

## NATIONAL PACT FOR EDUCATION

### **We are:**

**Aware** that Romania is confronted with major long term risks because of the gap between the Romanian education and research system and the standards and results of the European Union countries in which the knowledge is the most important resource of economic, social and personal development,

**Concerned** that this gap will grow,

**Worried** that the next generation will be less and less competitive in the labour market and less capable of life-long learning,

**Convinced** that without a firm and coherent intervention, without a permanent effort, we are risking a stagnating economy, and that our dependence on innovations that come from outside the country will grow,

In agreement with Romania's responsibilities from "the Lisbon Agenda"<sup>[1]</sup> regarding the growth of economic competitiveness,

**We, the representatives of the political parties of the institutions and organizations subscribed, agree, in all our future actions regarding national education, to follow these OBJECTIVES:**

**1. Modernization of the education system and institutions in 2008-2013 period**, so that in the future the Romanian schools will be competitive with European and global plans. We aim to modernize of the education system responsibly, to give coherence to individual options, particularly through substantial curricular changes oriented to key-competencies that must be obtained in school. These competencies must be clearly determined for each level of study and compatible with the requirements of a knowledge-based economy. The curricular changes should be made based on detailed analysis and accompanied by a rigorous strategy of implementation.

**2. To insure in 2008-2013 period, allocation of a minimum of 6% of GDP for education and a minimum of 1% for research<sup>[2]</sup> in order** to put the education and research systems on a financially solid basis for the medium and long term. We guarantee to families, pupils and teachers that the education system's rules will not change from one year to another, that they will be financed transparently and the results and performance indicators will be made clear for each level of education. We guarantee as well for non-political professionalization of the management of education and research institutions.

**3. To make early education generally accessible to all, to achieve compulsory school education of 10 years, and to guarantee unrestricted access to free education until graduating the high-school.** Only in this way can Romania connect to the knowledge society

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[1] [\* The **Lisbon Strategy**, also known as the **Lisbon Agenda** or **Lisbon Process**, is an action and [development plan](#) for the [European Union](#). Its aim is to make the EU "the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, and respect for the environment by 2010" set against the background of productivity in the EU being below that of the US. It was set out by the [European Council](#) in [Lisbon](#) in March 2000.]

[2] In 2007 the percent of PIB: 4.76 for education and 0.44 for research.

and prepare the next generation to fully benefit from the Bologna Process<sup>[3]</sup> already adopted in our universities.

**4. Comprehensive decentralization of financial, curricular and human resources by adapting the curriculum to children's specific personal development needs, to the requirements of the labor market and communities, based on the principle that issues should be resolved at the most local level possible ("subsidiaritatii").** This can assure the conditions for parents, local authorities and civil society to become responsible partners in forming the future generations of pupils; the school should be in the center of community life and respond to its development needs. We guarantee the autonomy of education institutions supported by local communities to produce equality of opportunity. We support high quality of education, no matter whether publicly or privately funded.

**5. Adoption of the principle "the money follows the students" in precollege education, with respect to the principle "multi-annual financing on cycles, study and project programs" in university education.** If financing follows the pupils, the best schools will be more in demand, and the ones with low performance outcomes will be forced to get better.

The financing based on projects, programs and study cycles will determine Universities to differentiate. Starting from a transparent and coherent reference indicators system for the base of financing, we are sustaining the creation of a hierarchy of universities as soon as possible, by differentiating from universities centered on university degree, universities which will organize university degree and MBA, and universities centered on PhD and research studies.

**6. Adopting a charter for rights and liberties in education, to guarantee the access to a quality education.** The Romanian education doesn't need only a didactic personnel statute but also a student statute. The teachers' activities, as well the inclusion of parents as partners in the education system must be incorporated into this framework offered by the rights and the liberties of the students.

**7. Defining priority education areas in order to close the gap which dramatically divides rural and urban regions and different social groups.** Solidarity principle imposes on society a supplementary effort where there are differentiations, discriminations or gaps which are meant to exclude, to marginalize or to disadvantage any of our citizens. No matter the ethnic origin, the kind of disability, the place that they are born, or the resources that the family has, all students in Romania should benefit for the same opportunities of learning. The school must continue to create civic equality and equal opportunity from now on, not discrimination and injustice. This principle will be applied in local communities including the ones in which the education is in ethnical minority languages. In particular, learning of Romanian language by children from other national minorities will be supported.

**8. Permanent education will become the base of the educational system from Romania and will be extended so until 2013 will include annually at least 12% from the**

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<sup>[3]</sup> The Bologna Process aims to **create a European Higher Education Area by 2010**, in which students can choose from a wide and transparent range of high quality courses and benefit from smooth recognition procedures. The [Bologna Declaration](#) (pdf format) of June 1999 has put in motion a series of reforms needed to make European Higher Education more compatible and comparable, more competitive and more attractive for Europeans and for students and scholars from other continents. Reform was needed then and reform is still needed today if Europe is to match the performance of the best performing systems in the world, notably the United States and Asia.

The three priorities of the Bologna process are: Introduction of the three cycle system (bachelor/master/doctorate), quality assurance and recognition of qualifications and periods of study.

**active work force of the country.** The legal base of education will be rebuilt accordingly. Resources will be from both the public and private sectors. Fiscality will be adapted to stimulate the personal and corporate investment in permanent education. Continuous formations programs will be adapted in innovative and attractive ways through a public system of evaluation, selection and awards. By 2013 the National Qualification Frame will be finalized, compatible with the European one.

The foresights of the pact are applied indiscriminately to the Romanian education, in the national minority and a language for international circulation.

The initiators of the pact will delegate a commission to monitor its application and to annually present to Parliament a report regarding the progress made in realizing the objectives. The report will be the subject of a public debate.

**Within eighteen months, these eight objectives will provide the foundation of a coherent and unitary strategy for the national education system and educational institutions.**

The President of Social Democratic Party  
Mircea Geoana

The President of Democrat-Liberal Party  
Emil Boc

The President of Romania Mare Party  
Corneliu Vadim Tudor

The President of the Democratic Hungary Union from Romania  
Bela Marko

The President of the Conservator Party  
Daniela Popa

The Lider of Parliament Group of National Minority  
Varujan Pambuccian

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Traian Basescu