

## **THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF IASI COUNTY**

The Prefect's Institution of Iasi County initiated a project intended to coagulate the business environment and to consolidate the cooperation between the local administration, the business environment, the associations of employers, the deconcentrated services, the university environment and the civil society – the Economic Development Council of Iasi County.

Till 2005, only the Consultative County Commission functioned on the level of the Prefect's Institution of Iasi County, set up according to the Law of the local public administration whose priority was to put into practice the Annual orientative program of economic and social development of the county. Nevertheless, this structure does not include the economic environment and the civil society that are fundamental elements in order to create a real and stable development strategy. The essential difference between the Consultative County Commission and the Economic Development Council from Iasi is precisely that the newly set up organism includes, as a main component, the economic environment from Iasi that grants it authority regarding the implementation of the economic development programs on county level from the perspective of the integration in the European Union. The project was relaunched on April 25, 2005.

The Development Council is made up of **11 open economic committees for each area of activity:**

1. Committee on textile industry
2. Committee on chemical industry
3. Committee on metallurgical engineering
4. Committee on wood industry
5. Committee on constructions
6. Agriculture, sylviculture and food industry committee
7. Commerce committee
8. Tourism, hotel activity and restaurants committee

9. Information technology and communications committee
10. Research, development and high-tech committee
11. Services and consulting committee

During the meetings that took place so far and that covered all economic committees, interest subjects for the economic agents were proposed and some specific problems were dealt with. The presidents for each committee were elected from the companies that belonged to the Development Council; they had the role of connecting the business environment from the respective field of activity to the local administrative structures and institutions

### **MISSION**

Facilitating the collaboration relations between the authorities of the public administration and the economic environment from Iasi, for a better coordination of the actions of the public administration in the area of the local and regional economic development and the support of the local entrepreneurial initiatives.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Taking over the problems with which the economic agents are confronted, synthesizing them and proposing solutions
2. Training the economic agents for the year 2007 and the integration in the European Union
3. Identifying the strong points of the economic environment and their promotion on national and international level
4. Analyzing the weak spots in the economic development of the county and finding remedy solutions for these together with the deconcentrated institutions, the academic environment and the NGO-s.
5. Identifying the priority areas of local economic development in order to carry out a Durable economic development strategy of Iasi County
6. Promoting some experience exchanges between the people from Iasi and their counterparts from other territorial-administrative structures from the country and abroad
7. Designing the territorial development programs for Iasi County

**ACTIVITIES of the Economic Development Council  
of Iasi County in 2005:**

- **Periodical meetings of the committees** of the Economic Development Council from Iasi in order to take inventory of the existent problems and to identify viable business opportunities (30 meetings);
- Organizing **two economic missions** in order to understand the manner in which similar local administrations that adhered in May 2004 supported the business environment and created the conditions so as to survive to the competition on the European market:
  - in Hungary, June 13-15, 2005 (35 participants)
  - in Poland, September 3-8, 2005 (28 participants)
- Facilitating the **periodical „face-to-face” meetings between the companies from Iasi and the local institutions** that control the economic activity in order to present the new issued normative acts, but also to present the requirements that they must meet in order to survive the moment of the integration on the European market (during all the meetings for each committee);
- Periodical meetings within the committees of the E.D.C. in order to identify the priority areas of local development and creating a **Strategy of economic development of Iasi County** on average and long term in cooperation with the academic environment and specialized consulting companies;
- Creating **the Economic and Investment Profile of Iasi County** and transmitting it to the *Romanian Center for the Promotion of Commerce* and the *Romanian Agency for Foreign Investments* in order to promote the local business opportunities;
- Organizing the Annual Fair: **„Made in Iasi for Romania”** together with UGIR 1903 which is an honest presentation of the existent economic potential, the development capacities and the availabilities for cooperation (42 participant companies – November 2005).
- Creating and the permanent updating of the **Guide of the Entrepreneur from Iasi** that provides the necessary information regarding the requirements of the community acquis that has an impact on the economic agents (authorizations, licenses, permits, normative acts, regulations and control procedures) presented on our site [www.prefecturaiasi.ro](http://www.prefecturaiasi.ro), section of the *Economic Development Council*;
- Identifying and presenting in the economic committees, **the programs and the active financing lines for each area of activity** (during all the meetings for each committee);

- Setting up and extending a **database which included information regarding the business environment from Iasi**, universities, research institutions, NGO-s (approximately 2500 units that are in its own database);
- **Creating an interface between the higher educational and research system and the economic environment** in order to train and certify the labour force on local level, as well as the turning to account of the results of the research/innovation (10 meetings);
- **Meetings with the local NGO-s** in order to identify and support the social-economic development projects that they carry out (2 meetings).

### **The OBJECTIVES for 2006 are:**

1. Carrying out the **National Training Program for Adhering of the Business Environment** coordinated by the *Ministry of European Integration*:
  - ✚ 2 economic sessions in plenum (April 6-7, 2006);
  - ✚ seminars on workshops (May-July, 2006);
  - ✚ 1 final session regarding the analysis of the results (September-October, 2006)
2. Organizing the **Regional Tourism Fair** (May 19-21, 2006)
3. Implementing the project: **Iasi – a city of European business** carried out in partnership with the *Regional Association of the Entrepreneurs from the North-Eastern Region*, the *Association for Environment Engineering and Durable Development from Iasi* and the *Association of Magistrates from Iasi* (June-December, 2006)
4. Organizing **the economic missions** in the Republic of Moldova (March 2006) and in Czech Republic

The **originality** of this project consists in establishing and developing for the first time in Romania, on mutual agreement, of a real and flexible partnership between the administration, the economic environment and civil society. A model that can be easily applied on regional and national level, the Economic Development Council, as an example of good practice, can assume the central role in defining specific territorial strategies, included in the regional and national strategies so that to ensure for each community an active role in the general framework of the training actions and actual carrying out of the integration in the European Union.