

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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WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND REFORM

A cornerstone of the EU-Ukraine Action plan is a joint commitment by the EU and Ukraine to work together to ensure democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms in Ukraine.

The Action Plan committed the EU to assist Ukraine in continuing its internal reforms based on strengthening democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, the principle of separation of powers and judicial independence and democratic elections in accordance with OSCE and Council of Europe norms and standards.

Since the adoption of the Action Plan, much progress has been made, especially in the fields of freedom of the media and freedom expression with Ukraine having held two successful free and fair elections. The European Commission will continue to provide strong support for enhancement of electoral processes and ensuring that Ukraine continues to move closer to European standards in the media sector.

The EU is continuing to assist Ukraine with public administration reform and improved public finance management, which are crucial elements in enhancing institutional capacity and improving the transparency and public accountability of state and administrative structures at all levels. This is also a major element in ensuring the effectiveness of the fight against crime and corruption.

Judicial reform is also a key area for co-operation, aimed as fulfilling the Action Plan's objectives of guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and strengthening its administrative capacity and to ensure its impartiality and effectiveness.

Ukraine also receives funding via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and has benefited from more than € million worth of grants under this instrument.

This edition of the newsletter highlights a TACIS project specifically aimed at tackling corruption. This is the first specific anti-corruption action funded by the EC; it is jointly managed by the EC and the Council of Europe that above all brings an "added value" of the expertise and experience of the both organisations.



ANOTHER STEP IN CO-OPERATION

The Council of Europe and the European Commission in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine work to support good governance in Ukraine by improving the national anti-corruption legislation, institutional framework and practices in line with European standards.

The joint project of the European Commission and the Council of Europe on Support to Good Governance: Project Against Corruption in Ukraine – UPAC aims specifically at contributing to the prevention and the control of corruption in the political, judicial and administrative systems in Ukraine and reinforcing the public confidence in these systems.

Since its launch in June 2006, this three-year project has pursued 3 main objectives:

- to improve the strategic and institutional framework against corruption in Ukraine;
- to enhance capacities for the prevention of corruption;
- to strengthen the anti-corruption legal framework and effective and impartial enforcement of the criminal legislation on corruption.

To achieve these goals, the UPAC Project has provided technical advice, expert opinions and framework for discussion on several concept papers and draft laws related to the anti-corruption and major reforms such as the reform of the civil service, judiciary and political process. The project has also been active in enhancing capacities of local and regional authorities for the prevention of corruption and strengthening of integrity.

In the future, the project will contribute to enhancing the compliance with the Council of Europe anti-corruption monitoring requirements. The activities will support the review of the anti-corruption action plan, improving the anti-corruption legal framework, strengthening specialisation and institutional capacities against corruption as well as increasing transparency in the political process.

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For more information see: <http://www.coe.int/UPAC>



UPAC Project team

EU-FUNDED PROJECT NEWS

COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CBA) LAUNCHES ACTIVITIES IN NINE OBLASTS OF UKRAINE

Nine oblasts of Ukraine hosted CBA regional presentation seminars in February and March. Project implementation Strategy and Action Plan of were presented to heads of oblast and rayon administrations, media and NGO representatives.

A series of regional seminars were held in Rivne, Poltava, Sumy, Luhansk, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa and Kirovohrad oblasts. Partnership agreements between UNDP and oblast state administrations and oblast councils were signed in six of these regions.

Calls for application for rayons' participation in the CBA project were announced in the nine oblasts. Within three weeks after each seminar, rayons can apply for participation in the project.

Launched in September 2007, the CBA project is financed by the European Union and co-financed and implemented by UNDP in Ukraine, with support of the Government of Ukraine.

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Seminar in Sumy

IVANO-FRANKIVSK ACTIVISTS ENHANCE THEIR SKILLS IN CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION

On 25-26 March, the Consumer Society and Citizen Network Project (CSCN) organised a workshop to discuss consumer rights issues and consumer education prospects in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Representatives of local communities, small and medium businesses, local authorities, and education specialists learned about the basic values and provisions of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection and Ukrainian consumer rights legislation. The workshop participants also discussed consumer rights enforcement in Ukraine and in the EU and independent testing practices of goods and services.

Project experts focused on the role the local authorities could play in ensuring proper observance of consumer rights and mechanisms of such protection.

The second part of the seminar was devoted to the introduction of a new consumer rights course for secondary school students developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine.

The CSCN project is funded by the EU and co-funded and implemented by UNDP.

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Workshop in Ivano-Frankivsk

PUBLIC HEARING ON CHILDREN'S NEEDS HELD IN MAKIYIVKA

On 25 March, the Centre for Forming Public Policy in Makiyivka project held a public hearing on accessibility of sports and culture for the city's children.

The Martin Club NGO, implementing the EU-funded project, initiated the discussion on cultural and sports facilities for children and issues of children's free and leisure time. Attended by representatives of local NGOs, authorities and mass media, the public hearing was reported in the local press. The next event will be held at the end of April on the issue of access of children with mental disabilities to education.

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THREE-DAY HIV/STI PREVENTION SEMINAR FOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN CHERNIHIV

A training seminar for some 30 high-ranking Chernihiv garrison military officers became the 28th in a series of 31 planned seminars in the framework of the project on HIV/STI Prevention among Uniformed Services in Ukraine.



The seminar took place on 25-27 March and was delivered by experienced trainers, representatives of the Ukrainian Army Headquarters, the Ministry of Health and the oblast HIV/AIDS prevention centre. Its objective was to provide knowledge and skills to high-ranking officers and develop leadership and commitment to healthy life style and safer behavior among uniformed personnel.

Funded by the EU and implemented jointly by UNFPA and UNDP, the HIV/STI Prevention project focuses on the development of effective mechanisms for comprehensive HIV/STI prevention measures in the uniformed services in Ukraine.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 17, Izmail, Odesa Oblast: PERSPECTIVE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF BASIN COUNCIL IN THE LOWER DANUBE EUROREGION

The international round table on this topic will be held on 17 April 2008 in Izmail by the EU-funded project on Improving Cross-Border Cooperation in Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Lower Danube Euroregion.

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April 18, Kharkiv: EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO PRESENT PROJECT ON SUPPORT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN UKRAINE

A press-conference will be held on 18 April 2008 in Kharkiv to present the new EU-funded project on Support to the Development of Business Capacity of Ukrainian SMEs: International Dimension.

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