



EU Co-operation News

Bi-weekly newsletter of the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine
Project on Information and PR Activities for the EU and its Programmes in Ukraine

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EU TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION WITH UKRAINE

The European Union is the largest donor to Ukraine. Since, 1991, assistance provided by the European Community alone has amounted to over € 2.5 billion. The EU provides assistance to Ukraine to support its transition as well increased co-operation with the EU. EU co-operation with Ukraine fulfils the objectives of the jointly agreed European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan, which provides the framework and a set of priorities.

As a privileged partner for the EU as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, Ukraine benefits from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Since 2007, ENPI has become the principal source of funding for European Commission assistance to Ukraine. The ENPI introduces targeted technical assistance (twinning), offers opportunities for sectoral and budgetary support and covers not only national, but also transnational/regional and cross-border components.

The new assistance strategy for 2007-2010 (€ 494 million) was adopted in March 2007. The programme, in line with the principle of ownership, was defined in close cooperation with the Ukrainian government. The main priorities of the strategy are: (i) Support for democratic Development and Good Governance; (ii) Support to the Regulatory Framework and Administrative Capacity Building and (iii) Support for Infrastructure Development.

ENPI funding has now replaced the TACIS technical assistance programme. There are however, a number of TACIS projects still operating in Ukraine. These projects continue to fulfil the objectives of TACIS such as assistance to the private sector for economic development, support in addressing the social consequences of transition and the development of infrastructure networks.

The European Commission works closely with EU Member States and the donor community in Ukraine to ensure effectiveness of technical and financial cooperation.

ABOUT THE OPERATIONS SECTION

The Operations Section of the European Commission Delegation is responsible for issues related to technical and financial co-operation with Ukraine and Belarus. A team of forty European and Ukrainian staff, work with the national authorities and civil society organisations to co-ordinate and channel assistance to these countries. The Operations Section is headed by Ms. Laura Garagnani.

For more information see the Delegation website, especially the Delegation's organisation chart:

<http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu/page2490.html>

EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE, HEAD OF DELEGATION, US AMBASSADOR AND IOM OPEN RENOVATED STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE IN CHERKASY OBLAST

The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine in partnership with the European Commission, the US Department of State, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine recently marked the completion of a two-year project titled “Reinforcing the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine’s Human Resources Management System — HUREMAS” and the launch of a two-year (2008-2009) successor project HUREMAS 2.

HUREMAS, co-funded by the EU and US Department of State, led to the adoption of the EU-compliant human resource management system for non-officers and provided for the refurbishment of a dormitory for the SBGS which was opened by the President, the Head of Delegation and other stakeholders in Orshanets, Cherkasy Oblast, on March 12.

To ensure proper training facilities, the dormitory at the training centre in Orshanets was rebuilt with the support of the European Union and the US Department of State in cooperation with the SBGS. President Yushchenko and HUREMAS partners were extremely pleased with the results of the comprehensive refurbishment, which covered approximately 4,800 m² and cost around € 2,080,000, including furniture, electronics, and accessories. ►

Ambassador Boag, admiring the tangible results of cooperation under HUREMAS, welcomed the service's farsighted plan for reform, "The SBGS's strong commitment to invest in human capital, improve their personnel's skills and abilities, provide adequate and modern training facilities, as well as access to the outside world through the Internet will produce good results in the future."



HUREMAS participants concluded the Dedication Ceremony and Opening of the dormitory by signing a Memorandum of Understanding on work under HUREMAS 2. The signatories to the Memorandum – the SBGS, EC, U.S. Department of State, and IOM – pledged to continue their successful co-operation and reaffirmed their commitment to foster further progress towards EU and Schengen standards and the sustainable, long-lasting reform of the SBGS.

Contacts: State Border Guard Service Press Centre ,e-mail: pressa@pvu.gov.ua

THE FIRST REGIONAL SEMINARS ON MASTER PLANNING IN SECONDARY HEALTHCARE

On 28 February 2008 a regional seminar on Master Planning in Secondary Healthcare was held in Poltava for the representatives of Poltava and Kharkiv Oblasts. A similar seminar was organised on March 4 in Zhytomyr. The seminars brought together representatives of healthcare departments of Kharkiv, Poltava and Zhytomyr oblast state administrations, as well as head physicians of rayon and oblast hospitals.

During the seminars the following issues were considered:

- Why it is necessary to perform global and financial planning in the area of secondary healthcare?
- Needs assessment and parameters of master planning to restructure secondary healthcare.
- Resource planning within the healthcare system of Ukraine and its impact on sectoral reforms.
- Regional organizations in the area of healthcare and new forms of cooperation in Finland.

The 2.5-year project on Support to Secondary Healthcare Reform in Ukraine was launched in August 2007. The overall project's objective is to support the establishment of an effective, cost-efficient and equitable health care system in Ukraine, which will be supported by introduction of systematic secondary healthcare reform.

<http://www.eu-shc.com.ua>

UKRAINIAN CONSUMERS IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT FORUM HELD IN KYIV

On 11-13 March 2008, a Consumer Forum, dedicated among other things to the World Consumer Rights Day was held in Kyiv.

The Forum was part of the Consumer Society and Citizen Networks project (CSCN), a joint initiative of the European Union and UNDP started in 2006. Its goal is to increase the civil society's role in sound economic governance in Ukraine according to European standards. Specifically, the CSCN project aims at promoting access of citizens to information on product safety, consumer rights protection, and to the results of independent testing, as well as promoting wide public discussion of challenges facing the consumer society in Ukraine.



Held for the second time, the consumer forum brought together over 150 Ukrainian consumer movement activists, including state bodies involved in consumer rights protection, local self-governance bodies which contribute to building the national consumer policy, business associations striving at a higher European level of their client services and EU experts, who shared contemporary practices pertaining to cooperation within the state-business-consumer cluster.

The Forum programme included discussion of the current consumer issues and challenges, specifically the interaction of society sectors for the benefit of consumers and their interests, best European practices of consumer rights protection, cooperation of business associations with civil society sector, the role of local self-governance bodies, European integration processes and best European consumer campaigning, independent testing and advocacy practices.

Contact person: Maria Savchenko, Monitoring and Information Expert; e-mail maria.savchenko@undp.org.ua

For more information on EU Consumer Policy see: <http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/>

THE LAUNCH OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM ON LEGAL APPROXIMATION

Ukrainian-European Legal Advisory Centre (UEPLAC) has finished the basic development and loading of the Management information system on legal approximation. The trial version of the system was launched on the web site <http://mis.ueplac.kiev.ua> for public discussion.

Developers of the system collected and systematised information and basic legal documents in the area of approximation of the Ukrainian legislation to *acquis communautaire* (the legal basis of the European Union); information of the status of their implementation, as well as monitoring results. In this way the MIS system ensures tracking of the approximation of Ukrainian legal systems to EU legal space. In the course of the system development the best practices and lessons of new Member States were used, as well as experience of candidate countries and countries, involved in the process of stabilisation and association with EU.

The structure of the system is based on Ukraine's commitments and goals, envisaged by the 1994 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, as well as on regulations of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan and national legislation and government programmes related to the approximation of the Ukrainian legislation to EU *acquis*.

Contacts: email office@ueplac.kiev.ua

ANOTHER STEP IN CO-OPERATION

THREE-YEAR CIVIC EDUCATION UKRAINE PROJECT ENDED IN MARCH

The Civic Education Ukraine project was a continuation of the EU-funded project on *Education for Democracy*, which ended in 2002. The project integrated the following five components: curriculum development; teacher development; extra-curricular activities, special educational needs and gender and social equity. The project's original objective to make civic education a compulsory course in secondary schools was modified to reflect the Ministry of Education's preference for enabling all teachers to contribute to the development of CE competencies.

The project worked with Kyiv and three other pilot oblasts (Kherson, Volyn and Vinnytsia) and 110 pilot schools, drawing on best practices from Ukraine and Europe. The project worked closely with the four main civic education teachers' associations and a number of other projects, notably the World Bank *Equal Access to Quality Education* Project, and the Canadian *Building Democracy* project.

The project's two key outputs were a Teacher Training Guide and Teacher's Resource Manual with a supporting CD-ROM. It also developed pre-service and in-service teacher training programmes for specialist and non-specialist civic education teacher; in-service training modules on inclusive education and equal opportunities and social equity issues; and the concept of civic competencies and a table of target competencies for each stage of education detailing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values for a student. Four teacher training programmes or modules were also developed and piloted. One of them was a 72 hour in-service and pre-service programme for pedagogical universities and in-service teacher training institutes for specialist teachers of civic education.

<http://www.civiced.org.ua> and <http://www.delukr.ec.europa.eu>



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 28, Kyiv

Conference on Improvement of Public Health in Local Communities

On 28 March 2008 in Kyiv, the *Blagopoluchya Ditei* (Children's Welfare) Ukrainian Foundation will conduct a final conference within the framework of the EU-funded project on Improvement of Public Health through Local Community Capacity Building.

Contact person: Yulia Malienko, *Blagopoluchya Ditei* Ukrainian Foundation, maliyenko@ccf.kiev.ua



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