



Delegation of the European Commission
in Romania

High Level Group for Romanian Children



Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția
Drepturilor Copilului

Press release

Bucharest, 1 June 2005

„Edelweiss” brings talented children from the protection system in the limelight

The third edition of the “Edelweiss” national contest, dedicated to children and youth enrolled in the child protection system, has selected its winners. Twenty-seven finalists will be awarded, by the European Union, scholarships of 100 Euro per month for three years for the 1st prize winners, two years for the 2nd prize winners and one year for third prize winners, respectively.

The contest, organised by the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights through a Phare programme funded by the European Union, enables the most talented participants to stand out in one of the following areas of competition:

1. Literary creation (poetry, prose, journalism)
2. Music (vocal, instrumental)
3. Dance
4. Theatre (acting)
5. Plastic art (painting, drawing, sculpture, caricature)
6. Humanities (foreign languages, history, biology, geography)
7. Exact sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry, IT)
8. Sports (performers of an individual sport or members of a team)
9. Special talent (fashion design, decorative objects, tapestry, popular art)

The “Edelweiss” national competition was organised, during 1 April – 16 May 2005, in all Romania’s counties and in Bucharest. The national finals were held on 31 May. The local winners were evaluated by national juries consisting of personalities in each area of the competition.

Mr. Jonathan Scheele, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Romania, stated at the end of the contest: *“We are proud to be partners in this initiative which shows what these children have to offer to Romania. It was not the European Union’s funds that made the difference, but rather the fact that their talents had been recognized and valued by the highest professionals in each field.”*

“The purpose of the competition has been to show that there are children in the child protection system who are just as beautiful and talented as all the other children. The results achieved by these children are proof that they receive the attention of those caring for them and that those who wish to succeed are supported in this respect. I dare say that all of these attest the quality of child protection services”, added on the occasion Mr. Bogdan Panait, State Secretary at the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights within the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family.

Baroness Emma Nicholson, Member of the European Parliament, has been invited to participate in the finals of the “Edelweiss” competition and in the awards ceremony.

The awards ceremony will take place on 1 June, starting from 17:00, at Sala Palatului, during a show featuring well known bands of the Romanian musical scene - Sarmalele Reci, Animal X, Sistem, Hi-Q, and Hara.

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The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry for Public Finance.