



PRESS-RELEASE

YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT FROM A NEW SOCIAL REINTEGRATION CENTER IN CĂLĂRAȘI

Călărași, March 22, 2007. The first five beneficiaries receive the keys to their rooms, where they will live up to one year or until they will find a job. That is possible thanks to the Social Reintegration Center that has been officially opened in Călărași today. The Center will support boarding and professional schools graduates and young people who have lack of parental care. These young people will benefit from a series of services that include psychosocial counseling, life skills development, professional orientation and support in job search and employment.

The Center for Youth from Călărași has been inaugurated in the framework of “Better Opportunities for Youth and Women” project, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Moldova and funded by the US Government through the United States International Agency for Development (USAID) under President Bush Anti-Trafficking Initiative.

The Center can provide accommodation for 13 people at a time, but other young people from the region, who do not have the accommodation problem but face a difficult social situation, could benefit from the services offered here as well. The institution will offer assistance to more than 70 young people per year.

The Center for Youth is the sixth Center launched within the USAID/UNDP “Better Opportunities for Women and Youth” project. The first five are located in Ungheni, Cărpineni (Hîncești), Soroca, Edineț, and Drochia. Apart from the Social Reintegration Centers for Youth, the project has opened Maternal Centers that provide assistance to mothers with children and to pregnant women at risk. They benefit from accommodation and medical care and, ultimately, vocational training and other training programs to help them find jobs.

Up to ten Social Reintegration Centers will be created in the framework of the project. The Centers are located in buildings owned by the local public administration and are administered by local non-governmental organizations to provide continuity through income generating activities and cooperation with the LPA and other actors of social area. Also the project will support the creation of 10 new social enterprises and 30 partnerships with private sector designed to offer new employment opportunities for the beneficiaries of the Centers.

*** **

For contact: Viorel Albu, Project Manager, tel. 294 771; GSM: 0 691 82 848, e-mail: viorel.albu@undp.org and/or Doru Ciocanu, Communications Consultant, tel. 294 771; GSM: 0 691 07 143; e-mail: doru.ciocanu@undp.org

*** **

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

With funding from the American people, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries to provide a better future for all. The Better Opportunities for Women and Youth Project in Moldova is part of President Bush's world-wide \$50 million Anti-Trafficking Initiative.