

# The year of Romanian job migration to Romania

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**For the fourth year in a row, Romanian professionals and students are coming back together at the largest independent diaspora youth event: Congres des cadres roumains en France. This year, on 2 March, the congress for the first time hosted the Salon for the professional recruitment of Romanians abroad. "The presence of over 300 Romanians with higher education, coming from all over France at the congress in Issy les Moulineaux, impressed French and Romanian business leaders, which held over 500 individual job interviews, as late as 11 o'clock at night", said Florin Paun, PhD, congress founder and founder of the Club de Bucharest think tank.**

"What is admirable is the effort on the part of Romanian and French recruiters from companies like BRD Societe Generale, L'Oreal, Webhelp, or Valeo, which went out of Bucharest to recruit Romanians who want to go back home after working in France. What is also remarkable is the confidence that French and Romanian officials have show in this independent event", Paun added.

The attention paid to the Romanian diaspora was granted recognition at the Congres des cadres et etudiants roumains en France" with the awards given to Minister Anca Boagiu for her role in creating a positive image for Romania in Europe, to Andre Satini, Member of Parliament, Mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux, and former Minister, for supporting Romanians in France and the congress itself, to Timisoara Mayor Gheorghe Ciuhandu, for changing the image of Timisoara from revolution city to high tech developing city, as well as to other honorary guests who are promoting Romania's image abroad.

"We think that the congress was well organized. In image terms, Romania won a lot from this event", said Mihaela, a congress participant.

The Romanian diaspora also had an opportunity to change its image, that of being fragmented, at an event that is cozy and hospitable.

After this year President Basescu sent a special message to the participants through adviser Alexandru Gussi, starting in 2008 the congress will be held over two days, considering the rising interest from participants and partners.

Following the congress, over 50 Romanians abroad returned home in good positions. This continues in 2007, with recruitment offers in various areas to candidates with international experience who want to make it at home.

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# Major French congress praises Romania skills

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## **BBW Exclusive**

**PARIS - More than 250 Romanian business and finance leaders, European diplomats and students attended the first Congress of Romanian Professionals held last week at Unesco House with high praise emerging for the high-level education and skills of Romanians.**

"The quality of students educated in Romania and then abroad is recognized internationally and is one of the main reasons for the success of French groups in Romania such as Societe Generale," said Patrick Gelin, the bank's head in Romania. "Both Romania itself and companies established there need these talents to help modernize the country and integrate in into the European Union."

Florin Paun, from Bucharest, now an aeronautics expert in Paris, who initiated the Congress, said, "Romania's professional diaspora can play a vital role in promoting positively their country abroad. We need to stop complaining about our poor image and do something about it by getting involved in various projects to help. It is our duty."

French Ambassador Philippe Etienne said in a filmed message for participants, "I am convinced this Congress will play an important and useful role in future French-Romanian relations by putting Romanian students in close contact with many business leaders."

Addressing the many young people, Christian Esteve, deputy general secretary of Renault, said, "You are the elites of your country. You chose to combine your Romanian culture with ours. Companies need this quality cocktail."

Romanian state secretary Marius Profiroiu, who has been involved in many education programs, said, "Our government encourages the young diaspora in France to analyze closely the many career opportunities now available in Romania. We are developing the public administration system with education programs which help young Romanians be prepared partially in the best schools abroad, including ENA in France."

Other persons at the special event included European Parliament vice-president, Catherine Lalumière as well as Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a respected political figure in France.

Jean Michel Arlaud, general director of Hyparlo, which employs around 2,000 people in Romania, said the skills of local people meant he is opening two hypermarkets per year. Like many business leaders present, Jean Francois Boucher, vice-president of Michelin, welcomed young Romanians to join his company. Simon Anholt, an advisor on public diplomacy for the British government, offered officials words of wisdom, "If you don't take control of your image, somebody else will control it for you. The qualities of a country do not speak for themselves. They need to be given a voice."