

## PRESS RELEASE

### “Ethics advisers – less efficient in ensuring the integrity in public administration”

*Bucharest, the 27th October 2009*

Ethics advisers have a limited contribution in ensuring the integrity of the civil servants and the public authorities faces important deficiencies in implementing the rules on the free access to information of public interest, according to the „Report regarding the enforcement of the ethics advisers law”, conducted by Center for Legal Resources in partnership with Pro Democratia Association.

The report will be launched on Thursday, **the 29th October 2009**, within a round table on „**Ethics counseling and integrity in public administration – realities and perspectives**”, which will take place between 10.00h to 13.00h at Hotel Howard Johnson , Arizona room, in Calea Dorobantilor, no 5-7.

The Report is based on a study where the Center for Legal Resources and Pro Democratia Association monitored 500 public authorities in Bucharest and throughout the country, in order to identify to which extent the legislation on ethics advisers have been enforced.

The report emphasized issues related to the existence of the ethics advisers and to the relevance of their work with respect to the compliance with the code of conduct and to ensuring the integrity in public administration, being nevertheless an occasion to coming up with proposals aiming at regulating the functions of the ethics and integrity advisers.

The study reflects a reduced contribution of the ethics advisers regarding the compliance with the code of conduct and to ensuring the integrity in the public administration, their mode of action being more reactive rather than a proactive one. It is equally deficient the way the authorities and public institutions understand to implement the legislation on the free access to information of public interest and to provide the public access to this information.

Thus, 60% out of 500 public authorities, monitored for this study, didn't give a complete answer and in due time or didn't answer at all to the requests of information, made by the Center for Legal Resources.

At the event are invited to attend specialists from the local and central public administration (ANFP, INA, MIRA, ministries, governmental agencies, town halls, decentralized public services), ethics advisers form various authorities and institutions of the public administration, representatives of the civil society, journalists.

The round table is organized within the project “The Ethic Adviser – Balance and Integrity in Public Administration”, run by the Center for Legal Resources in partnership with Pro Democratia Association and funded by the Iceland's Governments, Liechtenstein Principality and Norway, through the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area.

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