

## A National Heritage Monument Becomes a Functional Part of the Romanian Judicial Infrastructure

The official opening event of the refurbished premises of Pitesti Court of Appeal took place on September 12, at the Court's location in Pitesti. The event was attended by the Minister of Justice, Robert Marius Cazanciuc, by World Bank officials, and representatives of the judiciary and of the central and local authorities. The refurbishment of the building of Pitesti Court of Appeal is part of the World Bank financed Judicial Reform project.



### Economic News

**Romania Paying Back 26.9 Million Euro to EU.** Romania is set to pay back today 26.9 million euros to the European Commission of a 2009 stand-by loan extended by international financial institutions, according to data with GoR. The amount includes interest and commissions. [Read More »](#)

**Romania Records Largest Losses from Uncollected VAT in the EU.** Romania lost more than EUR 10 billion in 2011 due to uncollected VAT, the largest loss of any European Union (EU) member state relative to GDP. A report by the European Commission, quoted by French publication Le Monde, shows that Romania's EUR 10.3 billion uncollected VAT loss represented 7.8 percent of the country's EUR 131.3 billion GDP in 2011. [Read More »](#)

**Romania Comes 45th in the World for Economic Freedom.** Romania is the 45th most economically free country in the world, according to a new report. Using 42 variables, the annual "Economic Freedom of the World" report by Canadian public policy think-tank the Fraser Institute ranks countries on how well their policies encourage economic freedom. [Read More »](#)

### Political News

**Romania and Bulgaria Should Be Allowed to Join Schengen, Says European Commission President in Interview.** Romania and Bulgaria have met the criteria for Schengen area membership and should be given a chance to enter the zone as soon as possible, according to European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. [Read More »](#)

**Traian Băsescu Sent the Law of Referendum Which Reduces the Attendance Threshold to 30% to the Constitutional Court.** President Traian Băsescu sent on Saturday morning a claim of nonconstitutionality on the law for the amendment and completion of the law of referendum to the chairman of the Constitutional Court, informs the Presidential Administration. [Read More »](#)

**Prime Minister Victor Ponta on Official Visit to Finland and Lithuania.** Prime Minister Victor Ponta paid official visits to Finland and Lithuania on September 23-24, with the objective of consolidating the political dialogue, making more dynamic the economic cooperation and ensuring a permanent coordination on European topics. [Read More »](#)

### Sector News

**Anti-mining Protesters Form Human Chain Around World's Second Largest Building in Romania's Capital.** The People's Palace wasn't large enough to stop anti-mining protesters forming a human chain around its boundary fence on Saturday, September 21. In a massive show of people power, and the co-ordination capacities of social media, thousands of people joined hands around the Palace's fence, cheering. About 5,000 cyclists had blocked the Basarab flyover during the same day, in what was first a protest for more cycling lanes in Bucharest, but turned into an anti-Rosia Montana meeting instead. [Read More »](#)

**Romania Raises EUR 64 Mln via Stock Listing of Electricity Producer Nuclearelectrica.** The Initial Public Offering to sell 10 percent of Romania's electricity producer Nuclearelectrica has brought the Romanian state some EUR 64 million. The amount is slightly lower than what it had hoped for, which was between EUR 66 and EUR 78 million. [Read More »](#)

**EU Legislation Update Pushes Romanian Import and Export Companies Closer to e-Customs.** Importers and exporters may need to upgrade their IT systems following the passing of EU customs legislation which will see authorities shift to "e-customs". Implementation of the law will begin November 1 this year when the updated Union Customs Code, recently been approved by the European Parliament, will come into force. [Read More »](#)

## STRATEGY, PARTNERSHIP AND DIALOGUE

**CPS Consultations Going Forward.** During September 2-13, 2013, a series of consultations for the new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) took place in Brussels, Bucharest, Timisoara and Cluj. The team composed of Ismail Radwan, Elisabetta Capannelli and Alexandra Nastase discussed with a diverse range of stakeholders, whose inputs are invaluable for the development of a new country strategy in concordance with the country's needs. In this respect, the team met with: (i) the European Commission's Country team for Romania and World Bank's ECCU5 Country Director and Country Sector Coordinators; (ii) ministries' representatives and NGOs from various sectors in Bucharest; (iii) city halls, county councils, regional development agencies, members of the private sector and relevant non-governmental organizations from the regional level. The consultations will continue over the next months. The presentation of the final CPS to the Board is planned for March 2014.

## PORTFOLIO

**Addressing Challenges of the Water Utility Sector.** A kick-off event for the Danube Water Program took place in Bucharest on September 23-27. The program supports policy dialogue and capacity development to achieve smart policies, strong utilities, and sustainable services in water supply and wastewater sector in the Danube region. The program is jointly run by the WB and the International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area. The event in Bucharest was two-pronged on the policy pillar and on benchmarking. Gabriel Ioniță, acting Country Manager, delivered welcome remarks on behalf of the Country Office in the first day of the workshop. For more information please visit [www.danube-water-program.org](http://www.danube-water-program.org) and [www.iawd.at](http://www.iawd.at).



**Competitiveness and Smart Specialization in the West Region of Romania.** On September 6, the World Bank and the Agency for Regional Development - Region West, Romania hosted a closing-project conference in Timișoara on "Advisory Services on Competitiveness Enhancement and Smart Specialization Policies in the West Region". About 50 participants attended, representing local entrepreneurs, companies involved in the preparation of the report, the local and national institutions and administration, and the local Chamber of Commerce. The project is a Reimbursable Advisory Service delivered by the World Bank, and co-financed by the Agency for Regional Development - Region West, from the European Regional Development Fund through the Technical Assistance Operational Program 2007-2013. The project is part of the World Bank strategy to offer technical assistance to Romania, to support economic growth, and support the socially excluded. Read the [final report](#) and [case studies](#).



**Promoting Inclusive Growth in Hungary.** A World Bank mission will visit Budapest on September 26 to further discuss the proposed engagement program on promoting inclusive growth in Hungary with the team of the Ministry of Human Resources of the Government of Hungary. The team will be led by Sándor and will be comprised of Corina Grigore and Rosen Asenov. Meetings are also scheduled with representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and National Development Agency in order to discuss financing, legal and procedural aspects related to the Pensions advisory services under preparation. Celine Ferre, consultant, will attend an international evaluation conference in Budapest organized by the National Development Agency, and will be presenting policy lessons from the joint European Commission / World Bank project on poverty mapping of New EU Member States.

## WORKING TOGETHER

**Internal Reform Explained.** Today's story from the intranet features an interview with Sanjay Pradhan, Vice President of Change, Knowledge and Learning, who responds to staff's questions about the change process. Goals to end extreme poverty by 2030 and boost shared prosperity, a World Bank Group strategy, change proposals, Global Practices, a new budget process, an expenditure review—and more, are explained in the video. [Watch the video](#) and share your comments, feedback and questions for the townhall with President Kim on September 30 at: <http://stafftownhall>.

## HR

**New Team Assistant Selected.** Andrei Zambor has been selected as the new Team Assistant in the Romania office, as of mid-September. Andrei will support the Country Office RAS team, while continuing to be the TA / focal point for the World Bank work in Hungary. Congratulations, Andrei!

## COMMUNICATION

**Roma Consultations Workshop.** A two - day consultation workshop was held on September 24-25 at the premises of the Romania Country Office as part of the ongoing mission unfolding in Bucharest for the Advisory Services on "Diagnostics and Policy Advice for Supporting a Roma Integration in Romania". The project team met with stakeholders from the Ministries of National Education, of Health, of Regional Development and Public Administration, of European Funds, the National Roma Agency, NGOs, international organizations, and experts from academia to gather feedback on the preliminary findings presented in the Inception Report of the project.



## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

**Sharing Knowledge on the Roma RAS.** As part of the series of internal learning events in the Romania Country Office, a knowledge-sharing session on the ongoing Roma Integration RAS project was hosted on September 23. Members of the project team, Kosuke Anan, Sandor Karacsony and Celine Ferre, presented the preliminary findings of the first interim report of the project and shared insights of their work with the Romania Country Office colleagues who attended the event.



**Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Regional Development.** During September 21-29, a knowledge exchange exercise is organized as part of the Romania Regional Development RAS on the collaboration between the managing authority and the intermediate bodies of the regional operational programme. A week-long technical workshop will expose a group of ten key stakeholders from the MRDPA in Romania to best practices in structural funds management and implementation in Spain, a best practice example of a Member State who successfully absorbed EU funds.

## NEXT MISSIONS & EVENTS

Dates	Purpose	Team Lead/Team
<b>Missions</b>		
September 16 – 27	RAS on Danube Delta Strategy	Toshiaki Keicho, Cesar Niculescu, Gabriel Ionita, Mats Andersson, Anna Gueorguieva, Kirsten Hommann, Agi Kiss, Paula Restrepo Cadavid, Jian Xie, Randall Brummett, Nikolas Mattson, Hannah Messerli, Simon Davis Ellis, Adina Fagarasan
September 16 – 27	RAS on Development of Administrative Capacity of the MoNE F	Alberto Rodriguez, Mariana Moarcas, Eliezer Orbach, Alina Sava, Janssen Teixeira, Jeremie Amoroso, Raluca Banioti
September 16 – 27	Social Assistance System Modernization Project	Emil Tesliuc, Richard Florescu, Vlad Grigoras, Sabin Chiricescu
September 16 – 27	RAS on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy (in preparation)	Emil Tesliuc, Richard Florescu, Vlad Grigoras, Sabin Chiricescu
September 23 - 25	RAS on Active Aging (in preparation)	Asta Zviniene, Miglena Abels
September 23 - 26	Introductory mission - ECSPF	Isfandyar Zaman Khan, Arabela Aprahamian
September 23 - 27	Follow-up to the Mining Sector Scoping Mission June 2013	Gary McMahon, Martin Lokanc, Arabela Aprahamian
September 23 - 30	RAS Study on Diagnostics and Policy Advice for Supporting Roma Integration in Romania	Kosuke Anan, Sandor Karacsony, Claudia Rokx, Richard Florescu, Mariana Moarcas, Celine Ferre, Barbara Kits, Florin Botonogu, Magda Balica, Ana Ivasiuc, Dana Farcasanu, Adrian Dan, Cristi Michalache, Ioana Florea, Aida Catana
September 30 – October 4	Romania Health Sector Reform (Pre-appraisal mission)	Marcelo Bortman, Richard Florescu, Bogdan Constantinescu, Cesar Niculescu, Barbara Ziolkowska, Cristina Petcu, Emilia Chiscop, Camelia Gulescu, Kosuke Anan
September 30 - October 3	RAS to the Ministry of Transport to Strengthen Strategic Planning in the Transport Sector	Simon David Ellis, Jean Francois Marteau, Martha Lawrence, Bogdan Constantinescu, Carolina Monsalve, Elena Lungu, Oceane Keou, Didier Van de Velde, Daniel Kozak, Costel Todor, Nadia Badea, Raluca Nicolae, Alexandra Onofrei
October 14 – 19	Assistance to the Ministry of Transport to Improve its Capacity to Prepare and Manage Public Private Partnerships (PPP)	TTL: Klaus Decker, Valeria Nikolaeva

### Events in Romania

September 23 - 25	Danube Water Program: Workshop on Smart Policies for Strong Utilities and Sustainable Services	David Michaud (TTL), Stjepan Gabric, Gabriel Ionita, Cesar Niculescu
September 24 – 25	Consultation Workshop on the Study on Diagnostics and Policy Advice for Supporting Roma Integration in Romania (World Bank Office)	Kosuke Anan
September 23 – 25	Workshop on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy and Active Aging RAS	Emil Tesliuc, Asta Zviniene
September 26 – 27	Workshop on Benchmarking Water Utilities Performance	David Michaud (TTL), Stjepan Gabric, Gabriel Ionita, Cesar Niculescu
October 7 - 11	Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative	Jacinta Oduor, Nigel Marc Bartlett

***Missions in Hungary***

September 25	RAS on Roma Inclusion in Hungary (in preparation)	Sandor Karacsony
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***Events in Hungary***

October 8 - 11	Budapest Water Summit	Mahmoud Mohieldin, Elisabetta Capannelli
October 22	International Financial Institute's Central and Eastern European Conference	Laszlo Lovei

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Please send your **Mission and Events** Schedule updates to [spintilii@worldbank.org](mailto:spintilii@worldbank.org). For more details, check out the updated **Missions and Events** in the SharePoint calendar (use Windows login credentials: wbUPI and password).

Your contributions to the internal newsletter are kindly appreciated at [dkozak@worldbank.org](mailto:dkozak@worldbank.org) and [bgabor@worldbank.org](mailto:bgabor@worldbank.org). The weekly editorial deadline for this newsletter is midday on Monday. Past issues of the newsletter are [available](#).