The Department of Public Administration is part of the Faculty of Political and Administrative Sciences (together with the Political Science and Journalism Departments). The Department has a short history, being started in 1995. In this moment it has almost 400 students grouped in two modules:

- a four-year, BA program, in Cluj
- a three-year program in three colleges in Cluj, in Sfântu Gheorghe (in Romanian and Hungarian) and another in Satu Mare (in Romanian, Hungarian and German).

One of the main objectives of the Department is building a compatible curricula with those in the Western Europe and USA, a modern one, able to shape a new generation of public servants, to improve significantly the structure and functionality of the Romanian public administration, in the larger context of a changing environment. Based on these assumptions, the type of curricula we promote is an interdisciplinary one.

Our Department, with the generous support of USIA (United States Information Agency), ACLS (American Council for Learned Societies), IREX (International Board for Exchanges), organized in the first days of October an International Conference on Public Administration (last year we had a national conference).

The two panels of discussions were:

I. Developing higher education in PA – a comparative approach

II. Reforming PA in CEE countries

The organizers considered as the main objectives of the conference:

- Initiating a serious and very necessary debate about what a modern curricula in the field of public administration should be.
- Debating the concept of reforming PA in CEE Countries
- Establishing a permanent network of communications and exchanges between the professionals in the field

Among the premises of the discussions that took place in Panel I we can mention:
- the existence of a growing network of PA schools (especially at BA level)
- the claim of apartenance to the classic French model, based on law disciplines
- the call for a unique model of curricula for all PA departments (established in 1995) and for the need to control the future development of all these departments
- the supremacy of the vision based on administrative law (certain PA curricula have almost 80% law)

The discussions in Panel II tried to focus on the Public Administration reform, especially in Romania, but also in other CEE countries. Some of the facts that had to be underlined are:
- In Romania the reform in this field is still in progress, even though some important steps were made several years ago, so there are still matters in which a way to do the reform still have to be found
- What specific knowledge do PA students have to have in order to met the needs of the administration?
- The relationship between academic and government institutions is weak. In shaping the reform the academic institutions had very little influence
- Inside government communication between different levels or institutions is difficult
- The participants had different backgrounds, each of them providing a different view of public administration.

At this conference we had over 50 participants from three main areas: representants of each PA school in Romania, practitioners from this field and European and US specialists. Their presence made possible an approach with a wider perspective on the various existing models.
- During the proceedings a strong debate came about the possible content of a curricula fitted to the real needs of the administration. In Romania administrative sciences began in the 20s, but during the communist era the only one to be studied remained administrative law. Several years after 1990, when PA schools started, it was a clear confusion between administrative law schools and PA faculties. Public Administration Curricula for almost all the faculties was filled with law disciplines. Even the reform in the field (as much it is) was made by lawyers, more than by the
practitioners. The discussions underlined that such an approach leads to negative effects.

We can draw some conclusions from both panels on these matters:
- Public Administration programs must be based on an inter-disciplinary approach;
- It is impossible to contain ALL these programs under the umbrella of an unique model;
- These programs must be continuously revised in order to face the new challenges that occurred;
- Curriculums must be connected to the needs of the workforce market in PA;
- A stronger link between academic and government institutions must be established, so that a flow of information, knowledge and expertise will exist;
- The necessity of a network of Romanian PA schools that can handle from the academic point of view the accreditation process;
- The apparition of a new generation of public servants, trained in PA schools, will have a strong impact over the public administration in CEE countries, especially when their number will reach the “critical mass” to change the organizational culture and structure of the PA institutions;
- PA schools from CEE countries have some similar problems as regarding placing their students, the making of a curricula, their relations with PA institutions.

While not all the discussions went to an end – we can not say that in panel II very important steps were made for the PA reform- the important fact was that we met. Due to the changes that had place in CEE countries in the last 10 years the PA field is something new and in continuos change so that each meeting between academics, practitioners and foreign experts can bring new light over the problems each one is facing, a good event to share experience, knowledge, ideas.

We were glad that Romanian participants appreciated our idea of gathering together academics and practitioners and that we all agreed that a future collaboration would be useful for both sides.

Very important for us, as organizers, was that everybody was feeling well and that they are willing to participate at the next year’s conference.
PROGRAM

Thursday, October 1
Arrival and registration of the participants
20:00 Welcome reception

Friday, October 2
9:00-10:30 Opening ceremony - Aula Magna, Babeș-Bolyai University

Panel One: The Development of Public Administration:
A Comparative Approach
11:00-13:30 Curricula Presentation: Cluj, SNSPA București
13:30-15:30 Lunch break
15:30-16:45 Curricula Presentation: Bucharest University, Faculty of Political and Administrative Sciences, Timișoara
16:45-17:00 Coffee break
17:00-18:30 Curricula Presentation: University of Iași, University of Oradea, University of Sibiu

Panel Two Reform of the Practice in Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe
11:00-13:00 Public Administration and Politics
13:00-15:30 Lunch break
15:30-16:45 Public Administration and the Civil Society: Accountability and the Relationship with the Citizen
16:45-17:00 Coffee break
17:00-18:30 The Status of the Public Servant

Saturday October 3
Panel One
9:00-10:45 Curricula Presentation: University of Chișinău, University of Budapest
10:00-11:15 Coffee break
11:15-13:00 Curricula Presentation: University of Warsaw, University of Sofia
13:00-15:00 Lunch break
15:00-16:45 The Problem of Compatibility between the Curricula of Eastern and Central Europe and those of Western Europe and USA
16:45-17:00 Coffee break
17:00-18:00 Conclusions

Panel Two
9:00-11:00 The Managerial Reform in Public Administration
11:00-11:15 Coffee break
11:15-13:00 Decentralisation and Local Autonomy
13:00-15:00 Lunch break
15:00-16:45 Public Administration and Public Policies
16:45-17:00 Coffee break
17:00-18:00 Conclusions
19:30 Cocktail

Sunday October 4
Cluj-Napoca: sightseeing tour

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Prof. Roger Hamlin, Michigan State University
Carol Neves, Director, National Academy of Public Administration, Washington, DC
John Rohrbaugh, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, Albany, New York
prof. Jean Claude Attuel, Dean, Universite Paris XII
prof. Claude Brodu, Universite Paris XII
prof. Pierre Chalvidan, Universite Paris XII
prof. Frederic Touboul, Universite Paris XI
prof. Tony J. G. Verheijen, SIGMA/OECD, Paris
prof. Alexandra Rabrenovic, Belgrad University
prof. Kazimierz Frieske, Warsaw University
prof. Pawel Polawski, Warsaw University
Joanna Chmielecka, Warsaw University
Hillary Brandt, IREX Washington D.C.
Mark Temple, *IREX Bucharest*

Willem Van Nieuwkerk, *Director, The Delegation of the European Comission in Romania*

Ian A. West, *Expert, The Delegation of the European Comission in Romania*

prof. Ioan Alexandru, *Dean, National School of Political and Administrative Sciences, Bucharest*

prof. Ioan Popescu, *Dean, National School of Political and Administrative Sciences, Bucharest*

prof. Ioan Santai, *Dean, Sibiu University, Romania*

prof. Antonie Iorgovan, *Sibiu University, Romania*

prof. George Poede, *Iasi University, Romania*

prof. Corneliu Popeti, *Timisoara University, Romania*

prof. Zoltan Bogathy, *Timisoara University, Romania*

prof. Lia Pop, *Oradea University, Romania*

prof. Voicu Bara, *Oradea University, Romania*

Ioan Muresan, *Minister of the Reform, President of the Council for Reform, Romanian Government*

Constantin Teleaga, *Councillor of the State for the relation with government, Romanian Presidency*

Stefan Panazan, *Local Public Administration Department*

Dorin Curechian, *Director, the Council for Reform, Romanian Government*

Diana Ionescu, *Coordinator, Gthe Group for Administration Modernization, Romanian Government*

Kolumban Gabor, *Vicepresedent, Local and Regional Authorities Federation, European Council*

Doina Cazacu, *Brasov County Prefecture*

Dan Ciceu, *CENTRAS Foundation*