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Honorable Ladies and Sirs

This is a short comment on the guidelines, drafted by Dr. Colceag, for the application of Law 17/2007 on gifted education in Romania.

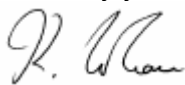
While the document is somewhat redundant it offers however a very broad and well founded basis for establishing an effective structure and system of education for the gifted and talented in your country. Because of the very special individualities of gifted people it is important that provisions for the gifted are very flexible, broad and manifold in content, format and structure (like acceleration, enrichment, grouping and many other program formats) as it is proposed in the document.

For me it is significant to see that not (only) a highly knowledgeable expert is the overarching goal of gifted education, but a whole "educated person" of high excellence, of social and societal responsibility. The guidelines very carefully try to establish well structured, but highly effective means and provisions, founded on multi-disciplinary co-operation, which are individually tailored to the special needs, potentials, abilities of gifted children and youth, not forgetting about their high potential for self-responsible and self-regulated learning.

The masterplan for implementing such a rich system of gifted education on international standards needs to develop the system step by step, not all together at one moment. It will be critical to generally increase the information and competence level of all teachers, in university training as well as in in-service training (ch. 37, 55). Another critical point will be the successful and effective communication and co-operation of the school inspectorates (which need high competences and good will) with the National Centre of Differentiated Education/Training (NCDE). Of obvious importance is the overlapping and networking of the (four) proficiency networks among each other (ch. 53).

I would like to congratulate your country in doing these important steps for establishing more differentiated education from which lastly all children will profit.

Sincerely yours



Klaus K. Urban
Past President
World Council for Gifted and Talented Children