

**FEDERAȚIA SINDICATELOR LUCRĂTORILOR  
DIN CERCETARE PROIECTARE DIN ROMÂNIA**

**UNION'S FEDERATION OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT  
EMPLOYEES – ROMANIA**

**FEDERATION DES SYNDICATS DE EMPLOYES  
EN RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT DE ROUMANIE**

**SPLAIUL INDEPENDENȚEI 202A, 06002, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA  
TEL/FAX: 004 021.312.54.13, P.O.BOX: 35-136, MOBILE: 004 0744.55.45.83**

**<http://www.fslepr.ro>**

*Affilié a C.S.D.R., UNI et EUROCADRES*



## **Country Report**

### **Romania – 11.02. 2013**

This report cannot start without quoting the article 5 of the Government Emergency Ordinance 96 / 27.XII. 2012:

#### **ART. 5**

*(1) The Ministry for National Education is established by reorganizing the Ministry for Education, Research, Youth, and Sports and by taking over the activity and the specialized bodies of the National Authority for Scientific Research.*

*(2) Upon the entry in force of the Government Decision on organization and functioning of the Ministry for National Education, the Authority for Scientific Research stops its existence.*

*(3) There is the minister delegate for higher education, scientific research, and technological development within the Ministry for National Education, who, as state authority, coordinates the activities in the areas of higher education, scientific research, and technological development.*

*(4) Within 30 days since the entry in force of the current emergency ordinance, by Government Decisions, the following units go under the coordination of the Ministry for National Education, as state authority for research-development, through the minister delegate for higher education, scientific research, and technological development:*

*(a) national institutes for research-development, coordinated or subordinated to the Government, to the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth, and Sports, to the Ministry for Economy, Trade and Business Environment, to the Ministry for Regional Development and Tourism, to the Ministry for Communications and Informational Society, to the Ministry for Labour, Family, and Social Protection, to the Ministry for Environment and Forestry, to the Ministry of Health, and to the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development.*

*(b) other institutes, centres, resorts or research units organized as public or public law institutions*

*(5) The institutes, the centres or the resorts under coordination or subordination to the Romanian Academy and to the branch academies may go under Ministry for National Education coordination only upon agreement from the Romanian Academy and from the branch academies.*

As result to the provisions of this normative act, the Scientific Research – Technological Development of Romania exists officially only in the title of the minister delegate for Higher Education and Research and in the nomination of a secretary of state for research who already expressed his views against trade unions and expressed his willingness for social dialogue only if the federation leadership is changed (audio recording). However, according to the article quoted above there is no legal basis for social dialogue anymore.

With regard to the rightfulness of our stands, I will borne myself in the argumentation to the transcription of the opinion of a member of the Monitoring Committee on behalf of the European Commission:

*On a more general note, Romania is in fact doing not enough for its research and innovation capacity. Despite all commitment on paper funding for RDI is not coming close to the agreed targets. The situation is aggravated by the fact that there is not enough orientation of RDI investments towards innovation in general. The implementation of the OP is known to you and also our opinion. We have serious doubts on the correct application of public procurement rules. These rules are our major tool to make sure that EU funds are spent effectively. In principle there are enough funds in the OP for many more projects. Unfortunately these other projects were not as many, not as good and as fraud free as one would wish for. In the past years, before ELI, the absorption has been too poor. The real scandal is the weak administration. 1000nds of applications not treated correctly. Very weak controls. There are sufficient reasons why the Commission has decided to send the pre-suspension letter concerning that programme.*

*I have understood your intervention last MC in a sense that you do not challenge the ELI decision, but you challenge that in favour of ELI other projects are doomed. I would appreciate to discuss the points with you further. I understand we will meet perhaps end of the week in the innovation conference or in the MC for the TA OP. Romania needs a long term research and innovation strategy, sufficient funding directed towards this and a strong involvement of all relevant partners, acting in the interest of the country.*

The situation evolved so due also to the breach of a fundemantal principle of the trade union movement – SOLIDARITY – that we asked for in this for of the European trade unionism, where we have been acting since the beginning of our trade union life, as Romanians were at the beginning of the free trade union movement, possible only after 1989. In October 2010, we succeeded to organize picketing in front of the European Commission, due to asking the EUROCADRES support in the Steering Committee. Even members of the Committee and of the Secretariat attended the respective picketing. We had then an example of trade union solidarity for which I once again thank the colleagues from LBC-NVK and to Jan de Paepe, in particular,

whose support was vital for accomplishing the action. We wanted to show the real situation of the domain, the situation of the research staff and to stop the disinformation, the manipulation of the European officials by the ex-communist party employees who were and still are infiltrated into these forums as Romanian representatives.

The consequences are up to you to judge, as for me I am going to present you only some situations:

a- As result of the picketing, the president is to demand for a meeting with the commissioner Maire Geoghean-Quinn of a delegation from the federation - not accomplished

b- No EUROCADRES document includes our action, not even as an EUROCADRES action to support a Member, the picketing being one of the ways of trade union action;

c- Despite that we showed in all Reports on the Situation of the Scientific Research of Romania the dangerous trend of the actions against the staff from the branch and against the domain, no discussion in Romania with the federation leaders and not only, on the situation was not considered as necessary. Such a possibility existed on the attendance of Mr President to a meeting related to the higher education that took place in Bucharest – no contact even on protocol basis was made;

d- Upon starting the IREER project, I had to intervene directly to be included (officially, it had started without us) despite the fact that, in EUROCADRES, we are the only Romanian research-development trade union federation, representative at national level and with Collective Labor Agreement signed and published in the Official Journal (agreement drafted with the help of Gerald Musger who has sent us an Austrian agreement for the non-university research);

e- At the General Assembly in November 2012, we submitted an Open Letter for support, which it was stated to be posted on EUROCADRES site about, so that to establish the necessary reaction from EUROCADRES members and colleagues – not done.

Without diminishing the importance of the non-stated issues, a conclusion shows up from our point of view, conclusion which I do not present as I have promised not to influence you in your opinions on the above stated facts.

Please find attached to the Report the document submitted to Mr Prime Minister Victor Viorel Ponta upon picketing the Romanian Government on January 21-22, 2013, letter to which we have not received an answer yet, just like it happened with the other prior documents submitted to the Government.

F.S.L.C.P.R. President

Radu MINEA