European conscience” and ended with an appreciated Romanian folk show in Piazza san Lorenzo alle Colone***, in the historical center of the city, with the participation of the folk music singers: Benone Sinulescu, Lorena Istrate, Maria Stroe, Nicolae Buculei and Dan Crețu.

⁴ The church, situated in the historical center of the city and having several chambers attached (useful for the Romanian language classes, catechism, oral repetitions, theater, library), will become the spiritual life center of the Romanian community in Strasbourg.

The Romanian House in Turin, carried out by the „Brotherhood” Association for Italian-Romanian Social and Cultural Promotion in Turin – the project was presented by the „Brotherhood” Association from Turin (Piedmont Region). The main purpose of the project was that of providing to the numerous members of the Romanian community in the city (approximately 70,000 people) a multipurpose meeting place and, especially, the possibility of participating in Romanian general language and cultural, respectively artistic activities. ***Within the project, the „Brotherhood” Association organized classes of Romanian language, Italian language, history and geography of Romania, a film-club (Romanian artistic films and documentaries), an ABC computer science class, sport (football, judo, chess), cooking classes and exchange of recipes, creation, painting, sculpture and ceramic, circles etc.***

„The Romanian School from the L.B. Alberti Elementary School in Turin” – the project, presented by the „Brotherhood” Association from Turin (Piedmont Region), allowed ***the organization of the first Romanian school in an Italian public educational institution. The initiative was enthusiastically supported by the School direction, the mayor of Turin, the directions of Piedmont provincial and regional authorities.*** The experiment, in which 55 Romanian pupils participate, was made by four teachers who studied in Romania. The classes were taught according to schoolbooks of Romanian language, history and geography published by the Ministry of Education and Research from Bucharest. The school direction appointed an Italian teacher to supervise the good development of the project. Joint actions were organized with the Romanian and the Italian pupils for the purpose of becoming acquainted with our country: national anthem, National Day, traditions. The project will also continue in 2007. Twinning relations will be established with a high school from Bucharest.

„Romania, mother country for the children from abroad as well” – the project, presented by the Ethnical Cultural Association of Romanians from Ivrea and Canavese - ACERIC (Piedmont Region), aimed at ***getting the children closer to Romania by education in the Romanian language and other specific activities, of educational nature. Groups of children were formed according to their ages. The classes of Romanian language, history and geography were taught by Romanian teachers. The classes took place at the Association head office. The project will also continue in 2007.***

The Days of Romania at Zagarolo, a project developed by the Association of Romanians in Italy, ARI-Rome (Lazio Region) – the event, organized for a two-day period, ***with the support of the city municipality and the Embassy of Romania to Rome*** was very successful. It included the official opening, in the presence of the mayor, the Romanian Ambassador and the DRRA representative, ***the vernissage of two painting exhibitions of Romanian artists from Italy, the presentation of Romanian traditional products, two shows of Romanian folk music*** and comic sketches performed by famous artists from the country (Stela Popescu, Alexandru Arșinel, Benone Sinulescu, Victor Socaciu, Vasile Șeicaru and Gabriel Cotabiță).

The „Romanian Spirit” cultural magazine and award – the project, which was presented by the Association bearing the same name from Castel Goffredo (Lombardy Region), ***had a high intellectual level; it aimed both at Romanians and at the Italian public opinion and represented a first thing in Italy.***

The ceremony took place in Rome, at Accademia di Romania, in the presence of the State Secretary for Romanians worldwide, of outstanding Romanian and Italian intellectuals, of a numerous public. Speeches were given by the head of the DRRA, personalities of the Romanian and Italian cultural life in Italy. ***The award, being at its first edition, was offered to the famous play writer Matei Vișniec and to Sandrino Gavrioloia, philologist, producer of cultural shows at TVR.***

Spain

In 2006, ***the relations with the Romanian communities from Spain developed significantly, due to the number and the quality of the direct contacts, receptivity and openness to a collaboration based upon the principles of partnership, a collaboration reflected in the number of projects proposed for funding and financed in the second half of the year.***

An important issue discussed during the work visit in November 2006 is ***the addition of Romanian language classes in the public schools from Spain.*** For this purpose, it was proposed to intensify the actions, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research, for concluding protocols with the Spanish local authorities within the margin of the existent Agreement with the Spanish Government.

DRRA developed an online form for registering children to these classes, a useful instrument for completing the process of evaluating the required human and financial resources and it proposed its broad distribution, including by displaying it on the Embassy website.

Within the same strategy of supporting the Romanian identity, it was proposed to ***allocate the necessary support for the projects initiated by the Romanian associations for creating Romanian kindergartens, Sunday classes and Romanian libraries.***

Considering the size of the Romanian community from Spain and the complexity of the problems it deals with, it was proposed ***to ensure the actual presence of a DRRA representative, who would provide technical assistance for developing and carrying out the projects and a rapid answer to their requests, which would ensure a relation based upon trust and predictability with the Romanian communities from Spain.***

The Info Romania - Barcelona radio program, developed by the Association of Romanians in Catalonia, Spain, creates a way of accessing social, cultural and economic information from Spain and Romania. This Romanian language program provides Romanians with access to the main news from Romania, in real time, as well as with the explanation of laws concerning the rights and obligations of the Romanians on Spanish territory⁵.

The Cultural Romanian Week – 2nd edition⁶, organized by the Association of Romanians from Castellon, Valencia and Alicante, for marking the National Day of Romania, in the context of joining the European Union – by way of the project, a series of cultural events were organized around the National Day of Romania, with the purpose of presenting, by way of the Romanian culture, an adequate image of Romania and of the Romanians who live in this region of Spain.

Participation of Târgu-Mureş Theater in the „European Romania” Festival in Madrid (November 30 – December 3 2006) – the Federation of the Associations of Romanians from Spain (FEDROM) organized a cultural event in Madrid – The European Romania Festival – Madrid 2006, for celebrating the National Day of Romania and its joining the European Union. On this occasion, the ***National Theater from Târgu – Mureş was invited to present three performances*** (in Alcala de Henares, Coslada and Getafe) ***of the show “Manole, or the gift of loving”, a complete show, in which folk-inspired music and choreography bring a***

⁵ It is also a way of promoting the activities carried out by the associations and foundations that represent and support the interests of the Romanians in the Catalonia province, as well as the Romanian cultural values. The show, of informative type, is called “Info Romania” and will be broadcasted, for the beginning, twice a week, for 2 hours/show.

⁶ The events took place as follows: November 24th – Press conference, November 27th – Inauguration of the Romanian Fair, November 29th – Inauguration of the painting exhibition, November 30th – Classical music recital, December 1 – National Day of Romania, December 2nd – Show of Romanian folk music, December 3rd – Concert of the church choruses from Castellon.

surplus of shininess to this jewel of our folk poetry, in whose lyrics the director blended lines from the play "Meșterul Manole" signed by the poet, philosopher and play writer Lucian Blaga.

TRAUTOROM: a program of automatic Romanian-Spanish translation – a project proposed by the ARIPI Association from Alicante, Spain, and ***carried out in collaboration with the University of Alicante materializes in the development of automatic translation software with a very high degree of correctness that could be accessed freely on the Internet.*** The automatic translation software might be extremely useful especially in mass-media activity (translation of news, press notes) for the cultural and educational institutions.

Germany

The relations with the Romanians from Germany receive a special attention, which is also reflected in the Department policy. This attention is also imposed by the classical diaspora, made up of intellectuals very sensitive to the signals they receive from the country. At this moment, there is an adequate climate for a successful cooperation between DRRRA and the Romanian community, the proof being the great number of projects that have been submitted until present (and that continue to come) as well as various other requests coming from the diaspora members.

The Enescu Festival (Germany, October 15 – November 15, 2006) – the project was presented by the "A. I. Cuza" Cultural Association from Heidelberg, the project coordinator being Mr. Josif Herlo. The project is at its second edition, and its aim was to present Enescu's music to the public that loves music in this country, by a series of concerts given in several towns of Germany.

The Romanian Cultural Days in Munich (Munich, October 5 – 15, 2006) – the project belongs to the O.I. Association for promoting the Romanian culture and traditions from Munich, represented by Mrs. Brigitte Drotloff. The object of the project was the organization of Romanian cultural events (music, art, theater). This festival has a 10 year old tradition.

Portal of the Romanians in Germany www.rom2.de – the project was presented by Mr. Alexandru Drăghici, a legal entity domiciled in Germany and coordinating this project, who has followed the development of the electronic newspaper www.rom2.de, from the phase of a website to its present level.

The Days of Romanian Culture in Nuremberg – the object of the project, which was proposed and developed by the ARS Longa E.V. association, from Germany, was to organize a series of Romanian cultural events (music, art, theater).

Publishing, editing and distributing the „Apoziția” Magazine – Munich – the project was presented by the Romanian-German Society "Apoziția" by way of Mr. Gheorghe Săsărman, project coordinator, and it aimed at resuming the editing of the magazine bearing the same name, after more than 10 years.

Great Britain

The Romanian community in Great Britain and Ireland is one of the most active. This is due to the outstanding personalities (for instance, the prince Șerban Cantacuzino), who left the countries many years ago, as well as to the people in the new emigration, who have a good intellectual training and are willing to have a close relation to the country of origin. The Romanians, especially the young ones, invest a lot of time and effort in pleading Romania's case.

The “Pro-Patrimoniul” Art and Music Festival (London, November 6-11, 2006) – the project of the Pro Patrimoniul art and music festival belongs to the foundation bearing the same name and is at its second edition. It was organized in collaboration with ICR London, CCR London, Româncă Society and UNITER. The project coordinator was the prince Șerban Cantacuzino. The project goal: to present the Romanian cultural and artistic realities.

Portugal

In the social structure of the Romanian community in Portugal, people who have come to Portugal over the last years and who perform their activity in the fields of constructions, agriculture and public food predominate.

The radio show „A hug from Romania”, developed by „FRĂȚIA” – the Association of Romanian and Moldavian Emigrants in Portugal, has been broadcasted since April 30, 2004, every Monday between 19:00 – 20:00, providing the Romanian community with the opportunity of being informed about what is happening in the country, the laws concerning emigration, the risks of illegal work and the advantages of legal work, the social problems regarding houses; education, health, jobs and cultural activities performed within the association. Besides news, the program also includes radio-theater series for children, the weekly chronicle live from Radio România Internațional, Romanian music.

USA and Canada

A special attention was given to the Romanian community in the United States of America. Thus, during May 30 – June 9, 2006, Mr. Mihai Gheorghiu, State Secretary for Romanians worldwide, made a work visit to this country and had discussions with the members and representatives of the Romanian associations, who participated in great number in the meetings. The theme of discussions focused on the way in which the Department can support the community for consolidating and developing the relation with one of the most numerous communities of Romanians in the world.

The music concert Șerban Lupu and the virtuoso peasants from Romania (October 24, 2006) was organized by the Foundation for Communication Strategies (FSC) from Bucharest, at the Corcoran Galleries in Washington DC. The event was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Romania to Washington and the Romanian Cultural Institute from New York, its objective being to promote the Romanian culture and the Romanian-American artistic personality, both at the level of the Romanian community, and in the Washingtonian artistic environment, as well as to consolidate the image of the Romanian-American community in Washington.

The Festival „L’Europe de L’Est: Roumanie/The Day of Romania in Montreal” (July 20-21, 2006) took place as a response from the Rocado Association in Canada to the offer made by the Montreal Mayorality of creating a specific framework for the members of the cultural and ethnic communities existent in the area, for the purpose of presenting the cultural diversity by way of the programs organized by each community. Together with Romanian artists settled in Canada (who presented, among other things, folk dances, choruses, folk music concerts), outstanding names of the Romanian show were present on the Montreal scene, such as Dan Puric, Grigore Leșe and Teodora Enache. The performance of the event under excellent conditions led to the development of the relation between the members of the Romanian community and the Canadian officials.

New Zealand

In this area, the Romanian community is small; this is also due to the severe conditions imposed by New Zealand, for the people who want to emigrate.

The continuation of the ***Romanian language radio program of the Planet FM 104,6 station in New Zealand***, called „România plai de dor” (*Romania, realm of longings*) represented an important factor for preserving the link between the people of Romanian origin in the DOINA Association of Romanian of Auckland, as well as the Romanian community in this area with Romania. The program is broadcasted every week and comprises news from and about the community, news from Romania, as well as Romanian folk and light music.

Serbia

The relation and the cooperation with the representative associations and organizations of the Romanians in Serbia, especially with the Community of Romanians in Serbia (CRS), have significantly improved.

10 projects were carried out in partnership, which determined the presence in a great number of the Romanians in Vojvodina in events that have become traditional, such as the Festival of Fanfares and the Festival of Carols.

In 2006, in collaboration with CRS, the Department financed *the refurbishment of the orthodox church in Seleuş, the community centre in Voivodina, the purchase of a building in the Alibunar commune for the purpose of creating a cultural centre of Romanians, as well as the publishing of newspapers, monographs and magazines in the Romanian language.*

With the support of DRRA, the Romanian Academy, the Cluj Branch and the „Sextil Puşcariu” Institute of Linguistics and Literary History carried out a project of thorough de research, from the dialectological point of view, on the idioms spoken by the Romanian community between Morava, Danube and Timoc (Eastern Serbia), whose results will be published in the *Romanian Linguistic Atlas. Idioms between Morava, Danube and Timoc.*

Hungary

The projects carried out by the Department in partnership with UCRU aimed at supporting the reconstruction of its office in Jula and consolidating the activity framework of the Union by funding the expenses necessary for supplementing the personnel handling with the management of cultural projects.

In collaboration with the Self-governance of Romanians living in Hungary (AȚRU), the expenses required for arranging the Pomuț Square in Jula and for placing the bust of General Gheorghe Pomuț were financed.

Other projects financed by DRRA for the benefit of the Romanian community in Hungary are *the Festival of Cucumbers in Micherechi and the editing of the annual publications of the Research Institute of the Romanians in Hungary.*

Bulgaria

In 2006, the Department for Relations with the Romanians from Abroad financed seven projects in partnership with associations and organizations of the Romanians in Bulgaria.

The collaboration with the **Union of the Young People of Romanian Origin in Bulgaria „AVE”** for organizing classes of Romanian language (kindergarten and elementary school level) continued and allowed the increase of the number of pupils attending such classes. The degree of Romanian language knowledge by these pupils is very good, and most of them chose to continue their studies in Romania.

Projects were continued, which have become traditional, with impact on the community, such as *the Pinochio project, by which school supplies and school bags were provided to the children registering for the Romanian language classes, every year and the Festival of Vlach/Romanian songs and dances in Vidin.*

In partnership with the **Community of Romanians in Bulgaria (CRB)**, two projects were carried out, namely *the supply of the necessary didactic equipment to the classes where Romanian language is taught and the provision of support to the activities of the CRB Center in Vidin.*

For the purpose of making visible the issue of the Romanian community in Bulgaria, with the support of a team of specialists in the field, a **documentary** was made in the Vidin region, where many Romanians live. *The documentary remembers the significant moments in the community history by interviews with its members and it presents the traditions and the way of life, as well as the efforts of identity statement of the people of Romanian origin in Bulgaria.*

Albania and Macedonia

Projects that have become traditional were continued, namely of supporting the *school and kindergarten with teaching in the Romanian language and the Aromanian idiom in Divjaka, Albania, in collaboration with the Association „Aromanians in Albania”*. DRRRA also financed the *editing of the newspaper „Frăția” (Brotherhood) of the Aromanians in Albania.*

In collaboration with a team of researchers and specialists in the field of short movies, a *documentary about the community of Aromanians in Korcea* was made.

With the support of the Institute of South-Eastern European Studies in Vienna and of the Romanian Peasant Museum, a *CD about the life and traditions of Aromanians in Andon Poci, Albania* was edited.

The organization of the *13th edition of the Days of Aromanian Culture* by the „Andrei Şaguna” Foundation, with the support of DRRRA, provided the for the Aromanians in Romania and in the entire Balkan area to debate on the problems they deal with and to identify ways by which their actions for preserving the specific Aromanian traditions could be promoted better.

In collaboration with the „Muşata Armână” Cultural Foundation, a *CD with traditional music from Gramostea* was edited, which emphasizes the complexity and diversity of the performance styles of the Aromanians in Albania.

Ukraine

The appointment of a diplomat on the problems of Romanians in Ukraine represented a first thing and was intended as a measure that would contribute to a more efficient communication with the Romanian organizations and associations and to facilitating the development of projects with the financial support of DRRRA, which would contribute to making the cultural and community life more active.

In 2006, 11 projects were financed for the benefit of the Romanian community in Ukraine, namely *the publishing of magazines, works and folk collections („Septentrion literar”, „Făgurel”)*, as well as *the supply of the necessary technical equipment to the „Arcașul” publication and the publishing house Alexandru cel Bun in Cernăuți.*

With the support of the Department, two traditional events of the Romanian community took place in Cernăuți: *The Romanian Culture and Civilization Camp and The Romanian Book International Fair.*

In the Odessa region, DRRA financed *the construction works of the Romanian orthodox church „Saint Apostle Peter and Pavel” in Camușovca.*

The Republic of Moldova

In 2006, a significant number of organizations in the Republic of Moldova submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – the Department for Relations with the Romanian Abroad (DRRA) funding applications for carrying out actions that enter its specific scope of activity.

Thus, **funding applications** with various subjects were received, respectively editing and distributing Romanian language publications, extending the emission and reception possibility of some radio and television stations, editing manuals, publishing books and dictionaries, constructing or renovating churches and educational institutions, creating some joint professional networks of the personalities in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, organizing conferences, round tables and other similar events.

We present briefly, by fields, the programs and projects carried out with DRRA funding in the Republic of Moldova, including the related amounts.

1. 12 Romanian language publications in the Republic of Moldova received financial support, distributed as follows: **Limba Română** (RON 94,941), **Literatură și Artă** (RON 67,289), **Noi** (RON 44,659), **Timpul de dimineață** (RON 243,874.55), **Jurnal de Chișinău** (RON 140,359.75), **Flux-continuu** (RON 161,590.90), **Cuvântul** (RON 9,283), **Glasul națiunii** (RON 95,551), **Natura** (RON 40,598), **Democrația** (RON 52,305.24), **Ziarul de Gardă** (RON 69,902.67), **Florile dalbe** (RON 37,439).

2. The Department for Relations with the Romanian Abroad allocated funds for supporting the Romanian language audio-visual mass-media in the Republic of Moldova. The Department provided financial support to the television stations **DTV** and **Euronova TV**, as well as to the radio station **Vocea Basarabiei**.

3. The Department for Relations with the Romanian Abroad organized numerous activities (summer schools and camps in Ipotești, Șimleu-Silvaniei, Poiana Pinului, Năvodari, Bușteni and Stolniceni) where pupils, students and teachers from the Republic of Moldova, including from Transnistria were invited to participate and it financed a series of meetings, summer classes and visits to Romania (for the pupils with Olympic title in history, Romanian language, geography, physics and chemistry from the Republic of Moldova), as well as the **„Cuvântul” Conferences in Chișinău, the Summer School of the young Bessarabians in Costinești, experience exchanges between the journalists of the two countries – the project „Extending the transborder cooperation of the journalists in the Republic of Moldova and Romania”,** carried out in cooperation with the **Association of the Independent Press in the Republic of Moldova.**

4. The Department for Relations with the Romanian Abroad ensured the editing of “History of Romanians” and “Universal History” textbooks and allocated funds for editing

boards and other didactical materials to facilitate the Romanian language learning. Following the cooperation with **Litera Internațional Publishing House** of Chișinău, **the Department financed the editing of the General Romanian Language Dictionary** and of the album „**The Romanian Millennium**”.

5. The Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad financially supports projects in the field of the civil society development, especially concerning the respect of human rights. An example is the project **Civic Initiative for monitoring and promoting human rights in the Republic of Moldova,** initiated by the **League for Defense of Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova (LADOM).**

6. The Department for Relations with the Romanian Abroad gives a special attention to the situation of the Romanian community in Transnistria. For this purpose, **the Association for European Integration** carries out the project named **Promoting ethnocultural, linguistic and spiritual values in the Transnistrian region and monitoring the human rights situation in the region,** by which it aims at rendering the public opinion in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and the international community sensitive to the human rights situation in the region, in general, and of the Romanian population in the Transnistrian region in particular.

7. The Department for Relations with the Romanian Abroad supports financially projects with a direct impact on the local communities in the Republic of Moldova. For this purpose, we can mention the **refurbishment of the kindergarten in the Călugăr village,** a project carried out together with the **Mayorality of the Călugăr commune.**

Kazakhstan

According to the official statistics (the census of 1999), **20,054 people of Romanian origin are living in Kazakhstan.**

Created in 2005, **The Romanian Cultural Society „Dacia” in Kazakhstan appeared following the actions and the efforts of the Embassy of Romania in Alma-Ata and aims at promoting the Romanian identity among the people of Romanian origin in this country.**

Within the project financed by DRRA, the head office of the society was equipped and actions for promoting the Romanian cultural identity are carried out, including by organizing Romanian language classes every week.

Except for the actions proposed by associations of the Romanians abroad or by other organizations and institutions, the **Department was the initiator of important projects,** carried out in cooperation with partners from Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

The Romanian Language Day, organized in Chișinău, on August 30-31, 2006, gathered a series of events with a great impact, meant to reflect the true significance and importance of the celebration „Our Romanian Language”. On this occasion, two scientific symposiums took place - „*Actual problems of the history of Romanians*” and „*Romanian language and literature in the Bessarabian area*”, a photography exhibition of Bessarabian artists was inaugurated and a show of the artist Grigore Leșe was organized.

Summer classes dedicated to the Romanian teachers of the neighboring countries and the Balkans continued this year in Bușteni, in August, having as subject *The Romanian Cultural*

Patrimony in Textbooks. Organized in cooperation with the Syllabus Association, the classes gathered teachers of Romanian language and history from the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia, Ukraine and included lectures, conferences and workshops on the Romanian history and civilization.

They also represented a debate forum on some subjects of interest for the Romanian communities from abroad, the most important of them being, in the current context, the content of the Romanian language and history textbooks used in the neighboring countries.

For the third consecutive year, over 350 Romanian children and young people from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, Macedonia and Kazakhstan participated in **the camp organized in Năvodari**, for the purpose of getting acquainted with the cultural, social, historical and touristic realities of Romania. The camp program included cultural events and visits in the region, at the same representing an opportunity for knowing and establishing dialogue between the people of Romanian origin from several countries.

The project named **“Chişinău Days at Târgovişte”**, which took place on October 19 – 22, 2006, with the support of DRRA, is part of a partnership concluded between the Mayorality of Târgovişte Municipality and the Mayorality of Chişinău Municipality, which aims at valuating the possibilities for cooperation existent in the fields of common interest (administration, culture, education etc.).

On November 8-12, 2006, in Iaşi and Chişinău, the international Symposium **“Romanians abroad. Historical evolution and present situation in the context of Romania’s integration in the European Union”** took place, organized by ASTRA - “Mihail Kogălniceanu” Department in Iaşi, with the support of the Department. Some of the co-organizers of this event were the Institute of Archeology Iaşi and the „A.D.Xenopol” History Institute of the Romanian Academy, the National Museum of Archeology and History of Moldova, the Romanian Literature Museum Iaşi and the Directorate for Culture, Cults and Patrimony, Iaşi.

On 14-19, 2006, with the financial support of DRRA, the Faculty of History and Philosophy within the “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galaţi organized the conference with the theme **“Romanian-Ukrainian Cultural Interferences at Dunărea de Jos”**. On this occasion, a cooperation protocol was signed between the history faculties of Galaţi and Ismail, and, during the work meetings, the content of the *joint research project named “Majority and minority in Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the state documents, history textbooks and press”* was completed and approved, addressing especially to the students in final years.

The Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad partially financed the expenses for organizing the **National Congress of School Teachers**, in Arad, on October 28 – 29, 2006. *35 Romanian school teachers from Transnistria, Ukraine (the region Odessa, Transcarpathia and Cernăuţi), Serbia (Valea Timocului and Voivodina), Hungary, Albania and Macedonia participated.*

The International Acting Workshops (Sinaia, July 4 -16,) were organized by DRRA together with the Foundation Youth Center for UNESCO – Romania and provided the 14 young actors of Romanian origin from Serbia, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova and Macedonia with the opportunity to perfect their professional training together with high-sounding names of the Romanian theater.

At the same time, the Department provided support for carrying out important **research projects, designed mainly for the Romanians in the Balkan region.** We mention *Oral*

culture of the Romanians South of Danube and Romanian historical populations today, initiatives of the „Alexandru Tzigara-Samurçaş” Foundation, *The Romanian Linguistic Atlas. Idioms between Morava, Danube and Timoc*, coordinated by the „Sextil Puşcariu” Institute of Linguistic and Literary History of the Romanian Academy, as well as *Istro-Romanians. Identity benchmarks in contemporaneity* – a project that aims at rediscovering the habits and folklore of the community of Istro-Romanians in Croatia.

The Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad has a long history of cooperation with the “Magazin Istoric” Cultural Foundation. Every year, important funds have been allocated for editing the magazine “**Magazin Istoric**”. In 2006, **20,000 magazines were sent to the Republic of Moldova**.

With the financial support of the Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad, **the NATO Information and Documentation Center in Chişinău was equipped**; this is an institution created for the purpose of informing the public opinion in the Republic of Moldova about the Euro-Atlantic principles and values.

The 145 projects carried out in 2006, according to the field aimed at and the related areas are briefly presented as follows:

- **supporting the Romanian language press** in the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Hungary, Germany, Italy;
- **building and refurbishing churches** in the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Germany, France;
- **supporting the Romanian language radio and TV stations or shows** in the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Portugal; New Zealand;
- **supporting the organization of Romanian language courses and pilot-classes** in Bulgaria, Albania, Cyprus, Italy, France, Spain;
- **financially supporting cultural actions or events of the Romanians worldwide** (including exhibitions, cultural circles, festivals etc.) in Serbia, Hungary, Greece, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Canada, USA etc.;
- **designing didactical materials for schools** in the Republic of Moldova and in other regions;
- **organizing camps, summer classes and schools for pupils and teachers of Romanian origin** in Bucharest, Şimleu Silvaniei, Poiana Pinului, Năvodari, Buşteni, Ipoteşti, Costineşti, Tismana, Sibiu;
- **purchase of Romanian literature books, CDs, audio and video tapes, albums**, etc, for promoting the Romanian language and culture, for equipping the Romanian associations, libraries and schools from abroad;

6.2 Scholarships provided by the Romanian State to the people of Romanian origin from abroad

In July, the DRRA representative was part of the **Commission for pre-selecting the files of the candidates of Romanian origin from abroad for the scholarships provided by the Ministry of Education and Research for the school/university year 2006/2007**.

The dynamics of associations was remarked, their involvement in training the young people, as well as their availability to cooperate with DRRA, by way of educational programs and projects, in training the future community leaders.

This year, for the first time, a procedure was created to **offer scholarships and awards out of the funds allocated for supporting the Romanians worldwide** and their representative organizations.

At the same time, a **partnership was concluded with the New Europe Foundation – the New Europe College, for offering excellence scholarships to the people of Romanian origin from abroad, for research projects in the field of humanist and social sciences**, as well as to the Romanian citizens in the country, who are making studies regarding the cultural patrimony of the Romanians abroad. Following the selection made by a joint commission made of representatives of the two signatory parties of the protocol, **scholarships were provided to five researchers for 10 months.**

7. Conclusions

The multitude of projects submitted for funding and its partners' quality show that **DRRA has begun to be seen as a donator interested in promoting democracy and human rights, the rule of law, with a transparent activity, having no other conditionality than that imposed by the current legal framework.**

In 2006, the Department initiated and determined the **adoption of an improved legal framework**, which would allow the funding of activities designed for supporting Romanians worldwide in a normal flow, during the entire fiscal year.

The DRRA efforts to organize its activity efficiently and to promote a credible policy require **an effort of professionalisation and an increased ability for action from the funding beneficiaries, as well as concrete and visible results, which would condition the continuation of funding.**

In 2006, **DRRA carefully monitored the degree of respecting the rights of the people of Romanian origin in the neighboring countries and ensured a permanent political and diplomatic support to the Romanian communities**, including by introducing the issue of the people of Romanian origin on the agenda of the bilateral dialogue with the neighboring countries and of the cooperation with international bodies.

In the context of the new status that Romania has acquired at international level, by joining NATO and the European Union, **a new structuring of priorities becomes ever more visible, making necessary to gather, to intensify and to make advantage of the energies, creativity and resources of millions of Romanians in the Romanian community from abroad.**

The partnership with the Romanian communities in Europe emphasized the Romanian community ability to generate and to authenticate an European image of Romania in the eyes of the public opinion and of the authorities of the country of residence. This field also recommends a valuable potential for creating some supportive and lobby groups, both at the level of bilateral and multilateral relations.

Thus, this segment of the Romanian society has proved that it can no longer be regarded only as a consumer of resources within identity assistance policies, but it has to gain the place it deserves – that of a **creator of values**, which are part of the Romanian joint cultural patrimony, able to generate a series of strategic advantages for Romania in the European and Euro-Atlantic area.

The EU area, by the **circulating migration and the Romanian elites** involved in it, holds resources with a **great human and symbolic potential**. In the previous years, the resources allocated to this area were limited, so that a significant evolution was registered only in 2006, both by the increase of communication and consultation interactions and by the number and quality of the projects financed.

8. 2007 Objectives

DRRA will promote and will support the programs with a significant impact at the level of the Romanian communities worldwide: **education, culture, religious service in the mother language, mass-media in the mother language**, sending book donations, providing ancillary teaching material, offering scholarships, organizing professional the people of Romanian origin in the Odessa region, Valea Timocului and Transnistria.

DRRPA will cooperate with the Ministry of Education and Research (MEdC) for implementing **the measures of schooling the Romanian children from Spain and Italy in the Romanian language**. DRRPA will correlate the support it provides to the Romanian communities in the two countries with the objectives established in the interministry work group, so that it would contribute to integrating the resources designed for this objective.

DRRPA will continue its diplomatic actions to the local authorities in the countries of residence (laying emphasis on Spain and Italy), for **opening week-end, parochial schools or „after schools” in several localities where there are large communities of Romanians**. Thus, together with the autonomous communities with a large number of Romanians, the schools where (upon the parents' request) the Romanian State will support financially the keeping of Romanian language and civilization classes and in which the local authorities could provide adequate areas will be identified.

DRRPA will cooperate with the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family (MMSSF) within an inter-institutional work group for drafting and implementing a **governmental program meant to encourage the Romanian citizens working abroad to return to the the country**.

DRRPA will launch a **program for highlighting the contribution of the Romanian culture to the European common cultural funding**, by placing memorial plaques, busts, etc., offering decorations or „citizen of honour” titles from suggestive localities for the Romanian cultural funding (Ipotești, Hobița, etc.). In this context, a special attention will be given to restoring the connection to the great Romanian personalities from abroad (George Emil Palade, Nadia Comăneci, Angela Gheorghiu, Basarab Nicolescu, Alina Cojocaru, Andrei Șerban, Liviu Ciulei etc.).

DRRPA will continue the legal actions initiated in the year 2006 for **creating the „Lovinescu – Ierunca Memorial”** in Paris for highlighting the cultural and ideological funding of the Romanian exile.

DRRPA will support the development of the **activities of the Romanian lectorates from abroad**, both directly and by providing a new legal framework for their organization and functioning, drafting new Government Decision for the Romanian Language Institute.

DRRPA will continue to take actions for **creating an integrated communication platform on the Internet for the Romanians abroad**, which will probably be a first thing in this field, being an extremely ambitious project even as compared to the similar initiatives in the EU member states.