

## Romania Think Tank wins the Atlas Economic Research Foundation's 2007 Templeton Freedom Award

**Bucharest, April 2nd 2007** – *The free market think tank and non-profit organization, Romania Think Tank (RTT,) is named a winner of the prestigious 2007 Templeton Freedom Award. Atlas Economic Research Foundation, which manages the competition, officially announced the Award winners on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. RTT excelled in a multi-faceted awards program which attracted this year more than 200 entries from 53 countries. The competition recognizes innovative civil society programs sponsored by independent research institutes around the world. “Economic and political freedom are advancing globally, and men and women focused on ideas, rather than violence, are leading the way,” said Atlas President Alejandro Chafuen. “The winners of this year’s Templeton Awards demonstrate the breadth of this movement.”*

For more than 25 years, the Atlas Economic Research Foundation has supported non-governmental organizations which fight for a free society, and currently collaborates with more than 270 NGOs from 80 countries. Each year, the Foundation manages the *Templeton Freedom Awards*, a program that recognizes innovative actions by NGOs around the world for the development of civil society. This year, the winners will be awarded during a ceremony at the Atlas Liberty Forum, organized this year in Philadelphia, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

**RTT** ([www.rtt.ro](http://www.rtt.ro)) is a non-profit organization that concentrates its efforts on identifying problems and finding practical solutions for Romania’s transition to a free market economy and a real democracy. RTT encourages debates regarding these subjects and communicates the conclusions, directly and indirectly, to the members of Parliament, politicians, Romanian and international media, academic and political communities. Since its founding in 2002, RTT organized projects related to reform of the judicial and health care systems, improving access to information of public interest (privatization and public procurement agreements), decrease of social contributions to the state, urban and infrastructure development, Romania’s role in the EU Parliament etc.

“We are very proud to be involved in many successful projects that show concrete benefit to the Romanian citizens. The *Templeton Freedom Award* is recognition of this fact - that we are doing a great job and it encourages us to continue our efforts to support and encourage the development of a free society.” Christopher Troxler, RTT Executive Director, declared.

In 2007, RTT is focused on projects that support the introduction of a direct vote electoral system, continue the fight against corruption, as well as focus on Romania’s issues related to urban planning and development.



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**Romania Think Tank**